



WESTERN PLACER
WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Community Workshop FACT SHEET

November 17, 2011

WPWMA History, Programs, & Services

- The Western Placer Waste Management Authority (WPWMA) is a government agency made up of the cities of Lincoln, Rocklin, Roseville and the County of Placer. The WPWMA is governed by a Board of Directors made up of elected officials from these jurisdictions.
- The WPWMA was formed in 1978 for the purposes of acquiring, owning and operating the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill.
- In 1995 the WPWMA built a materials recovery facility (MRF) and composting facility to assist Placer County jurisdictions in meeting state requirements to divert recyclable materials from land disposal.
- The source of the WPWMA's revenues is predominately from the fees that it charges for the processing and disposal of wastes (aka "tipping fees"). The WPWMA is not funded in any way from federal, state or local taxes.
- The WPWMA only accepts wastes from Placer County. The WPWMA believes that the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill is an asset solely for the benefit of the residents and businesses of Placer County.

Landfill, Compost and MRF Operations

- The WPWMA receives and processes a majority of the solid wastes produced in the southwestern portion of Placer County.
- Wastes are first processed at the MRF to remove recyclable materials including paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, concrete, metals and wood. These recovered materials are marketed domestically and internationally to other companies that use them to make new products.
- Grass, leaves, branches and other yard trimmings received at the MRF are composted to produce a valuable soil amendment. The compost produced at the WPWMA's facility is organically certified and is sold to local golf courses, wineries, farms, nurseries and the general public.
- Materials that are not recovered at the MRF are disposed of at the landfill. The Western Regional Sanitary Landfill only accepts municipal solid wastes and certain wastewater treatment plant sludges. It is not permitted to accept, nor does it accept, hazardous wastes, medical wastes or asbestos containing materials.
- The landfill includes a sophisticated synthetic liner system to protect the underlying soils and groundwater from any contact with wastes. The liner system includes a piping network that collects liquids from the waste for subsequent disposal to the sanitary sewer system.
- The landfill produces methane gas which is collected and used to generate electricity. The electricity is sold to Roseville Electric and is capable of powering approximately 2,500 homes.
- The WPWMA operates under a series of strict federal, state and local permits which are intended to protect human health and the environment. The WPWMA's facility is regularly inspected by various agencies to verify compliance with these permits.



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Onsite Odor & Study Information

- In 2007, after experiencing several years of rapid growth in the waste stream and an increasing frequency of odor complaints, the WPWMA initiated a study to identify the primary odors sources at its facility as well as other odor sources in the vicinity of the WPWMA's facility.
- The odor study concluded that the composting operation and methane gas produced at the landfill were the primary sources of odor at the WPWMA's facility. The study also identified several off-site sources located near the facility that likely emit similar odors.
- The odor study recommended measures that could reduce, although not fully eliminate, odors generated from the WPWMA's operation. The WPWMA implemented a series of odor-reducing measures, including early expansion of the landfill gas collection system, use of more advanced machinery to move and turn the compost, and better housekeeping practices. Since these measures were implemented, the number of complaints received by the WPWMA has declined significantly.
- The WPWMA is currently expanding its composting facility. The project will allow for a more effective process that will reduce odors associated with stockpiling and handling of immature compost. The project includes design elements that will further minimize odors including an aerated leachate pond and the planting of cedar trees near the facility to absorb and disperse odors.
- Scientific studies suggest that while odors are a nuisance, they do not pose a significant health risk to the community. Furthermore, these studies suggest that microbial and fungal emissions from composting, which may cause adverse health effects in certain populations, generally fall to background levels within 0.3 miles of the source. The WPWMA's composting operation is located approximately 1.7 miles from the nearest residential area.

Regional Odor Conditions

- The Western Regional Sanitary Landfill is located within the Sunset Industrial Area which was established over 30 years ago to attract, retain, and protect industry and public facilities.
- The Sunset Industrial Area hosts a variety of industrial activities; many of which can contribute to regional odor conditions. These include the landfill, wastewater treatment facilities, a wood-fueled electrical generating facility, a turkey and dairy farm, a separate composting facility (not associated with the WPWMA) and a propane gas dealer.
- Placer County established a 1-mile buffer around the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill to reduce potential conflicts between landfill operations and residential housing.
- Meteorology plays a key part in regional odor conditions. Odors can be carried or exacerbated under a variety of wind and temperature conditions.
- Wind conditions in the region can vary greatly. Because of this, it can often be difficult to pinpoint or confirm the source, or sources, of odors.