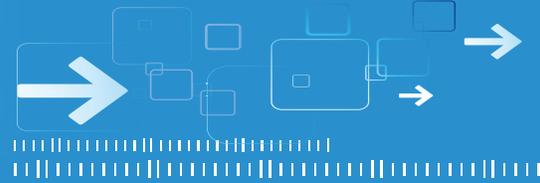




INSIDE SOLID WASTE



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



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California Counties Prescribe Pharmaceutical Ordinance for Take-Back Programs

Following the lead of Alameda County, the Counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, and mostly recently, Santa Clara have enacted ordinances establishing privately financed take-back programs for pharmaceuticals.

The Counties of Marin and Santa Barbara are pursuing ordinances in their respective jurisdictions, and the Board of Supervisors for Los Angeles County has called for a

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Going Green with Dodger Blue

Orel Hershiser and the Dodgers are teaming with Public Works on a big pitch: Recycle those bottles and cans.

The Dodgers are off to a hot start this season, but here's one stat the organization would like to see knocked out of the record books for good:

The 3 billion bottles and cans that end up in landfills every year.

Those beverage containers, among 21 billion sold in the state annually, aren't just clogging landfills. They also represent money that the public is leaving on

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Household Hazardous Waste Permanent Collection Centers

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 1 (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 Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Los Angeles/Glendale Collection Center

4600 Colorado Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90039

County of Los Angeles 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 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 Saturday each month 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

About Household Hazardous Waste

Common 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 medicine except 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.**



SWMC

Inside Solid Waste

Task Force Public Education & Information Subcommittee

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Visit www.lacountyiswmtf.org to find agendas, meeting minutes, and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter. **JOIN THE TEAM:** If you are interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education & Information Subcommittee or if you would like to submit an article for Inside Solid Waste, please contact Anne Maria Tafoya at (626) 458-5966, atafoya@dpw.lacounty.gov, or Kathy Salama at (626) 458-2521, ksalama@dpw.lacounty.gov. Quarterly meetings are held at the County Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters. If you want to be involved or contribute, please join the Subcommittee!

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Pharmaceutical Ordinance

feasibility study for the adoption of an ordinance as well. These actions follow the recent decision by the United States Supreme Court not to review an appeal of the Ninth Circuit Court's ruling upholding the Alameda County pharmaceutical ordinance.

Local jurisdictions have been enacting ordinances to establish an EPR take-back program since that state legislature has been unable to pass legislation for this purpose over that last several legislative sessions. Most recently, Senate Bill 1014 (Jackson, 2014) was unable to move out of the Senate Environmental Quality committee. The bill would have required a statewide EPR program for pharmaceutical waste, however, a concerted effort between PhARMA and other trade associations was successful at watering down the bill considerably before eventually killing the bill in the committee.

The most recent county to adopt a pharmaceutical ordinance is Santa Clara. The Board of Supervisors adopted (3-0 with 2 recusals due to conflict of interest) the ordinance at their meeting on June 23, 2015. The ordinance requires pharmaceutical companies that do business in their county to submit a Stewardship Plan within one year of the adoption of the ordinance describing how they would operate a safe disposal program to collect and destroy county residents' unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs. After approval of the Stewardship Plan, the pharmaceutical companies must have collection drop boxes in place for residents to dispose of unwanted medication in convenient locations such as pharmacies, law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate locations. The ordinance also requires drug companies to ensure a minimum of 10 drop boxes in each of the county's five supervisorial districts and countywide; hold periodic public drug collection events and pre-paid envelopes for homebound and disabled residents to mail-in disposal; and provide public awareness of disposal opportunities through informational materials, a multi-lingual website, and toll-free phone number.

Marin County, in response to a "war on prescription drug abuse" and the urging of County Supervisor Katie Rice, proposes to pursue a medicine take-back ordinance as well. The Marin County Board of Supervisors decided during their March 24, 2014, meeting to ask their county counsel to come up with ordinance language to compel drug companies doing business with Marin County to provide a take-back program for unused medications. The Marin ordinance "will require any pharmaceutical company that sells medicines in Marin to design and pay for a prescription drug take back system that is free, convenient, and easily accessible to all residents." Dr. Matt Willis, Public Health Officer for Marin County stated the ordinance "would function the way almost all product stewardship programs do — for products that have end-of-life impact like batteries, electronics, mattresses, paint, etc., there's legislation in

place that requires manufacturers to share responsibility for safe disposal." He also stated "a broad community-based "RxSafe Marin" program is tackling the drug abuse problem countywide."

On May 19, 2015, The Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) to receive reports on the impacts of accumulation of unused pharmaceuticals and the status of their current drug collection program with options for program expansion. The vote included authorization for the Director of the Public Health Department to conduct stakeholder outreach, in collaboration with the Third District office and Public Works Department, and return in October 2015 with a recommendation for establishing a permanent and sustainably funded model to collect and safely dispose of unwanted medications from residents in Santa Barbara County.

On June 2, 2015, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors approved a motion by Mayor Michael D. Antonovich which, among other things, instructed the Department of Public Works, in coordination with the Interim Chief Executive Officer; County Counsel; the Sheriff; the Directors of Health Services, Internal Services, Mental Health, and Public Health; and the County Sanitation Districts (Working Group) to report back in 30 days with findings and recommendations on the following: investigate the feasibility of adopting a pharmaceutical take back ordinance, and utilizing the County's purchasing power to negotiate producer/pharmacy take-back programs. On July 2, 2015, the Working Group submitted a Board Memo and Report entitled Managing Unused and Expired Medications and Sharps Waste in The County of Los Angeles.

The Working Group determined that adopting a pharmaceutical take-back ordinance is feasible for the County and does not recommend utilizing the County's purchasing power to negotiate take-back programs. The Working Group found that the County's pharmaceutical purchases make up less than 3 percent of the overall pharmaceutical sales in the County and, therefore, this would not be as effective as the adoption of an ordinance.

The Report recommends that the Board adopt a pharmaceutical and sharps waste extended producer responsibility ordinance, similar to those adopted by the Counties of Alameda, San Mateo, San Francisco, and Santa Clara, requiring manufacturers and producers to develop and finance take-back programs providing collection services that are reasonably convenient and adequately meet the needs of the population being served. The Working Group will await further direction from the Board.

To find out more on how to properly dispose of your medication and sharps, please visit www.cleanla.com.

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Going Green with Dodger Blue

the table—approximately \$100 million in payments that consumers could be receiving under the California Refund Value (CRV) program when they turn in recyclable bottles and cans.

To raise awareness of the issue and put recyclables in their place, LA County Public Works has teamed up with the Dodgers on a public education campaign dubbed “Strike Out Landfill Waste.”

The effort got underway in April with on-the-air endorsements from Dodger pitching greats-turned-broadcasters Orel Hershiser and

Fernando Valenzuela. The multimedia campaign features English and Spanish radio announcements, an LED banner displayed during home games, and this 30-second video featuring an animated Hershiser that will be appearing on DodgerVision all season.

For additional information, and to find out where to recycle beverage containers, visit www.CleanLA.com.



State of Recycling and Disposal in California

In March 2015, CalRecycle published two staff reports titled “State of Recycling in California” (Recycling Report) and “State of Disposal in California” (Disposal Report).

The Recycling Report analyzes amounts, types, and material flows of recyclables along with the facilities that handle the materials. The Disposal Report, on the other hand, focuses on key solid waste disposal issues, including amounts and types of materials that are disposed, the facilities that handle disposed waste, and disposal fees.

The Recycling Report summarizes the current state of recycling in California, particularly with respect to the implementation of Assembly Bill 341, which established the statewide recycling goal of 75 percent (75 percent goal) by 2020. Under AB 341, source reduction, recycling, and composting all count towards the 75 percent goal, however, disposal-related activities (e.g., alternative daily cover, beneficial reuse at landfills) do not count toward this goal.

In 2013, an estimated 37 million tons of materials were recycled within the state; however, less than 4 percent were systematically tracked through the following statewide recycling programs, which are tied to financial payments: the Beverage Container Recycling Program, the Waste Tire Collection Program, and the Extended Producer Responsibility Program. With no mandatory reporting requirement for recycling facilities, it is challenging to evaluate how much additional recycling infrastructure is needed to support the approximately 22 million tons of additional recycling and composting capacity expected by 2020. Additionally, according to the Recycling Report, California’s average disposal rate must be less than 2.7 pounds per person per day (ppd) in order to achieve the 75 percent goal. Unfortunately, without an exact representation of the state’s recycling infrastructure, CalRecycle

states that it will be impossible to determine whether this disposal rate is an accurate reflection of 75 percent recycling.

Based on the Disposal Report, in 2013, 30.2 million tons of material was landfilled, and 0.86 million tons of waste was incinerated at the three transformation facilities in California. The state had a 4.4 ppd disposal rate, in 2013, which is below the 6.3 ppd disposal target, resulting in a statewide diversion rate of 65 percent. The report states, as of January 2014, there is approximately 1.7 billion tons of landfill capacity. The report also describes three models to project future statewide disposal and landfill capacities: high disposal rate, current disposal rate, and low disposal rate. The high disposal rate, conservative approach, shows that California landfills would last for another 27 years. If the disposal remains at the current per capita disposal average, there are currently 42 years of landfill capacity remaining in California. Based on the low disposal rate, if California reaches its 75 percent goal by 2020, there will be available landfill capacity for 68 years.

The two reports cover key issues related to statewide recycling and solid waste disposal. As California moves toward the statewide 75 percent goal, the amount of material entering landfills will decrease. The reports caution that it is critical to consider how to fund California’s recycling programs as the amount of disposed materials decrease and the goals get more ambitious.

For additional information on these two reports, please use the links below: [State of Recycling in California](#) and [State of Disposal in California](#)



Fewer Regs, More Personal Responsibility? What a Concept – MSW Management

I suggested in my Editor's Comments a while ago that the tough questions we face hard will not go away through the espousal of politically correct doctrine or continued pleas for what ought to be, because when push comes to shove the only effective actions will be those that deal with what society does.

This to me is most important because I have seen no evidence that Americans are inclined to make radical changes in their behavior just because people in high places say they must. . . particularly when those changes appear to them to be a retreat from greatness rather than an advance to a better future.

I think part of the problem in getting people to lend their wholehearted support to waste management solutions—even those that are demonstrably in the public's best interests—lies in too much centralization. While many believe that this lack of commitment reflects the public's lack of awareness unawareness of programs and their intent, I'd like to suggest that there's something in the relationship of Americans and authority that is at play as well. Not only are we suspect of authority, but we will go to great lengths to subvert what we consider to be its illegitimate exercise, even to the point of cutting off our nose to spite our face.

This leads to one of my favorite subjects. . . technology and its role in supporting dialog. I'm going to propose that the less authoritarian we

are in developing and implementing waste management solutions designed to meet longer range goals of sustainability, the more support we're going to get from the public. Rather than insisting on adherence to a fixed list of solutions, we should be fighting to increase the number and flexibility of options in order to take advantage of, rather than fly in the teeth of, what are the strongest features of our national character.

When I set about thinking about the subject, my initial thought was rather than allowing a small group of people to dictate what waste management strategies and programs are appropriate for all of us, we need to open up the dialog to the widest extent possible, focusing not just on the substantive issues of diversion and disposal, but how waste management fits into larger societal issues as well. If somehow we end up back at the same place we started, we'll at least be a lot wiser for the adventure.

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Finalizing Proposed Changes to Statewide Composting Regulations

On March 3, 2015, CalRecycle hosted an informal workshop to discuss potential changes to proposed compostable materials and transfer/processing regulations in response to stakeholder comments received during a 45-day public comment period and during a public hearing in December 2014.



Following the workshop, CalRecycle made changes to the proposed regulations to add clarity to the existing text where needed. The proposed regulations, which would revise Title 14 and 27 of the California Code of Regulations pertaining to compostable materials, transfer/processing, permit application, and permit exemptions, were released on April 21, 2015 for a 15-day public comment period. CalRecycle prepared an Initial Study/Negative Declaration, which evaluates potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed regulations. The document indicates “No Impact” at the conclusion of the proposed regulation. The Initial Study/Negative Declaration is available for comment through July 13, 2015.

Key provisions in the proposed regulation text include expanding the definition of food material to include vegetative food material; establishing a limit for physical contaminants in compostable material products; the need to establish a method by which to determine whether land application is considered disposal rather than beneficial use; clarifications on the solid waste facility permit application; in-vessel digestion regulatory tiers; and odor control requirements.

The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force sent a letter on April 30, 2015 expressing numerous concerns. Regarding the Odor Impact Minimization Plan addressed in the proposed regulation, the Task Force raised the issue of expediting the implementation of Best Management Practices within a subject facility. In the event that the foregoing measures are ineffective, the Task force also provided alternative measures such as conducting enclosed operations under negative pressure or incremental reduction in daily waste intake until such time the nuisance is eliminated or reduced. The Task Force’s concern regarding odor impacts is well documented in some of the solid waste facilities currently regulated by CalRecycle. For example, on March 12, 2015, Dr. Cyrus Rangan, Director of the Bureau of Toxicology and Environmental Assessment at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, spoke at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee commenting on the subject of odor mitigation as a Public health issue and its potential to cause physiological effects (i.e. nose irritation, eye irritation, mouth irritation, throat irritation, nausea, light headedness, etc.), and direct impact to public well-being and quality of life. Echoing the sentiment of the World Health Organization and the US Center for Disease Control, Dr. Rangan stated that issues such as odors that affect people’s quality of life or daily life are considered Public Health issues. In addition, Dr. Rangan also commented that regardless of specific health outcomes, complaints and data that are attributed to a landfill source should be met with mitigation however feasible.

Additionally, the Task Force’s letter identified the need to define terms such as “organics” and “compostable organics” throughout the regulatory process in order to avoid any ambiguities and ensure compliance with the regulations. Moreover, the Task Force commented on the need to refine the proposed “Joint Permit Application Form” in a manner that would ensure mitigating measures established pursuant to CEQA are properly monitored by the responsible agencies. The letters also questioned whether adding “vegetative food material composting facilities” to the definition of “compostable materials handling operation” was appropriate since this may expand the requirements of Assembly Bill 1826.

The Task Force has previously sent multiple letters to CalRecycle on previous drafts of the proposed regulations but CalRecycle has failed to address the vast majority of our comments.

CalRecycle is expected to adopt the changes to the proposed regulations and prepare a final rulemaking file, which must be reviewed and approved by the Office of Administrative Law before the regulations become operative.

For additional information, please visit www.calrecycle.ca.gov/laws/Rulemaking/Compost/default.htm or contact Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or at (909) 592-1147.

Draft Environmental Impact Report and Proposed General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations

In January 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) released a Notice of Availability for a draft California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and proposed General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations (General Order).

The General Order will be used by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) to streamline permitting and protect water quality. The General Order includes conditions that address appropriate water quality protection measures at existing and proposed composting operations. The draft EIR analyzes potential impacts associated with the adoption of the proposed General Order and reasonably attempts to identify potential mitigation measures to address any identified significant impacts.

The State Water Board held a public workshop on February 13, 2015 to provide information and receive comments on the draft EIR and General Order. Several stakeholders submitted verbal comments at the workshop. Many of the comments were about the economic analysis in the draft EIR. Only eight different facilities were used to estimate the compliance costs. A greater number of facilities may need to be analyzed to accurately characterize the compost industry in California, which is a very diverse state in regard to hydrology, geography, and land use. In addition, the costs associated with constructing ponds and with wastewater treatment and disposal are not included in the calculation of the compliance cost. Furthermore, many commenters believed that the high cost to comply with the General Order would incentivize land application of compostable materials. Land application of biosolids, manure, food waste, and green waste currently has little regulation, even though it has a greater water quality impact than composting.

On February 19, 2015, the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force submitted a letter to the State Water Board regarding the draft EIR and General Order. In an effort to protect public health and the environment, the Task Force submitted a number of recommendations including, but not limited to, requiring that chipping and grinding operations be subject to the same level of regulations for composting operations, and that all operations regulated under the General Order also be in compliance with the Federal Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. The Task Force also requested that the regulations specify clear definitions for the terms “feedstock” and “finished compost.” In addition,

the Task Force suggested that the regulations address issues regarding ponding water with respect to vectors, odor, and treatment of runoff in light of deaths resulting from West Nile and Hanta Virus in California in 2012 and 2013.

The Task Force previously submitted similar comments in September 2013 in response to the State Water Board’s Notice of Preparation and the Notice of Public Scoping Meeting, Environmental Impact Report for General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations, but the comments were not addressed by the Water Boards.

The State Water Board will hold a public meeting on June 16, 2015 to receive comments on the General Order and draft EIR. The State Water Board may certify the EIR and adopt the General Order at the end of this meeting. The Task Force has consistently urged the State to strike a balance between the need for additional waste management infrastructure and the critical need to protect the public health and safety, the environment, and the quality of life of residents. The Task Force will continue to monitor the State Water Board’s progress in implementing the proposed regulations.

To read the Task Force letter, [click here](#). For more information contact Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or at (909) 592-1147.



CalRecycle Host AB 1826 Workshops and Introduces FAQ Webpage

In October of 2014, Governor Brown signed into law Assembly Bill 1826 (AB 1826, Chesbro), a major legislative effort which requires businesses, including multi-family residences, and schools, including universities, and governmental agencies that produce certain thresholds of organic waste to recycle their organic waste.

The requirements will be phased-in beginning April 2016. Local jurisdictions are required notify businesses and multi-family residential dwellings subject to this statute, as well as schools within their jurisdiction. Local jurisdictions are required to implement an organic waste recycling program by January 2016 in addition to an assortment of other reporting requirements outlined in the bill. Like many other major legislative efforts, further clarification as to how all of the new requirements are expected to be carried out was needed.

In order to address these requirements, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) developed guidelines and a frequently asked questions (FAQ) webpage on their website and held stakeholders workshops. The webpage was announced in late February and contains a long list of FAQs divided into six sections: General, Business, Jurisdiction, Reporting, Compliance, and Enforcement. Moreover, CalRecycle hosted two workshops in April, one in Sacramento and one in Diamond Bar. The workshops provided affected stakeholders an overview of the law, examples of ways to identify affected businesses, reporting requirements, enforcement mechanisms, and answers to FAQs.

The workshops included a CalRecycle presentation, which covered a large amount of information regarding AB 1826 and its relationship to the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets established pursuant to Assembly Bill 32 the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006

(Nuñez, 2006) and Assembly Bill 341's Mandatory Commercial Recycling requirement and 75 percent initiative (Chesbro, 2011). A major portion of the presentation and workshops was focused on assisting jurisdictions' understanding of AB 1826's reporting requirements, which must be included as part of their annual report first due to CalRecycle on August 1, 2017. The report will need to include information regarding: the number of affected businesses, a description of methods utilized by the jurisdiction to identify affected businesses, details regarding jurisdictions outreach and education efforts, and other infrastructural and program descriptions. The presenters stressed importance of a well-detailed report as jurisdictions will need to justify their individual processes and any barriers for complying with the requirements as well as provide a plan on how to overcome those barriers. CalRecycle will evaluate each jurisdiction's "good faith effort" towards compliance based largely on the report.

In addition, according to the FAQ webpage, each jurisdiction's good faith effort will also be determined partly on "the recovery rate of the organic waste from the material facilities (MRFs) that are utilized by businesses which include all information, methods, and calculations, and any additional performance data, as requested by CalRecycle". In a letter commenting on CalRecycle's overall AB 1826 compliance effort, the Task Force expressed their concern that evaluating a jurisdiction's good faith effort based partly on information which jurisdictions have no authority to acquire is unwarranted.

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CalRecycle Host AB 1826 Workshops



The letter added that, other than the recovery rate of organic material, MRFs already provide this information to CalRecycle. Additionally, the letter identified inconsistencies with how CalRecycle staff was explaining some of the requirements of AB 1826 at the April 28 workshop as well as pointing out requirements which appear unreasonable.

CalRecycle staff repeated several times at the workshop that jurisdictions must recycle one hundred percent of their organic waste or arrange for separation of organics at a materials recycling facility. The Task Force letter correctly points out that AB 1826 actually requires one hundred percent organic waste recycling of organic waste only from affected businesses and multi-family residences of five or more. Moreover, the letter asked if CalRecycle staff has conducted a cost analysis for requirements such as: identifying all organic waste generators within its boundaries; to identify what each business is doing to recycle generated green waste; to substantiate the implementation of public education/outreach program; and to signify through adoption on an ordinance or other legal means for imposition of penalty on a business that fails to implement an organic waste recycling program. These requirements will force large jurisdiction's to expend millions to comply.

CalRecycle staff acknowledged that identifying affected businesses appears to be one of the most challenging tasks for jurisdictions. They further

acknowledged that continuous refinement of this requirement is expected. Potential identification tools were introduced, such as identifying businesses' generated amount of food waste using the amount of employees. CalRecycle, however, is well aware that this process is not an exact science, and acknowledges that as a consequence, some businesses that should have been identified may fall through the cracks while others may be inaccurately identified as meeting the threshold.

While the AB 1826 workshops and FAQ page provide affected stakeholders with clarification on important issues, the most salient question, which was posed several times at the workshops, has yet to be answered: How will all of these requirements and the establishment of a sufficient organic waste recycling infrastructure be funded and permitted? This question, most certainly, needs to be addressed very soon. And while many questions will hopefully be answered very soon, jurisdictions risk non-compliance to the plethora of AB 1826 requirements placed on them—at a potential cost of \$10,000 per day pursuant to AB 939.

For more information regarding CalRecycle's efforts towards clarifying the requirements of AB 1826, please contact Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com, or at (909) 592-1147.



Legislature Considers New Household Hazardous Waste Management Mandate



Assemblyman Kevin Mullin (South San Francisco)

has introduced Assembly Bill 45 (AB 45) which would require jurisdictions throughout California to increase their collection and diversion of household hazardous waste (HHW) by fifteen percent by 2020.

If jurisdictions do not increase their collection rate by fifteen percent by 2020, they would risk falling out of compliance with the Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939) and thus subject to fines of up to \$10,000 a day. The bill would afford jurisdictions an additional two years to reach the goal if they have in place or adopt an ordinance which implements a comprehensive HHW collection program. Many jurisdictions across the State, including the County of San Mateo which encompasses much of Assemblyman Mullin's district, have expressed opposition to the bill. Moreover, organizations including the Task Force and the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) have also conveyed their disapproval.

Since 1989, AB 939 has required each jurisdiction to prepare, adopt, and submit to their respective County, an HHW Element (HHWE) as part of their Integrated Waste Management Plan. The HHWE is required to identify a program for the safe collection, recycling, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes generated by households in the jurisdiction and which should be separated from the solid waste stream. Moreover, jurisdictions are required to prepare, adopt and submit to their respective County a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) which, among other things, is required to include an education and outreach component to reduce solid waste generation, including HHW. In fact, AB 939 establishes source reduction as the State's top priority in reducing the landfilling of solid waste.

AB 45, with its uniform increase requirement for HHW collection effectively punishes jurisdictions with effective education and outreach programs for source reduction. Moreover, it places all of the responsibility for the management of HHW on jurisdictions who, for decades, have been implementing HHW collection programs which best suits their respective jurisdiction. While AB 45 does acknowledge that manufacturers and distributors of HHW products should have an "appropriate role" in comprehensive efforts to address HHW management, in practice it requires absolutely nothing from them.

Absolving producers of HHW products from any responsibility for the post-consumer management of their products is the primary reason why jurisdictions across the State are in strong opposition to AB 45. After decades of experience, they know their limited resources cannot fully address HHW management. It is also the reason why the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) as well as the Task Force have been steadfast in opposition to the bill since its introduction.

CPSC, the Task Force, and the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) are long-time proponents of extended producer responsibility (EPR). EPR is a proactive approach to solid waste diversion which places some of the responsibility for post-consumer management of products on to the producers of the products. Ideally, it incentivizes the producers to manufacturer products that are less toxic and/or easier to manage at the end of their useful life. In this vein, Assemblyman Richard Gordon (D – Menlo Park) has introduced Assembly Bill 1159 (AB 1159) which would create a pilot EPR program for household batteries and sharps waste, which are items typically collected under HHW programs. The bill which is sponsored by CPSC is supported by a wide array of jurisdictions and is opposed, not surprisingly, by some of the same associations which support AB 45.

It remains to be seen if the legislature will ultimately support one approach over the other as both bills have become two-year bills, which means they will be shelved until the legislature convenes for the second year of the 2015/2016 legislative session. For questions about AB 45 or AB 1159, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or at (909) 592-1147.

Pictured left to right: Grand Prize Winning Elementary School Team teacher, Ms. Atutoa and Grades of Green Team posing with Former Laker, Steve Nash. (photo by Neelofer Lodhy)



Grades of Green's Trash Free Lunch Challenge diverts 320 tons of waste!

Drumroll please! After months of sorting lunchtime waste, educational assemblies on waste reduction and being quizzed on “trashy” trivia, Grades of Green's Trash Free Lunch Challenge finalist schools have been selected and the panel of environmental experts have chosen the winners.

Twenty-Four Los Angeles schools entered the Trash Free Lunch Challenge in August to see which school could divert the most waste and best inspire their student body to take on lifelong waste reduction habits. Grades of Green provided each school with an educational assembly, an eco-starter kit, a personalized waste reduction plan and one-on-one mentoring to personally guide each school. Participating schools ask students to reduce trash by bringing reusable lunch containers and using lunchtime sorting stations – forming habits that will protect the environment for years to come.

With the combined positive impact of this year's participating schools, the decision to choose the finalist schools was a difficult one. Each school filled out an end-of-year application showing the number of trash bags diverted, the strategies they used to educate their campus community about waste reduction and the sustainability of their waste-reduction program. The finalist schools from the elementary school category and middle school category are:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

Grand Prize Winner: Oak Street Elementary School (Inglewood)
Runner Up: Montemalaga Elementary (Palos Verdes Estates)
Runner Up: Mountain View Elementary School (Claremont)

MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

Grand Prize Winner: Will Rogers Middle School (Lawndale)
Runner Up: Cesar Chavez Middle School (Lynwood)
Runner Up: El Segundo Middle School (El Segundo)

Start a Grades of Green Trash Free Lunch program in your school! Any school across the globe can begin Grades of Green's Trash Free Lunch program, as well as more than 40 other Green Activities, at any time at www.gradesofgreen.org. Is your school located in Los Angeles? Apply to enter next year's Challenge by emailing robynm@gradesofgreen.org.

JUNE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The Task Force continuously monitors and analyzes pending legislative bills that may impact solid waste management in Los Angeles County. Below is a summary and status of legislation the Task Force has taken a position through June 2015.

2015-2016 State Legislative Session (Except as noted)

Bill Number/ Author	Task Force Position	Status	Summary
<p>AB 45 Mullin</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Assembly Appropriations Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would require jurisdictions, by July 1, 2020, to increase their collection and diversion of household hazardous waste (HHW) by 15 percent from a baseline to be determined according to regulations established by CalRecycle.</p>
<p>AB 144 Mathis</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Senate Appropriations Committee</p>	<p>The bill would make a fourth or subsequent conviction of dumping waste matter in or upon, among other things, a public or private highway or road a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than 30 days and by a fine of not less than \$750 or more than \$3,000.</p>
<p>AB 190 Harper</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Assembly 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would repeal all provisions related to Senate Bill 270 (Padilla, 2014) which would, among other things prohibit certain stores from providing single-use plastic-carryout bags to customers. The requirements related to SB 270 are currently on hold pending a potential referendum petition.</p>

Bill Number/ Author	Task Force Position	Status	Summary
<p>AB 191 Harper</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Assembly 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would repeal Senate Bill 270's (Padilla, 2014) provision related to the requirement that certain stores that distribute recycled paper bags make those bags available for purchase for not less than \$0.10. This and other requirements related to SB 270 are currently on hold pending a potential referendum petition.</p>
<p>AB 199 Eggman</p>	<p>Support if Amended</p>	<p>Assembly Natural Resources Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would expand projects eligible for the sales and use tax exclusion to include projects that process or utilize recycled feedstock, but would not include a project that processes or utilizes recycled feedstock in a manner that constitutes disposal. The Task Force is requesting an amendment that clarifies projects which produce fuels from recycled feedstock are eligible for the proposed sales and use tax exclusion.</p>
<p>AB 237 Daly</p>	<p>Watch</p>	<p>Assembly Appropriations Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would require, before the adoption of any new parcel tax, the legislative body of a local agency to provide notice of the vote to enact the proposed parcel tax to the owner of each parcel affected by the tax within one week of the local agency voting to place the proposed parcel tax on the ballot.</p>

Bill Number/ Author	Task Force Position	Task Force Position	Summary
<p>AB 239 Gallagher</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Assembly Natural Resources Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would prohibit the State Air Resources Board (ARB) on and after January 1, 2016, from adopting or amending regulations pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Nunez, AB 32). The bill would authorize ARB to submit to the Legislature recommendations on how to achieve the goals of AB 32.</p>
<p>AB 577 Bonilla</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Senate Environmental Quality</p>	<p>This bill would require the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to use an unspecified amount of money from state's Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Fund to develop and implement a grant program to award grants for projects that produce biomethane, that build or develop collection and purification technology or infrastructure, or that upgrade or expand existing biomethane facilities.</p>
<p>AB 590 Dahle</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Senate Environmental Quality</p>	<p>This bill would provide that moneys in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund may be made available for expenditure by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission for the purposes of maintaining the current level of biomass power generation in the state and revitalizing currently idle facilities in strategically located regions.</p>

Bill Number/ Author	Task Force Position	Task Force Position	Summary
<p>AB 876 McCarty</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Senate Environmental Quality Committee</p>	<p>This bill would require a county or regional agency to include in its annual report to CalRecycle an estimate of the amount of organic waste in cubic yards that will be generated in the county or region over a 15-year period, an estimate of the additional organic waste recycling facility capacity in cubic yards that will be needed to process that amount of waste, and areas identified by the county or regional agency as locations for new or expanded organic waste recycling facilities capable of safely meeting that additional need.</p>
<p>AB 901 Gordon</p>	<p>Oppose Unless Amended</p>	<p>Senate Environmental Quality Committee</p>	<p>This bill would require recycling and composting operations and facilities to submit information directly to CalRecycle, rather than to counties as current State statute currently requires, and would delete the requirement for counties to submit that information to cities, regional agencies, and CalRecycle. The Task Force requested amendments which would retain counties access to the subject information as well as allowing jurisdictions, including AB 939 regional agencies, to inspect waste haulers and solid waste facility operators' records to verify the disposal tonnages allocated to the jurisdiction for the purpose of compliance with AB 939 waste reduction mandates and its AB 939 program cost recovery.</p>
<p>AB 1045 Irwin</p>	<p>Oppose Unless Amended</p>	<p>Senate Environmental Quality Committee</p>	<p>This bill would require the CalEPA, in coordination with CalRecycle, to develop and implement policies to aid in diverting organic waste from landfills. This bill would require CalRecycle, in coordination with CARB and the State Water Board, to develop a policy that promotes the development of streamlined permitting and regulation of composting facilities while protecting air and water quality. The Task Force requested amendments which would require the identified agencies to consider health and safety of residents when streamlining permitting and regulations as well as to include local governments in the process.</p>



Bill Number/ Author	Task Force Position	Task Force Position	Summary
<p>AB 1063 Williams</p>	<p>Oppose (July 15, 2015)</p>	<p>Senate Environmental Quality Committee</p>	<p>The bill would substantially increase the CalRecycle's solid waste disposal fee from \$1.40/ton to \$5.00/ton (an increase of approx. \$137 million/year), and would impose a new solid waste generator charge on all residents and businesses in California, to be collected by cities and counties and shipped to CalRecycle to ensure the adequacy of its operational/financial needs. The bill is introduced as an 'urgency' legislation.</p>
<p>AB 1103 Dodd</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Senate Environmental Quality Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would define the term "food-soiled paper" to include, but not limited to, food soiled napkins, towels, egg cartons, pizza boxes, waxed or unwaxed cardboard, or paper food and beverage containers or wrappers, paper bags, coffee filters, tea bags, and plates and cups that do not have a plastic coating.</p>
<p>AB 1159 Gordon</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Assembly Appropriations Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would establish the Product Stewardship Pilot Program and, until January 1, 2024, would require producers and product stewardship organizations of covered products, defined to mean home-generated sharps waste or household batteries, to develop and implement a product stewardship plan.</p>

Bill Number/ Author	Task Force Position	Task Force Position	Summary
<p>AB 1176 Perea</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Senate Environmental Quality Committee</p>	<p>This bill would establish the Advanced Low-Carbon Diesel Fuels Access Program to provide capital assistance for projects that expand advanced low-carbon diesel fueling infrastructure in communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards and additionally where the greatest air quality impacts can be identified.</p>
<p>AB 1239 Gordon</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Senate Environmental Quality Committee</p>	<p>This bill would require a waste tire generator that is a retail seller of new tires to end user purchasers to pay a California tire regulatory fee to be established by CalRecycle sufficient enough to generate revenues equivalent to the reasonable regulatory costs incurred but not to exceed \$1.25 per new tire sold.</p>
<p>SB 32 Pavley</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Assembly Natural Resources Committee</p>	<p>This bill would require the State Air Resources Board (ARB) to approve a statewide greenhouse gas emission limit that is equivalent to 80% below the 1990 level to be achieved by 2050. The bill would authorize ARB to adopt interim greenhouse gas emissions level targets to be achieved by 2030 and 2040.</p>

Bill Number/ Author	Task Force Position	Task Force Position	Summary
<p align="center">SB 47 Hill</p>	<p align="center">Oppose</p>	<p align="center">Senate Appropriations Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would, among other things, require the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, by July 1, 2017, in consultation with CalRecycle, the State Department of Public Health, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control, to prepare and provide to the Legislature a study analyzing synthetic turf for potential adverse health impacts. This bill also would prohibit a public entity from installing a new synthetic turf in the interim unless three conditions are met.</p>
<p align="center">SB 350 De Leon/Leno</p>	<p align="center">Watch</p>	<p align="center">Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee</p>	<p>This bill would express the intent of the Legislature that, by January 1, 2030, the amount of electricity generated per year from eligible renewable energy resources be increased to an amount equal to at least 50, achieve a reduction in petroleum use in motor vehicles by 50 percent, and at least once every 3 years thereafter, to achieve a doubling of energy efficiency in buildings.</p>
<p align="center">SB 485 Hernandez</p>	<p align="center">Support</p>	<p align="center">Assembly Local Government Committee</p>	<p>This bill would authorize certain sanitation districts in the County of Los Angeles, to acquire, construct, operate, maintain, and furnish facilities for the diversion, management, and treatment of stormwater and dry weather runoff, the discharge of the water to the stormwater drainage system, and the beneficial use of the water.</p>

Bill Number/ Author	Task Force Position	Task Force Position	Summary
<p align="center">SB 489 Pavley</p>	<p align="center">Support</p>	<p align="center">Assembly Appropriations Committee</p>	<p>This bill would authorize the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) to adopt regulations to designate end-of-life photovoltaic modules that are identified as hazardous waste as a universal waste and subject those modules to universal waste management. The bill would authorize DTSC to revise the regulations as necessary.</p>
<p align="center">SB 662 Committee on Environmental Quality</p>	<p align="center">Support</p>	<p align="center">Assembly Appropriations Committee</p>	<p>This bill would authorize CalRecycle to expend money in the Recycling Market Development Revolving Loan Subaccount to make payments to local governing bodies within Recycling Market Development Zones for services related to the promotion of the zone for training, outreach, development of written promotional materials, and technical analyses of feedstock availability.</p>
<p align="center">SB 687 Allen</p>	<p align="center">Watch</p>	<p align="center">Senate Appropriations Committee 2-year bill</p>	<p>This bill would require the State Air Resources Board (ARB) in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission and the Public Utilities Commission, to adopt a carbon-based renewable gas standard (RGS) that would require all gas sellers to provide minimum percentages of renewable gas to retail customers in California.</p>
<p align="center">HR 2463 Bera</p>	<p align="center">Support if Amended</p>	<p align="center">U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee</p>	<p>This bill would set aside \$2.5 million per year for the next 5 years and allow eligible entities, both public and private, to apply for grants of up to \$250,000 over a 2 year grant period for expenses related to prescription drug disposal sites; implementing disposal procedures and processes; implementing community education strategies; replicating a prescription drug take back initiative throughout multiple jurisdictions; and training of law enforcement officers and other community participants. The Task Force is requesting amendments which would allow grant awardees to use funds for expenses for their programs as necessary rather each and every item as described in the bill.</p>

JUNE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

For more information on these bills or copies of Task Force letters, please visit the Task Force website, www.lacountyiswmtf.org or contact Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, at (626) 458-3547, Monday - Thursday, 7 am to 5:30 pm or Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.