

## Summary

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### Welcome:

Ms. Shari Afshari, Deputy Director of Los Angeles County Public Works, welcomed everyone to the call. Ms. Afshari reminded participants that the purpose of the Infrastructure LA Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management Subcommittee is to serve as an opportunity to discuss current challenges surrounding sustainable waste management in our Region. Ms. Afshari also provided a summary of the previous Subcommittee meeting in May and welcomed members of the waste management industry who were in attendance.

### Attendance:

- 73 participants joined the call
  - Participants included many representatives from local cities as well as waste haulers and the County Sanitation Districts.
  - About 20 Cities were represented including: Los Angeles, Palmdale, Glendale, Pasadena, Pico Rivera, Lakewood, Claremont, Santa Monica, and many more.

### Challenges to Compliance and Regulatory Relief Presentations:

- Ms. Afshari emphasized the need for additional funding that is critical to meet the requirements of new and existing regulations, including Senate Bill (SB) 1383.
- Presentations were provided by Kelly Astor (General Counsel to Los Angeles County Waste Management Association), Bob Asgian (Department Head of Solid Waste Management Department Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts), and Faith Conley (Legislative Representative, County of Los Angeles).
- Mr. Astor provided his perspective from the waste management industry that:
  - The proposed SB 1383 regulations threaten existing mixed waste processing infrastructure which will be subject to an organic waste recovery standard.
  - CARB electrification regulations will triple the cost for refuse collection vehicles and result in stranded renewable natural gas fueling infrastructure.
  - Markets for recycled organic waste products are the biggest need.
- Mr. Asgian presented on infrastructure development by Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (CSD), stating that:
  - CSD developed infrastructure to recycle up to 400 tons per day of food waste at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson.
  - \$10 million was invested to expand existing infrastructure to manage food waste.
  - Developing new food waste recycling facilities without all the supporting infrastructure of a wastewater treatment plant will be much more expensive.

SWARM Subcommittee Teleconference  
Tuesday, July 21, 2020, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

- The investment made by the CSD in developing this new infrastructure is put in jeopardy if there is no longer a market for renewable natural gas.
- Ms. Conley spoke about the County sponsored legislation and the State budget, stating that:
  - The County is currently working to bridge communication between the Governor and CalRecycle on relief for SB 1383, including good faith effort.
  - Due to COVID-19, bills using State funding were stalled but hopefully the August budget revisions will allow for the allocation of cap-and-trade funding for infrastructure
  - The County and other agencies need to combine efforts to reach out to local legislators on SB 1383, Assembly Bill 939, and the China National Sword, with a focus on creating green jobs for economic recovery.

## Next Steps:

- Consider forming a coalition with cities and send a letter to the Governor and Legislature to request relief from the regulatory deadlines established under SB 1383. A coalition request could include:
  - Requesting a delay in the implementation of SB 1383.
  - Giving local jurisdictions flexibility in how to comply with SB 1383.
  - Directing CalRecycle to consider a jurisdiction's "Good Faith Efforts" when determining compliance with SB 1383.
- Coordinate and expand food donation Countywide, following a recent letter from the County to all City recycling coordinators regarding food donation, specifically related to compliance with SB 1383.

## Questions and Answers:

- Representatives from the City of Lakewood and the City of Palmdale asked whether the 2019-20 Civil Grand Jury Report on food waste recycling imposes requirements on local jurisdictions. Ms. Afshari responded that the County is reviewing the recommendations in the Report and will provide a response to the Civil Grand Jury on whether these recommendations are feasible to implement. Each jurisdiction is responsible for reviewing the recommendations and providing a response to the Civil Grand Jury about their feasibility.

Infrastructure LA looks forward to continuing discussions related to waste management and recycling through the Infrastructure LA platform.