



**WESTERN PLACER**  
WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

**Odor Workshop Meeting Summary**  
**October 20, 2020 | 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.

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

**Regional Odor Sources & Odor Monitoring**

Q1 Do trains deliver waste to the facility in open-air cars?

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 When and where will the WPWMA's offsite odor monitoring sensors be installed?

A2 *The WPWMA is in the process of investigating the use of ambient sensors to see if this technology would be beneficial for monitoring odors offsite and will need to receive Board approval prior to proceeding with any installation; there is no definitive date as to when these offsite sensors may be installed. As part of its investigation, the WPWMA is evaluating the placement of sensors parks or other public spaces in the Crocker Ranch/Blue Oaks neighborhoods and in the Fiddymment Farms neighborhood.*

Q3 How are the odor plumes plotted in the WPWMA's odor monitoring system and what data does it use?

A3 *The WPWMA uses an air dispersion modelling system that incorporates atmospheric conditions of temperature, wind speed and direction, barometric pressure as well as onsite air samples taken from the landfill face, landfill gas system and composting to create an odor dispersion model using the CALPUFF method to estimate the transport of odors offsite.*

Q4 I recently moved into the Fiddymment Farms neighborhood and have noticed a strong sour odor consistently between 6pm and 9pm regardless of weather conditions. Are you aware of anything happening that could explain that odor?

A4 *When temperatures drop in the valley it tends to reduce the amount of mixing of the air and in effect concentrates odors in the area. A sour odor could be caused by landfill gas or the waste itself. Staff encourages residents to report the odors so we can investigate potential sources. We are in the season where that particular climactic condition can exacerbate odors. Generally, most of our operations are*

*consistent from day to day. We have however, recently noticed that the south compost runoff pond has a strong odor that staff is working to better understand the conditions that have led to increased odors from this source so we can effectively reduce them.*

### **SB 1383 and Composting**

- Q5 Will residents receive separate bins for organics collection?
- A5 *Some jurisdictions are looking at co-collection of food and green waste or other alternative collection methods. However, how the agencies respond to California's new organic recycling regulations (SB 1383) remains to be seen. Collections are determined by the individual jurisdictions and the WPWMA will accommodate the waste brought to its facility regardless of how it is collected.*
- Q6 Can you not put a camouflage scent over the composting for awhile so we can see if it's better without than with it? The cherry scent and pine scent are so horrid. I think they might make it worse.
- A6 *The WPWMA continually explores various facility odor reduction alternatives and several years ago tested the use of odor neutralizers as a means of noticeably reducing odors. The WPWMA conducted pilot studies in 2013 and 2015 using neutralizing agents to reduce site odors. Staff was unable to conclusively demonstrate the efficacy of odor neutralizers at reducing odors from the landfill and has not utilized a scented neutralizer in any facility operations outside the two pilot periods identified above.*
- Q7 Have you thought of channeling green waste to places like Green Solutions or similar businesses to help reduce the load and odor at the WPWMA?
- A7 *There are other facilities that accept green waste and it is at the discretion of a hauler as to where to take their material. The WPWMA's purpose is to manage the material delivered by its Member Agencies. While directing material to these facilities could reduce the amount the WPWMA receives and processes, it may not serve to reduce regional odors.*
- Q8 Explain more about the new composting plan going forward. Will it be covered or open air?
- A8 *The WPWMA anticipates that all composting at the facility will eventually move from the current open windrow method to aerated static pile (ASP) composting methods. ASP composting reduces the need to turn or move the piles and uses a 1-foot biofilter of finished compost over the active composting piles which serves to reduce emissions from the piles. ASP has been proven to reduce compost facility odors and is better suited for accommodating food waste.*
- Q9 When will this new composting begin?
- A9 *The WPWMA and its operator began an ASP pilot test in 2015 and the WPWMA is currently working with the Local Enforcement Agency, Regional Water Quality Control Board and Placer County Air Pollution Control District to permit ASP composting so that it can eventually be implemented site-wide.*

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

Q10 The WPWMA executed an MOU with Placer County to implement an odor remediation program. What is the funding source of the program? How will it affect Placer County residents' tipping and collection fees?

A10 *The WPWMA entered into an MOU with Placer County related to the County's Placer Ranch development project that would require the developer to contribute funding to the WPWMA's odor mitigation measures. Regulations and regional growth will inevitably add costs to the WPWMA's operations which could result in higher disposal fees. However, the WPWMA will make every effort to keep rates as stable as possible for as long as possible. Any increases to tipping fees are intended to ensure the long term viability of the WPWMA's facilities and operations.*

Q11 Odor is an issue, but airborne particulates are another matter. Is the EIR for the WPWMA expansion looking at these airborne risks?

A11 *Numerous studies suggest that odors are predominantly a nuisance and do not pose a significant health risk to the majority of the population. The EIR being prepared for the WPWMA's Waste Action Plan will include an extensive air quality analysis, including odors, as well as including a health risk assessment.*

Q12 Several of your residential neighbors within direct view of the WPWMA routinely experience odors when folks living rather away in Roseville and other cities do not. Can a discount plan be considered and extended to those closer neighbors when taking refuse to the facility as a compensation?

A12 *It is the WPWMA's goal to do everything we can with regard to improving odors and to be the best neighbor possible. While the additional costs incurred by the WPWMA to reduce odors generally benefit residents closest to the facility, the WPWMA Board has not considered a policy to establish rates based on geographical boundaries.*

### **General Questions**

Q13 Where can I see the slides and information shared tonight?

A13 *The video presentation and summary information is available on the WPWMA's website at <https://www.wpwma.ca.gov/our-facility/odor-information/>*

Q14 We've noticed an increase of roadside dumping on all rural roads leading to the facility. Can you communicate how this will be addressed moving forward?

A14 *The WPWMA's operator is responsible for collecting windblown litter and illegally dumped materials on the designated stretches of roadways near the WPWMA's the facility. Placer County's Road Department generally collects illegally dumped materials along roadways further from the facility.*