

Summary

Mr. Will Chen welcomed everyone to the call and led the meeting of the Infrastructure Los Angeles Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management (SWARM) Committee. Mr. Chen led the meeting, which focused on Senate Bill (SB) 1383 compliant product procurement and contracting options.

Attendance:

- 63 participants joined the call:
 - Participants included representatives from Public Works, other Los Angeles County departments, cities, waste haulers, technology developers, and environmental groups.
 - Cities in attendance included: Beverly Hills, Commerce, Culver City, Garden Grove, Hermosa Beach, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Palmdale, Pasadena, Redondo Beach, South Bay, Torrance.

SB 1383 Compliant Product Procurement and Contracting Options:

- Presentations were provided by:
 - Ms. April Hamud, Senior Project Manager, HF&H Consultants
 - Mr. Mark Ladney, Senior Program Specialist, City of Garden Grove
 - Mr. Cesar Leon, Solid Waste Planning Director, Tetra Tech
 - Ms. Erica Alvarado, Director, Air Quality and Transportation, Tetra Tech
- Ms. Hamud presented on HF&H Consultants' research on SB 1383 complaint products and new procurement requirement compliance strategies.
 - SB 1383 mandates jurisdictions to procure recycled organic waste products (ROWP) such as compost, mulch, and renewable natural gas, based on population size.
 - Assembly Bill 2902 and 2346 are new laws, which alter the procurement targets and provide additional compliance options for jurisdictions. Assembly Bill 2346 allows jurisdictions to include compost from smaller community operations and enables investments in community composting programs to count toward procurement targets.
 - Jurisdictions may be able to count procurement without a formal direct service provider agreement if they have an ordinance or policy that enforces the use of ROWP.
 - Certain jurisdictions can meet their procurement goals by updating contracts with haulers and landscapers to use compliant products like compost and renewable natural gas (RNG).
 - Direct procurement, agreements with service providers procuring on behalf of jurisdictions, and new legislative options starting in 2025.
 - Jurisdictions have been using grants, general funds, or agreements with haulers to meet their financial obligations for procurement requirements.

SWARM Committee Teleconference

Wednesday, October 10, 2024, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

- Mr. Ladney provided a presentation on the City of Garden Grove's procurement strategies.
 - Garden Grove allocated compost and mulch to parks, golf courses, and community giveaways, though he noted that giveaways alone contributed minimally toward their target.
 - The Garden Grove also explored agriculture partnerships to meet procurement needs, sending surplus compost to agricultural operations.
 - The Garden Grove encountered logistical and financial challenges in applying compost, requiring an evaluation of staffing levels, equipment needs, and costs.
 - Garden Grove also considered the procurement of RNG but found it financially infeasible at the time due to higher costs of RNG credits and current lack of local infrastructure.
 - To meet compliance, Garden Grove issued a request for proposals for contractors to send a majority of their compost (around 4,800 tons).
 - It is important to develop clear legal agreements and verifying compliance with state regulations in the contracting process.

- Mr. Cesar Leon and Dr. Erica Alvarado provided a presentation on RNG procurement, highlighting the complexities and opportunities associated with using RNG to meet compliance targets.
 - RNG, derived from organic waste, can be used for electricity, heating, and transportation fuel.
 - To meet SB 1383 requirements, the gas must come from permitted facilities like anaerobic digesters or wastewater treatment plants.
 - Sourcing RNG that meets SB 1383 standards can be challenging, as many facilities are not equipped to produce the required volumes.
 - Jurisdictions need to identify qualifying facilities and ensure their procurement is verifiable and traceable to avoid double counting.
 - Jurisdictions can obtain renewable energy credits and procurement compliance attributes credits, which provide an additional compliance pathway through the purchase of electricity derived from RNG.
 - Jurisdictions should track the source of energy to ensure compliance with both SB 1383 and California's renewable energy standards.

Questions and Answers:

- Mr. Chen asked what challenges jurisdictions encounter when procuring ROWP. Ms. Hamud Jurisdictions need to first determine their ROWP procurement targets and assess how much compost or RNG they can realistically use. Finding the right procurement broker or service provider is often a challenge, as well as securing competitive rates for compost and RNG.

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- An attendee asked if the Clean Power Alliance can become an option for compliance. Ms. Hamud responded that there may be opportunity with the Clean Power Alliance and encourages jurisdictions to investigate their offerings on sustainable electricity.
- An attendee asked if Garden Grove for recommendations on other jurisdictions conducting cost analyses. Mr. Ladney responded that jurisdictions should take into consideration all potential hidden costs, including paying for rejected material loads and storage.
- An attendee asked if there is any qualifying availability for RNG and RNG derived energy out in the market. Mr. Chen responded that Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts currently has a request for offer for qualified RNG derived electricity produced at a wastewater treatment plant in Carson for 2025 compliance report.
- An attendee asked how jurisdictions can verify that the products they procure meet SB 1383 standards. Ms. Hamud responded that jurisdictions should request documentation from the vendor, including the solid waste information system facility permit number for compost or mulch and invoices showing the amount and delivery of RNG. This ensures that products are sourced from authorized facilities.
- An attendee asked if Garden Grove's request for proposal included any requirements for the service provider to identify the location of the agricultural outlet that they're using, and if there were any provisions to validate the agricultural operations. Mr. Ladney responded that Garden Grove's request for proposal required contractors to provide detailed records on where the compost is delivered, how it is used, and how much was applied.

After the Questions and Answers session, Mr. Chen announced that the second annual LA Infrastructure Forum will be held next month on November 18th at the Westin Bonaventure, in downtown Los Angeles.

Mr. Chen expressed that SWARM would continue to host regular meetings to engage stakeholders, and informed attendees that the next meeting will be in early 2025.

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 ILASWARM@pw.lacounty.gov.