

SCWMF Annual Spring Conference & Exhibit

The Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) hosted its Annual Spring Conference & Exhibit on March 19, 2025, in Ontario, CA. Industry experts discussed various topics, including legislative updates, Senate Bill (SB) 1383 compliance and enforcement mechanisms, and landfill operations. There was also a panel discussion about disaster debris from the January 2025 wildfires in Los Angeles County.

Ms. Ashlee Yee from CalRecycle provided an overview of the SB 1383 Compliance Evaluation process conducted by the CalRecycle Jurisdiction and Agency Compliance and Enforcement (JACE) Branch. The process begins with a commencement letter, followed by an introduction call and a request for the jurisdiction's SB 1383 implementation record. Ms. Yee explained the process of the field visits and some of the expectations for jurisdictions that choose to shadow JACE staff. For example, during the field visit, JACE staff will not analyze the gathered facts with the jurisdictions. CalRecycle provides a findings report after the visit and may send the jurisdiction Notices of Violation (NOVs) for any issues that are not resolved. NOVs require corrective actions within 90 days, but jurisdictions may apply for time extensions.

Mr. Doug Kobold, Executive Director of California's Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), presented on legislation following the passage of SB 1383, highlighting key milestones and ongoing efforts to implement effective organic waste reduction and recycling programs. Recent developments include the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 2346 and AB 2902, which provide additional pathways for local jurisdictions to meet their SB 1383 procurement requirements. Active legislation includes AB 70, which proposes to codify pyrolysis and directs CalRecycle to include pipeline biomethane created from organic waste as a product that local jurisdictions can procure to meet the SB 1383 requirements by January 1, 2027.

Multi-family properties often face challenges complying with waste diversion laws due to a lack of outreach efforts, minimal tenant participation, understaffed management, and space constraints. Ms. Ashley Brunier, Director of EcoNomics, Inc., spotlighted the "4 Cs": convenience, clarity, communication, and consistency, which are important principles for managing recycling. Some solutions include infrastructure improvements, such as adding bag dispensers for separated food waste, chute diverters for food waste, and bin sensors to identify contamination and illegal dumping. Ms. Brunier also emphasized the importance of landlords and property managers providing education and outreach through signage, instructional videos, and online resources.

Mr. Mark Ladney from the Garden Grove Sanitary District provided guidance on how jurisdictions can enforce SB1383 requirements. He explained that, before beginning enforcement, jurisdictions may want to begin with a voluntary compliance program. His presentation included examples of NOV letters that jurisdictions could issue as part of the enforcement process.

The panel on disaster debris provided an update on wildfire recovery efforts. Mr. Christopher Sheppard of Los Angeles County Public Works explained that debris would be removed in two phases: the first phase would be for household hazardous debris, and the second would be for fire debris.

SCWMF is scheduled to host its Annual Business Meeting on May 28, 2025, in Buena Park, CA. For more information on SCWMF events, visit <https://www.scwmf.org/events>.

DRAFT