



## Public Meeting FAQ

### Frank R. Bowerman Landfill – Community Questions & Responses

#### Odors & Odor Control

Q (Shari): Shouldn't the landfill close until these great odor-reducing upgrades are implemented?

A: No. The landfill provides an essential public service for the cities, businesses and residents of Orange County and must remain open to safely manage the waste generated in the County. Odor-reduction upgrades are designed to be implemented while the landfill continues operating. Closing the landfill would not eliminate odor sources and would create significant waste-management challenges for the region.

Q (Linsenliu): What will the landfill do differently next so we can turn this around?

A: OCWR works continually to respond to issues and improve its operational practices. The most significant change currently underway is a major upgrade to the landfill gas collection and control system, which OCWR identified as the primary long-term solution for reducing odors. While several operational measures are already in place, this system upgrade—currently in permitting and final design—will substantially increase gas capture and reduce the potential for odors to escape into surrounding communities.

Q (Ben): What systems and processes are in place to measure and monitor odors, and how has data trended?

A: Odors are monitored using multiple tools, including on-site inspections, surface emissions monitoring, weather data, drone surveys, and community reports. This information is reviewed regularly to identify trends or areas needing attention. There have been no recent operational changes or increases in waste intake; increases in odor reports are largely associated with seasonal weather patterns.

Q (Best): How is it possible to contain odor during the day but not at night?

A: Weather conditions play a major role. During cooler months, nighttime temperature inversions can trap odors closer to the ground and allow them to travel farther into neighborhoods. During the day, warmer air helps disperse emissions upward, reducing odor impacts even when there are active landfill operations.

Q (Shari): If the odor is confirmed, why keep reporting it?

A: Reporting odors remains important because it provides real-time, location-specific information. These reports help staff correlate odor experiences with weather conditions, monitoring data, and landfill activity. This information supports investigations and operational adjustments.

## **Health & Safety Concerns**

Q (Best): If people are getting headaches and throwing up, is there an obvious health risk?

A: OCWR understands how disruptive and concerning odors can be. Based on monitoring data, safety standards, and industry experience, the odors being experienced are not associated with known health risks. Landfill operations and emissions are monitored and managed to protect public health, including the health of employees who work on-site every day.

Q (Ben / Ellie): What studies are being done to ensure there is no health risk?

A: Air quality at and around the landfill is routinely monitored and evaluated against established regulatory standards. OCWR conducts surface emissions monitoring, uses third-party inspections, and submits required air quality and emissions data to multiple regulatory agencies including the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Local Enforcement Agency, CalRecycle, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

## **Operations, Capacity & Future Planning**

Q (Don): What is in store for us as the site expands and doubles in capacity?

A: Landfill operations are governed by permits that strictly define capacity, elevation, and operating conditions. Any future expansion would require formal regulatory review and approval and would include additional controls, monitoring, and mitigation measures. Expansion does not mean unrestricted growth.

Q (Ellie): How long is this landfill going to operate?

A: Frank R. Bowerman Landfill is currently permitted to operate until it reaches an elevation of 1,350 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Current estimates suggest that the landfill will be operational until approximately 2072. Estimates are based on projected waste volumes and permitted capacity. Actual closure date of the landfill depends on

how quickly permitted capacity is reached, which is influenced by recycling and waste-reduction efforts.

Q (Jeff): Is capacity going to increase with the Brea landfill closure?

A: No, the landfill's maximum permitted capacity of 11,500 tons per day (TPD) has not changed as a result of the pending closure of the Brea Landfill. Operational changes have been made to address any increase in tonnage at Frank R. Bowerman Landfill due to the Brea landfill closure. Waste flows are managed regionally, and the landfill must operate within its existing permitted limits unless formal regulatory approvals are granted.

Q (Jeff): Can you provide the daily intake tonnage over the past five years?

A: The Frank R. Bowerman Landfill is a state-of-the-art, Class III, municipal solid waste landfill. It is permitted to a maximum of 11,500 TPD, with an annual average of 8,500 TPD.

### **Visuals, Transparency & Oversight**

Q (Don): Why are aerial images hard to interpret, and can landmarks be added?

A: Yes. OCWR recognizes that aerial images can be difficult to interpret without context and will work to include clearer landmarks and neighborhood references in future presentations to improve understanding.

Q (Jeff): Can a third-party audit this site?

A: The landfill already undergoes frequent inspections, monitoring, and independent evaluations, including third-party contractors and oversight regulatory agencies. Additional reviews may be considered where they provide added value, but oversight of landfill operations is already extensive and ongoing. OCWR's landfills received operating permits and are subject to regulatory oversight by the following regulatory bodies: South Coast Air Quality Management District, California Air Resources Board, Local Enforcement Agency, CalRecycle, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic and Substances Control, State Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Quality Control Board, US Fish and Wildlife Services, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Orange County Fire Authority, and California Department of Food and Agriculture.