## **Summary**

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 Los Angeles Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management (SWARM) Committee is to provide opportunities to discuss current challenges surrounding sustainable waste management in our region. He also provided a summary of the previous August 2023 Committee meeting. Mr. Will Chen, Manager of the Energy Recovery Section at Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD), led the meeting.

**Attendance:**

* 104 participants joined the call:
  + Participants included representatives from Public Works and other   
    County departments, cities, waste haulers, technology developers, and environmental groups.
  + Cities in attendance included: Baldwin Park, Bell, Beverly Hills, Commerce, Culver City, Diamond Bar, Gardena, Glendale, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Industry, Inglewood, Irwindale, Lakewood, La Mirada, Lawndale, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Monrovia, Palmdale, Paramount, Pasadena, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates, San Diego, San Dimas, Santa Clarita,   
    Santa Monica, South El Monte, South Pasadena, Vernon, Walnut, and   
    West Hollywood.

**Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste (HHW/E-Waste):**

* Presentations were provided by:
  + Mr. Chris Sheppard, Principal Engineer, Los Angeles County Public Works,
  + Ms. Lisa Scales, Project Engineer, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts,
  + Mr. John Park Senior Environmental Engineer, Los Angeles City   
    Sanitation & Environment
  + Ms. Yasi Lozano and Environmental Engineer, Los Angeles City   
    Sanitation & Environment
* Mr. Sheppard provided a presentation on the Los Angeles County Public Works' HHW/E-Waste program:
  + Public Works HHW/E-Waste program provides a free and convenient way for residents to dispose of unwanted HHW, E-waste, and universal waste.
  + The program is available to all Los Angeles County residents, but it does not accept business waste.
  + Public Works developed partnerships with cities, agencies, waste haulers, and other County departments to host HHW/E-Waste collection events, which are open to residents in all 88 cities and County unincorporated areas.
* Public Works partnered with LACSD to analyze program accessibility to ensure residents have access to temporary collection events within five miles at least twice per year and access to permanent center locations.
* Public Works has two permanent HHW/E-Waste collection centers that are open two Saturdays each month.
* Public Works also has programs that offer a collection of specific materials, such as motor oil, batteries, sharps, and paint.
* In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23, Public Works and its partners have collected:
* 6,199 tons of HHW through the HHW/E-Waste program.
* 51,112 gallons of motor oil through the used motor oil program.
* 80.3 tons of batteries through a partnership with the Los Angeles County Library.
* 37.9 tons of sharps through a partnership with Los Angeles County Sheriff.
* 579.7 tonsof paint collected and handled by PaintCare.
* Public Works conducted 85 HHW/E-Waste collection events in FY 2022-23, with 50,293 households participating.
* In 2022, Public Works established HHW Reuse Centers at its permanent collection centers where residents can pick up unused or partially used products collected at events.
* Public Works supports Extended Producer Responsibility programs that provide return options for consumers and prevent improper disposal of HHW/E-Waste.
* Ms. Scales provided a presentation on the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' HHW/E-Waste Collection Event operations:
  + Public Works staff aid LACSD in securing agreements and permits for HHW/E-Waste collection events.
  + An outreach contractor distributes event flyers, produces site-specific banners, and helps advertise the collection events through social media.
  + On HHW/E-Waste collection days:
* LACSD managers conduct safety meetings for staff and distribute personal protective equipment.
* Traffic signs and driving lanes are set up to facilitate vehicle flow.
* Traffic workers also keep track of participation levels.
* A contractor packages and prepares the shipping documents, and also transports all waste offsite after the collection event.
* LACSD staff remains onsite during teardown to ensure the site is returned to pre-event conditions.
* A priority for LACSD is ensuring worker safety.
* Certain wastes, such as lithium-ion batteries, are difficult to manage. Residents sometimes commingle wastes, which complicates the sorting process.
* Irregular and/or infrequent collection can lead to a venue being overwhelmed with customers and wastes.
* LACSD is considering providing additional public outreach and education on using fewer hazardous materials and producing less waste in general.
* LACSD supports the development of new Extended Producer Responsibility programs specifically for the management of flammable and toxic waste.
* Operating more permanent collection facilities would increase availability to residents and alleviate overcrowding.
* Mr. Park and Ms. Lozano provided a presentation on the City of Los Angeles Residential Special Materials Program:
  + The Residential Special Materials Program is responsible for managing the City of Los Angeles' HHW/E-Waste collection.
* There are Used Oil Recovery Centers, Certified Collection Centers, and Mobile Collection Events throughout the City of Los Angeles where residents can recycle their used motor oil and used oil filters.
* Residents citywide can dispose of electronics through Bulky Item   
  Pickup Requests and can also take them to SAFE Centers and Mobile Collection Events.
* The Residential Special Materials Program has remote sharps and battery recycling programs.
* City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County residents can drop off their HHW/E-Waste at SAFE Centers in the City of Los Angeles at no cost.
  + - Small businesses who qualify under the Very Small Quantity Generator Program can also drop off their HHW/E-Waste at SAFE Centers.
  + Approximately 42 percent of participants are from outside of city boundaries and 58 percent are city residents.
  + The Reuse, Recycle, and Reduce Program events give materials that are collected at the SAFE Centers, such as cleaning products, paint, and landscaping products to residents.

**Questions and Answers:**

* There were two questions about Public Works' requirements for construction and demolition debris recycling. Mr. Sheppard responded that questions about construction and demolition could be directed to Public Works' public counter at (626) 458-3517.
* An attendee asked how a small business can manage their HHW. Mr. Sheppard encouraged businesses to visit the Public Works [Smart Business Recycling website](https://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/sbr/find-recycler.aspx?z=&m=Household+Hazardous+Waste&mt=) find a recycler for their HHW.
* An attendee asked Mr. Park and Ms. Lozano if 311 is the primary resource for   
  City of Los Angeles residents to recycle refrigerators, batteries, and light bulbs. Mr. Park affirmed that residents should be advised to call 311 to schedule bulky item pickups and for other waste inquiries.
* An attendee asked the presenters to share successful public awareness campaigns that contributed to increased participation in HHW/E-Waste programs. Ms. Lozano stated that the City of Los Angeles launched a used oil recycling campaign during the COVID-19 pandemic that showed an increase in   
  participation. Ms. Scales added that a postcard campaign by LACSD yielded record record-high collection. Mr. Sheppard mentioned Public Works explores and analyzes different outreach methods, and tailors outreach based on the community that is being served by an event.
* An attendee asked presenters to discuss any partnerships or collaborations with local businesses or waste management companies to streamline collection and transportation. Mr. Sheppard stated that Public Works has a dedicated E-Waste recycler who assists with the collection and added that Public Works is open to considering other similar partnerships.
* An attendee asked presenters about their experience with illegal HHW/E-Waste dumping and the best way to address it. Mr. Park stated that SAFE centers help to reduce illegal dumping, but that there is no single solution that completely addresses the problem. Mr. Park added that materials brought to SAFE Center are costly to dispose of. Ms. Lozano stated there are cameras at collection facilities to help identify illegal dumping.
* An attendee asked presenters from the City of Los Angeles on whether they have an ordinance and enforcement policy for illegal dumping. Mr. Park answered that they have an ordinance, which is enforced by inspectors.
* An attendee asked how illegal dumping can be reported. Ms. Lozano stated that illegal dumping in the City of Los Angeles can be reported by calling 311 or via the MyLA app.
* Mr. Sheppard explained that Public Works is continually improving its efforts to address illegal dumping. He pointed out that Public Works has provisions within its waste hauling contracts to pick up illegally dumped waste, and that illegal dumping can be reported via Public Works' app called "The Works".

After the Q&A session, Mr. Chen asked attendees to complete a survey.

Mr. Chen expressed that SWARM would continue to host regular meetings to engage stakeholders.

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 [ILASWARM@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:ILASWARM@pw.lacounty.gov).