

Placer County
Department of Facility Services
Solid Waste Utilities - Eastern Placer County

1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to those preparing Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) for projects in eastern Placer County. This document summarizes the County's solid waste management, processes, and infrastructure.

2. Background

County Characteristics

Placer County has a population of approximately 300,000 (U.S. Census Bureau), which includes the incorporated cities. Eastern Placer County stretches from just above Colfax to the Nevada state line to the east. Some of the communities in eastern County include Dutch Flat, Alta, Kings Beach, Carnelian Bay, Tahoe City, Sunnyside, and Homewood.

Waste Stream Characteristics

Eastern Placer County is primarily rural, located in the Tahoe National Forest. The waste stream is fairly typical, consisting largely of glass, cardboard, paper, plastic, metal, organics, and construction debris.

The average household consists of 2.6 persons and the average resident generates approximately 3.9 pounds of waste per day (CalRecycle 2013).

Descriptions of Solid Waste Processes

Management

Placer County Facility Services Department, Environmental Engineering Division administers and manages the countywide solid waste programs. Programs in eastern Placer County include garbage collection contracts, education and outreach, Eastern Regional Materials Recovery Facility, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, and recycling centers, and satellite recycling bins.

Collection

Solid waste within the unincorporated areas of the County is collected by Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD).

TTSD provides "blue bag" curbside recycling service to residents. Recyclables can be placed in a blue bag and collected with the regular garbage on collection day. TTSD

also offers mixed paper and cardboard recycling to businesses and beverage container recycling to restaurants upon request.

Processing and Disposal Facilities

Solid waste collected in eastern Placer County is processed at the Eastern Regional Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The MRF is located on property owned by Placer County and the County contracts with Eastern Regional Sanitary Landfill, Inc. (ERSL) to conduct the day-to-day operations and maintenance of the Facility.

The MRF receives, separates, processes and markets recyclable materials removed from the waste stream. The facility is permitted to receive 800 tons of material per day, and 832 vehicles per day, and is operated subject to a Solid Waste Facility Permit under the jurisdiction of the Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery (CalRecycle).

Residual waste is consolidated and transported to the Lockwood Landfill in Nevada, which is a municipal solid waste facility located in Storey County, off of I-80, east of Sparks, Nevada. On average, the Lockwood Regional Landfill receives 5,000 tons of waste each day (Nevada Division of Environmental Protection [NDEP] 2014). The permitted combined disposal capacity of the landfill is approximately 265 million cubic yards. The Lockwood Regional Landfill has approximately 865.5 acres of Class I solid waste disposal area (municipal solid waste) and 40 acres of Class III solid waste disposal area (waste tires and certain types of construction waste) (NDEP 2013).

Recycling/Waste Reduction Systems

The MRF separates and recycles marketable materials such as paper, cardboard, plastics, wood waste, metals and glass. The facility also recycles source-separated wood waste, pine needles, white goods, and inert materials. Wood waste is chipped for mulch or biomass fuel, pine needles are chipped and used for slope stabilization, and inert materials are crushed for reuse as aggregate or in on-site land remediation. MRF staff properly evacuates any chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) or other refrigerants from white goods before marketing the materials as scrap metal.

The MRF includes a buy-back facility, where source-separated recyclables from residents and commercial recyclers are accepted. Universal wastes, including CRTs, electronics, fluorescent lamps, mercury-containing items, and household batteries are also accepted for drop-off recycling during normal business hours.

Hazardous waste from households and Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators is collected at a permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, located next to the MRF. The facility is open, by appointment, the third Saturday of each month throughout the year for residents and is open the preceding Fridays for businesses. In addition to those dates, the facility will be open each Friday during the summer from May to September, by appointment only. Materials accepted include paint, paint products, household batteries, car batteries and fluids, pesticides,

household cleaners, used oil and filters, sharps, and pharmaceuticals. The facility is operated subject to the Permit-by-Rule requirements under the jurisdiction of Placer County Environmental Health Services and as an Approved Home-Generated Sharps Consolidation Point under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Public Health, Medical Waste Management Program.

Other recycling opportunities throughout western Placer County include privately operated buy-back centers, TTSD-provided drop-off recycling centers, and satellite recycling bins.

3. Regulatory Setting

Federal Regulations

Volume 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 258 contains regulations for municipal solid waste landfills and requires states to implement their own permitting programs incorporating the federal landfill criteria. The federal regulations address the locations, operation, design, groundwater monitoring, and closure of landfills.

State Regulations

The California Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939, 1989) contains regulations affecting solid waste disposal in California. AB 939 requires that Counties prepare Integrated Waste Management Plans to implement landfill diversion goals and prepare and adopt Source Reduction and Recycling Elements (SRRE). The SRRE must establish a program for managing and reducing waste generated in the County.

SB 1016 (2007) amended portions of the California Integrated Waste Management Act. The Act allows the Department of Resources, Recovery and Recycling (CalRecycle) to use per capita disposal as an indicator in evaluating compliance with the requirements of AB 939. Jurisdictions track and report their per capita disposal rates to CalRecycle.

Solid waste facilities are required to obtain a Solid Waste Facilities Permit from the Placer County Local Enforcement Agency and obtain Waste Discharge Requirements from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act (AB 1327, 1991) requires jurisdictions to adopt ordinances requiring development projects to provide adequate storage area for collection and removal of recyclable materials. Placer County adopted such an ordinance (Municipal Code Section 8.16.080).

AB 341 (2011) directed CalRecycle to develop and adopt regulations for mandatory commercial recycling. The resulting Mandatory Commercial Recycling Regulation was approved at the CalRecycle Monthly Public Meeting in 2012. The regulations require that on and after July 1, 2012, businesses, including public entities, that generate four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week shall arrange for recycling

services. To comply with this requirement, businesses are required either separate recyclable materials and self-haul, subscribe to a hauler, and/or allow the pickup of separated recyclables; and/or subscribe to a recycling service that includes mixed waste processing that diverts recyclable materials from disposal. The MRF is a mixed waste processing facility. AB 341 also established a statewide recycling goal of 75 percent; the 50 percent disposal reduction mandate still applies for cities and counties under AB 939.

As part of the 2010 California Green Building Standards Code Sections 4.408 and 5.408, Construction Waste Management Plans are required for all newly constructed residential buildings or structures, all newly constructed nonresidential buildings or structures, existing nonresidential buildings with additions of 2,000 sq.ft. and larger, and existing nonresidential alterations when permit valuation or estimated construction cost of alteration is \$500,000.00 and greater. The Construction Waste Management Plans may be found online at

<http://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/communitydevelopment/building/building-applications-and-forms>

AB 1826 requires certain businesses to recycle their organic waste on and after April 1, 2016, depending on the amount of waste they generate per week. Organic waste is currently defined as food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste. This law phases in the mandatory recycling of commercial organics over time beginning in 2016. To comply with this requirement, businesses are required to either separate organic waste materials and self-haul, subscribe to a hauler, and/or recycle organic waste onsite; and/or subscribe to a recycling service that includes mixed waste processing that diverts organic waste materials from disposal.

Local Regulations

The Placer County General Plan, Goal 4G, includes several goals and policies applicable to the provision of solid waste services.

4. Waste System Constraints/Impacts Associated with Growth

This section addresses the limitations of the existing services and infrastructure and describes how local growth can potentially impact these systems.

Facility Permitted Capacity

The MRF is currently permitted to accept 800 tons and 832 vehicles per day. In 2014, the facility received and processed nearly 74,000 tons of solid waste or an average of 201 tons per day (approximately 42,000 tons of which were from unincorporated Placer County).

Facilities are designed for a limited amount of capacity and have certain inherent limits. Should significant increases in materials push these limits and affect the facilities' ability to handle the waste, the addition of new facilities or expansion of the existing facility may be necessary.

Collection Capacity

Similarly, the current collection infrastructure can handle only so much growth before needing to add routes, vehicles, employees, and/or transfer stations. An EIR should confirm the solid waste collection provider has the ability to service the proposed project.

5. EIR Analysis

Estimates of waste generated from a project, both during construction and once the project is complete, is valuable in assessing a project's significance on the solid waste infrastructure. This section provides information that will assist EIR preparers in gathering this information.

Waste Generation

For development projects, the EIR should provide an estimate of construction-related waste generation. There are many resources and websites available that provide construction debris estimates based on structure type (e.g. National Association of Home Builders); using the estimated quantities and projected construction schedule, an EIR should be able to provide an estimated construction generation rate (e.g. tons and/or vehicles per day) and assess the impact of the receiving waste facilities during the construction phase(s).

An EIR should also estimate operational-related waste generation (e.g. tons per year), after project completion.

Waste Characterization

CalRecycle provides waste stream profiles, by jurisdiction, based on statewide waste characterization studies.

If a project's waste stream is anticipated to differ greatly from the profile, it should be explained in the EIR. Similarly, if the project will be introducing a new waste product that may require special handling, it should also be noted in the EIR.

Destination of Waste

The EIR should state the intended destination of the waste. Currently, all waste collected from eastern Placer County is processed at the Eastern Regional MRF and disposed at Lockwood Landfill in Nevada.

Impact on Solid Waste Infrastructure

Based on the amount of waste generated, character of the waste, and intended destination of the waste, the EIR should estimate what potential impacts the project could have on the solid waste infrastructure. Specifically, the EIR should address if the total waste generated will shorten the life expectancy of the landfill or impact the receiving and processing capacity of the MRF.

Impacts can be mitigated through various methods, including construction / demolition debris recycling, recycling collection services, recycling space allocation in commercial development, community recycling centers, and construction of new solid waste facilities. The EIR consultant should determine which methods are suitable based on the size and nature of the project.