



**WESTERN PLACER**  
WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## **Odor Workshop Meeting Summary October 28, 2019 | 6:00 PM**

WPWMA staff provided an overview of the following topics: WPWMA facility history; WPWMA odor sources, monitoring, and reduction efforts; proposed facility site-wide odor plan; pending organics regulation (SB1383); and the WPWMA's Renewable Placer Waste Action Plan. A bus tour of the facility was provided for interested guests prior to the meeting.

The following summarizes the questions posed by participants throughout the meeting:

### **Regional Odor Sources & Odor Monitoring**

- Q1 Are there odors associated with the trains travelling through the area?
- A1 *The WPWMA does not receive waste or send recyclables offsite via train; any odors emitted from the trains and/or their contents are not associated with the WPWMA's facility.*

### **WPWMA Odors and Reduction Efforts**

- Q2 Will the WPWMA's proposed Site-Wide Odor Plan (SWOP) be a living document?
- A2 *Yes; upon adoption by the WPWMA Board of Directors, it is the WPWMA's intent to revise and update the SWOP as necessary.*
- Q3 Odors seem to be getting worse the last few days – have facility operations changed?
- A3 *Facility operations have not changed recently. As the dispersion of odors is primarily weather driven, recent changes in weather may be causing facility odors to be more noticeable.*
- Q4 Can the WPMWA adjust operations based on wind conditions to reduce odor impacts to nearby residents?
- A4 *Potentially; operational changes based on weather predictions are addressed in the SWOP. However, curtailing or changing operations may not always be possible.*
- Q5 What is WPWMA staff's observation of odors – what environmental factors contribute to odor dispersion?
- A5 *Daily operations do not vary drastically, but weather conditions do. Wind, inversion, diffusion and advection can all impact the intensity and frequency with which odors travel.*

## **SB 1383 and Composting**

- Q6 Is food waste collected from restaurants only? What is going to happen to expired food?
- A6 *SB 1383 will require recoverable food to be donated to food-insecure populations. Food not adequate for donation will most likely be handled via composting at the WPWMA's facility. Food waste is currently only collected from commercial businesses (grocery stores and restaurants). Jurisdictions may elect to adopt residential food waste collection programs in the future if necessary, to comply with organics diversion mandates.*
- Q7 What is the difference between the WPWMA composting at their facility and residents composting at home?
- A7 *Residential composting can help to keep a portion of the organic waste stream from arriving at the facility which could ultimately help to reduce the potential for facility odors.*
- Q8 What's the other side of the aerated static pile (ASP) composting equation? Are there markets for the finished product? What happens to it?
- A8 *The WPWMA anticipates that all composting at the facility will eventually move from the current open windrow method to ASP. ASP composting has been proven to reduce compost facility odors and is better suited for accommodating food waste. Finished ASP compost will be marketed similarly to open windrow compost, to local farmers, retailers and the public. SB 1383 will also require local jurisdictions to purchase finished compost.*
- Q9 Can digesters like those used at wastewater treatment facilities be used at the WPWMA's facility to help comply with SB 1383?
- A9 *The WPWMA has considered and continues to investigate the use of digesters at its facility.*

## **Renewable Placer: Waste Action Plan**

- Q10 What do future rate increases look like?
- A10 *Regulations and regional growth will inevitably add costs to facility operations which will result in higher disposal fees. However, the WPWMA will make every effort to keep rates as stable as possible for as long as possible.*
- Q11 Who makes the final decision on the CEQA document establishing a preferred project concept and when will that happen?
- A11 *The WPWMA Board of Directors will be responsible for certifying the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which will identify a preferred project concept. It is ultimately at the discretion of the Board to select the final project concept. WPWMA staff anticipates that the Draft EIR will be available for public review and comment in the summer of 2020 and the Final EIR will be presented for Board consideration shortly thereafter.*

### **General Questions**

Q12 When trash goes to the WPWMA's facility you sort it; would it be easier if residents sorted recyclables at their homes?

A12 *The One Big Bin program has been beneficial for Placer County jurisdictions. It essentially eliminates recycling program participation issues and confusion over what materials are recyclable and allows the WPWMA's facility operator greater flexibility in recovering materials in response to shifting recyclables markets.*