

# ALTERNATIVES FOR WASTE DISPOSAL

*Managing today's waste while protecting tomorrow's environment.*

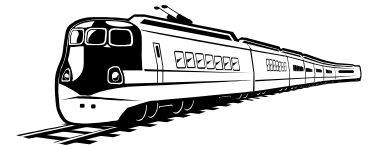
## Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill

Currently, there are no feasible, *short-term* disposal options available to the County due to the complexity and difficulty in development, as well as the increased cost as compared to in-county disposal options.

In mid-2004, the City of Los Angeles requested proposals for alternatives to in-County landfilling. Three proposals were received. Two of the proposals proposed utilizing long-haul trucks to send waste to Palmdale, Lancaster and Corona, which would require 20,000 more vehicle trips and more than 4 million additional truck miles on our freeways each year. This travel distance would result in twice the amount of air pollution emissions caused by large trucks than travel to Sunshine Canyon Landfill or another in-county disposal site.

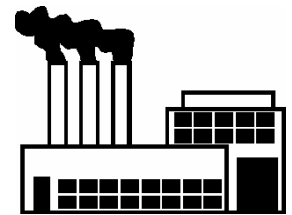
It is important for the County to explore, find and build alternatives to waste disposal for the long-term. There are three options that are available. The first two options include reliance on remote landfills. The options include:

1. long haul with trucks
2. rail transport
3. waste-to-energy



Reliance on long-haul/rail-haul to remote landfills for disposal of LA County waste would:

- involve the development of an infrastructure of transfer stations throughout the County at a cost ranging from \$25 million to \$50 million or more *each*;
- mean the transportation of waste over long distances by truck or rail, causing increased air emissions from both truck and rail traffic due to increased miles traveled;
- shift traffic and environmental impacts from one community to another community;
- increase road wear and tear due to a greater number of large trucks;
- further clog an already jammed rail system potentially slowing the movement of consumer goods;
- impact community traffic flow at rail crossings with stopped or slow-moving trains; and
- increase the waste disposal cost – up to 300% – for residents and businesses for transfer, loading, transportation and unloading associated with rail and long-haul options.



Siting and permitting these multiple facilities could take at least 10 to 15 years each and would face the same political and environmental hurdles, litigation and CEQA challenges as siting and permitting a new landfill.

Waste-to-energy facilities, or incinerators as they are commonly known, are even more costly to build than transfer stations: \$100 million to \$450 million *each*, dependent on size. And, due to air quality and environmental issues, the siting and permitting hurdles for incineration are even more difficult than landfills or transfer stations. Each incinerator requires significant land space estimated at 15 to 75 acres, again dependent on size, with exhaust stack heights being as high as 400-feet, dependent upon size. It would require multiple incinerators to replace the capacity provided by Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

The challenges to finding and building alternatives to in-County landfilling are:

1. City and County of Los Angeles political will
2. siting issues
3. regulatory permitting issues
4. funding to develop and establish new facilities
5. funding to operate the new facilities as well as managing the increased costs for handling and transportation

While the County of Los Angeles is exploring alternatives and moving toward building a supporting infrastructure, Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill plays an integral part in the County's waste management plan, and will supply needed disposal capacity in the short-, mid- and long term.