

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 15.2
(ID # 30262)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, April 28, 2026

FROM : DEPARTMENT OF WASTE RESOURCES

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF WASTE RESOURCES: Receive and File El Sobrante Landfill
Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) 2025 Annual Report, District 2. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and file the 2025 Annual Report of the El Sobrante Landfill COC.

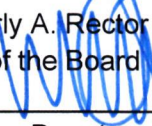
ACTION:Policy


Andrew Cortez 4/20/2026

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Washington, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is received and filed as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: April 28, 2026
xc: Waste

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: Waste Resources Enterprise Fund			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year:	25/26

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

In accordance with Resolution No. 2005-148 Adopting Uniform Rules and Procedures for Advisory Committees, Board and Commissions of the County of Riverside and Board Policy A-21, advisory groups to the Board are required to file an annual report of their activities. The 2025 Annual Report of the El Sobrante Landfill COC, which includes the meeting minutes for the 2025 reporting year, is attached.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

The motion to receive and file the 2025 El Sobrante Landfill COC Annual Report will not result in impacts to citizens or businesses.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A. 2025 El Sobrante Landfill COC Annual Report

Crystal Carrillo
 Crystal Carrillo, Senior Management Analyst 4/22/2026

Aaron Gettis
 Aaron Gettis, Chief Deputy County Counsel 4/20/2026

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY
EL SOBRANTE LANDFILL CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

MEETINGS:

In 2025, the El Sobrante Landfill Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) met in March, June, July, September, and December. COC activities are summarized below, with the meeting minutes attached.

ACTIVITIES:

March 12, 2025

1. Department of Waste Resources (RCDWR) provided updates on the proposed Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) facility, litter and visual impacts on landfill berms, other site improvements, the Local Mitigation Trust Fund and discussion about adding off-site air quality monitoring stations in the community.
2. Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) provided details regarding monthly inspections of the landfill.
3. Waste Management Inc. (WM) provided landfill operation and Subsurface Elevated Temperature (SET) updates.
4. David Harich (consultant) and Colonel Eric Swenson (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) made a presentation about fire debris constituents and the process for handling fire debris after a Fire Emergency.

June 11, 2025

1. RCDWR provided updates on the Local Mitigation Trust Fund, site improvements, and the proposed RNG facility.
2. LEA provided landfill inspection and odor investigation updates.
3. WM provided landfill operation, outside slopes and SET updates.
4. Comments on the 2024 Annual Report were discussed and the COC requested that staff add a meeting to allow additional time to discuss the report.

July 9, 2025

1. RCDWR provided updates on the Local Mitigation Trust Fund and air quality monitoring stations, site improvements including the Leachate Tank Farm project, and the proposed RNG facility.
2. LEA provided landfill inspection updates.
3. WM provided landfill operation, outside slope visual impacts and SET updates.
4. Additional comments on the 2024 Annual Report were provided.

September 10, 2025

1. RCDWR provided updates on the Local Mitigation Trust Fund and air quality monitoring stations, site improvements including the proposed RNG facility, and the proposed RNG facility.
2. LEA provided landfill inspection updates.
3. WM provided landfill operation, site improvement project updates, outside visual slopes and SET updates.
4. Comments on the Final 2024 Annual Report were provided.

December 10, 2025

1. RCDWR provided updates on the Local Mitigation Trust Fund and air quality monitoring stations.
2. LEA provided landfill inspection and odor investigation updates.
3. Todd Sax of CalEPA made a presentation about the SET event that El Sobrante Landfill is experiencing and the interagency group formed to coordinate compliance and enforcement activities.
4. WM provided landfill operation and outside slope visual impact updates.
5. COC members elected a new Vice-Chair (Jerry Sincich), and the current Vice-Chair (Lee Wilson) moved into the Chair position for 2026.

COC Members	Representing	March 12, 2025	June 11, 2025	July 9, 2025	September 10, 2025	December 10, 2025	Term Ends
Ruth Brissenden	2 nd District	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6/30/26
Jerry Sincich	2 nd District	✓	✓	✓	✓		6/30/26
Lee Wilson	2 nd District	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6/30/26
Tracy Davis	2 nd District	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6/30/26
County Staff							
Aaron Gettis	County Counsel	✓		✓	✓		
Braden Holly	County Counsel		✓			✓	
Ryan Ross	RCDWR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kinika Hesterly	RCDWR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mariela Aguilar	RCDWR	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Kathryn Aguilar	RCDWR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Corinne Awad	RCDWR		✓	✓			
Aliah Mitchell	RCDWR		✓				
Katherine Veliz	RCDWR		✓				

Sandi Salas	Environmental Health	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kristine Kim	Environmental Health	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Fritzy Devera	Environmental Health	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Jenay Marcotte	Environmental Health	✓					
Brent Casey	Environmental Health		✓				
	BOS 2 nd District		✓				
WM Staff							
David Meyer	WM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Linda Lockhart	WM		✓	✓		✓	
Cindy Daverin	WM			✓	✓		
Cody Cowgill	WM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lily Quiroa	WM	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Richard Carpenter	WM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Miriam Cardenas	WM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Vanessa Castrita	WM	✓					
Matt Darr	WM	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Kyle Evans	WM			✓	✓		
Christian Colline	WM	✓					
Christine Wolfe	WM				✓	✓	

✓ = Attended

**March 12, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

**EL SOBRANTE LANDFILL
CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

MARCH 12, 2025

The following were present:

Committee Members

Tracy Davis, Chair
Lee Wilson, Vice-Chair
Bruce Sneller
Ruth Brissenden
Jerry Sincich

Committee Members Absent

WM/USA Waste

David Meyer, El Sobrante Landfill
Richard Carpenter, El Sobrante Landfill
Matt Darr, WM
Miriam Cardenas, WM
Vanessa Caustrita, WM
Cody Cowgill, WM
Lily Quiroa, WM
Christian Colline, WM

County Staff

Aaron Gettis
Ryan Ross
Kinka Hesterly
Mariela Aguilar
Kathryn Aguilar
Fritzy Devera
Sandi Salas
Jenay Marcotte

Representing

County Counsel
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Environmental Health
Environmental Health
Environmental Health

Guests/Interested Parties

Julie Showalter, Resident
Martin Lange, Resident
Barbara Paul, Resident
Emanuel Quezada, Resident
Rob Mucha, Resident
Dave Davis, Resident
Colonel Eric R. Swenson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
David Harich, Geologic Associates

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

At 10:00am, Tracy Davis called the meeting to order and formally introduced the newest Committee Member, Bruce Sneller.

II. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 11th, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

Lee Wilson moved to approve the minutes as written, Jerry Sincich seconded the motion. Approved as written by a 4-0 vote, with Bruce Sneller abstaining.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. STAFF UPDATES

1. Site Improvements

- Ryan Ross reports:
 - The new flare at the landfill is currently under plan-check.

- The leachate tank farm has been permitted, but not yet constructed.
- Cody Cowgill states:
 - The new flare will be located in the parking lot, to the right of the scales, near visitor parking.

2. Visual Impact & Litter Management

- Ryan Ross distributed a packet to COC members containing email correspondence from Rob Mucha, which included images, links, and descriptions related to visual impacts to the outside berms of the landfill.

3. Air Quality and Debris Concerns/Ongoing Site Management

- Jerry Sincich and Lee Wilson raised concerns about air quality impacts including particulate matter, flying debris caused by strong winds, and exposed trash.
- Jerry recommended implementing a mitigation plan and suggested addressing several items at the next meeting, including:
 - An air quality monitoring station near Terramor
 - Visual impacts
 - Exterior slope management
 - Windborne debris
- Dave Meyer and David Harich explained that trash is compacted and covered with dirt, and that outside slopes are covered immediately. Dave confirmed that tarps are used to cover debris over the weekend and are removed on Monday mornings.

B. RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS (RNG) FACILITY

- Ryan Ross reported:
 - Renewable Natural Gas project currently has been issued building permits for Phases 1A, 1B and 2A.
 - Phase 2B is not permitted; pending AQMD clearance.

C. LOCAL MITIGATION TRUST FUND

- Ryan Ross reported:
 - No new updates to report
- COC members discussed the process of adding an off-site air quality monitoring station.
 - Ryan Ross stated that it would have to be reviewed and deemed an eligible expense.

D. LANDFILL UPDATES

1. General Site Operations

- David Meyer reported:
 - Currently in cell 13B; the landfill is operating 24 hours a day, 6 days a week and receiving approximately 12,000 tons on average, 67,000 – 68,000 ton a week.
 - Supplemental irrigation was utilized in December and January.
 - Probe 22 still out of compliance. A safety compliance mitigation plan was submitted.
 - Significantly high winds in January. Discussed the processes for handling high winds.

- Public Comments: Martin Lange and Rob Mucha expressed concerns about use and location of tipplers in high winds, visual impacts, debris/litter due to high winds, and clean-up in the community.

2. Elevated Sub-Surface Temperatures

- David Harich reported:
 - No sub-surfaces fires at El Sobrante.
 - Next Steps:
 - Continue well installations and monitoring.
 - Explore onsite treatment options.
 - Updates to be provided at future meetings.
- The COC and members of the public discussed the recent LA Times article, availability and distribution of data, decomposition timeframes, and potential for toxicity (and associated health risks) near Terramor.
 - David Harich responded:
 - The landfill is in full compliance with toxicity limits and AQMD-approved variance.
 - All regulated constituents (e.g., methyl sulfides, VOCs, metals, pesticides) are monitored quarterly.
 - There is a compliance level: Monitor Compliance Level (MCL). All data is publicly available on GeoTracker.
 - Matt Darr provided an update:
 - AQMD-approved variance allows temporarily elevated dimethyl sulfide (DMS) levels until controlled.
 - Elevated DMS is being captured and destroyed, not released into surrounding areas.
 - No health risk identified; emissions are monitored and managed.

3. Fire Debris Operations:

- David Harich and Colonel Eric R. Swenson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (via telephone), addressed fire debris disposal.
- COC members questioned the constituents of fire debris material, and the potential for the material to become airborne or aerosolized at the landfill.
- Colonel Swenson and David Harich reported:
 - In the State of California, when there is a declared Fire Emergency, the fire, ash, and debris are considered municipal waste. It's taken to a lined landfill. Household hazardous materials are removed prior to disposal, in coordination with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines.
 - The remaining fire, ash, and debris — primarily ash and non-hazardous structural material is collected using approved methods, properly stored during transport, and delivered to a lined, a permitted landfill. At the landfill, the material is tipped and safely incorporated into the waste stream consistent with regulatory standards.
 - Fire debris is transported in a controlled, enclosed manner, typically wet and/or wrapped to minimize any potential for airborne exposure. The transport process is secure, and the receiving landfills are lined, regulated, and prepared to manage this material safely.

4. Leachate and Condensate

- Cody Cowgill and David Meyer reported:
 - Leachate production has increased because of mitigating the high sub-surface temperatures.
 - Leachate/condensate is not used for dust control and is trucked offsite for disposal.
 - WM is exploring options for on-site processing of leachate/condensate.

5. Odor Control

- Update from Richard Carpenter
 - Odor complaints have significantly decreased due to ongoing efforts by the on-site team.
 - A water cannon was used last year but is currently inactive as operations have shifted further from the area of concern.
 - From January 2025 – March 2025, only three odor complaints were received — averaging once per month.

6. Community Relations

- Richard Carpenter provided an update about upcoming events.

E. LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCY UPDATE

1. Site inspections

- Update from Sandi Salas:
 - LEA Inspections: Monthly inspections completed for December, January, and February, however the March inspection is pending.
 - Gas Violation: Methane was detected at Probe 22. Mitigation plan was submitted to LEA; an updated version was sent to Cal Recycle.

2. Complaints

- No odor complaints received by LEA to date in 2025. Three non-odor complaints (litter, traffic direction) noted.
- The January offsite litter was addressed. No offsite litter was reported in February.
- Inspection Routes: Regular routes include Dawson Canyon Dr., Spanish Hills, and Terramor. Routes can be adjusted if issues are reported.
- Jenay Marcotte, Public Information Officer with Environmental Health, clarified that:
 - Environmental Health issued the Emergency Waiver to help mitigate extra trash accumulation in LA County due to the fire related closure of three landfills.
 - The waiver permits El Sobrante Landfill to only accept municipal solid waste.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

None

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Public Commentors: Rob Mucha
 - Rob Mucha suggested the COC meet sooner to address visual impact issues to allow more time for discussion on alternatives. He requested not to be accosted by WM staff when taking pictures of windblown litter and debris from the landfill.

VI. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- **Lee Wilson:** Appreciated the decision to pause acceptance of fire debris until further evaluation is completed. Lee questioned if the topics of litter, construction of outside berms, and aerosolization, will be covered at the next meeting or a special meeting. Ryan Ross confirmed that these items will be on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- **Jerry Sincich:** Thanked Dave Harich and WM for a detailed presentation, noting that the data and insights provided have greatly enhanced community understanding.
- **Tracy Davis:** Emphasized that any future variances or landfill issues should be promptly raised with the COC members to avoid miscommunication in the community and to avoid negative media exposure and ensure the community remains well-informed.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2025, 10:00 am.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Email correspondence and photos from Rob Mucha,

Ross, Ryan

From: Rob Mucha <robamucha@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 7:00 PM
To: Ross, Ryan
Cc: Martin Lange; Kelli Noss; kelly@glenandkellynelson.com; John Watson; dmeyer9; Salas, Sandi; Kim, Kristine; Paule, Philip; Torres, Madelyn; Cortez, Andy; Carpenter, Richard; LQuiroa@wm.com; Hesterly, Kinika; Lee Wilson; Jerry Sincich; Tracy Davis; Julie Showalter; Amie Kinne
Subject: Re: El Sobrante Landfill Issues

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Ryan,

Thanks for your follow-up.

My perspective is that if County Waste asks the landfill operator or LEA to respond to a formal complaint then they should for the record. I won't belabor the point as I don't want to focus on it as much as the main issue at hand.

To be as crystal clear as one can be, prior to June 2024 we never saw the front facing wall constructed of waste. I've stopped using the term berm as there may be some semantical challenge. My house literally has a direct view of the landfill and we never saw uncovered waste from the front. Never.

Heck, we used to comment on increased truck activity on top or barren areas in the middle, There was even a Press Enterprise article about the lack of plant coverage. Visible uncovered waste is way off that scale.

I do remember vividly the prior increase in front wall height as it was right as I was finishing up my second term on the COC. Bob Magee informed the COC that Supervisor Jeffries and WM had reached an agreement to go higher then so we wouldn't see it for several years. It was completed as I previously communicated ... fill dirt wall constructed first in its entirety and then waste filled behind.

I'd ask that you go through meeting notes or complaints to locate pictures from the last 15 years that shows the front wall similarly constructed of waste. There would be no shortage of them and likely some from me and Martin. I'd recommend you do that before socializing the "it has always been this way" messaging.

But for the sake of argument, I'd say that there was enough data and pictures this time to support the fact that this process doesn't work, regardless of new or old. Extended uncovered waste this close to communities and a protected stream is mind-boggling. Can't cover rotting waste on top of the front for one reason or another for an extended time? That dog don't hunt, especially with all the increased odor complaints even when trash is actually is covered nightly. I can just imagine what the Terramore group will say about it if the messaging is "don't worry you have a couple years of reprieve. " No significant improvement is unacceptable.

And I was corrected by Martin that WM did a couple of hours of cleanup near accessible roads. I hope people understand that 95% of where the waste went is on private property, inaccessible hills/streams/ponds/tree groves.

Lastly, transfer trucks are still exiting Weirick regularly to go to the landfill, I've taken pictures of two transfer trucks parking south of Dawson road heading north on Temescal Canyon Road in the median, and I'd ask that the TMAC be given advanced notice of fire ash being delivered to the landfill, but the front wall is my priority.

Please print my response for the meeting and add to the meeting minutes.

Thanks.

Rob Mucha

Resident Advocate, Former COC member

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 11, 2025, at 4:51 PM, Ross, Ryan <rmross@rivco.org> wrote:

Hi Rob- thank you for the photos and links to the videos. Recently, Martin provided a similar email. At the COC meeting tomorrow, WM will provide updates on their efforts addressing wind-blown litter. Additionally, I'll provide hard copies of this email to the COC members and include it in the record of the minutes.

I spoke to Dave Meyer today about the issues. He mentioned he addressed the matter with you in person on January 8th after the TMAC meeting, and felt that an email response was not needed. We also discussed construction of outside berms. He consulted with past management of the landfill and confirmed that there has been no change in construction of outside berms within the landfill footprint- constructed with waste, then covered with dirt. He will review the concern provided below regarding your interaction with WM Supervisor Dan Berger.

I also spoke with Sandi Salas from the LEA. While visual impacts (the subject of our January emails) are not under the jurisdiction of the LEA, she mentioned there was an oversight in not responding, but she will review this email and get back to both you and Martin regarding windblown litter and bird activity.

I'm glad to hear that the front facing berm is constructed and I'll work with WM, the COC, and the LEA, on potential solutions to these issues.

Note- The COC is included on this email but blind copied to avoid conflicts with the Brown Act.

Thank you,

Ryan Ross
Assistant General Manager
951-486-3280
rmross@rivco.org



Ross, Ryan

From: rob mucha <robamucha@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 9:55 AM
To: Ross, Ryan
Cc: Tracy Davis; Jerry Sincich; Lee Wilson; Martin Lange; Kelli Noss; kelly@GlenandKellyNelson.com; John Watson
Subject: Re: El Sobrante Landfill Issues

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Ryan,

For the record, neither the LEA nor landfill responded to me regarding your email request to respond. I really didn't expect much help from either of the two but still is rather disappointing. I didn't have some of their emails so please forward so they see it before tomorrow's COC meeting.

We learned on Saturday that they finally wrapped up most of the activities from this round of front-facing berm height increases that took approximately nine months to complete. During that time, there was always a large section of uncovered trash for extended periods of time (except from Saturday night to Monday morning) which significantly increased impact to our community.

- The large section of uncovered rotting waste smelled worse on the east side of the freeway every time I visited,
- There was a significant increase in bird activity as the prolonged decaying trash was quite the buffet,
- There was a significant increase in visible truck activity from the continuous dumping of trash at the top of the berm, and
- There was a significant amount of trash that left the landfill and ventured to neighboring communities, the protected stream, and to the freeway areas. Of course, leaving uncovered waste at the top of the hill facing the community was an idea doomed from the start.



I've created a drop box folder of pictures from various days to illustrate the collective experience, and to show that it was visible the entire time from most areas within Temescal Valley (and some of Corona). The January 6 folder in particular shows shots from the many vantage points.

Drop Box Link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/zio63pvpzf1wtr1w50pw7/AP2KgcK1ddkURJ9JgJA6kVE?rlkey=rt5ozb8jt6fp0lzn0ahh32i6d&dl=0>

Here are a couple samples of how large the uncovered areas ultimately got before being covered, one from June 10, 2024 and one from Jan 16, 2025 to show that covering processes didn't change throughout.





It was impactful throughout the nine months, but there was a particular two-week period in January that was absolutely devastating and will have long-term effect to the neighboring community (some areas of trash not reachable).

I've attached links to two YouTube videos of what operation was like through that two-week period of high winds (which were accurately forecasted in advance). The first was created from local resident/advocate Martin Lange of trash immediately leaving the berm in mass toward the communities.

Martin's Link from top of berm (blowing away from landfill): <https://youtu.be/4aY35THJN1Q>

Here are some screen shots but the shocking video shows the full extent of what we experienced regularly in that timeframe (and to a lesser extent throughout the nine months).





The second video is a compilation of videos from the same timeframe and some photos of the impact of the trash in the neighboring community area and protected stream. Parts of the video probably need to be slowed down to see the impact as it is still a work in progress, but I refer you to the section of the recycling area just in front of the front facing berm which similarly demonstrates an utter disregard to preventing trash from leaving the landfill area.

Link of impact and Recycling Area: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVN1nkx0ll>

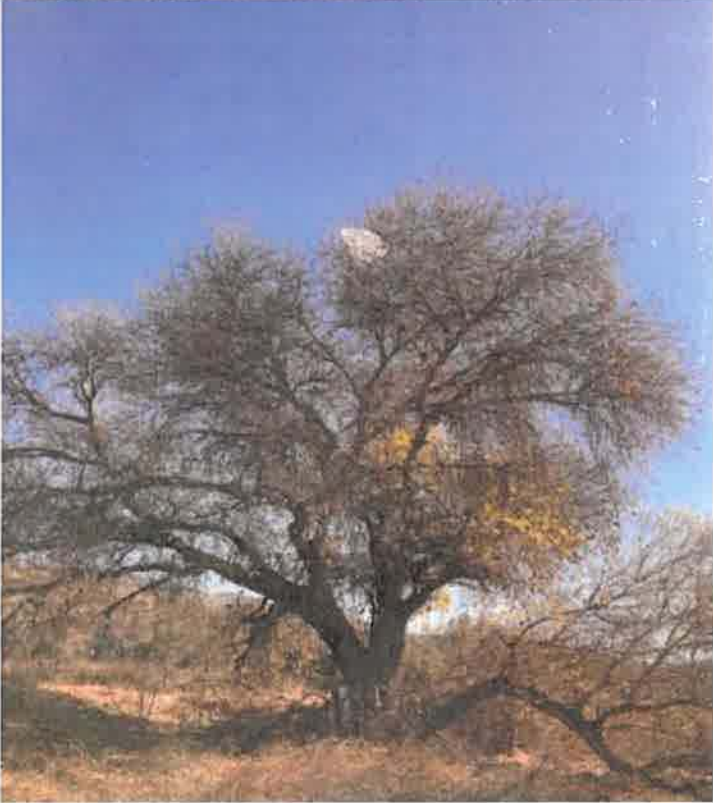
Snapshots of the video don't do it justice but here is an item leaving the fence area, and a separate photo from the adjacent fence area.

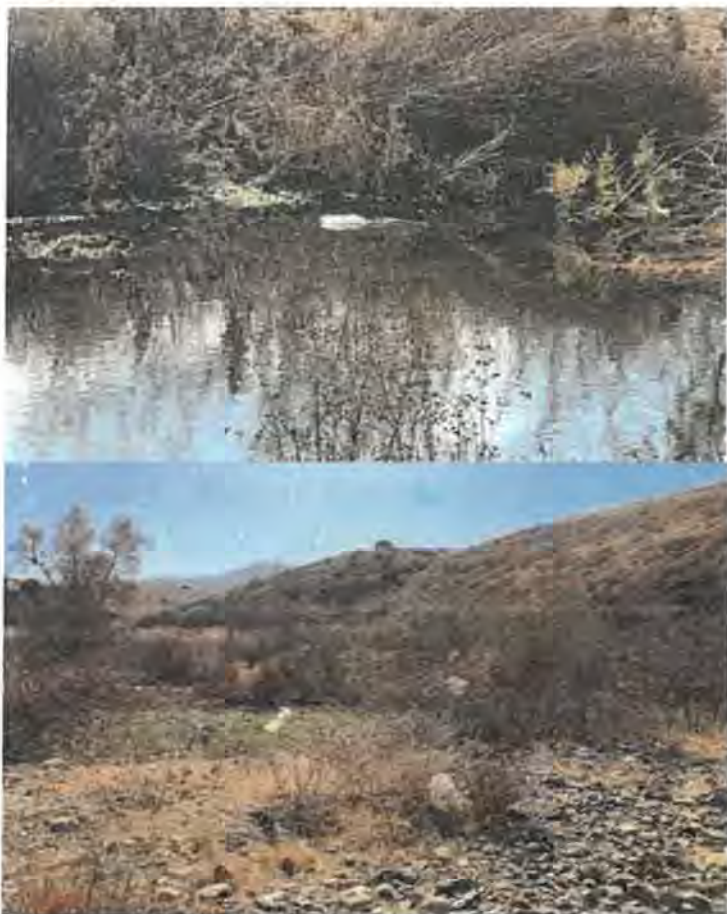




Fences in the area were clearly not tall enough and several areas had missing fence sections. To my knowledge, the fences still haven't increased in size, nor the missing sections replaced.

I want to reiterate that the highest winds happened several days in a two-week period, but the effects of any one of those days had visible impact and long-term community impact of pulling trash out of trees, protected streams, etc. Pictures from before the winds show how trash had consistently left the top berm area.





Others sample community impact photos are in the drop box folder titled Martin Lange.

Martin and I sent timely videos and some photos to the COC Chairman and other community members. We were told that they were able to get Supervisor Spiegel's office to help expedite Waste Management cleanup activities of their lower berm area, but there were no apparent changes in processes to adjust to what we were experiencing. "Expedited" or not, cleanup of their areas looked like a snow storm had hit that side of the hill for weeks and there wasn't a significant effort to remove trash from the surrounding areas from my watchful perspective. Martin Lange may be able to shed some light on cleanup activities.

I did have three interactions with WMI staff during this time that may shed some light:

1/8/25 Dave Meyer, Senior District Manager - After sharing my berm coverage concerns at TMAC community meeting I had the opportunity to speak with Dave. He said 1) they'd be done soon (yet again), 2) that it was too dangerous from an engineering standpoint to cover the berm nightly (though cover every Saturday night safely in about an hour the times I watched), and 3) they had a shortage of ground cover (Corona Clay is literally below the hill and several more aggregate providers are within five miles). These should be fleshed out more if they maintain those excuses.

1/11/25 Dan Berger, Supervisor - On one of the days I was taking pictures near the turnout near the dust phone number sign, Dan stopped his car and literally yelled at me that I wasn't allowed to take pictures and that I needed to immediately get in my car and leave. It was in an aggressive, intimidating tone. I told him who I was, that of course citizens were allowed to take pictures, and that I'd be brief. When he repeated the order verbatim, in same tone, I asked for his name (though he looked kind of familiar), reiterated that I'd be leaving soon, and welcomed him to call Dave or the authorities. This was a tense situation, especially with my wife watching from the car. I was

actually near the “call if you see dust sign” for those who like a little irony. Upon leaving, I immediately informed the COC Chair of the interaction. This was three days after I had the slideshow at TMAC and at a time when a lot of debris was leaving the landfill toward the community. Please remind the landfill that their employees are not to accost or try to intimidate citizens.

3/8/25 Richard, PR - He informed a community group that berm activity was complete for this round. Maybe I misheard him, but I think he suggested that tarps were regularly used in this timeframe to minimize impact. I pointed out that tarps were only used Saturday night through Monday morning. Let me know if there is a debate about when tarps were used. It's big and bright white so it really stands out. I also mentioned the Dan Berger incident. Richard did offer to setup a meeting with Dave but at that point I decided it was best to pursue first through COC.

Please work with the COC and landfill operator to learn from this experience and proactively come up with a better solution for the next front berm height increase. I recommend going back to the less invasive approach of building the berm out of dirt and then filling behind so that trash is not visible from the front, and decaying trash gets covered more timely. To clear up any confusion, this was the first time they built the front facing berm from uncovered trash and the approach by all reasonable measurements failed. The former approach – that was used every prior front berm growth period - was much less invasive in terms of visibility, smell, and waste retention to the community and freeway.

To me this is clear-cut and I am hopeful that reasonable, objective people can come to agreement and document for the future (be proactive) a reasonable approach in Wednesday's COC that minimizes impact to the community. I've seen stranger things, though in those meetings, and feel it important to say that Wednesday wouldn't be the final stop in pursuing that reasonable agreement (and I don't mean ARC). Thanks in advance for your assistance on this important matter.

Sincerely

Rob Mucha

Resident Advocate, Former COC Member

PS: I'm unfortunately not going to be able to make the meeting but am hopeful that someone from the County or COC print the pictures for the COC record. As you know, there is regular turnover of COC participants so having a detailed record of what we experienced is helpful should we ever need to have another discussion regarding front berm growth processes.

From: Ross, Ryan <rmross@RIVCO.ORG>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 1:22 PM
To: rob mucha <robamucha@gmail.com>
Cc: Kelli Noss <kellinoss@live.com>; John Watson <jfwatson5@aol.com>; dmeyer9 <dmeyer9@wm.com>; Salas, Sandi <SSalas@RIVCO.ORG>; Carpenter, Richard <rcarpen3@wm.com>; Kim, Kristine <KAKim@RIVCO.ORG>; Hesterly, Kinika <khesterl@RIVCO.ORG>
Subject: RE: El Sobrante Landfill Issues

Hi Rob.

Happy New Year!

As with the previous email, I've copied staff from WM and the LEA, so they can also respond to your concerns and officially include them in their records.

WM/LEA -please reach out to Mr. Mucha and make sure that these concerns are captured in your complaint logs.

The outside berms under construction (shown in the photos) are within the landfill footprint and are constructed of waste. Once the berms are formed with waste material, WM places fill/dirt to cover, and works behind them. This is a standard practice, and nothing has changed in this regard. There are no agreements regarding the landfill phasing. These are operational decisions by WM and they strive to quickly construct new outside berms in order to get behind them. Construction of outside berms is cyclical and will continue to take place as the landfill grows in height. For the past few years, landfill operations have been mostly screened because operations were either behind berms (made of waste & covered with dirt) or working in a newer cell out of view. As the landfill fills up and increases in height, the cycle starts again. During your time on the COC, WM committed to minimizing visual impacts by reducing the height of waste cells, placing cover soil at locations to block visibility (once waste berm is constructed), and providing supplemental watering of completed outside slopes. These measures have been, and continue to be, implemented.

Dave, please provide a timeline for the outside slope construction and when you will be moving into 13B (out of public view)- the previous schedule was by the end of Sept/early Oct.

During quarterly COC meetings, WM provides updates on landfill development, visibility of the landfill, their progress on new landfill cells, truck routing issues, and supplemental watering. The COC is included on this email but blind copied to avoid conflicts with the Brown Act.

Hope this helps.

Ryan Ross
Assistant General Manager
951-486-3280
rmross@rivco.org

<image003.png>

From: rob mucha <robamucha@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2025 1:04 PM

To: Ross, Ryan <rmross@RIVCO.ORG>

Cc: jsincich1@ca.rr.com; Lee Wilson <leeallanwilson@gmail.com>; Myersfh@aol.com; Tracy Davis <tracycyto@yahoo.com>; Kelli Noss <kellinoss@live.com>; John Watson <jfwatson5@aol.com>

Subject: Fw: El Sobrante Landfill Issues

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the Riverside County email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Ryan,

Happy New Year! I've attached pictures from this week and Landfill waste is still visible from the front which is six months from my first email and twice the time the landfill operator suggested (see below). As you can see, pictures from this week are similar to those back in early June.

What I am seeking is clarity on the issue of the landfill berm, the same clarity we were requesting back when I was on the COC. I remember in one of those last meetings Bob Magee representing Supervisor Jeffries reported good news that the landfill operator and the County came to an agreement that the phase order would be changed such that they would build the berm higher then so that we wouldn't see the berm rising in the future.

Secondly, as I mentioned in my June email, I don't believe that the front facing berm is supposed to be comprised of waste visible to the communities and the freeway. In the history of the landfill the berm was built of clay/dirt and then filled. Changing that process to the more impactful/visible seems to have started mid-year 2024. Given the long history of community raised concerns regarding the appearance of the front facing berm (including an article in the Press Enterprise) this was quite a shocking change. I don't believe that other landfills in Riverside County (nor most around the Nation) have waste visible to the communities. Please let me know if landfill best practices have changed.

I spoke with a couple of COC members today and was disappointed to find that my comments and pictures may not have been mentioned to them as part of the most recent COC package or email. Please add this correspondence to the agenda of the next COC and ARC meetings.

For increased clarity please send me or forward me to agreements regarding the planned phasing of the landfill particularly as they relate to future increases of anything that will be visible to the Temescal Valley communities. Also, please forward me any agreements or limitations to what the front facing areas are allowed to be comprised of (and requirements of the timeliness to cover).

I still haven't received the response from the LEA that you requested back in June but at this point I'd rather go through your department for information.

Thanks!

Rob Mucha

Photos provided by Rob Mucha, 3/12/25



















June 11, 2025
Meeting Minutes

**EL SOBRANTE LANDFILL
CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

JUNE 11, 2025

The following were present:

Committee Members

Tracy Davis, Chair
Lee Wilson, Vice-Chair
Ruth Brissenden
Jerry Sincich

Committee Members Absent

WM/USA Waste

David Meyer, El Sobrante Landfill
Richard Carpenter, El Sobrante Landfill
Matt Darr, WM
Cody Cowgill, WM
Lily Quiroa, WM
Linda Lockhart, WM
Miriam Cabada, WM

County Staff

Braden Holly
Ryan Ross
Kinika Hesterly
Corinne Awad
Mariela Aguilar
Kathryn Aguilar
Katherine Veliz
Aliah Mitchell
Brent Casey
Kristine Kim
Fritzy Devera
Sandi Salas
Phil Paule

Representing

County Counsel
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Environmental Health
Environmental Health
Environmental Health
Environmental Health
BOS 2nd District

Guests/Interested Parties

Martin Lange, Resident
Dave Davis, Resident

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

At 10:01am, Tracy Davis called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 12, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Jerry Sincich moved to approve the minutes as written, Lee Wilson seconded the motion. Approved as written by a 4-0 vote.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. STAFF UPDATES

1. Site Improvements

Ryan Ross reported that the following site improvements are undergoing plan checks with the County and there is no timeline for construction:

- Landfill Flare Station

- Leachate Tank Farm
- Heavy Equipment Maintenance Building Improvements

B. RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS FACILITY

Ryan Ross reported:

- Toro obtained three building permits.
 - Phase 1A, 1B and 2A. They are working with AQMD to get their equipment permitted before they can obtain a fourth permit.

COC members:

- Inquired if there is a tentative start date once all building permits are obtained. Ryan Ross confirms that they will not move forward until they receive the approval to purchase the equipment.
- Inquired if there are any landscaping requirements in the area that they will be trenching. Ryan Ross confirms that the building permit is all that is required.

C. LOCAL MITIGATION TRUST FUND

Ryan Ross reported:

- Current fund balance: approximately \$74,000 remaining in the Trust fund.
- There are currently no projects using the fund.
- The funds are to be used for local mitigation projects in the area surrounding the landfill as recommended by the COC.

COC members inquired if the funds would apply to an air monitoring station. Ryan Ross recommended that this be put on the agenda for discussion for the next meeting.

D. LANDFILL UPDATES

1. General Site Operations

David Meyer reported:

- El Sobrante is currently not taking fire debris and has no plans to take fire debris from the LA fires.
- The landfill is currently filling in 13B and operating 6 days a week, 24 hours a day and receiving approximately 12,000-13,000 tons of MSW average per day/ 70,000 tons a week
- As of the end of March, Probe 22 has been replaced and is back in compliance.
- Waste Management is using the following for litter control: portable wind screens, 1500ft permanent wind screens on the sound end of the landfill and an orange barrier fence that can be deployed in a high wind event if needed.
- Ruth Brissenden expressed concern for the litter from the previous wind event and inquired if a temporary wind screen can be used on the west side of the landfill.
 - Dave Meyer confirmed this is possible.
- Jerry inquired if the heavy rains have impacted any erosion run off or storm water issues.
 - David Meyer confirmed there have been no issues with erosion and explained the goal for the outside berm construction.

2. Elevated Sub-Surface Temperatures

David Meyer reported:

- The variance for the flare is expiring August 5th and WM is in the process of working with South Coast AQMD on extending that variance.

- Since March, 35 wells have been installed and 64 pumps have been installed to measure the liquid and pressure out of those wells. There is a total of 75 wells in the elevated temperature area.
- Liquid continues to be sent offsite to facilities authorized to take it.

COC members:

- Inquired if Flare 5 will help decrease the temperatures that needed the variance.
 - David Meyer responded that the purpose of the extra flares is to provide more capacity.
- Inquired how much the temperatures have decreased and whether it is close to the normal range.
 - Matt Darr described the measures that are being put in place, but it will take time.
- Inquired about the possibility of treating leachate onsite as opposed to shipping it offsite.
 - David Meyer responded that this is something WM is looking into, but it is in the early stages.

3. Odor Control

Richard Carpenter reported:

- One odor complaint in April, three in May, currently zero in June.
- Four traffic complaints in April and one in May, currently two in June.
- WM has installed more signs and have deployed flyers to commercial drivers.
- COC members and staff discussed the mister system.

4. Community Relations

Richard mentioned:

- Temescal Valley fair.
- A career talk at Santiago High School.
- Upcoming general tours and Summer Day Camp (July and August 2025).

E. LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCY UPDATE

1. Site Inspections

Update from Sandi Salas:

- WM requested an extension to their emergency waiver to exceed the daily and weekly tonnage as well as the vehicle counts. They have been in communication with LEA and reporting weekly on the tonnage count. The extension is through September.
- Monthly site inspections completed for March, April and May. Covered inspections completed in March and June.
- There is currently a violation for site maintenance with the elevated temperatures at the monitoring wells.
- During the covered inspection in March there was exposed waste; corrected in June.
- Site visit in May due to a leachate release; contained and cleaned.

2. Complaints

Update from Sandi Salas:

- Two complaints in March; one litter and one traffic.
- One complaint in May; leachate truck leaving the site and there was a spill outside of the landfill on the road and it was contained.

- Dave mentioned that driver(s) were removed from the list.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. COMMENTS ON 2024 EL SOBRANTE ANNUAL REPORT

Ryan Ross mentioned that the ARC will be meeting within the next few months to review the report and make a determination on the findings.

COC members commented on the annual report and requested that staff add a meeting in July to allow more time to discuss the Annual Report.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Commentors: None.

VI. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lee Wilson provided a picture of the southern face of the landfill and expressed concern of vegetation growth. Ryan Ross recommended that this be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Jerry Sincich inquired if funds from the Environmental Impairment Trust Fund can be utilized for repairs on the bridge on Dawson Canyon Rd. Ryan Ross will review this further.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 2025.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:41 am.

July 9, 2025
Meeting Minutes

**EL SOBRANTE LANDFILL
CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

JULY 9, 2025

The following were present:

Committee Members

Tracy Davis, Chair
Lee Wilson, Vice-Chair
Ruth Brissenden
Jerry Sincich

Committee Members Absent

WM/USA Waste

David Meyer, El Sobrante Landfill
Richard Carpenter, El Sobrante Landfill
Cody Cowgill, El Sobrante Landfill
Kyle Evans, El Sobrante Landfill
Cindy Daverin, El Sobrante Landfill
Lily Quiroa, El Sobrante Landfill
Linda Lockhart, El Sobrante Landfill
Miriam Cabada, El Sobrante Landfill

County Staff

Aaron Gettis
Ryan Ross
Kinika Hesterly
Corinne Awad
Mariela Aguilar
Kathryn Aguilar
Kristine Kim
Fritzy Devera
Sandi Salas

Representing

County Counsel
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Environmental Health
Environmental Health
Environmental Health

Guests/Interested Parties

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

At 10:00am, Tracy Davis called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 11, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Jerry Sincich moved to approve the minutes as written, Lee Wilson seconded the motion. Approved as written by a 4-0 vote.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. STAFF UPDATES

1. Site Improvements

Ryan Ross and Kinika Hesterly reported on the following site improvements:

- Landfill Flare Station
 - Cleared plan check and the installation has started.
- Leachate Tank Farm project has begun construction.
- The Heavy Equipment Maintenance Building Improvement is currently undergoing plan check.
- COC members and staff discussed the specifics of the Leachate Tank Farm project.

B. RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS FACILITY

David Meyer reports:

- WM is working with SCAQMD to get their equipment permitted and there is no tentative start date.

C. LOCAL MITIGATION TRUST FUND

1. Air Quality Monitoring Station(s)

COC members discussion:

- Researching different Air Quality Stations and the types of contaminants they monitor to determine what will best benefit Temescal Valley.
- Partnering with SCAQMD to potentially use the stations that are in Norco and Lake Elsinore.
- Ruth Brissenden expressed concern for using the Local Mitigation Trust Fund for an Air Quality Monitoring Station and inquired if the Air Quality Monitoring Station would classify as a mitigation project.
- Jerry Sincich inquired what the criteria is for the use of funds.
- Aaron Gettis stated that County Counsel can do research for what is considered mitigation in relation to the funding component, including the associated flexibility and how the mitigation measures were analyzed in the previous EIRs.
- Requested this be put on the agenda for discussion for the next meeting and requested guidance from legal counsel to provide information for use of funds, what components are needed and where the Air Quality Station can be located.

D. LANDFILL UPDATES

1. Elevated Sub-Surface Temperatures

David Meyer states:

- WM is actively working with the regulators and providing information.

COC Members:

- Lee Wilson inquired if WM has noted temperature drops or a decrease in the moisture and water levels.
 - David Meyer responds that it would take years before they notice a decrease.
- Lee Wilson inquired if more subsidence was noticed in those areas.
 - Cody Cowgill responds that they have not noticed subsidence, but it is trending as expected.

2. Outside Slope Visual Impacts

David Meyer reports:

- One of the areas in the elevated temperatures is currently under maintenance.
- New added lifts and new elevations building from last year's trash.
- WM is planning to finish the final cover on the upper bench within the next month.
- Cindy Daverin and the COC members discussed irrigation, seeding and vegetation growth.
- Lee Wilson expressed concern for the visual impact on the west side of the valley.

E. LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCY UPDATE

1. Site Inspections

Update from Sandi Salas:

- Routine inspection in June.
- Currently working with the site until it satisfies the elevated temperatures and site maintenance issues.
- LEA is receiving guidance from Cal-Recycle.

2. Complaints

Sandi Salas mentions:

- No complaints currently.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. COMMENTS ON DRAFT 2024 EL SOBRANTE ANNUAL REPORT

COC members, County and WM staff, discussed the draft Annual Reports. Items not clarified during the meeting will be listed in Attachment A of the Staff Report for the final Annual Reports.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Commentors: None.

VI. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lee Wilson thanked County staff and WM for addressing questions and providing information.

Ruth Brissenden expressed gratitude, thanking staff for accommodating the request to allow more time to review the Annual Report.

Tracy Davis inquired about the Pintail Whydah.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2025, at 10:00 am.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 am.

September 10, 2025
Meeting Minutes

**EL SOBRANTE LANDFILL
CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

The following were present:

Committee Members

Tracy Davis, Chair
Lee Wilson, Vice-Chair
Ruth Brissenden
Jerry Sincich

Committee Members Absent

Waste Management /USA Waste

David Meyer, El Sobrante Landfill
Richard Carpenter, El Sobrante Landfill
Cody Cowgill, El Sobrante Landfill
Matt Darr, WM
Kyle Evans, El Sobrante Landfill
Cindy Daverin, El Sobrante Landfill
Lily Quiroa, El Sobrante Landfill
Miriam Cabada, WM
Christine Wolfe, WM

County Staff

Aaron Gettis
Ryan Ross
Kinika Hesterly
Mariela Aguilar
Kathryn Aguilar
Kristine Kim
Fritzy Devera
Sandi Salas

Representing

County Counsel
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Environmental Health
Environmental Health
Environmental Health

Guests/Interested Parties

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

At 10:00am, Tracy Davis called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF JULY 9, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Jerry Sincich moved to approve the minutes as written, Lee Wilson seconded the motion. Approved as written by a 4-0 vote.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. STAFF UPDATE

Ryan Ross reported no new updates.

B. RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS FACILITY

David Meyer reported:

- Toro is currently waiting on South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) permitting.

COC members:

- Inquired about the duration of the issued grading/building permits. Ryan Ross responded that these permits are good for one year, but they can be extended if Toro requests it.

- Inquired if Toro can apply to do grading permits in parallel while they are waiting for SCAQMD. Ryan Ross replied that they are not going to apply for a grading permit because the equipment is needed for the project to move forward.

C. LOCAL MITIGATION TRUST FUND

1. Air Quality Monitoring Station(s)

Ryan Ross reported:

- After review with County Counsel and County staff, it appears the Air Quality Monitoring Stations are an eligible use for the Local Mitigation Trust Fund, subject to COC recommendation and Board approval.

COC members:

- Ruth Brissenden requested more information regarding the consultation with SCAQMD and the requirements for PM10 monitoring as mentioned in mitigation number AQ3 in the Annual Report.
 - Ryan Ross confirmed monitoring is only during construction per an email from SCAQMD.
- Discussed the impact the Air Quality Monitoring Stations will have on answering questions and concerns with the community.
- Discussed location, power supply, and security of the monitoring station as well as who would obtain the data. COC members requested that this be put on the agenda for discussion.
 - Ryan Ross mentioned that staff can request SCAQMD's assistance, but they do not have the technical staff in-house to conduct air flow or location analysis.

D. LANDFILL UPDATES

1. Elevated Sub-Surface Temperatures

David Meyer and Matt Darr provided the following updates:

- WM has installed 76 gas wells and 68 pumps.
- WM has 13 fiberoptic temperature gages and are currently installing 2 additional temperature probes.
- Installed 6 piezometers at 2 locations to monitor sub-surface pressures.
- Matt Darr provided updates on the decrease in pressure due to the positive impacts of the infrastructure and mitigation measures that are in place.
- Matt Darr mentioned the approval received to extend the variance, which is for the sulfur limits that exceed the permit for Flare 4 for another year through SCAQMD.
- Christine Wolfe, Director of Government of Affairs for WM, provided the following updates:
 - Closely coordinating with local agencies and state agencies. WM is going to continue to receive violations from the agencies per the existing regulatory standards.
 - Received one violation from the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

COC members and WM discussed:

- The amount and duration of the liquid that is being pumped out.
- Jerry Sincich inquired if WM plans to treat the liquid onsite. Matt Darr confirmed that the material goes to frack tanks and is then sent to Mecca, but they are looking into treating the material onsite.

- Tracy Davis inquired if the trucks transporting the liquids are being accounted for in the reports. David Meyer confirmed that they are currently not included. Tracy further inquired if this contributes to their emissions and David Meyer stated that he would follow up.
- The importance of installing Flare 5 for the additional capacity.

2. Outside Slope Visual Impacts

David Meyer reported:

- One of the areas in the elevated temperatures is currently under maintenance.
- New added lifts and new elevations building from last year's trash.

Cindy Daverin and the COC members discussed irrigation, seeding and vegetation growth.

- Lee Wilson expressed concern for the visual impact on the west side of the valley.

3. Site Improvements

David Meyer reported:

- Foundations have been poured, and construction of the Leachate Tank Farm is anticipated to begin in October with operation occurring by the end of the year.
- Flare 5 construction/installation is ongoing with completion anticipated in October/November.
- The permit process is ongoing for the Maintenance Shop Building Tenant Improvement Project with construction anticipated to begin at the end of the year.
-

Richard Carpenter reported:

- Two odor complaints in July, one in August and two in September.
- A significant decrease in traffic complaints due to site improvements.

4. Community Relations

Richard Carpenter mentioned:

- Summer Day Camp, Free Compost Event, Family Tour, Adults with Disability Library Program Tour, and a career talk at Corona High School.
- Upcoming events including Calendar Art Contest, Terramor and Deleo Fall Festivals, Charity Golf Tournament and leader led hikes within the preserved areas of the landfill.
- Lee Wilson commended Richard for his efforts with Community Relations.

E. LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCY UPDATE

1. Site Inspections

Update from Sandi Salas:

- Monthly inspections in July and August.
- One site maintenance violation due to the elevated temperatures, leachate seeps and cracks and settlement.
- Cover inspection done in September.

2. Complaints

Update from Sandi Salas:

- One odor complaint in August. After investigation, staff confirmed the odor was not tied to the landfill.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. COMMENTS ON FINAL 2024 EL SOBRANTE ANNUAL REPORT

Tracy Davis shared concern for the 2025 dates listed in the annual report. Ryan Ross confirmed that the dates refer to fiscal year.

Tracy Davis inquired if the number of trucks on page 32, Mitigation Measure W-4, includes the trucks transporting leachate and suggested keeping that count separate.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Commentors: None.

VI. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ruth Brissenden inquired if leachate is coming from the area of the elevated subsurface temperatures; is that composition different from the leachate coming from different areas of the landfill. David Meyer replied that he will review this.

Jerry Sincich thanked staff for the in-depth presentations and for addressing questions and providing information.

Tracy Davis thanked Richard Carpenter for supplying compost and woodchips.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2025, at 10:00 am.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.

December 10, 2025
Meeting Minutes

**EL SOBRANTE LANDFILL
CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

DECEMBER 10, 2025

The following were present:

Committee Members

Tracy Davis, Chair
Lee Wilson, Vice-Chair
Ruth Brissenden

Committee Members Absent

Jerry Sincich

WM/USA Waste

David Meyer, El Sobrante Landfill
Richard Carpenter, El Sobrante Landfill
Cody Cowgill, El Sobrante Landfill
Matt Darr, El Sobrante Landfill
Miriam Cabada, WM
Linda Lockhart, WM
Christine Wolfe, WM

County Staff

Braden Holly
Ryan Ross
Kinika Hesterly
Kathryn Aguilar
Sandi Salas

Representing

County Counsel
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Waste Resources
Environmental Health

Guests/Interested Parties

Rachel Connors, CARB
Lynda Lambert, CARB
Tiffanie Be, CARB
Nicole Kim, CARB
Alice Nash, SARWQCB
Cindy Li, SARWQCB
Todd Sax, CalEPA
Mandi Bae, DTSC
Ethan Hessel, USEPA

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

At 10:01am, Tracy Davis called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Lee Wilson moved to approve the minutes as written, Ruth Brissenden seconded the motion. Approved as written by a 3-0 vote.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. STAFF UPDATE

Ryan Ross reported no new updates.

B. RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS FACILITY

David Meyer reported:

- WM is working with Toro and SCAQMD to come up with a long-term solution for sulfur management.
- WM is working closely with the air district to address questions, provide details and information to move the project forward. WM to provide information to COC as the project progresses.

COC members:

- Inquired if there was a construction schedule. David Meyer replied that there is no construction schedule until they address permitting from SCAQMD.
- Inquired if the design and engineering is complete. David responded that it is complete for the RNG but they are working with SCAQMD with the oxidizer to look at it as a solution for mitigating sulfur emissions.

C. LOCAL MITIGATION TRUST FUND

1. Air Quality Monitoring Station(s)

Ryan Ross reported:

- Staff has been working with AQMD staff to get a representative to attend a COC meeting to discuss the COC's desire to have Air Quality Monitoring Stations in the valley. Ryan mentioned that he is communicating with AQMD staff and their staff is asking questions and trying to get a better understanding of the COC's interest in air monitoring. They inquired if there are any specific pollutants or concerns that the COC had.

COC members:

- Tracy inquired about a subcommittee to assist with the questions and concerns regarding the Air Quality Monitoring Stations.
 - Ryan replied that the COC can supply him with questions and concerns and he will work directly with SCAQMD.
- Ruth Brissenden shared concern about the funds that will be used for the Air Quality Monitoring Station and the location of the Air Quality Monitoring Station.

D. LANDFILL UPDATES

1. Elevated Sub-Surface Temperatures

- Todd Sax of CalEPA gave a presentation on the sub-surface elevated temperature (SET) event that El Sobrante Landfill is experiencing.
- Local, state, and federal agencies formed an interagency group to coordinate compliance and enforcement activities at the landfill. The interagency group consists of the Riverside County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (SARWQCB), California Air Resources Board (CARB) California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Cal Recycle and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Ethan Hessel of USEPA mentioned that the request for a higher operating variance for wells that are operating at or above 131 degrees F were denied or did not have conclusive data to demonstrate that the wells could be operated at a higher temperature for around 280 wells.
- Ethan mentioned that two reports were written after inspections were done at the landfill.
- Mandi Bae of DTSC provided information on hazardous waste issues. One Statement of Violation (SOV) was issued due to wells in the SET area generating liquids that met the

standard definition of hazardous waste, but WM has since come into compliance. A second SOV was issued for failure to maintain the facility in order to prevent a release of hazardous waste.

- Sandi Salas mentioned that the LEA conducted monthly inspections in September, October and November.
- The LEA is continuing to give a site maintenance violation for overall maintenance of the landfill. The section in the code states WM needs to have a preventative maintenance plan to address the issues that are occurring at the landfill.
- Todd Sax mentioned that El Sobrante will be placed on a list that Cal Recycle maintains called the “Inventory Facilities that Violate Minimum Standards”.
- WM is creating a Landfill Management Plan and a portion of the document that relates to the minimum standards is going to be integrated into their operating permit.

COC members:

- Inquired if there was a timeline for the draft and final copy of the Landfill Management Plan. Todd Sax and Christine Wolfe responded that there is no specific date but will provide updates in March.

Matt Darr provided the following information:

- El Sobrante joined the Heat Accumulation Prevention Plan (HAPP).
- El Sobrante began implementing physical features in Phase 12; these preventative measures are intended to mitigate future issues and will continue to be implemented in future phases.
- The SET area is in Phase 8 of the landfill which was filled around 2003/2004 prior to the landfill implementing the HAPP program.
- Lee Wilson requested a diagram of an aerial-view of the landfill identifying the hotspot with a perimeter that will be able to show changes in growth and temperatures. Matt Darr committed to providing the requested diagram at the next meeting.
- David Meyer mentioned that WM is looking into installing an on-site treatment system to treat liquids containing hazardous components and render them non-hazardous to transport to a non-hazardous facility.

2. Outside Slope Visual Impacts

David Meyer and Matt Darr reported:

- Final cover expected to be completed in January.
- Seeding will take place in December.
- Once final cover is complete, WM will be seeding that area and the sprinkler system will be relocated to that area.

3. Site Improvements

David Meyer reported:

- Containment was poured for the three additional tanks being installed for leachate management.
- Two tanks are expected to be completed by Christmas and anticipated to be online in January.
- Flare 5 is nearing completion. WM obtained a variance for sulfur for Flare 5, which was approved by SCAQMD. Flare 5 is expected to be operational in January.

- The 2nd floor of the maintenance building is expected to be permitted in January.

4. Community Relations

Richard Carpenter reported:

- One odor complaint in October, none in November and two in December.
- One traffic complaint in October, one in November and none in December.
- Second Free Compost Event & Calendar Art Contest.
- Upcoming leader-led hikes within the preserved areas of the landfill.
- WM staff responded quickly to six reported complaints of illegal dumping in 2025.
- Lee Wilson inquired about the recent odor concerns. Richard responded that the odors were due to the lower marine layer.

E. LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCY UPDATE

1. Site Inspections

Update from Sandi Salas:

- Monthly inspections in September, October and November.

2. Complaints

Update from Sandi Salas:

- Once violation for litter control in September, which was corrected.
- One violation for site maintenance in October.
- The November report will reflect the site maintenance violation as well, however that report has not been published.
- LEA will issue a compliance schedule and is seeking guidance from Cal-Recycle regarding timelines for developing a plan and steps for corrective action. LEA will provide an update at the next meeting.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS

Lee Wilson nominated Jerry Sincich as Vice-Chair. Ruth Brissenden seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Lee Wilson, as current Vice-Chair, rotated into the Chair position.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Commentors: None.

VI. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lee Wilson thanked staff for their presentations and thanked all for attending.

Tracy Davis stated that she was pleased to serve as Chair and thanked Richard for his efforts related to compost and mulch and expressed her anticipation for the leader-led hikes.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2026, at 10:00 am.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.