

Summary

Mr. Coby Skye, Assistant Deputy Director of Los Angeles County Public Works, welcomed everyone to the call. Mr. Skye noted the purpose of the Infrastructure LA Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management (SWARM) Subcommittee is to provide opportunities to discuss current challenges surrounding sustainable waste management in our Region. Mr. Skye also provided a summary of the previous Subcommittee meeting in July 2021.

Attendance:

- 25 participants joined the call:
 - Participants included representatives from about six local cities.
 - Cities in attendance included: El Monte, Alhambra, Santa Monica, Palmdale, Lakewood, and Long Beach.

Updates on State Legislation, SB 1383 Implementation, & Solid Waste Rate Survey

- Updates and presentations were provided by:
 - Ms. Faith Conley (Legislative Representative, County of Los Angeles)
 - Ms. Angela Ovalle (Chief of Administrative Operations, Los Angeles County Public Works)
 - Mr. Christopher Sheppard (Senior Civil Engineer, Los Angeles County Public Works)
 - Ms. April Hamud (Project Manager, HF&H Consultants)
- Ms. Conley provided an update from the County Legislative Office on State legislation:
 - The Legislature is in the second year of its two-year cycle.
 - SB 54, which would require single-use packaging and food service ware to be compostable or recyclable, is in the Assembly awaiting assignment to a policy committee.
 - The Governor's budget, which was released in January 2022, includes \$65 million for organic waste management, recycling, and edible food recovery; \$100 million for green hydrogen; and \$175 million for extreme heat resilience.
 - SB 1215 and AB 2440 would create battery producer stewardship programs.
 - AB 1857 would remove AB 939 diversion credit for transformation facilities, including incinerators such as the Southeast Resource Recovery Facility in Long Beach, and would have a significant impact on jurisdictions sending waste to these facilities.
 - AB 2374 would increase the maximum fines for illegal dumping.

- AB 1690 would ban all single-use smoking products such as cigarette filters, cigarette papers, and vape pods
 - The deadline to introduce bills recently passed.
 - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of bills that representatives could introduce was limited; the limit has now been lifted.
 - Many new bills are "spot bills." The deadline to incorporate substance into spot bills is March 16, 2022.
 - Because many representatives are up for re-election this year, they may introduce or support environmental bills this session
 - The County Legislative Office is reviewing the new bills and will provide more details at the next SWARM meeting.
- Ms. Ovalle provided an update on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunities. The Biden Administration is committed to equity; at least 40 percent of the benefits from investments in climate and clean energy will be for disadvantaged communities. Each State has an infrastructure coordinator to work with the Biden Administration. California's infrastructure coordinator is Nicole Longoria, Federal Liaison for CalTrans. Last month, a BIL guidebook was released, including more information on programs, available funding, eligible recipients, and key dates. The Biden Administration urges local governments to prepare to apply for funding opportunities. Applications and notices of funding opportunities will be released as early as February 2022 and many are expected in Spring 2022. Ms. Ovalle's presentation is available on the SWARM webpage.
 - Mr. Sheppard provided an update on SB 1383 Implementation and the County's efforts to comply with the regulatory requirements. Mr. Sheppard's presentation is available on the SWARM webpage.
 - A survey was sent out before and during the meeting to ask attendees about their priorities related to organic waste management and recycling and how the County can assist Cities with SB 1383 implementation. The poll results showed the top priorities are rate increases, staffing, and costs. Most Cities are not considering developing infrastructure within their jurisdictions. While some Cities have adopted ordinances and policies and have also begun SB 1383 implementation, the poll results showed that guidance from the County as well as other resources would benefit Cities in their implementation efforts. A summary of the survey can be found in Mr. Sheppard's presentation.
 - Ms. Hamud provided an update on a Survey of Solid Waste Rates and Services in Los Angeles County. HF&H is currently working with Public Works to finalize a report summarizing the survey results. The report will be provided to Cities that responded to the survey. Ms. Hamud's presentation is available on the SWARM webpage.

Questions and Answers:

- An attendee asked if Cities that are not in full compliance with SB 1383 and do not submit an SB 619 Notice of Intent to Comply to CalRecycle will receive penalties. Mr. Skye encouraged Cities concerned about their SB 1383 implementation status to contact their CalRecycle Local Assistance manager. He stated that CalRecycle prioritizes assisting local jurisdictions with SB 1383 compliance over taking enforcement actions immediately.

Mr. Skye expressed that the SWARM meetings have allowed different agencies to continue discussion on legislation and SB 1383 implementation. SWARM will continue to host meetings every quarter or more frequently if there is an issue that needs to be discussed.

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.