



Fact Sheet

January 2008

The Western Landfill Site

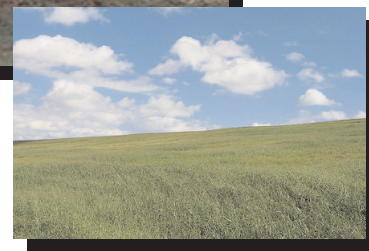
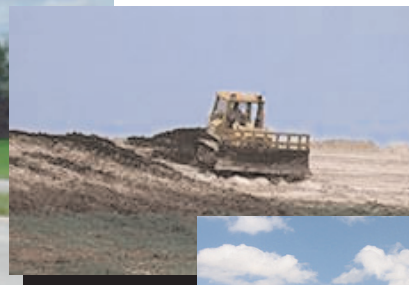
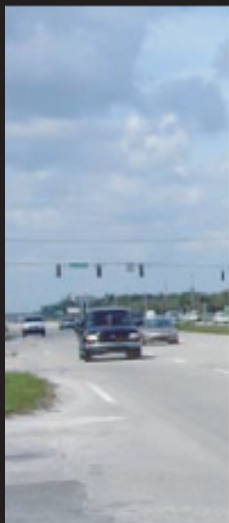
BRIEF HISTORY

- The Solid Waster Authority (SWA) originally purchased a 1600-acre parcel located west of Boca Raton in Palm Beach County. The site was in close proximity to thousands of Palm Beach County residents.
- In the early 1990s, SWA with assistance from the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), sought willing sellers for a 1600-acre parcel located in a more suitable location.
- The SWA Governing Board agreed to purchase the subject site from the Stofin Company, Inc. in December 1996. Stofin was the only willing seller in the area.
- This site's agricultural life span is limited due to shallow muck depth. Average depth of muck on this site is 2.5 feet and can easily be removed for construction of the landfill.
- The Western Landfill site has been in the county's long-term plan since 1997.
- The current Western Landfill site is 1,600 acres in size and located 8 miles south of CR880 and 6 miles west of 20 Mile Bend.
- The site will be designed for a 792-acre landfill, and the remaining area will be for facilities, roadways, and a storm water management system.
- The SWA is also looking at alternate sites.

Through this project, new job opportunities will be created.

Mileage from the Western Landfill Site to each city

• South Bay	17 miles
• Belle Glade	16 miles
• Pahokee	22 miles
• Wellington	16 miles
• Royal Palm Beach	17 miles
• West Palm Beach	27 miles
• Loxahatchee Groves	15 miles
• Palm Beach	27 miles
• Boynton Beach	24 miles
• Greenacres	20 miles
• Haverhill	23 miles
• Lake Worth	25 miles



LOCAL JOBS CREATED

- The average salary for the facility employees is \$42K and there will be approximately 60 employees onsite.
- For construction, we estimate there will be 200 construction jobs onsite continuously for the first 8-10 years (2012 through 2020), then 50-100 annually thereafter. The average wage is \$25 per hour (approximately \$52K based on 40 hours per week).
- There will be an 8-mile roadway to be constructed from 2012-2014, which will create an estimated 50-100 jobs.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- The Board of County Commissioners sitting, as the SWA Governing Board, has directed staff to begin the permitting process for the Western Landfill in order to begin addressing the concerns of the environmental community.
- The Board has also asked SWA staff to look for alternative sites where the landfill can be permitted and constructed. SWA is investigating the availability of suitable locations and will be releasing a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) seeking sellers of land. Alternative sites are restricted by state and federal regulations, including proximity to airports and potable water wells.



- 1.** Will there be an incinerator or waste-to-energy facility located at the site? *No*
- 2.** Will the landfill smell? Will it cause excessive odors? Will I be able to smell it in my backyard? How will the odors be controlled? *No – a 6-7 inch layer of sand or dirt is placed over the top of the waste each day. A landfill gas collection system, including a flare that destroys pollutants, will be designed and installed once a landfill cell has been filled to capacity.*
- 3.** Will the landfill be noisy? *No - the landfill will not be located near any residential areas. The proposed site is located 9 miles from the nearest public area of the Wildlife Refuge. Noise produced by the tractor trailers and other landfill heavy equipment is not expected to affect areas of any adjacent property.*
- 4.** How will the landfill affect water quality? *The landfill is designed and constructed with a system that collects the rainwater that comes in contact with the waste in the landfill. Groundwater and surface water quality will be routinely monitored and reported, as required by state and federal regulations. Site specific hydrogeological investigations have shown that the direction of the groundwater flow is away from the Wildlife Refuge; therefore, there are no potential water quality impacts on the Refuge.*
- 5.** What are the effects of the landfill on the endangered wood stork and Everglades snail kite? *The current north county site has an onsite wading bird rookery that has housed nests of both wood stork and Everglades snail kite. There have been no negative impacts on either species at the existing facility. The Western Landfill is currently being engineered to even more stringent standards than the existing facility. Moreover, there are no colonies or rookeries within the project site, or adjacent to it. Therefore, no impacts are expected on either species.*
- 6.** Will there be trash blown off the landfill into the canals? *No - Litter fences and daily cover of the waste are used to control blowing trash. SWA employs daily laborers to collect any litter that blows off the working face of the landfill.*
- 7.** What effect will the landfill have on the food crops grown on nearby farms? *None - the landfill site is required to meet stringent surface water and groundwater standards.*
- 8.** Are there any wetlands located on the site? *No - the entire site is currently being used for agricultural operations.*