



December 2, 2020

TO: Mayor Christina L. Shea  
Vice Mayor Michael C. Carroll  
Councilmember Melissa Fox  
Councilmember Farrah N. Khan  
Councilmember Anthony Kuo

CC: Mark Steuer

Dear City of Irvine Officials,

OC Waste & Recycling recognizes the concerns recently expressed by Irvine residents about the Frank R. Bowerman Landfill. In fact, prior to the Silverado Fire damage, OCWR held monthly community meetings providing site updates and listening to the residents' concerns. Both the City of Irvine and OC Waste & Recycling provided ambient air quality studies that showed no health concerns in the community and provided the information to the residents at our community meeting as well as posted on the website. Included in this document is a schedule of community meetings held with notable events and dates in response demonstrating the increased communications with the residents in attendance as a result of the Silverado Fire on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Since the Silverado Fire damaged the landfill, including its gas collection and environmental control systems, staff have worked tirelessly to repair the site to reinstate normal operations.

During this time, we re-doubled our Good Neighbor Approach efforts and activities. Among them we:

- Increased our normal monthly public meetings to occur weekly at a minimum.
- Launched a dedicated web page to post landfill status updates.  
<https://oilandfills.com/news/bowerman-landfill-silverado-fire-recovery-update>
- Made multiple visits to residents' homes.
- Provided an OCWR Deputy Director's cell phone number for residents' direct access to staff at all hours.
- Conducted ongoing daytime and nighttime monitoring of gas levels in the neighborhood.
- Hired a consultant to monitor the surrounding areas for odors.
- Engaged consultant to study air quality in and around the landfill including the Portola Springs neighborhood.
- Provided new email address for residents to submit comments prior to public meetings.  
[FRBRecovery@ocwr.ocgov.com](mailto:FRBRecovery@ocwr.ocgov.com)
- Rented thermal oxidizer to collect gas while the LFG system underwent repairs.
- Redirected landfill waste to other facilities so repairs could progress expeditiously.

At this time all landfill flares are back online. We continue to fine-tune the wells to optimize the volume of gas collection. Our commitment is to complete the well field tuning within the next 3-

4 weeks. Also, November 30, 2020 Bowerman Power LFG, LLC initiated the start-up process of the power generation facility, which will further enhance the Landfill's ability to manage landfill gas and odors.

We will continue to hold public meetings with the next one scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 3. Landfill staff and our contracted third-party subject matter experts are available during these meetings.

We encourage residents to continue using our Neighbor Support Portal (NSP) to report concerns. We ask them to identify the duration of the odor they experience to the best of their ability.

OCWR is committed to ensuring that Irvine, and all County of Orange residents, receive the highest quality essential public service of managing disposing of waste. OCWR will continue to use all available resources and work closely with the City of Irvine to resolve any landfill odor issues in the future. We appreciate and respect the city's engagement of the first phase for an odor study, which allowed us to further analyze the results with a certified toxicologist. We also acknowledge both the City's and OCWR's analyses conclude the landfill does not present a health concern neither in nor around the facility. As stated to City staff, OCWR will provide all future analysis performed on the City's study, as well as any additional data collected by OCWR consultants so the City can further consider all potential sources of emissions on the neighboring air quality.

Sincerely,



Tom Koutroulis

Cc: Chairwoman Michelle Steel, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, OC Board of Supervisors  
Vice Chairman Andrew Do, 1<sup>st</sup> District, OC Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor Donald P. Wagner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, OC Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor Doug Chaffee, 4<sup>th</sup> District, OC Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, 5<sup>th</sup> District, OC Board of Supervisors  
Frank Kim, Chief Executive Officer, County of Orange

## Frank R. Bowerman Neighbor Communications

### 2020 Community Meetings:

- May 16<sup>th</sup> – 6 residents
- June 4<sup>th</sup> – 7 residents
- July 15<sup>th</sup> – 6 residents
- August 19<sup>th</sup> – Data not available
- October 21<sup>st</sup> – Data not available
- November 4<sup>th</sup> – 7 residents
- November 9<sup>th</sup> – 5 residents
- November 12<sup>th</sup> – 1 resident
- November 19<sup>th</sup> – 6 residents
- November 23<sup>rd</sup> – 4 residents
- December 3<sup>rd</sup> – TBD

\*Resident attendee data based on known resident callers plus number of unidentified callers, and not including OCWR and city of Irvine staff on calls.

### Neighbor Support Portal (NSP) Submissions October 25<sup>th</sup> – November 30<sup>th</sup>:

- Total submissions received for FRB regarding odor: 30
- Total number of residents submissions were received from: 10

\*Submissions included in this data may not be directly related to OCWR environmental control systems. Residents receive immediate automated response following submittal of their complaint.

### Notable 2020 dates/events:

- October 26<sup>th</sup> – Silverado Fire started at 6:52am
- October 28<sup>th</sup> – FRB assessment team granted access to FRB following evacuation order
- November 4<sup>th</sup> – 4 gas monitoring/PID monitoring begins in morning, mid-day and late evenings
- November 4<sup>th</sup> – 24-hour Ambient Air Monitoring begins
- November 18<sup>th</sup> – Ambient air data received and reviewed by Geosyntec Consultants. Results yielded ambient air conditions do not pose any immediate or short-term health concerns. Executive summary was provided to residents.
- November 18<sup>th</sup> – Group Delta Nuisance Odor Assessment provided to residents stating no immediate health concerns based on samples and data gathered on November 5-6.
- November 30<sup>th</sup> – FRB landfill reopens