



WESTERN PLACER  
WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## Odor Workshop Meeting Summary October 23, 2018 | 6:00 PM

WPWMA staff provided a brief overview of the WPWMA's history, operations and odor reduction efforts, followed by a breakout session consisting of three stations where attendees had the opportunity to delve into the following topics led by WPMWA staff: Regional Odor Sources & Odor Monitoring; WPWMA Odor Reduction Efforts; and Renewable Placer: Waste Action Plan. The following summarizes the questions posed by participants at each station and during a general Q&A period following the breakout session:

- Q1 What is the prevailing wind pattern in the region?
- A1 *The general wind direction during winter months is from the north-northwest to the south-southeast and from the north-northeast to the south-southwest during summer months.*
- Q2 Does the weather affect the odor plume?
- A2 *Wind, inversion, diffusion and advection can all impact the intensity, frequency and duration which odors from the WPWMA's and other facilities are experienced.*
- Q3 How does the WPWMA know what odors other facilities are generating? How does the WPWMA know that the odor plumes are accurate?
- A3 *The WPWMA worked with the odor monitoring system creators to input industry standard odor profiles of various facilities into the modeling system. Odors from nearby facilities are modeled estimates and do not reflect actual operations occurring at those facilities yet do provide insight into the potential impact of odors from these sites. The plumes generated in the model use real-time weather data from a station sited at the WPWMA's facility. That weather data is combined with onsite odor sensors to generate a modeled plume representing estimated odor intensity and movement.*
- Q4 Does the WPWMA ever get fined for odors?
- A4 *The WPWMA received two violations with proposed fines from the Placer County Air Pollution Control District for nuisance odors since March 2015. The violations were precipitated by unusually high numbers of odor notifications submitted by residents to the WPWMA during periods of stagnant wind or atmospheric temperature inversion conditions.*

Q5 What is the Master Planning timeframe?

A5 *WPWMA staff plans on providing preliminary findings of the master planning concept evaluation process at its November 8, 2018 meeting and recommending a preferred Plan concept to the WPWMA Board at their December 13, 2018 meeting for approval to initiate the CEQA process. The CEQA process could take up to 2 years, with another 2 years or more for permitting. Additional opportunities for the public to comment on the project will be available during the CEQA process.*

Q6 Are the cities of Lincoln and Roseville providing input on the WPWMA's plans?

A6 *The WPWMA convened an Advisory Committee comprised of staff from each of its Member Agencies (Placer County and the cities of Lincoln, Rocklin and Roseville) to provide input at various stages of the planning process. WPWMA staff also presented the Waste Action Plan to Member Agency City Councils and the County Board of Supervisors.*

Q7 When will the existing landfill be closed?

A7 *The Western Regional Sanitary Landfill is currently permitted to accept waste until 2058. Master planning efforts could significantly alter that date based on which project concept is selected by the WPWMA Board of Directors.*

Q8 How will Placer County's Sunset Area Plan affect the WPWMA's facilities?

A8 *The Sunset Area Plan proposes residential, commercial and educational uses very near the WPWMA's properties and could potentially impact operational flexibility. WPWMA staff regularly engages with Placer County staff regarding the compatibility of both agencies' projects.*

Q9 Will proposed compatible manufacturing produce odors?

A9 *Any future operations or facilities sited on the WPWMA's properties will be evaluated for their potential to produce and/or reduce odors and impacts to surrounding land uses.*

Q10 What odor control measures has the WPWMA implemented to date?

A10 *Landfill – The daily active landfill area is minimized and the landfill does not operate on the weekend. Waste water treatment sludge is immediately mixed with other waste and buried. Alternative daily cover materials are utilized that have been shown to better control odors that soil. Landfill gas collection wells are installed ahead of regulatory requirements and in 2018 the WPWMA completed a landfill gas collection system upgrade to provide more consistent and reliable landfill gas control. Portions of the landfill have also been closed ahead of regulatory requirements in an effort to reduce odors. The WPWMA also tested odor neutralizers along the southern perimeter of the landfill as well as directly on*

*waste prior to burial at the landfill.*

*Compost – Compost is carefully managed to prevent anaerobic conditions which can exacerbate odors. Compost runoff ponds are aerated to reduce odors. The WPWMA is conducting a pilot study to evaluate use of aerated static piles to reduce odors.*

*Monitoring System – In 2014, the WPWMA installed a continuous odor monitoring system to track odors moving offsite and conducted a comprehensive facility evaluation in 2015 to improve the accuracy of the system.*

Q11 Why not spread the different operations to more specialized facilities across the county?

A11 *Space for solid waste operations is extremely limited in Placer County. The WPWMA has begun discussions regarding co-locating other operations (e.g. biomass) with the WPWMA's facilities to leverage resources and eliminate the need for duplicative efforts and repeated material handling.*

Q12 What gasses are at the facility besides methane?

A12 *By volume, landfill gas is typically comprised of approximately 50% methane and 50% carbon dioxide with trace amounts of nitrogen, oxygen, hydrogen sulfide, hydrogen and non-methane organic compounds.*

Q13 Is there medical or radioactive waste at the facility?

A13 *The WPWMA's processing facilities do not accept medical or radioactive wastes. Any medical waste delivered to the landfill is autoclaved prior to delivery per regulatory requirements which serves to reclassify the material as municipal solid waste.*

Q14 Is there any toxic level to the odor plumes from the facility?

A14 *According to Dr. Oldham, Placer County Health Officer, most of what is known about odors is based on experience. For the most part, science says that there are no health impacts from living near a landfill and no long term health impacts at the general population level. However, odors affect individuals differently. Speaking also as a psychiatrist, odors can trigger memories and emotional responses.*

Q15 Are odors from the facility making air quality worse? At what point does the Health Officer get involved with regulating the WPWMA and the particulate matter generated?

A15 *According to Dr. Oldham, Placer County Health Officer, that responsibility lies with the Placer County Air Pollution Control District. The landfill does not pose any major air quality concerns, at least not of which he is aware. Odors do not impact air quality.*

*According to Bruce Springsteen, Placer County Air Pollution Control District Compliance and Enforcement Manager, there is no particulate matter associated with the breakdown of materials. Mr. Springsteen stated he does not believe the landfill has an impact on air quality and that compost particulates are so small that they would not constitute a health impact.*

Q16 What does the composting process entail?

*A16 Current green waste composting operations consist of turning and watering materials in open windrows. The WPWMA is conducting a pilot study to evaluate the ability of aerated static pile (ASP) composting to manage more odiferous materials such as food waste. ASP composting introduces air into the piles and uses a biofilter of finished compost to reduce odors.*

Q17 Can the Roseville sludge trucks be rerouted to minimize odor impacts to residents?

*A17 The WPWMA does not control the method by which materials are delivered to its facilities. The City of Roseville should be contacted with questions regarding their waste hauling practices.*

Q18 Given what WPWMA staff knows, what do we think will happen regarding odors?

*A18 Before the MRF was constructed, everything went to the landfill. In 25 years, that process evolved so that nearly half of the material received at the facility is diverted from the landfill. New waste management and odor technologies are emerging that could drastically alter the way facilities operate in the near future. All planning efforts will include odor reduction strategies in an effort to minimize facility odors and potential impacts to current and future neighboring land uses.*