

## Summary

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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 July.

### Attendance:

- 79 participants joined the call
  - Participants included many representatives from local cities as well as waste haulers and the County Sanitation Districts.
  - About 28 Cities were represented including: Diamond Bar, Glendora, Culver City, Palmdale, Long Beach, Santa Monica, Glendale, Lakewood, Arcadia, San Jose, San Diego, and more.

### SB 1383 Update and the Civil Grand Jury Report:

- Updates and presentations were provided by Faith Conley (Legislative Representative, County of Los Angeles), Ms. Afshari (Deputy Director of Los Angeles County Public Works), and Kim Braun (Environmental Programs and Operations Manager, City of Culver City).
- Ms. Conley provided an update from the County Legislative Office on the status of State legislation:
  - Many bills were dropped if not related to the COVID-19 recovery and response.
    - Senate Bill (SB) 54 and Assembly Bill (AB) 1080 aimed to reduce single use plastic waste by requiring manufacturers to make products and packaging recyclable or compostable, but neither bill succeeded.
    - AB 2612 was co-sponsored by the County and would have provided funding for organics and recycling infrastructure, however, did not move forward.
  - One bill that did move forward is AB 793, which is a bottle bill that sets minimum recycled content levels for plastic beverage containers. The bill made it to the Governor this year despite opposition from the waste industry.
  - Another infrastructure funding opportunity on the horizon is a ballot measure for 2022 that will include a one-cent tax on single use packaging to provide funding to local governments for waste management purposes. For more information, visit this [link](#).

## SWARM Subcommittee Teleconference Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 2 - 3 p.m.

- AB 1583 created a Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling, which will issue policy recommendations and identify products that are recyclable and compostable.
- Ms. Afshari provided a brief update on CalRecycle's SB 1383 progress report and the compliance guidance document. While the guidance says that CalRecycle would consider COVID-19 impacts when determining a jurisdiction's compliance, they have not made any meaningful efforts to provide flexibility in SB 1383 enforcement.
- Ms. Afshari also provided an overview on the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury report titled, "A Diet for Landfills: Cutting Down on Food Waste". The report provided recommendations for the County, the 88 cities, and school districts to overcome obstacles to implementing effective food waste recycling programs and improve food waste recycling throughout the County. While the Civil Grand Jury does not have the authority to mandate that jurisdictions implement the recommendations, everyone who received the report must respond by October 30.
- Ms. Braun, who was interviewed by the Civil Grand Jury, presented information on Culver City's response to report. She provided an overview of the various recommendations in the report and some of the challenges involved in implementing them as well as programs that Culver City has implemented that are related to the recommendation. Related to the last Civil Grand Jury recommendation, she also discussed the 11 options for organics waste management outlined in the County's 2018 Countywide Organic Waste Management Plan and provided examples of the programs Culver City has created to manage organic waste. Additional information about Culver City's programs can be found on their recycling website: [www.culvercity.org/recycle](http://www.culvercity.org/recycle).

### **Next Steps:**

- The County is preparing a letter to send to the Governor about SB 1383 compliance deadlines and enforcement and will share a draft of the letter on the SWARM website as a template for jurisdictions.

### **Questions and Answers:**

- Mr. Benjamin Lucha, from the City of Palmdale, shared that their City Attorney determined that the response to the Civil Grand Jury Report must be adopted by the City Council. Cities may want check with their City Councils regarding the responses.
- Mr. Glenn Kriechbaum, from the City of Signal Hill, asked about the estimated costs for on-site digesters. Mr. Skye responded that the estimated cost varies, but that the cost for organics service may be higher than the cost to manage organics on site for larger generators.

# INFRASTRUCTURE LA

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- Ms. Konya Vivanti, from the City of Lakewood, shared that the City of Alhambra has a survey about the Civil Grand Jury Report. For more information, please contact [mcuevas@cityofalhambra.org](mailto:mcuevas@cityofalhambra.org).

Ms. Afshari expressed that the SWARM meetings have helped highlight some of the major challenges with SB 1383. Moving forward SWARM would like to gauge the participants' interest in having smaller more focused discussions on specific aspects of SB 1383 implementation, such as procurement. Please send Infrastructure LA an e-mail if you would be interested in joining one of these more focused discussions. Please be sure to provide your name, jurisdiction, and contact info and we will follow up to coordinate.

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

Links to the meeting presentations and resources can be found on our website at: [www.infrastructurela.org/key-initiatives/swarm](http://www.infrastructurela.org/key-initiatives/swarm).

If you have questions regarding Infrastructure LA, you may contact us at [InfrastructureLA@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:InfrastructureLA@pw.lacounty.gov).