

## **Cruising into Compliance through Collaboration!**

All city solid waste compliance staff knew preparing for SB 1383 was going to be difficult. In smaller cities, these challenges are even more apparent, with limited dedicated solid waste personnel and minimal funds allocated to these activities. Staff had to get creative! The cities of La Verne and San Dimas, with similar size and location, and both have exclusive franchise waste agreements with Waste Management (WM), saw opportunities for collaboration.

First, City of La Verne staff took a deep dive into the legislative text before making a detailed list of tasks needing completion. Then, the cities and WM began dividing up the work into manageable components.

Since WM had organics collection and processing capacity, the city began addressing the food rescue components. Staff identified Tier 1 and 2 Generators and sent letters to make contact with the correct employees to better understand existing operations. Then, La Verne staff created checklists containing specific items to be assessed during inspections, to meet all legal requirements. Next, San Dimas staff coordinated meetings with companies that reside in both cities. Meetings were held to introduce key players at each City and organization, review the checklists, and identify and work through any gaps. Hosting meetings with staff from both cities saved time for the businesses and allowed multiple perspectives when working through challenges.

For outreach, WM updated graphics addressing collection requirements, to help educate our communities on shifting their food waste from the trash cart, into the green cart. An appealing and concise brochures were created by San Dimas, in coordination with La Verne to be distributed to the various sectors. These documents were also used when meeting with Tier 1 Generators to help meet education requirements and address any questions.

Both cities made a joint purchase of countertop pails for residential customers. Due to the economies of scale, this joint purchase lowered costs. Additionally, outreach and accompanying documents for the pails were developed and ordered collectively, saving time and money.

Additionally, the cities were able to meet with Cal Recycle on several occasions to clarify ambiguities in the law, express concerns about certain compliance aspects, and seek assistance on overcoming roadblocks. Having multiple stakeholders involved in the discussion helped provide more variety in proposed solutions.

Once the cities and WM came to an agreement over organics program implementation and outreach materials, each City created a section of their website to make this information easily accessible for residents and businesses. This information has been

included on social media, postcards, newsletters and City recreation guides. Staff also developed an organics program coloring sheet for local students, to get children involved in the new program.

Overall, the collective efforts of both cities, Waste Management and Cal Recycle have helped put the communities of La Verne and San Dimas on a strong path to compliance.

For additional information, please visit the City of La Verne website at [www.cityoflaverne.org](http://www.cityoflaverne.org) and the City of San Dimas at [www.sandimasca.gov](http://www.sandimasca.gov).