

APPENDIX I

## October 27 PAC Meeting Minutes

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## **Project Advisory Committee (PAC)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

from

**Wednesday, October 27, 2004**

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

##### **SWA Team Members in Attendance**

- Pat Quinn, GreenCycle Project Manager, Sacramento Regional Solid Waste Authority (SWA)
- David Pelser, SWA General Manager/Engineer
- Jill Sideman, Vice President, CH2M Hill
- Janet Goodrich, Project Manager, CH2M Hill
- Michele McCormick, Principal, MMC Communications
- Jennifer Tencati, Sr. Account Executive, MMC Communications

##### **PAC Members in Attendance**

- Bill Gibson, Sacramento Environmental Commission and Sacramento Cities/County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Member Representing Sacramento County
- Paul Gumbinger, Rancho Murieta Association
- Curt Haven, City of Rancho Cordova
- Wendell Kido, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD)
- Cortez Quinn, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Chief of Staff, Office of Roger Dickinson
- Trent Smith, Rosemont Community Association
- Don White, SWAC Member Representing Citrus Heights
- Mark White, SWAC Member Representing the City of Sacramento
- Lois Wright, Sacramento Metropolitan Utility District (SMUD)

**Non-PAC Members in Attendance**

- John Lundgren, County of Sacramento Planning Department
- Ruth MacDougall, Sacramento Metropolitan Utility District (SMUD)
- B.G. Tackett, Total Compliance Management

## **Handouts**

- Agenda
- Compost Facility Compilation of Buffer Requirements and Guidelines
- Site Screening Process Funnel Diagram
- Siting Criteria Worksheet #2 - Revised to Show PAC Changes
- Web Site Update Information Slide
- Information on Photos Used in 9/8/04 PAC Meeting #1
- SMUD Presentation

## **COMMENTS ON MEETING MINUTES**

The PAC agreed that the minutes from the second meeting were sufficient.

## **AGENDA REVIEW**

Michele McCormick reviewed the evening's agenda with the PAC.

## **REPORT BACK ON BUFFER AND ODOR ISSUES**

Pat Quinn reviewed the handout, "Compost Facility Compilation of Buffer Requirements and Guidelines" with the PAC. He noted on page two of the handout, "Biosolids & Wastewater Discharge Compilation of Jurisdictional Buffer Requirements/Guidelines" that there is a wide variation in buffers established by other jurisdictions, and that there are not many information sources available from which to determine an appropriate buffer zone distance that should be used for siting the Sacramento GreenCycle facility.

Pat reminded the group that at the last PAC meeting it was discussed how far away the PAC believes the facility should be from sensitive areas (residential areas and immobile populations). He stated that this distance, in his opinion, is a judgment call for PAC to make. At the last meeting, PAC decided to use the distance of 1,000 feet as a fatal-flaw criterion for sensitive areas, with a 2,000-foot distance also evaluated for potential application as a fatal-flaw criterion distance to sensitive areas.

Based on the research done between the last meeting and tonight, it appears the 2,000-foot guideline is appropriate when compared to what other facilities have in place and the high emphasis placed by the PAC on the GreenCycle

facility location being compatible with current and future land use.

Paul Gumbinger asked if California has any guidelines. Pat responded, "We couldn't find any, no."

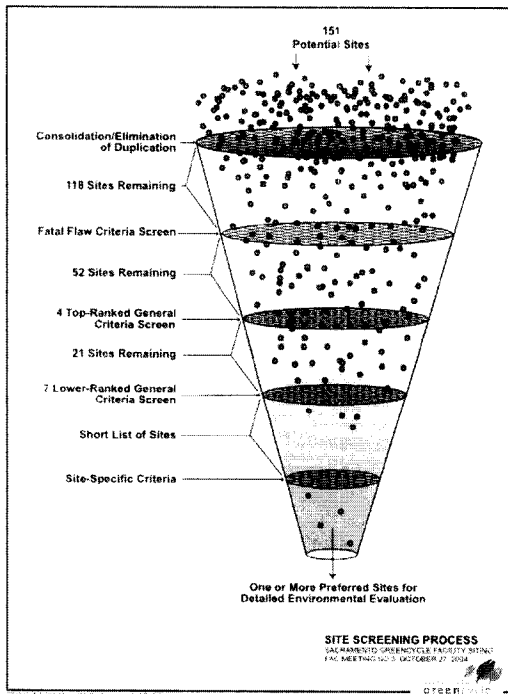
Paul suggested we first go through and eliminate sites using the criteria and weighting that PAC had developed, and see what our short list looks like.

**PRELIMINARY SITING RESULTS: SITE SCREENING AGAINST WEIGHTED CRITERIA**

Jill Sideman reviewed the handout "Siting Criteria Worksheet #2" with the PAC. She gave a brief overview of each of the four Fatal Flaw Criteria outlined on page one of the handout and how each criterion was applied to the sites.

Jill explained the following four criteria, which the PAC had ranked the highest in the weighting exercise:

- 1) Downwind Buffer - weight: 39
- 2) Existing Land Use Buffer - weight: 26
- 3) Acreage - weight: 24
- 4) Projected Future Land Use Buffer - weight: 21



Jill explained that there was a definite gap in the weighting, established by PAC, between these four criteria and the rest, with the next highest scoring criterion being Proximity to Waste Centroid, which received a weight of 13.

Jill shared the revised funnel diagram, "Site

Screening Process" (left) with PAC. She explained that because the top four criteria have a natural break from the remaining, based on PAC assigned weights; CH2M Hill first applied the top four criteria outlined above to the 151 candidate sites. The result was 21 remaining sites. These

remaining sites are those with the higher scores for the land-use buffer and acreage criteria.

Jill presented the large maps on the wall, which illustrate the locations of the remaining 21 sites.

A discussion ensued with CH2M Hill and Mark White on the maximum and minimum measure for the top four criteria. Janet Goodrich said those numbers haven't been calculated yet, but believes the maximum is 550 for the top four only. Pat stated the minimum is 110, if his math is correct.

Curt Haven asked for an explanation on how the criteria received their weighting values. Jill explained the "dot" exercise the PAC performed at its last meeting.

Mark commented that if the PAC members were only given 11 dots and the PAC understood fully how the dots would impact the weighting, the results probably would have been different.

A PAC member asked if sites could be brought back into consideration after the process of getting down to a short list was done. Jill responded, "Yes."

David Pelsler observed that it looks like the SWA/PAC is planning to have an unlimited life span to the project and it may be good to consider the project to have a life span of +/-20 years, taking costs into consideration. Paul said that you can't look at theoretical life spans and we can't be shortsighted and think the project life will only be about 20 years. Paul suggested that we "draw a tight drawstring around this" and site it properly, so the current elected officials don't get complaints about it. Mark commented that long-term growth will continue to happen and it would be best to get as much land as we can now while it's least costly and less developed.

Wendell Kido shared a handout he made with the PAC. The handout illustrates a 100-acre site (square in shape) with a 2,000-foot buffer around it. According to the illustration, the total acreage for the buffer and site is approximately 850 acres with the buffer area being approximately 750 acres. Wendell's handout noted the following for perspective:

- One square mile is 640 acres
- A 2,000-foot square parcel is equal to 91.8 acres.

Wendell stated that he thinks we need to look at co-location because he doesn't think we can afford to buy one square-mile of land.

The SWA team thanked Wendell for his research and illustration.

Janet informed the PAC that we are looking at sites with acreage for the Sacramento GreenCycle site only, and we are not including acreage for a buffer. Rather, we are reviewing what is currently within and planned for the 2,000-foot buffer around each site and within the downwind buffer for fatal flaw and scoring purposes. However, a minimum parcel size of 100 acres is more than twice what is needed initially for the planned facility, so there will in fact be some on-site buffer area.

Janet also stated that we've looked at prevailing winds and the worst scenario for odor is typically no wind. Trent Smith agreed, saying that the worst times they had in Rosemont were on stagnant, foggy nights. The odor would increase in the fog and at night. So on a foggy night, it was horrible.

Mark asked if the next steps in the criteria would show natural breaks.

Janet explained the wall chart, "GreenCycle Scoring Worksheet No.1." The chart listed the 52 sites that remained after elimination of duplicate sites, consolidation of adjacent parcels, and application of fatal-flaw criteria. The chart also showed, in red, the 31 sites that are proposed to be dropped from the remaining criteria scoring and ranking because they score a value of "1" for one or more of the three land use criteria (existing land use buffer, downwind buffer, and projected future land use buffer). The final column of the chart, in green, highlight the remaining 21 sites that are proposed for further evaluation using the remaining seven general siting criteria.

Lois Wright asked for clarification on if the chart is based only on the top four criteria and where we're going next.

Paul Gumbinger suggested that next we look at the access routes, including side streets versus highways. Jill said

that we could do this with the 21 sites. Paul said that it would be good to see how long it would take to travel from the waste centroid to each of the 21 sites, and how much time and distance is spent on side streets, boulevards and highways.

Mark White commented that the only thing people are really going to care about is "how it's going to affect me." They aren't going to care too much about a rate increase.

Lois asked which criteria would be factored-in next? Jill responded that all remaining criteria would be factored in. Lois asked if it would be worth it to re-weight the remaining seven criteria or all criteria, now that the PAC knows how the numbers will be used. Jill said that it is up to the PAC to decide, but if we're going to do that, now's the time.

Mark commented that in respect to changing the weighting factors, this could open the door for litigation to come in and say we worked the numbers to keep and/or drop specific sites.

Paul said that he would like to see how the site scoring comes out with the current criteria weights. Jill said that CH2M Hill will do that, and by the next PAC meeting CH2M Hill will have put all the 21 sites through the rest of the criteria.

Mark suggested doing generic odor modeling based on an existing scenario, such as the Lionudakis site and looking at how that could impact all the sites from a buffer perspective. Janet explained how odor modeling is applied with some help from Wendell. Issues are primarily that odor modeling must use some site-specific assumptions (or at least good information on generic assumptions) and the results generate information on levels of acceptable odor as measured at the property line based on acceptable levels at a receptor. This type of information is not applicable for a general case and could be extremely variable. Wendell indicated that a problem would be to get good data for generic modeling assumptions from other sites, as not much data exists. Mark hoped that running generic modeling would help us to know if we're assuming a good fatal flaw buffer of 2,000 feet. Pat asked Mark if he is looking for data to support the PAC's value judgments and said that we've looked for that data and it's not available. Janet

said that her engineering perspective is that the odor modeling would not be credible for this generic case, and that after buffer considerations we need to work with the operator of the facility to establish acceptable parameters for operation and odor control. A lot depends on the hours of operation, when/how the compost material is turned and wet, the type of equipment that's used, etc. Trent thought we needed to have *some* kind of model of the worst-case scenario. Jill summarized that odor modeling will be a consideration for the short listed sites, but that the major task now is to get down to a manageable number of sites for which to perform this type of detailed analysis.

David said this is why we are doing a public/private partnership, so we can control the operations more. Paul commented that if it's decided to get rid of one operator, there would still be a lag before the new one comes in. He suggested that there needs to be a County person or team ready at all times to step in. David agreed, described how County staff are already managing green waste processing at existing facilities, and stated that continuing this practice will help ensure we have a team that understands the facility operation, so they can step in at any time.

Paul asked how many of the 21 sites are within a city and not in unincorporated Sacramento County areas. Jill said that there may be one, near the airport that is within City of Sacramento limits, but she's not sure of the City limits in that area. Otherwise, all sites are in the unincorporated county.

Paul stated the PAC should consider that developers might buy land to develop outside of the urban boundaries and then leapfrog development.

Michele McCormick asked Pat to review our goals and the next steps that need to happen between now and the next meeting on November 17.

Pat stated our goal is to bring a short list of candidate sites to the SWA Board meeting in December.

Mark said he would like to have input on the report that goes to the Board and asked if that would require an additional PAC meeting. Pat responded, the SWA Board meeting is on December 9, but he would bring a draft report to the next PAC meeting.

**ACTION: Pat to bring a draft report to the PAC meeting on Nov. 17.**

Paul stated he would like to have a copy of the map of the 21 sites. Mark suggested it is probably best not to distribute the information at this point until we're done with putting all of the criteria against the sites.

Wendell asked if we are down to about six sites at the next meeting, could we use the projector for the maps and charts. Jill said yes, and by using the projector, we could run some sensitivity analyses to consider the impacts criteria weighting have made on site scores.

**ACTION: CH2M Hill to use projector for maps/charts at Nov. 17 PAC meeting.**

### **SMUD PRESENTATION**

Ruth MacDougall gave a presentation on Anaerobic Digestion Technology, SMUD's policy to acquire 20 percent of its electricity from renewable "green" energy, and the economic study of in-vessel anaerobic digestion that is underway. Ruth reported that this processing technology is a potential alternative to traditional garden refuse composting.

Ruth's presentation spurred a conversation on co-locating the Sacramento GreenCycle facility at existing large, public-sector facilities. Trent asked Ruth if SMUD still generates power at Rancho Seco, suggested that could be a potential co-locating site, and asked if SMUD would be interested in Rancho Seco as a greencycle site. Ruth explained that SMUD doesn't plan to operate anaerobic digestion facilities and that waste operators would be better at managing a composting facility than SMUD.

Pat said that co-locating the Sacramento GreenCycle facility was an option that should be kept for consideration. He said the three locations that appear to be the most accommodating to our needs are Kiefer Landfill, the Water Treatment Plant and Rancho Seco.

Lois Wright commented that all of the County's waste wouldn't be digested this way, right away, but eventually, SMUD would like to do some of this technology on SWA's Sacramento GreenCycle site. Lois and Ruth informed the PAC

that SMUD is doing an economic study in Sacramento to see if it is feasible to pursue this technology here.

Paul commented that this type of technology could be more expensive than traditional composting. Lois agreed that it could be, and that is why they are conducting the study.

A copy of Ruth's presentation is available by contacting Jennifer Tencati, MMC Communications, at (916) 567-6309 or [Jennifer@mmcpr.com](mailto:Jennifer@mmcpr.com).

#### **WEB SITE UPDATE**

Jennifer Tencati gave an update on the status of the Sacramento GreenCycle web site ([www.sacgreencycle.com](http://www.sacgreencycle.com)). The web site is now live. Text edits are being incorporated and a Resource page will be added. The Resource page will include the CH2M Hill Garden Refuse Processing Facility Development, Phase One Report, and a glossary. Jennifer asked the PAC members to review the web site and call or email her with any comments/suggestions.

Jennifer asked the PAC if they would like to have the PAC meeting minutes available on the web site. The PAC agreed to not have them on the web site, but asked for them to be emailed, rather than mailed to them.

**ACTION: Jennifer to email PAC minutes to the members going forward.**

#### **NEXT STEPS**

CH2M Hill:

- CH2M Hill to use projector for maps/charts at the Nov. 17 PAC meeting.

MMC:

- Jennifer to email PAC minutes to the members going forward.

SWA:

- Pat to bring a draft report to the PAC meeting on Nov. 17.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Location: Department of Water Quality  
Notes: Dinner will be served