

**MEMORANDUM
WESTERN PLACER WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

TO: **WPWMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS** DATE: **NOVEMBER 12, 2020**
FROM: **KEN GREHM / ERIC ODDO** 
SUBJECT: **WASTE ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

None. This report is for information purposes only.

BACKGROUND:

The following provides an update on the WPWMA's *Renewable Placer: Waste Action Plan* environmental impact report development and schedule.

Environmental Impact Report Progress Overview

Jacobs continues to make progress in preparing the Waste Action Plan draft environmental impact report (DEIR). An updated high-level project status matrix is attached identifying anticipated completion dates for key milestones and progression of major DEIR elements; darker matrix completion bars denote progress since the last update to your Board. As noted in the matrix and consistent with previous Waste Action Plan updates, staff currently anticipates release of the DEIR in Spring 2021. This schedule is premised on several assumptions including: 1) the methods the WPWMA uses to engage stakeholders through the remainder of the process, 2) how proposed facility modifications resulting from the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and Western Regional Sanitary Landfill (WRSL) Request for Proposals (RFP) processes align with the current scope of the DEIR, and 3) level of project detail associated with potential circular economy public-private partnerships.

Stakeholder Engagement Process

Since the onset of the Waste Action Plan in July 2015, staff have worked to identify, engage and inform potential stakeholder groups about the role of the WPWMA's facility and the drivers necessitating the proposed improvements identified in the DEIR. These groups have included the Member Agencies and their staffs, local Chambers of Commerce, adjacent landowners and developers, the United Auburn Indian Community, and nearby neighborhood associations and homeowners' associations.

WPWMA staff have convened a Member Agency Advisory Committee and key stakeholder working group to convey information and gather feedback, made presentations to interested groups, established the www.RenewablePlacer.com website as a central location for all Waste Action Plan information, and engaged a local public relations firm to provide Public Information Officer services specific to this project. In addition, to help interested parties better understand the WPWMA's existing operation as well as the anticipated future changes contemplated in the DEIR, staff worked with Jacob's to develop a visual simulation application that allows users to view proposed buildout scenarios of the WPWMA's facility from various vantage points. This visual

simulation application is available on the RenewablePlacer.com website at 3d.renewableplacer.com.

While it has become more common for agencies to provide select parties the opportunity to review the Administrative DEIR, this process can add several months to the overall project schedule. The current schedule anticipates review of the Administrative DEIR by WPWMA staff only. After discussion with the Member Agency Advisory Committee, the parties agreed that providing the advisory committee members with periodic Executive Summary-level updates on the specific impacts and anticipated mitigation measures identified as part of the DEIR would be sufficient, and that review of the Administrative DEIR would not be necessary. Staff intend to present your Board with a proposed timeline for completion of the EIR process.

Coordination with the MRF and WRSL RFP Processes

When the Waste Action Plan scope was initially developed, staff and Jacobs identified broad aspects of the facility (organics management, construction and demolition debris processing, the public tipping area, and future landfill development) that would require modification to address future regional waste management needs. Although the MRF building was acknowledged to continue to be a key element in the WPWMA's operation, staff believed that any modifications necessary to meet future needs would likely be achieved through a change in the processing equipment inside of the building, which would typically qualify for a categorical exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act. Therefore, significant changes to the MRF building and functionality are not identified in the DEIR.

Depending on proposals received as part of the MRF RFP process and the direction your Board chooses related to potential proposed facility modifications, the scope of the DEIR may need to be modified to address the proposed facility changes. Until the MRF proposals are received in mid-December, it is unclear what, if any, impact there will be on the continued development of the DEIR and the timing of its public release. Staff will provide an update to your Board on this issue as soon as the potential impact of the MRF and WRSL proposals on the DEIR are known.

Circular Economy

As part of the Waste Action Plan, staff identified the potential to work with private entities to establish compatible technologies and manufacturing to utilize materials recovered at the WPWMA's facility. These types of public-private partnerships could serve to establish local recyclables markets and create jobs as part of a circular economy.

Because the potential technologies that could be employed at the WPWMA's site are currently not well known, Jacobs is analyzing this portion of the project on a *programmatic* level rather than a *project* level, which is intended to streamline any subsequent environmental review that may be necessary to site a new technology or manufacturing process.

As the WPWMA's circular economy plans are becoming more well known, staff are meeting and talking with various parties that may ultimately wish to partner with the

WPWMA to capitalize on the unique aspects proposed by the project. Furthermore, as part of the MRF RFP process, the WPWMA is encouraging the submittal of proposals that include coordination with third parties to foster local recycling markets to support a local circular economy model.

As details about potentially viable compatible technologies emerge over the next several months, the WPWMA may consider adjustments to its process for evaluating the anticipated range of environmental impacts associated with these technologies to ensure it is well positioned to take advantage of these opportunities in a timely manner.

Next Steps

As noted above, staff intend to present your Board with a proposed timeline for completion of the EIR process at the December meeting. Additionally, staff will continue to coordinate with Jacobs to identify any changes to the DEIR scope or schedule as a result of the RFP processes and continued discussions with interested circular economy partners. If staff identifies that any such changes necessitate an amendment to Jacob's agreement, staff will alert your Board as soon as the details are known and prepare an amendment as appropriate.

ATTACHMENT: WASTE ACTION PLAN STATUS MATRIX