



INSIDE SOLID WASTE

Fall 2023



Volume 109



lacountyiswmtf.org

Inside Solid Waste is produced quarterly by Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force



Aerial Shot of Construction in Santa Clarita Suburban Neighborhood

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SWMC

Inside Solid Waste

Task Force Public Education and
Information Subcommittee

CHAIR

Mike Mohajer

For information, call
Vanessa A. Olivas at (626) 458-2528
Monday - Thursday, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



Visit lacountyiswmtf.org to find agendas, meeting minutes and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter. If you are interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education and Information Subcommittee or if you would like to submit an article for Inside Solid Waste, please contact Vanessa A. Olivas at (626) 458-2528 or volivas@pw.lacounty.gov. Quarterly meetings are held at Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters.

City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E Permanent Collection Centers

Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., unless otherwise noted.
Services suspended during rainy weather.
For information, call (800) 98-TOXIC (988-6942).

Gaffey Street Collection Center

1400 N. Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

Hyperion Treatment Plant

7660 W. Imperial Highway, Gate B, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293

Washington Boulevard Collection Center

2649 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90021

Randall Street S.A.F.E. Center

11025 Randall Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352

UCLA Location (E-waste accepted on Saturdays only)

550 Charles E. Young Drive West, Los Angeles, CA 90095
Open Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Los Angeles/Glendale Collection Center

4600 Colorado Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90039

Los Angeles County Permanent Collection Centers

Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center

Antelope Valley Public Landfill,
1200 West City Ranch Road, Palmdale, CA 93551
Open 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

EDCO Environmental Collection Center

EDCO Recycling and Transfer Center,
2755 California Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755
Open 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

About Household Hazardous Waste

Items accepted: paint and solvents, used motor oil and filters, anti-freeze and other automotive fluids, cleaning products, pool and garden chemicals, aerosol cans, all medicines except for controlled substances, auto batteries, household batteries, computers, monitors, printers, network equipment, cables, telephones, televisions, microwaves, video games, cell phones, radios, stereos, VCRs and electronic toys. **Not accepted: business waste, ammunition, explosives, radioactive material, trash, tires and bulky items such as furniture, refrigerators, washing machines/dryers and stoves.**

Chiquita Canyon Landfill Odor Nuisance



The Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) is a Class III landfill in the Los Angeles County unincorporated area of Castaic. In May 2023, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) began receiving hundreds of complaints from residents in the nearby communities regarding noxious odors allegedly emanating from the landfill. To date, the SCAQMD has issued over 66 Notices of Violation for this calendar year, for discharging such quantities of air contaminants to cause odor nuisance to a considerable number of persons. The Landfill Operator believes the odors are most likely due to an unexpected increase in the production of landfill gas at the Landfill. The Landfill Operator also believes that this increase in landfill gas production is due to a subsurface chemical reaction taking place within a portion of the landfill's waste mass.

On July 26, 2023, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) issued a Public Health Notice to the Landfill regarding the persistent foul-smelling odors emanating from CCL that are impacting the health of nearby residents. As the odors currently being emitted from the Landfill into the surrounding communities are both pervasive and lengthy in duration, DPH has declared the situation a public nuisance under

Civil Code Section 3479 and Section 11.02.190 of the Los Angeles County Code.

CCL has begun offering residents a Certified Air Resources Board (CARB)-certified air filtration device for in-home use. These air filtration devices are available upon request to residents that live in Hasley Canyon, Hasley Hills, Hillcrest, Live Oak, North Bluff, Williams Ranch and Val Verde communities.

For more information on obtaining a CARB-certified air filtration device, please visit CCL's website:

<https://chiquitacanyon.com/reports/odor-mitigation/>.

To mitigate the problem and stop the odors coming from the Landfill, Supervisor Kathryn Barger of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) has launched a whole-of-county-government effort. At her direction, a new Los Angeles County Chiquita Canyon Task Force has been convening since August 2023 that includes representatives from the Department of Public Works, Department of Regional Planning, Department of Public Health, County Counsel and Office of Emergency Management. The Board also approved a motion on August 8, 2023, directing the agencies to provide the following:

- Identification of the underlying cause of the odors emanating from CCL in conjunction with State

regulatory agencies;

- Summary of the County’s review of the odor mitigation plan provided by the Landfill Operator in conjunction with State regulatory agencies;
- Resources deployed by the Landfill and the County to address ongoing impacts to the residents surrounding the Landfill; and
- Independent actions taken by the County to ensure appropriate oversight of the Landfill’s mitigation plans to eliminate the generation of odors from the Landfill.

On September 6, 2023, a hearing on a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) was held by SCAQMD regarding the noxious odors emanating from CCL. The SOA was unanimously approved and adopted by the SCAQMD Hearing Board. The SOA includes a host of requirements aimed to mitigate the current odor situation. The SCAQMD Hearing Board also directed the Landfill Operator to report back on January 16, 2024, on the progress. Some noticeable requirements from SOA are:

- Conduct odor surveillance at least twice daily during operating hours at 32 locations around the landfill until a three-week period passes without receiving a Notice of Violation (NOV). If SCAQMD issues a subsequent NOV, odor surveillance would resume.
- Maximize the use of specified landfill gas flares for combustion of landfill gases, with requirements to sample, analyze, record and report compounds combusted in each flare.
- Submit a monthly written report on the landfill operation, landfill gas flares and treatment system and efforts to resolve the total sulfur concentration in the landfill gas.
- Organize a committee of experts to investigate and find the cause and solution to the subsurface chemical reaction causing the elevated levels of sulfur and report to SCAQMD detailing the findings by April 30, 2024.
- Expand its gas well system and continue to evaluate and install extraction wells to collect both landfill gas and leachate and monitor each gas collection system at least monthly for temperature.
- Visually inspect the landfill cover each operating day and make needed repairs and install a geosynthetic cover to limit the migration of landfill gas from the site.
- Maintain trash odor mitigation efforts by using fans,

odor neutralizing misting systems, using proper hauling sequencing and cover, and providing regular training to staff on odor control.

- Maintain and update on a weekly basis an odor mitigation section on its website at <https://chiquitacanyon.com/reports/odor-mitigation/>, including providing Spanish translation.

On September 12, 2023, Supervisor Barger introduced a motion that was adopted by the Board to implement the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Utility Reimbursement and Chiquita Canyon Landfill Rehabilitation Grant Programs to assist with funding for nearby residents that are impacted by the ongoing odors emanating from the Landfill. More information is available at <https://chiquitacanyonlandfillrelief.lacda.org/>.

Regional Planning has also set up a telephone line and e-mail inbox to directly receive public complaints regarding the CCL odor incident. To file a complaint, e-mail ChiquitaComplaints@lacounty.gov or dial (213) 974-6483, Monday through Thursday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.



CalRecycle Issues Notice of Completeness Finding for H Cycle's Senate Bill 1383 Article 2 Application



On August 15, 2023, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) deemed H Cycle's application to be considered as a reduction in organic waste disposal as complete. California's Senate Bill (SB) 1383 regulations require local jurisdictions to collect organic waste and process it at organic waste facilities, which include composting, anaerobic digestion, and biomass conversion. Article 2 of the SB 1383 regulations describe the requirements for alternative technologies to be approved as organic waste disposal reduction technologies.

Now that the application has been deemed complete, CalRecycle and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will proceed in evaluating the application for concurrence with Article 2. As part of CalRecycle's commitment to transparency in decision-making and program development, the application documents, with confidential information redacted, were made available for public review and 30-day comment period. Feedback received during this comment period will guide CalRecycle and CARB in further evaluating H Cycle's application and its alignment with the criteria outlined in Article 2.

H Cycle previously submitted an application to CalRecycle in May 2022. CalRecycle staff prepared a

report which indicated that H Cycle's application met the requirements of Article 2. A coalition of statewide environmental justice organizations sent a letter to CalRecycle expressing their opposition conflating H Cycle's non-incineration gasification technology with incineration projects. On January 30, 2023, CalRecycle decided not to designate their technology as a reduction in landfill disposal of organic waste because they believed that H Cycle could possibly stray from the feedstock scenarios provided for evaluation and fail to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 0.30 MTCO₂e per short ton of organic waste.

In the application submitted on July 17, 2023, H Cycle outlines how their facilities will stay within the feedstock scenarios. H Cycle included in this application sections highlighting feedstock operational quality control, regular sampling and testing protocols, and verification procedures as part of the numerous permits H Cycle facilities will be subject to.

For further information or inquiries, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@gmail.com or (909) 592-1147.

Clean Bay Certified Restaurant Program Receives an Exciting Update in the City of Malibu



In the Malibu community, environmental stewardship has always been a key objective. As part of its ongoing commitment to protecting the creeks and ocean, the City of Malibu is proud to announce an update to the Clean Bay Certified Restaurant program.

The City of Malibu launched the Clean Bay Certified Restaurant program in 2017 in partnership with The Bay Foundation and other Santa Monica Bay cities to promote solid waste management practices and prevent stormwater pollution in local waterways. Restaurants that meet specific criteria and implement best management practices to prevent pollution are recognized as “Clean Bay Certified”. These establishments play a crucial role in safeguarding the health of the local marine wildlife and ensuring a clean and vibrant coastal environment for residents and visitors.

Building upon the success of the program, the City updated the program to further inspire restaurants to go above and beyond in their solid waste management efforts. This update includes additional criteria and benefits designed to encourage participating restaurants to manage organics recycling, enforce the City’s plastic prohibition and require locking lids on dumpsters. Restaurants are evaluated on requirements related to stormwater management, grease control and waste reduction and how well they abide with local and State mandates to protect the environment.

Certified restaurants are implementing an organic recycling program that aids in waste prevention, source reduction, reuse and recycling. Restaurant staff are trained to sort food scraps into designated bins and to reduce food surplus by efficiently buying and storing food to prevent food waste from entering our landfills. In addition, these restaurants comply with the bans on single-use plastic bags, bioplastic straws, stirrers and cutlery items to reduce the amount of waste in our landfills and oceans. The locking dumpster lid requirement not only protects our coastal environment by maintaining cleanliness in trash areas, but closed lids also discourage scavenging from marine birds, rodents and other pests.

To ensure ongoing compliance, the City provides resources to Clean Bay Certified restaurants such as the Malibu Business Zero Waste Service and training guides to help maintain and enhance solid waste management. By fostering a collaborative environment and sharing educational materials, the City aims to create a network of restaurants that raise the bar for sustainable operations.

The Clean Bay Certified Restaurant program is just one example of the City’s dedication to preserving the environment for future generations. Encouraging sustainable practices and reducing pollution will help protect the coastal habitat and delicate marine ecosystem.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Ms. Caryn De La Cruz of the City of Malibu at cdelacruz@malibucity.org or (310) 456-2489 (ext. 282).





Southern California Waste Management Forum's Annual Business Meeting and Conference Provides Information on Sustainable Waste Management



Susan Collins, President of the Container Recycling Institute, presents at the Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Business Meeting Conference in Fullerton, California on Tuesday, May 24, 2023.

The Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) held its annual business meeting and conference on May 24, 2023, bringing together industry and local government leaders from across the region. The theme of the conference was “The New Normal, Sorting Fact from Fiction.” The event, held at the Coyote Hills Golf Course in Fullerton, California, focused on promoting sustainable waste management practices and fostering collaboration to address pressing waste management challenges.

The event began with SCWMF's annual business meeting. Members of the SCWMF approved their annual budget, added new members and appointed officers. The new Chair of the SCWMF is Mr. Nick Morell of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts.

Ms. Susan Collins of the Container Recycling Institute provided an overview of beverage container deposit laws in the United States, followed by a discussion on legislation and financial analyses affecting beverage container deposit and redemption in California. She advocated for stronger policies by describing how a robust beverage deposit program could potentially capture up to 90 percent of containers.

A session at the conference revolved around public engagement strategies. Mr. Stephen Groner of SGA Marketing presented on public engagement strategies. He shared insights on how organizations can tailor their outreach to their audience. He stated that effective messaging should inform the public about their role in managing waste in the region to increase public engagement and participation in waste management programs.

The conference showcased successful case studies and best practices from jurisdictions leading the way in sustainable organic waste management. Mr. James Roska of the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation and Mr. Christopher Sheppard of Los Angeles County Public Works highlighted their agencies' efforts to implement the Senate Bill 1383 requirements and reduce organic waste disposal. These efforts include providing kitchen pails that residents can use to separate their organic waste, streamlining organic waste collection operations, providing resources on home composting and implementing edible food recovery programs. Each presenter emphasized the importance of collaboration among stakeholders to successfully implement Senate Bill 1383.

For more information on upcoming conferences and exhibits, please visit scwmf.org.



CalRecycle Disapproves Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation's 2022 Annual Report, Refers to Compliance Division for Enforcement



Senate Bill 212 (Jackson, 2018) established the first pharmaceutical and sharps waste stewardship law in the nation. The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is the lead state oversight agency for the law, which establishes industry-run statewide waste stewardship programs to ensure safe and convenient disposal options for pharmaceutical and home-generated sharps waste.

The law requires covered entities, such as a manufacturer of covered pharmaceutical/home-generated sharps that are sold in the state, to establish and implement either on its own, or as part of a stewardship organization, a stewardship program for the disposal of these items. By the end of 2021, all stewardship organizations and/or individual covered entities (program operator) were required to prepare and implement a stewardship plan and report annually to CalRecycle on its progress. The stewardship plan outlines how the program operator intends to fulfill its responsibilities under the law and communicate a course of action to stakeholders and the public. On or before March 31, 2022, and each year thereafter, each program operator is required to submit a report to CalRecycle that describes the stewardship program activities during the previous one-year reporting period.

CalRecycle has determined that one of the program operators, Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation (Foundation), has not fully implemented its covered

drugs stewardship program in accordance with the requirements of the law. On August 15, 2023, CalRecycle's staff evaluated the Foundation's 2022 Annual Report to determine whether the requirements of statute, regulations, and the Foundation's previously approved plan were met. CalRecycle found the report to be incomplete in the following categories:

Convenience Standards: The program requires a minimum of five authorized collection sites or one authorized collection site per 50,000 people in each county. Based on data from their 2022 Annual Report, the Foundation has not met the required number of authorized collection sites. The program requires that collection sites be conveniently located for ultimate users. The Foundation has not provided information on whether it has reviewed the most recent population data to calculate whether any changes to the required number of authorized collection sites were necessary. The Foundation also has not provided information on the circumstances that were beyond its control that prevented it from meeting the convenience standard in 44 counties. The program requires that collection sites be spread throughout the state. The Foundation has not achieved the geographic spread as outlined in its approved plan in 25 counties.

Education and Outreach: The report did not provide sufficient information about the Foundation's education and outreach efforts, nor did it demonstrate that these



efforts were effective in reaching the target audience. The plan appears to promote “local take back events” as a disposal option for covered drugs, but the Foundation did not report hosting any collection events. In addition, the plan did not identify any proposed alternative forms of collection. However, the Foundation failed to include a disclaimer in the plan to clarify whether the Foundation or Inmar Intelligence is implementing and operating the plan. Inmar Intelligence does not have a CalRecycle-approved stewardship plan and is not an approved program operator. Additionally, the plan did not include any examples of signage for collection receptacles. Signage was not available to the public until December 2022, which is after the date the Foundation was required to be fully implemented.

270-Day Full Program Implementation Deadline:

The report did not provide sufficient information about the Foundation’s progress in implementing its program by the 270-day deadline, November 11, 2022. The Foundation was found to not have coordinated with other program operators to avoid confusion to the public and all program participants. CalRecycle has requested that the Foundation take steps to coordinate with other program operators to avoid confusion to the public and all program participants, meet the required number of authorized collection sites in all counties, establish enough combined authorized collection sites or mail-back distribution locations to meet the convenience standard in all counties and make its mail-back services available to all ultimate users.

Metrics: The report did not provide sufficient information about the metrics used to measure the effectiveness of the program. Specifically, the report does not include the required metrics for the remaining 38 participating authorized collection sites. It does not list the toll-free telephone number as a mechanism of distribution for mail-back services and does not include the associated amount of mail-back materials distributed and returned. In addition, it reports different numbers of mailers returned than were distributed by method. The Foundation’s plan states that the quantity of mailers distributed is measured against the quantity of mailers returned via the mailer’s unique tracking number and distribution location identifier. However, the report does not provide any information about the methodology used to determine and report the number of mail-back materials distributed and returned.

As a result of these deficiencies, CalRecycle has referred the Foundation to its Waste Permitting, Compliance,

and Mitigation Division for potential enforcement. The Foundation must revise and resubmit its 2022 annual report to CalRecycle within 60 days of the Request for Action notice issued on August 15, 2023.

For more information on the respective [annual report](#) and annual program budgets ([covered drugs](#) / [sharps](#)) please visit CalRecycle [webpage](#) for the status of, and documents related to, all stewardship plans, annual reports, and annual program budgets submitted to CalRecycle.



Pomona Recycles Clean: Senate Bill 1383 Programs and Setting an Example For Our Residents



CITY OF POMONA SB 1383 Organics and City Facilities Programs



It has been a bumpy road for the City of Pomona (City) to meet compliance with Senate Bill (SB) 1383. As of July 1, 2023, the City transitioned its residential and commercial solid waste services to one exclusive franchise hauler. Previously, the City provided residential trash services to its residents and had four non-exclusive commercial trash haulers providing solid waste services to commercial businesses. Knowing there would be increased costs associated with SB 1383, and also recognizing that the City's solid waste collection vehicles were aged and needing replacement, the City worked with a consultant to determine the cost impacts of continuing to provide solid waste services or outsourcing. It was determined that the most economical solution, that would keep costs lowest for residents, would be to outsource the enterprise. The process of outsourcing helped the City's efforts to become compliant with SB 1383, but throughout, the City has been working closely with CalRecycle towards compliance.

Prioritizing SB 1383 Efforts at City Facilities

One of the City's first steps towards compliance was to have dedicated staff to help this effort. Through SB 1383 Local Assistance funding from CalRecycle, the City was able to hire a full-time staff member to lead

efforts to reduce food waste and implement organics recycling programs throughout the City. The City has been able to process residential and commercial food waste since January 2022, but to better get the message out, the City felt it was important to lead by example. The City wants its residents to see that we recycle food waste at our City facilities. There were several steps involved with attaining compliance at City facilities including:

- Hiring a contractor to enlarge existing trash enclosures at the Civic Center to include space for organics recycling bins.
- Creating an educational campaign, complete with a mascot.
- Educating staff to make sure they are aware of the transition in solid waste services and requirements.
- Providing centralized recycling stations, which include organics, throughout all City facilities.
- Establishing a recycling ambassador program to provide education and feedback on how programs are working in the City facilities, and to award staff that are doing an exceptional job in reducing food waste.



Senior Meal Program Organics Recycling

In collaboration with the City's Community Services Division, the City has added green recycling bins, and provided education and outreach for the Senior Meal Programs at two community centers. These programs are still in the early stages and City staff are meeting with seniors monthly to provide additional support. The senior meal recipients have been participating enthusiastically, and always have a lot of questions and insight regarding this program.

Outreach Events and Town Hall Meetings

The City was able to purchase food waste pails for its residents to promote organics recycling in the City. These pails were purchased through SB 1383 Local Assistance funds and have been a great tool in educating residents on the food waste reduction mandate and changes in trash collection services. The City is distributing pails at City Hall and through events hosted by other departments, such as the Pomona Public Library. The City has also participated in Town Hall Meetings where members of the public can hear from City staff about the transition and can obtain a food waste pail.

For more information on these efforts, and other efforts the City is making towards compliance, please contact RecycleYourFood@pomona.gov.



The Importance of Food Waste Reduction



Managing organic waste has become a critical topic for any household and commercial entity in California in order to do their part in protecting the environment and comply with Senate Bill 1383 implemented regulations. Organic waste to be separated from trash includes food waste, food-soiled paper like napkins, and green/yard waste. Proper management of organic waste, especially food waste, is a critical step everyone can take to reduce their own impact on climate change. Businesses and residents in the Los Angeles County unincorporated communities should have received their organic waste containers by now, but if not, contact your trash collector/hauler to sign up.

Food waste consists of all uneaten food that is either damaged or spoiled, and not suitable for consumption. According to CalRecycle's 2018 Waste Characterization Study, organic waste including food waste and yard waste accounted for 34 percent of California waste stream, and nearly one-third of those organic materials is food waste. One of the benefits of keeping food waste out of landfills is that it lowers the release of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that is emitted during the decomposition process and harms our environment. Reducing food waste not only helps to protect the environment but also conserves landfill space and save resources (energy, water, and land) that are used in food production.

Majority of the food waste dumped in landfills consists of spoiled food that may have been edible at one point. Reducing food waste entails changes in one's behavior and habits. The following are effective ways individuals and communities can practice food waste reduction habits:

- Planning meals in advance and creating detailed shopping lists.
- Storing perishable items properly to extend their shelf life.
- Transforming leftovers into new dishes or freezing them for later use.
- Setting up a composting system for food scraps and yard waste.
- Recycling food waste through the organic waste recycling service provided by your waste hauler.

Reducing food waste is a shared responsibility that requires conscious consumer choices, collaborative efforts among businesses, and supportive policies. By understanding the benefits of diverting food waste from landfills and implementing practical waste reduction habits, we can collectively make a positive impact on our environment and future generations.

For more information on how to manage organic waste, visit Los Angeles County's [FightFoodWasteLA.com](https://www.fightfoodwaste.com).



Trash Talks: Two Big Changes for All Santa Clarita Residents Began July 2023



The City of Santa Clarita (City) prides itself on protecting the local environment and the City's natural beauty. To remain environmentally conscious and compliant with California state laws, two big changes began on July 1, 2023, for all Santa Clarita residents. These include the transition to a new residential waste hauler and the implementation of a state mandated organics recycling program. Let's take a closer look at what these changes mean and how the City informed residents to prepare.

For more than 20 years, the City partnered with two different waste haulers that handled residential and commercial customers separately. However, those agreements were set to expire on June 30, 2023. In anticipation of these expiring agreements, the City went through a competitive bid process and awarded Burrtec Waste Industries (Burrtec) the right to provide waste hauling service for both residential and commercial customers, beginning July 1, 2023. To ensure a smooth transition, Burrtec automatically began exchanging Waste Management (previous waste hauler) waste carts with new Burrtec carts on July 3, 2023. These new carts also follow the state-mandated color scheme, compliant with Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), which includes black carts for garbage, blue carts for recycling and green carts for organics.

In addition, beginning July 1, 2023, both loose green waste and bagged food waste, must be disposed of in the same green organics cart to comply with SB 1383. To help with this change, Santa Clarita single-family households are receiving new, kitchen food waste pails that can be used to collect food waste in their home and dispose of it in a plastic bag in the green organics cart, while green waste (yard waste) must be kept loose and unbagged.

While both of these changes are significant and affect all Santa Clarita residents, the City developed an informational video series titled *Trash Talks*, where City staff has provided timely information with episodes covering a range of relevant topics including organics recycling, an overview of trash cart colors, a demonstration of the new food waste pails and much more. The informational videos were created in full length version, which included about two to three minutes of information, and an abbreviated thirty second version which was utilized in media platforms such as local television and radio, gas pump advertising, movie theater ads and digital pre-roll campaigns. The entire *Trash Talks* series and a list of frequently asked questions, are all available at city.sc/trashtalks.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please e-mail environment@santa-clarita.com or call (661) 286-4098.

Overview of New Infrastructure Legislation and Issues for Legislative Oversight



The Legislative Analyst's Office released an analysis in response to Governor Newsom's proposed infrastructure package, as detailed in [Executive Order N-8-23](#), which was recently adopted and aimed at expediting infrastructure projects. In California, the need for infrastructure improvements is particularly significant. California, like many other states, has infrastructure components that were built decades ago and may require rehabilitation to ensure their safe and reliable operation. Moreover, these systems were not designed to withstand the anticipated effects of climate change, such as rising temperatures, extreme weather events and sea-level rise.

While the Legislature has appropriated billions of dollars from the General Fund and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to support a wide range of infrastructure, including for energy transmission and electric vehicle charging, there is a widespread perception that it takes too long to complete infrastructure projects in California. In May 2023, the Governor proposed a package of budget trailer bills aimed at expediting infrastructure projects. The Legislature adopted amended versions of these bills as part of the 2023-24 budget agreement. The final package includes provisions to facilitate legislative oversight, workforce development requirements for construction projects and specific exclusions for certain projects.

One of the key components of the infrastructure legislation package is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Judicial Streamlining and Record of Proceedings. This legislation introduces changes to the

judicial review process for certain projects under CEQA, including energy infrastructure projects. Eligible projects can apply for expedited judicial review, which requires court challenges to be completed within 270 days, significantly faster than the typical process that can take several years.

While expediting infrastructure projects to meet the state's climate and environmental goals is important, considering the potential environmental impacts of these projects remains essential to avoid harm resulting from the expedited processes. The Legislature may need to weigh these costs and benefits, considering factors such as greenhouse gas emissions, air quality and effects on sensitive habitats and species. In addition to environmental considerations, the fiscal effects of implementing the process changes are also important to analyze. On the other hand, the expedited processes may lead to savings by allowing projects to be completed more quickly and by avoiding cost escalation.

Another crucial aspect to consider is the impact on local communities and environmental justice concerns. It is necessary to understand the geographic distribution of the projects benefiting from streamlined processes and their effects on nearby vulnerable communities. The legislation also raises questions about how the expedited judicial review process may affect the engagement of environmental justice groups and ensure that historically underrepresented communities have a voice in decision-making processes.

Overall, the infrastructure legislation package aims to make the state more competitive for federal funding. The Legislature will need to explore the extent to which these changes influence the state's receipt of federal funding and whether they improve the state's chances of being awarded funds for infrastructure projects. Lastly, the Legislature must determine if significant barriers persist and if additional state legislation could resolve them.

For additional information on the Legislative Analyst's Office Summary please visit: [New Infrastructure Legislation: Summary and Issues for Legislative Oversight \(ca.gov\)](#).

If you have any questions regarding the subject matter, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@gmail.com or (909) 592-1147.



Recycling Market Development Zone – Los Angeles County



The Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) program combines recycling with economic development to fuel new businesses, expand existing ones, create jobs, and divert waste from landfills. The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), through the RMDZ program, can assist qualifying companies. It is a partnership between CalRecycle and local jurisdictions. The RMDZ program offers attractive loans, technical assistance and free product marketing to businesses located in an RMDZ that recycle products or create products from recycled materials. Los Angeles County RMDZ is administered by Los Angeles County Public Works. Any businesses located within the County can apply for loan from CalRecycle. The Los Angeles County RMDZ consists of 19 member cities, which are:

Azusa	Culver City	Santa Fe Springs
Baldwin Park	El Monte	South Gate
Burbank	Glendale	Torrance
Carson	Huntington Park	Vernon
Commerce	Inglewood	Whittier
Compton	Monrovia	
Covina	Palmdale	

An advantage of doing business in Los Angeles County is the abundance of feedstock due to its size. With more than 10 million residents and approximately

250,000 businesses, Los Angeles County generates an abundant supply of materials available for recycling, including food waste, construction and demolition debris, green waste, paper, plastic, rubber, textiles and used automotive tires. Also with interest rates as low as 4 percent, an estimated \$50 million available in loan program funds and loans of up to \$2 million, the RMDZ program is an attractive alternative for qualifying businesses. In addition, RMDZ resources may be used for brand new businesses or existing ones who intend to expand their current operations.

For more information on the program, please contact Ms. Anita Yengibaryan at ayengibaryan@pw.lacounty.gov, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit the RMDZ CalRecycle page (QR code below).



Home-Generated Sharps



November is National Diabetes Month, a perfect time to bring attention to proper disposal of home-generated sharps waste, such as lancets and syringes generated by self-administered medications. Every year, workers in waste facilities, sanitation services, and members of the public are injured by improperly disposed home-generated sharps in household trash carts and in public places such as parks or beaches.

To ensure appropriate disposal of sharps waste to protect the public from potential exposure to contagious diseases and health and safety risks, in September 2008, Senate Bill (SB) 1305 was signed into law banning the disposal of home-generated sharps waste in the trash, recycling or green waste containers.

The County of Los Angeles' Home-Generated Sharps Waste Management Program (Program) helps improve quality of life by providing a safe means to properly dispose sharps waste. The Program's success is due to its innovative and collaborative partnership efforts.

In addition to collecting sharps waste at Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste collection events, Public Works partnered with Public Health and the Sheriff's Departments to provide additional drop-off locations throughout Los Angeles County which can be found at lacounty.pw/hhw. To accommodate residents that are unable to use the drop-off locations, such as the elderly and disabled, a mail-back program was also established.

On September 30, 2018, Governor Brown signed SB 212 (Jackson, Chapter 1004, Statutes of 2018) to establish safe and convenient disposal options for home-generated pharmaceutical drug and sharps waste. Two industry run statewide stewardship programs were established at no cost to the consumer. To request free mail back containers through these programs, visit lacounty.pw/sharps.

For additional information on proper disposal of home-generated sharps waste, visit CleanLA.com or call (888) CLEAN LA.



FALL 2023 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) continuously monitors and analyzes legislation that may impact solid waste management in Los Angeles County. Below are summaries of legislation the Task Force has tracked during the first half of the 2023/2024 Legislative Session.

California State Legislation:

Bill Number / Author

Status

AB 2

Ward

Amended June 28, 2023
2-Year Bill

Would require CalRecycle to establish a statewide solar photovoltaic (PV) end-of-life program by imposing a covered solar PV recycling fee, based on reasonable costs to administer covered electronic waste recycling beginning October 1, 2026. The fee system will cover the cost to recycle raw materials and other valuable components to be turned into new solar panels.

AB 324

Pacheco

Amended March 27, 2023
2-Year Bill

Would require the Public Utilities Code (PUC) to open a new proceeding/phase of an existing proceeding, to consider establishing procurement goals for renewable hydrogen, and consider requiring each gas corporation and core transport agent to annually procure a proportionate share of renewable hydrogen to meet these goals. Would require the PUC to make specified findings before establishing renewable hydrogen procurement targets or goals.

AB 557

Hart

Chaptered October 8, 2023

Would revise the authority of a legislative body to hold a teleconference meeting teleconferencing procedures when a declared state of emergency is in effect. Specifically, the bill would extend indefinitely that authority in the circumstances under which the legislative body either (1) meets for the purpose of determining whether, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, or (2) has previously made that determination.

Bill Number / Author

Status

AB 1550

Bennett

Amended May 22, 2023
2-Year Bill

Requires, on and after January 1, 2024, all hydrogen produced and used in California for the generation of electricity or fueling of vehicles be “green hydrogen” and makes a facility that generates electricity using green hydrogen potentially an eligible renewable energy resource. The bill would require the state board, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission and the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, to develop interim targets to ensure the state achieves that requirement. Prohibits green hydrogen used by a generating facility from qualifying as an eligible renewable energy resource for purposes of that requirement unless it satisfies all applicable requirements established by the Energy Commission and meets specified requirements.

AB 1594

Garcia

Chaptered October 8, 2023

Would require any state regulation that seeks to require, or otherwise compel, the procurement of medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles by a public agency utility, as defined, to ensure that those vehicles can support a public agency utility’s ability to maintain reliable water and electric services, respond to disasters in an emergency capacity, and provide mutual aid assistance statewide and nationwide, among other requirements. Would additionally define a public agency utility to include a local publicly owned electric utility, a community water system, and a wastewater treatment provider.

AB 1705

McKinnor

Amended March 21, 2023
2-Year Bill

Would prohibit a person from establishing or expanding a transformation facility or an engineered municipal solid waste (EMSW) conversion facility in the state until the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) has determined that the state has achieved solid waste and organic waste policy goals for three consecutive years.

SB 244

Eggman

Chaptered October 10, 2023

Would enact the Right to Repair Act which requires the manufacturer of specified electronic or appliance product, to make available, on fair and reasonable terms, sufficient service documentation and prescribed functional parts and tools to owners of the product including authorized service and repair providers in order to affect the diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of a product.

**Bill Number / Author****Status****SB 560**

Laird

Amended March 22, 2023
2-Year Bill

Would establish a stewardship program for gas cylinder products and would authorize producers of those products to establish one more producer stewardship organization for that purpose. Requires each producer or producer stewardship organization to submit a gas cylinder stewardship plan to CalRecycle that details, among other things, convenient and accessible opportunities for the recovery of gas cylinders used by consumers.

SB 615

Allen and Min

Amended April 12, 2023
2-Year Bill

Would require vehicle traction batteries in the state to be recovered and reused, repurposed, or remanufactured and eventually recycled at the end of their useful life in a motor vehicle or any other application. Would also require a vehicle manufacturer, dealer, automobile dismantler, automotive repair dealer, and nonvehicle secondary user to be responsible for ensuring the responsible end-of-life management of a vehicle traction battery once it is removed from a vehicle or other application to which the vehicle traction battery has been used. would make a vehicle or battery manufacturer responsible for collecting a stranded battery, as defined, and repurposing the battery, if possible, but would require the manufacturer to ensure the battery is recycled if it cannot be reused.

SB 663

Archuleta

Amended May 18, 2023
2-Year Bill

Would include a facility that uses renewable hydrogen, defined as hydrogen meeting all the following conditions: a) hydrogen derived or produced from water using electricity from a Renewable Portfolio Standard-eligible electric generation facility and is derived or produced from new and incremental renewable energy resources. b) hydrogen's manufacture does not result in resource shuffling. c) hydrogen's manufacture does not use unbundled renewable energy credit., meeting certain requirements, including a requirement that sellers and purchasers of renewable hydrogen comply with a system for tracking and verifying the use of renewable hydrogen, as a renewable electrical generation facility for purposes of the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program.

Bill Number / Author

Status

SB 665

Allen

Vetoed

Would require the California Environmental Protection Agency, by January 1, 2025, to establish a working group consisting of CalRecycle the State Water Resources Control Board, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the Ocean Protection Council to establish a framework for evaluating novel material types as they are developed to inform state policy decisions. The bill would further require the working group to, among other things, develop recommendations related to novel material types, including the appropriate marketing of the material, the handling of the material at the end of its useful life, and how the material needs to be treated in relation to existing state policies, rules, and regulations.

SB 707

Newman

Amended July 3, 2023
2-Year Bill

Would enact the Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2023, which would require producers either independently or through the creation of one or more stewardship organizations, to establish a stewardship program for the collection and recycling of a covered product. This bill would define a “covered product” to include any postconsumer apparel or postconsumer textile article that is unwanted by a consumer.

For more information on these bills or copies of Task Force letters, please visit the Task Force website, lacountyiswmtf.org or contact Perla Gomez with Los Angeles County Public Works, at (626) 300-2616, Monday - Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or Mike Mohajer, a Member of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@gmail.com or (909) 592-1147.