

Summary

Ms. Shari Afshari, Deputy Director of Los Angeles County Public Works, welcomed everyone to the call. Ms. Afshari noted the purpose of the Infrastructure LA Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management Subcommittee is to provide opportunities to discuss current challenges surrounding sustainable waste management in our Region. Ms. Afshari also provided a summary of the previous Subcommittee meeting in September.

Attendance:

- 40 participants joined the call
 - Participants included representatives from about 11 local cities as well as the County Sanitation Districts.
 - Cities in attendance included: Palmdale, City of Industry, Culver City, Santa Monica, Hermosa Beach, Long Beach, Lakewood, Claremont, El Monte, Beverly Hills, and Arcadia.

Update on Senate Bill (SB) 1383 and the County Sanitation Districts' Food Waste Program:

- Updates and presentations were provided by:
 - Ms. Faith Conley (Legislative Representative, County of Los Angeles)
 - Ms. Afshari (Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Public Works)
 - Mr. Chris Sheppard (Senior Civil Engineer, Los Angeles County Public Works)
 - Mr. Will Chen (Supervising Engineer, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts)
 - MR. Coby Skye (Assistant Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Public Works).
- Ms. Conley provided an update from the County Legislative Office on the status of State legislation:
 - On November 16, 2020, the Assembly Natural Resources & Select Committee on Waste Reduction and Recycling held a joint hearing and invited members of the waste sector, CalRecycle, and local jurisdictions to present on the impacts of plastic pollution on communities and the environment.
 - Ms. Rita Kampalath, Sustainability Program Director for the Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office presented on the County's goals to manage and minimize waste, including ongoing efforts to reduce single use food service ware.

- Ms. Zoe Heller, Deputy Director of CalRecycle, provided data on plastic waste and mentioned they will provide a report to show the effects of COVID-19 on the recycling and solid waste management industry.
 - Ms. Conley will share the report once it becomes available.
 - Assembly member Kevin McCarthy stated that the lack of education for the public on what materials can actually be recycled places the burden on local governments to ensure plastics diversion.
 - There was a bill to put a \$6.98 billion bond on the 2020 ballot. The bill failed in the State Senate. Stakeholders engaged with the authors of the bill to include funding for solid waste management infrastructure. More information on a potential bond bill being introduced in the next legislative session will be available in the next few weeks.
 - The County CEO is in discussions with Assembly member Brian Maienschein to reintroduce Assembly Bill (AB) 2612, which included State appropriation for organics and recycling infrastructure.
 - The County CEO will receive further indication in early 2021 whether the AB 54 and AB 1080 bills will be reintroduced and will also be tracking the Recology ballot measure proposed for 2022.
- Ms. Afshari shared that Ms. Rachel Wagoner has been appointed to the Director of CalRecycle.
 - Mr. Sheppard provided an update on CalRecycle's SB 1383 workshops and SWARM's individual discussion sessions.
 - The SB 1383 regulations were approved by the State Office of Administrative Law and adopted by CalRecycle as of November 3, 2020.
 - In October, CalRecycle hosted workshops on the SB 1383 model tools. Although the webinars did not include any new information that was not included in the SB 1383 regulations, they did include some sample agreements and policies that can be customized and adopted by local jurisdictions. The workshops' recordings and presentations are made available on the CalRecycle SB 1383 education and outreach [webpage](#).
 - Following the last SWARM meeting in September, Public Works offered to set up small group discussions focused on specific aspects of SB 1383 implementation. Public Works and participating cities discussed the procurement requirements of SB 1383 and how the County is proposing to meet the requirements through various methods, such as purchasing Renewable Natural Gas for fleet vehicles and SB 1383 compliant mulch and compost.
 - Public Works has also considered working with the Los Angeles Community Choice Aggregation to procure electricity from SB 1383 eligible biomass.

- Mr. Chen presented an update for the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (CSD) Food Waste Program.
 - Currently, CSD is receiving and recycling an average of 300 tons/day of food waste. CSD has a 600 tons/day capacity for food waste with low competitive rates. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, incoming food waste tonnage dropped by 35 percent, but is slowly returning to normal levels.
 - CSD is seeking long term contracts for food waste that can:
 - Provide certainty to develop their infrastructure, and
 - Provide cities certainty of an outlet for their food waste.
 - Phase II of the biogas project is currently being evaluated with plans to increase the generation of electricity, produce vehicle fuel, and/or inject into the natural gas pipeline. CSD provides virtual tours of the food waste program.
- Mr. Skye provided an update on the AB 1583 Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling.
 - Mr. Skye serves as one of the Commissioners.
 - The Commission is currently considering several policy proposals from the committees including a compostable plastics policy and is seeking feedback from stakeholders on all proposals.
 - The next full commission meeting will meet on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, to discuss the proposals and the draft report that will be submitted to the Legislature.
 - Initial recommendations from the Commission are due by January 1, 2021, and the draft report is due by July 1, 2021. As mentioned during the meeting, the policy proposals are available at this [link](#).
- Ms. Afshari shared that a [recording](#) of Public Works' edible food recovery workshop would be posted on the Infrastructure LA website.

Next Steps:

- Jurisdictions and waste haulers who are interested in recycling food waste through the CSD Food Waste Program or scheduling a virtual tour may contact Mr. Chen at WChen@lacsdsd.org.
- SWARM participants are encouraged to provide comments on the AB 1583 proposals.
- SWARM participants are encouraged to contact Public Works if they are interested in scheduling an individual discussion.

Questions and Answers:

- Ms. Lisa Rapp, from the City of Lakewood, asked if there are any updates on legislative relief for the SB 1383 implementation deadline of January 2022. Mr. Skye replied that local jurisdictions have one year to roll out the requirements including new ordinances to provide enforcement and revised contracts to provide organics collection to businesses and residents. CalRecycle may work with jurisdictions to provide an additional two years to meet the requirements. Public Works will share any legislative updates at the next SWARM meeting.
- Mr. Benjamin Lucha, from the City of Palmdale, asked if CalRecycle's new leadership has indicated if they plan to address issues with organics and mandatory commercial recycling, not just beverage containers. Mr. Skye responded that he has not heard if CalRecycle will address these issues, but that Public Works will continue building its existing relationship with CalRecycle to address these challenges.

Ms. Afshari expressed that the SWARM meetings have allowed collaboration between different agencies to deal with challenges discussed during the meeting. As mentioned earlier, the work of the Commission will require more involvement from all jurisdictions in order to pass legislation to help jurisdictions implement SB 1383 and other requirements. She stated that SWARM will have a lot more to discuss when the legislative session begins next year. She added that SWARM plans to continue meeting at least every quarter in the coming year.

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.

If you have questions regarding Infrastructure LA, you may contact us at InfrastructureLA@pw.lacounty.gov.