

## Summary

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Mr. Coby Skye, Deputy Director of Los Angeles County Public Works Environmental Services Core Service Area, welcomed everyone to the call. Mr. Skye noted the purpose of the Infrastructure LA Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management (SWARM) Committee is to provide opportunities to discuss current challenges surrounding sustainable waste management in our Region. Mr. Skye also provided a summary of the previous committee meeting in February 2022. Mr. Skye introduced Mr. Will Chen (Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts) as the vice chair of the committee.

### Attendance:

- 16 participants joined the call:
  - Participants included representatives from Public Works and cities.
  - Cities in attendance included: Long Beach

### Single-Use Plastics

- Presentations were provided by:
  - Ms. Rita Kampalath (Acting Chief Sustainability Officer, LA County Chief Sustainability Office)
  - Mr. Sean Singletary (Environmental Programs & Operations Manager, City of Culver City)
- Ms. Kampalath provided a presentation on the Los Angeles County Single-Use Plastics ordinance:
  - In 2019, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the OurCounty Sustainability Plan, which was designated as the Board's Policy on sustainability. Sustainability was named as one of seven Board directed priorities for the County.
  - In October 2019, the Board adopted a motion directing the preparation of a report on state of recycling markets, stakeholder engagement, and the preparation of an ordinance to prohibit single-use plastics and other materials that cannot be or are not recycled.
  - In April 2022, the Board adopted a single-use plastics ordinance.
  - Under the ordinance:
    - Disposable food service ware provided with ready-to-eat foods, food trays, and egg cartons must be either "recyclable" or "compostable."
    - Retail sale or rental of expanded polystyrene (foam) products is prohibited.

- Full-service restaurants must use reusable food service ware for dine-in customers.
  - Exceptions and waivers are available for:
    - Articles included in food or beverages that are packaged off the premises of the food facility.
    - Emergency supplies and articles used as part of food service for patients in health facilities.
    - Items with no appropriate compostable or recyclable alternative existing.
    - Full-service restaurants that do not have adequate dishwashing facilities.
    - A limited basis, establishments under undue hardships, including but not limited to financial hardship.
  - The implementation timeline for the provisions of the ordinance is as follows:
    - Food facilities that operate in a permanent structure and serve food to customers on-site, as well as retail establishments: one year after ordinance adoption.
    - Food trucks: eighteen months after ordinance adoption.
    - Temporary food facilities (e.g., community events, caterers, and farmers markets): two years after ordinance adoption.
  - Public Works will be the enforcement lead with support from Public Health.
- Mr. Singletary provided a presentation on the City of Culver City's Single-Use Plastics policy:
    - The development of Culver City's regulations on single-use plastics was community driven. Organizations including the Ballona Creek Renaissance, Heal the Bay, and the Surfrider Foundation were involved.
    - In 2016, Culver City's Sustainability Committee surveyed food service providers in the City to determine the reception of the ban on single-use plastics.
    - Under the policy, the following polystyrene items are banned:
      - Expanded polystyrene (e.g., hot cups, plates, bowls, clamshells).
      - Hard plastic polystyrene (e.g., utensils, straws, water cups, hot cup lids, clamshells, sauce containers).
    - The use or sale of meat trays, egg cartons, and packing material is allowed.
    - Unprepared food using polystyrene food ware may be sold by City retailers and food service providers (e.g., raw meat/fish trays, egg cartons, Cup of Noodles-Ramen).
    - In 2019, the Ballona Creek Renaissance proposed additional restrictions due to the continuing prevalence of single-use plastics.

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- In May 2021, a phased-in ban was passed. Under the policy, effective January 2022:
  - Establishments shall only use, sell, or distribute utensils, stirring sticks, or straws made from materials that are acceptable by the City's organic waste collection program and only upon a customer's request.
  - Plastic straws can be provided to a person with a disability.
  - Establishments shall not sell, distribute, or use polystyrene packing material.
  - Packing materials that are reusable and acceptable to the City's recycling and/or organic waste collection program are allowed.
  - Polystyrene packing material for shipping medical devices is exempt.
  - Disposable food service ware used by establishments for take-out or delivery must be free of fluorinated chemicals, as certified by the Biodegradable Product institute or another independent, third-party certifying organization or agency.
  - Paper liners, paper napkins, or foil wrappers acceptable to the City's recycling and/or organic waste collection program may be used when the food item being served requires paper or foil to contain and/or form the food item being served.
- Effective January 2023:
  - Food or beverages served for consumption on the premises of establishments shall be served on or in food service ware that is reusable.
- The City received cooperation from local businesses and franchisees on the regulations.
- The City provided businesses with resources regarding the policy and conducts continuing education and outreach efforts.
- Proposals to further expand the ban to include single-use plastic beverage bottles, plastic bags, and balloons have been made to the City's Sustainable Committee.

Mr. Skye expressed that SWARM will continue to host meetings every quarter and engage stakeholders on topics including zero waste, hard-to-handle wastes, edible food recovery, infrastructure development, and funding.

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).



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