

## Infrastructure LA Solid Waste and Recycling Management (SWARM) Subcommittee

Infrastructure LA is a platform launched by Los Angeles County Public Works in 2020 to promote collaborative engagement and identify policies and initiatives that improve public and private sector infrastructure investments in Los Angeles County and the surrounding regions. The Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management Subcommittee (SWARM) was established to create a forum for local leaders to discuss current challenges related to sustainable waste management in the Los Angeles Region and opportunities to address, collaborate and identify barriers to the development of regional recycling and organic waste management infrastructure.

Public Works hosted multiple SWARM meetings with local jurisdictions to discuss challenges related to the upcoming roll-out of the Senate Bill 1383 (2016) organic waste disposal reduction regulations and the impacts of COVID-19. SWARM participants include over 80 local Cities as well as members of the private solid waste industry and the Integrated Waste Management Task Force.

The most recent SWARM meeting was held on September 23, 2020. During the meeting, Ms. Faith Conley, Legislative Representative for the County of Los Angeles, provided an update from the County Legislative Office on the status of State legislation. Many bills not related to the COVID-19 recovery and response were dropped, including Senate Bill (SB) 54 and Assembly Bill (AB) 1080, which aimed to reduce single-use plastic waste, and AB 2612, which was co-sponsored by the County and would have provided funding for organics and recycling infrastructure. One bill that was signed by the Governor is AB 793, which sets minimum recycled content levels for plastic beverage containers.

Shari Afshari, Deputy Director of Los Angeles County Public Works, provided a brief update on CalRecycle's SB 1383 progress report and compliance guidance document. While the guidance states that CalRecycle would consider COVID-19 impacts when determining a jurisdiction's compliance, they have not taken any meaningful steps to provide flexibility in SB 1383 implementation and enforcement.

Ms. Afshari also provided an overview of the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury report titled, "A Diet for Landfills: Cutting Down on Food Waste." The report provided recommendations for the County, the 88 Cities, and the school districts to overcome obstacles to implementing effective food waste recycling programs and improve food waste recycling throughout the County. While the Civil Grand Jury does not have the authority to mandate that jurisdictions implement the recommendations, every entity who received the report was required to respond by October 30, 2020. Ms. Kim Braun, Environmental Programs and Operations Manager for Culver City, who was interviewed by the Civil Grand Jury, presented information on Culver City's response to report.

For more information, please visit <https://infrastructurela.org/key-initiatives/swarm/>.