



INSIDE SOLID WASTE

Winter 2023

• Volume 106

• lacountyiswmtf.org

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



TOP STORIES

- 3 Beverage Container Recycling with the Dodgers Foundation
- 4 County's New Exclusive Commercial Franchise System

- 6 NEW Organic Waste Management Website: Fight Food Waste LA!
- 7 Senate Bill 1383 Implementation - Lessons Learned

Household Hazardous Waste Permanent Collection Centers



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.**

Beverage Container Recycling with the Dodgers Foundation



In 2015, Los Angeles County Public Works began its partnership with the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (LADF) to host a beverage container recycling challenge among Dodgers Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities little league teams, now known as Dodgers Dreamteam. The Dodgers Dreamteam program is a collaborative effort among LADF and 13 affiliate partners to provide inclusive sports-based youth development programs, services, and resources to support communities and families.

During the 2022 Dodgers Dreamteam season, a beverage container recycling challenge was held for the teams and Public Works staff shared information about the benefits of recycling during LADF Dodgers Dreamteam family events. The challenge was funded by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle) City/County Payment Program as part of a Dodgers media campaign with iHeartMedia. The yearly challenge incentivizes the teams to recycle

as many eligible California Refund Value (CRV) beverage containers as they can in the hopes of being the team to recycle the most. The winning team is invited to attend a game at Dodger Stadium and have a representative throw out the first pitch before a game.

This year, nine Dodgers Dreamteams recycled over 40,000 pounds of beverage containers and redeemed over \$29,000 of CRV. The winning team, Sandlot, from Belvedere Park, recycled over 18,000 pounds and redeemed over \$10,000 of CRV. Since its inception, over \$190,000 of CRV has been redeemed during the recycling challenge, which equates to over 3.5 million aluminum cans staying out of landfills. Many participating youths also go on to create recycling programs at their schools when they realize the value of recycling. Through this partnership, new generations become involved and inspired to take charge in saving environmental resources. For more information on beverage container recycling, visit [CleanLA.com](https://www.CleanLA.com).

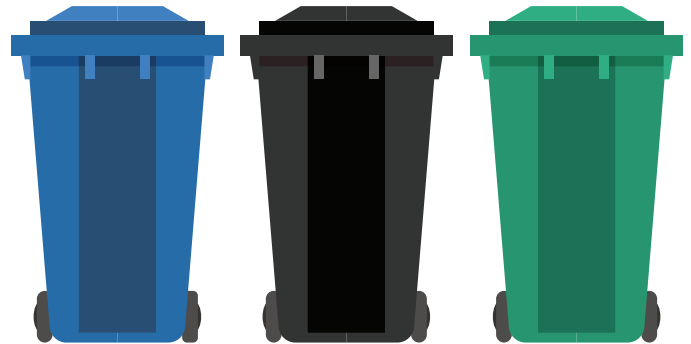
County's New Exclusive Commercial Franchise System

Since 2012, Los Angeles County has offered its unincorporated commercial customers (businesses, multi-family properties with five units or more, and certain smaller multi-family properties or single-family properties needing trash dumpster service) solid waste collection services through a Non-Exclusive Commercial Franchise system. The County's non-exclusive system allowed any waste hauler to provide solid waste collection services and/or temporary roll-off container services to any commercial customer in the County unincorporated communities that met contract requirements.

To adhere to the new California organic waste management regulations under Senate Bill (SB) 1383, the County has transitioned a majority of its commercial customers from the existing non-exclusive system to the newly formed exclusive system which began on October 1, 2022. The new exclusive system complies with SB 1383 for every resident and business to have default organic waste collection services, which the non-exclusive system did not explicitly provide.

Commercial solid waste collection services in the unincorporated North County including Acton, Agua Dulce, and Antelope Valley will remain non-exclusive as the County explores the feasibility of alternative systems in that area.

In Spring 2022, the County utilized a competitive process to select waste haulers. The County evaluated proposals submitted based on specified criteria such as proposed rates, work plans, experience, financial strength, and other factors. The selection process ensures quality service at competitive rates. Transitioning to an exclusive system helps create standardized recordkeeping and reporting required by State law. Benefits of the exclusive system include increased County oversight of waste hauler services, affordable rates, and increased waste hauler accountability for high quality customer service. This allows waste haulers to build strong customer relationships through a customer-centric approach due to exclusive designated service areas. The exclusive system also provides waste haulers secured waste volume to encourage investment in needed organic waste processing infrastructure. Additionally, benefits to the unincorporated communities and regions include optimizing waste hauling route efficiency by having



fewer collection trucks on the road, reduced traffic, less pollution, and reduced road wear and tear.

The new exclusive system is separated into eight service areas, each is comprised of different County unincorporated communities and serviced by one waste hauler. Five service areas will collect waste via a 3-container system and three service areas will collect waste via 2-container system. Customers in all eight areas will have default source-separated organic waste containers.

All commercial customers will receive:

- automated waste collection service at least once a week or more as requested or needed by the customer
- 96-gallon cart of weekly recyclables collection services



- 64-gallon cart of weekly organic waste collection services as a default unless they have the need for larger service levels

In addition, multi-family customers will receive free bulky item services according to the number of units within their complex, resulting in a significant increase in allotted free pickups compared to the non-exclusive system.

Residential customers in the commercial franchise system will receive a free in-home kitchen pail to assist with food scraps collection (one pail per single-family household or one pail per unit in a multi-family property).

In preparation for the transition, virtual community meetings were held for each service area, recordings can be viewed at [CleanLA.com](https://www.cleanla.com). Additional information and

a map of the new exclusive system can be found on the Commercial Solid Waste Collection and Recycling website at pw.lacounty.gov/go/cf.

For questions about the County's Exclusive Commercial Franchise, contact Los Angeles County Public Works at CommercialFranchise@pw.lacounty.gov or call (888)-CLEANLA.

NEW Organic Waste Management Website: Fight Food Waste LA!

On August 15, 2022, Los Angeles County Public Works launched a new countywide website, [Fight Food Waste LA](https://www.fightfoodwaste.com). This website was created as an outreach effort to provide businesses, residences, and schools with important information on how to be compliant with Senate Bill (SB) 1383 organic waste regulations.

SB 1383 establishes statewide targets to decrease methane emissions by reducing the amount of organic waste disposed in California landfills. Organic waste is material that comes from living organisms such as, but not limited to, food scraps, food soiled paper, organic textiles, and landscaping/yard or green waste. The website plays a crucial role as a digital hub connecting all website visitors to educational outreach surrounding SB 1383 compliance and best practices to manage organic waste.

Fight Food Waste LA highlights the types of organic waste that must be recycled and why it is important for everyone to do their part to recycle it. The website is also equipped with downloadable resources such as flyers and fact sheets regarding waste reduction tips and information on food recovery and donation requirements. Visit [FightFoodWasteLA.com](https://www.fightfoodwaste.com) or email FightFoodWasteLA@pw.lacounty.gov for more information.





Senate Bill 1383 Implementation - Lessons Learned



The Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) held their Annual Waste Management Conference and Exhibit on Thursday, November 3, 2022. There were several presentations that provided useful information to help local jurisdictions implement Senate Bill (SB) 1383. Presenters from the waste hauling companies Burrtec and Republic Services, as well as the City of Ontario, provided advice on best practices during their presentations.

Overall, the presenters shared that the best way to encourage customer participation in organic waste collection programs is to ensure that customers understand the importance of organic waste recycling. They emphasized that outreach should be provided in various formats, including pictures, text, and video in order to effectively reach different types of learners. Presenters encouraged using grassroots efforts for education, such as conducting outreach in senior centers and elementary schools. They recommended that regional outreach should also be conducted because jurisdictional boundaries are invisible to the public and that outreach include simple, repetitive messaging similar to water conservation advertisements.

Presenters representing the waste haulers recommended that jurisdictions and waste haulers consider using a tiered approach for SB 1383 implementation, including milestones for the next three months, six months, etc. They recommended ensuring there is an appropriate number of staff to accomplish implementation goals, such as developing educational materials and conducting outreach. Presenters noted that route reviews are difficult and that jurisdictions should develop a goal for completing a certain amount of route reviews each year, as well as a plan for accomplishing that goal. In addition, they recommended using different-

colored bins for different waste streams, but if similar colored bins must be used, then clear labels should be strategically applied on the bins to help customers easily identify which materials must be discarded in each bin. In conclusion, presenters representing the waste haulers recommended that jurisdictions and waste haulers should collaborate closely to determine a division in responsibilities to ensure that SB 1383 implementation work is not duplicated.

The City of Ontario presenters encouraged jurisdictions to become familiar with their communities and businesses. They noted that despite frustrating issues such as limited staff and residents who refused to comply with organic waste collection programs, they found that providing multiple forms of outreach, including letters, flyers, and postcards over a period of time, resulted in increased compliance by residents. Despite having an estimated population of 32,000 residents, the City of Ontario has only sent out 300 notices to comply. Residents who receive notices have 14 days to comply. If they do not, they receive a second notice to comply and are given an additional 14 days. Although the City will provide an in-person assessment for residents who continue not to comply, they noted that most residents comply after receiving the second notice. Presenters recommended that jurisdictions begin their outreach as soon as possible to increase compliance by residents.

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

Countywide Tire Collection Events Roll Forward



Los Angeles County Public Works resumed its free waste tire recycling events in late 2021. Events were suspended during the COVID-19 Safer-at-Home Order in 2020. The aim of the program events is to help reduce illegal dumping of tires, and in 2022 the County strategically targeted more events for problem areas in the Los Angeles basin.

While illegal dumping of tires happens in the basin, it is a serious problem in the wide-open Antelope Valley (AV). However, the AV is fortunate to have community volunteers who gather and bring in truckloads of scrap tires to the events. During the first AV event back on October 23, 2021, a total of 328 tons were collected in a single day, equivalent to 32,800 passenger tires, over double the usual amount.

The results could signify a pent-up demand, as a subsequent event held on April 30, 2022, during the annual AV Pride Month collected 172 tons in a single day. This amount was closer to, but still above average. Increases in demand may also be attributed to rising cost of processing waste tires.

Increased demand was also seen in the Los Angeles basin, as the tires collected during events there were

above average while the Los Angeles County Public Works road maintenance crews have also been picking up more tires off streets and alleys. So much so that the County's contractor was having difficulties keeping up with the demand for roll-off containers at the twenty or so County and partner city yards.

Results of tire events held in 2022 are listed below:

- 02/26/22 in Baldwin Park – 3,390 tires
- 03/12/22 in East LA – 2,523 tires
- 04/20/22 in Antelope Valley – 17,200 tires
- 06/25/22 in South Whittier – 1,570 tires
- 08/20/22 in South Gate – 1,519 tires
- 10/22/22 in Antelope Valley – 17,000 tires

Tire events for 2023 are being planned, but will include Baldwin Park, Hawthorne, and Antelope Valley. The tires collected are recycled into beneficial uses such as for playground applications or rubberized asphalt. For more information on the events, visit [CleanLA.com](https://www.cleanla.com) or contact the County Program Manager, Mr. Wilson Fong at wfong@pw.lacounty.gov.

Clothing Donation is Back at Los Angeles County Public Works



On May 23, 2022, the Employee Clothing Donation Program made its return to Los Angeles County Public Works after a temporary suspension due to COVID-19 precautions. This pilot program aims to divert usable textiles from landfills and make them available to local residents in need. Public Works has partnered with [Clothes the Deal](#), a non-profit organization that assists low-income County residents seeking employment by providing gently used business attire, such as suits and ties.

The environmental costs of clothing production and disposal are high. According to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), more than 700 gallons of water are used to produce one cotton t-shirt or one pair of jeans. The climate impact of manufacturing one t-shirt is approximately 9.5 pounds of CO₂, which is equivalent to driving a car for about ten miles. Every year, Californians spend more than \$70 million to dispose of used clothing in landfills.

95 percent of this textile material is reusable or recyclable.

Donating clothing, instead of trashing it, can have a positive environmental impact as it diverts these materials from landfills. The Employee Clothing Donation Program at Public Works provides a convenient way for employees to donate no-longer-needed, but in good condition clothing; and can serve as a model for other County departments and agencies to maximize the reuse of clothing, help the local community, and reduce landfill disposal and greenhouse gases.

This pilot program is currently being offered at Public Works, but other organizations and County departments will be encouraged to create their own programs. For more information, please visit the [Employee Clothing Donation Program](#) website or contact Ms. Anita Yengibaryan at (626) 458-3537 or Mr. Benjamin Cortez at (626) 458-2516.

Free Disposal Day Events at Landfills Limited to Certain Los Angeles County Unincorporated Communities



A number of landfills in Los Angeles County will be hosting Free Disposal Day events in 2023. The events provide specific Los Angeles County communities within Supervisorial Districts (SD) 3 and 5 with opportunities to dispose of up to one ton of trash free of charge, which helps combat illegal dumping.

Approximately 1,500 residents took advantage of Free Disposal Day events in 2022, bringing in over 1,235 tons of trash/debris for disposal. Listed below is information on upcoming events at various landfills for 2023:

Lancaster Landfill

(600 East Avenue F, Lancaster 93535)

Semi-Annual (April and October) on the second Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Events are only open to unincorporated area residents of the Antelope Valley (SD 5).

Chiquita Canyon Landfill

(29201 Henry Mayo Drive, Castaic 91384)

Quarterly (March, June, September, and December) on the first Saturday of the month from 6 a.m. – 2 p.m. during the summer season and 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. during the winter season. Events are only open to residents of Val Verde and Castaic communities (SD 5). In addition to dropping off bins at the landfill site, residents can use the community disposal bins provided during the events.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill

(14747 San Fernando Road, Sylmar 91342)

Semi-Annual (April and October) on the third Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Events are only open to residents of the unincorporated communities of Sunland, Kagel Canyon, Lopez Canyon, West Chatsworth, West Hills, Oat Mountain/Twin Lakes and Lake Manor (SD 3 and 5).

For questions about these events, contact Mr. Omid Mazdidasni of Los Angeles County Public Works at (626) 300-2682 or OMazdidasni@pw.lacounty.gov.

Reuse Centers Offer Free Useful Material to The Community And Keeps It Out of Landfills, A Win-Win!



As of Summer 2022, the Los Angeles County Household Hazardous (HHW) and Electronic Waste (E-Waste) management program now include two HHW Reuse Centers located at its two permanent collection centers at EDCO Recycling and Transfer in Signal Hill and at the Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center in Palmdale.

The Reuse Centers offer residents the opportunity to take home useful household products that arrive at the permanent collection centers in good and usable condition. Not only are residents able to use the material at no cost to them, but it also keeps the material from entering the waste stream. It demonstrates how the 4Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink) can be easily practiced.

Since opening in June 2022, 128 customers have visited the Reuse Centers and 2,009 pounds of household products considered HHW have been diverted from the current expanded program. All products are provided free of charge, and include items such as household cleaners, paint, automotive products and lawn and garden care products. The County continues to promote the Reuse Centers through social media, local partners, and community organizations to help spread the word about this new and free service for Los Angeles County residents.

For more information on the Reuse Centers or the HHW/E-Waste program, please visit [CleanLA.com](https://www.cleanla.com) or call (888) CLEAN-LA.

Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/ Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) Submits Comments on the Draft Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California



In October 2022, the Task Force submitted comments to the California Energy Commission (CEC) regarding the report released by the Blue Ribbon Commission (Commission) on Lithium Extraction in California as required by Assembly Bill (AB) 1657 (Garcia, 2020). AB 1657 directed the Commission in coordination with CEC to review, investigate, and analyze specific topics relating to lithium extraction, including but not limited to the Salton Sea Geothermal resources, in California and submit a report to the Legislature, documenting its findings and any recommendations developed after conducting the required review and analyses.

The Commission report presented findings and 44 recommendations for consideration to the Legislature, state and local agencies, and lithium recovery project developers. As part of these recommendations, the Commission explored the potential waste streams from the direct lithium extraction facilities and identified policy options that address barriers to recycling and opportunities for minimizing environmental and economic cost while maximizing material recovery.

The Task Force recommended the development of a complete and thorough “Life Cycle” analysis using lithium production as a source of cost effective geothermal energy. The analysis should include metrics that track all resources needed to build and upgrade geothermal energy and transmission facilities to provide electricity to the grid. These resources include water demand, greenhouse gas emissions, use of chemicals, waste produced, air pollution, and other demands on resources. The Task Force supports efforts to invest in renewable energy so long as the investments include programs that require project developers to recover lithium from lithium-based products sold in California, especially electric vehicle (EV) batteries.

As the sales of EV’s continue to surge worldwide, demand for lithium and other metals needed to build lithium-ion batteries is surging. To keep pace with skyrocketing growth in EV production and sales, market analysts anticipate that lithium demand will increase from current levels of less than 100,000 metric tons Lithium Carbonate Equivalent per year to over three



million tons per year in 2030. The life expectancy of EV batteries is 10 to 20 years. New technology is needed to recycle the lithium and other elements in EV batteries that have reached the end of their useful lifespan. When EV batteries and other lithium products reach the end of life, they are still rich in lithium and other elements and can provide a crucial resource for recovery. Recycling can provide these raw elements at a lower cost and reduces the need to mine raw ore, including direct lithium extraction, that comes with environmental costs.

Unfortunately, many batteries are discarded improperly and end up in landfills. The Task Force is supportive of the Commission's recommendations in the Report that advocate for the development and adoption of a robust circular economy (cradle-to-cradle) approach when considering environmentally responsible sourcing of raw materials and requirements for product design that supports end of life recovery, reuse, and recycling of materials. It is imperative that the State evaluate recovery options and fund the appropriate industrial-scale lithium recycling facilities in conjunction with

a thorough life cycle analysis and consistent with the Report from the Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling Advisory Group which advises that the Legislature should consider requiring a digital identifier on all lithium-ion batteries sold in California, including chemistry and supply chain information. Recycling and reuse opportunities must be considered for all products, by-products, and wastes produced through the operation of lithium recovery and geothermal facilities. Furthermore, project developers must be encouraged to continue to innovate and research potential improvements to reduce the amount of waste that is generated when extracting these materials and to further avoid potential environmental and economic impacts of lithium recovery projects.

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

Zolly v. City of Oakland Requires Reexamination of Local Franchise Fees



On August 11, 2022, the California Supreme Court issued its decision in [Zolly v. City of Oakland](#), which could have a significant impact on local solid waste franchise fees.

Background

Local governments often award franchises for solid waste collection and management. These franchises and associated franchise fees have traditionally not been treated as taxes or regulatory fees by local governments.

In *Zolly*, the Court examined whether Oakland's solid waste franchise agreement constitutes a tax under Proposition 26. Oakland granted two solid waste franchises in 2012, under which the franchisees agreed to pay the city approximately \$25 million annually. The owners of multifamily properties challenged Oakland's franchise fees, which a local grand jury found to be "disproportionately higher than franchise fees paid to other Bay Area municipalities and special districts."

Some solid waste franchise fees are based on the local government's actual administrative costs of granting the franchise, but many are not. Local governments have traditionally argued that franchise fees are not considered taxes under Proposition 26, and are not limited to recovery of the local government's actual costs, because they are:

- The product of voluntary contractual negotiations and so paid in exchange for franchise rights; and/or,

- A charge imposed for entrance to, or use of, local government property, or the purchase, rental, or lease of local government property.

Supreme Court's Analysis

In *Zolly*, the Supreme Court rejected Oakland's contention that franchise fees are not taxes because they are merely consideration for a contract negotiated between the two parties. The "imposition" requirement was satisfied when Oakland used its authority to enact the franchise charges into law by ordinance. It then turned to whether any of Prop. 26's exemptions apply.

Oakland relied heavily on the Article XIII C Section 1(e)(4) exemption applicable to charges imposed for entrance to, use, or purchase of local government property.

- The Court rejected Oakland's claim that the franchise itself is local government property. It determined the term "local government property" refers to physical objects under control of the local government (streets, land, and buildings). Franchises do not qualify as "local government property" because they are merely property *interests* and did not exist before the grant.
- The Court rejected Oakland's argument that franchise fees are exempt as charges imposed for *use of* local government property. It noted



that Oakland failed to show that the “right” granted to the franchisees was “anything more than the generally available prerogative to drive on public roads and rights of way.” The Court left open a door for Oakland to claim in further proceedings that it granted waste haulers a special ability to drive heavy vehicles and place waste bins on public streets.

- The Supreme Court strongly hinted that solid waste franchise fees may qualify under a different Prop. 26 exemption, for “[a] charge imposed for a specific benefit conferred or privilege granted directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged,” but *only if* the fee “does not exceed the reasonable costs to the local government of conferring the benefit or granting the privilege.” Oakland had not relied on that exemption, and consequently the court did not finally decide whether this provision actually applies to solid waste franchise fees, and if so, what types of local government costs might be recoverable in those fees.

Takeaways

Zolly requires local governments to take a fresh look at their solid waste franchise fees.

- Local governments cannot claim franchise fees are outside the purview of Prop. 26 because they are the product of voluntary contractual negotiations or are not directly imposed on residents.
- Local governments cannot claim that a franchise is local government *property* that can be sold, rented, or leased.
- Local governments likely can claim that their solid waste franchise fee is exempt from Prop. 26 as “a benefit conferred or privilege granted to the payor”; however, they will have to show that the fee does not exceed the reasonable cost to the local government of conferring that benefit.
- If the solid waste franchise grants operators some special privilege to use public property beyond that enjoyed by the general public (like operating heavy trucks or placing waste bins on public roads and rights of way), the local government may still be able to argue that the fee constitutes a charge for use of local government property, but the extent to which this will be accepted in future cases is unclear.
- Further litigation is likely concerning all of the foregoing items.

- **Talk to your county counsel about whether your jurisdiction needs to renegotiate rates and adjust franchise fees in light of *Zolly*.**

This document titled *Zolly v. City of Oakland Requires Reexamination of Local Franchise Fees* was distributed by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery as provided by Mr. John Kennedy, Policy Advocate, of Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC). For more information on RCRC, please visit <https://www.rcrcnet.org/>.

A Statewide Collection and Recycling Program for Consumer Batteries and Products with Embedded-Batteries



Californians need a convenient, efficient, and universal system for returning all used batteries to reduce toxic environmental impacts and provide enhanced opportunities for the recycling of elements inside batteries. In response to the large quantity of batteries and battery-embedded products that end up in the waste stream, which has resulted in an alarming number of fires in material recovery facilities, waste collection trucks, and landfills, legislators have put forward efforts to expand the current regulations for battery collection in the state.

[Assembly Bill 2440 \(AB 2440\) \(Irwin 2022\)](#) and [Senate Bill 1215 \(SB 1215\) \(Newman 2022\)](#), both signed into law on September 16, 2022, would require the producers of batteries and battery-embedded products sold in California to develop, finance, and implement a collection program in collaboration with the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to recover and recycle their products.

- AB 2440 (Irwin 2022) enacts the Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022, which establishes an extended producer responsibility program for most batteries as early as April 1, 2025.
- SB 1215 (Newman 2022) expands California's existing Electronic Waste Recycling Act to recover new and refurbished products with non-removable batteries by adding battery embedded products to the program would also establish an advanced disposal fee that consumers would pay starting in 2026.

In California, batteries are classified as hazardous waste and are banned from solid waste landfills. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designate a

category of hazardous wastes called "universal waste". Universal waste regulations streamline the hazardous waste management standards for certain categories of hazardous waste that are commonly generated by a wide variety of establishments and households. Most household batteries including AA, AAA, C, D, button cell, 9-volt, and all others, both rechargeable and single-use are classified as Universal Waste due to the metals and/or toxic or corrosive materials they contain. California's Universal Waste Rule allows individuals and businesses to transport, handle and recycle certain common hazardous wastes, termed universal wastes, in a manner that differs from the requirements for most hazardous wastes.

Many consumers in the state do not realize that all batteries are hazardous waste and that throwing batteries and products embedded with batteries in curbside waste bins poses a threat to waste collection trucks, facilities, and human life. When improperly discarded, batteries enter the waste stream and have the potential to cause fires in the waste collection trucks, at the material recovery facilities, and in landfills. Businesses and households must recycle their universal wastes and are prohibited from disposing them in the trash. AB 2440 and SB 1215 will expand the regulations for these hazardous waste products by requiring manufacturers to do their part in the collection of potentially valuable sources of recyclable metal and reduce the environmental impacts caused by improperly disposing of these hazardous wastes.

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



FALL 2022 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 taken a position on during the second half of the 2021/2022 Legislative Session.

California State Legislation:

Bill Number / Author	Task Force Position	Status
----------------------	---------------------	--------

AB 661

Bennett

Support If Amended

Chaptered, September 25, 2022

This Act makes numerous changes to the State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC) including, among other things, requiring state agencies, if fitness and quality are equal, to purchase recycled products instead of nonrecycled products, whenever recycled products are available at no more than 10% greater total cost than nonrecycled products.

AB 1747

Quirk

Support

Chaptered, September 29, 2022

This bill would provide that the list of violations that constitute cause for a disciplinary action by the Contractors State License Board includes a willful or deliberate disregard of any state or local law relating to the issuance of building permits and would authorize a civil penalty not to exceed \$30,000 for any violation.

AB 1817

Ting and Cristina Garcia

Support If Amended/Oppose
Unless Amended

Chaptered, September 29, 2022

Prohibits, beginning January 1, 2025, any person from selling any textile articles that contain intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, except for textiles used for personal protective equipment or certain other regulated products.

Bill Number / Author	Task Force Position	Status
----------------------	---------------------	--------

AB 1857

Cristina Garcia

Oppose

Chaptered, September 16, 2022

The bill will repeal the diversion credit for municipal solid waste incinerators and redefine the practice of incineration as disposal. Further, the bill would require CalRecycle, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to administer the Zero-Waste Equity Grant Program as a competitive grant program to support targeted strategies and investments in communities transitioning to a zero-waste circular economy. However, advanced conversion technologies would not be eligible if they convert waste to fuels.

AB 1985

Robert Rivas

Support

Chaptered, September 16, 2022

This bill creates a delayed and ramping enforcement timeline for penalties for local jurisdictions to meet their organic waste procurement targets, allows jurisdictions to utilize waste reduction programs to meet procurement targets, and allows jurisdictions to use organic waste processed out of state for the purposes of meeting procurement targets.

AB 2048

Santiago

Support

Chaptered, September 22, 2022

This bill would require CalRecycle to create and maintain a publicly accessible database that provides direct electronic links to those posted franchise agreements.

AB 2208

Kalra

Support

Chaptered, September 16, 2022

This bill would prohibit the sale of compact fluorescent lamp and, on and after January 1, 2024, and a pin-base type compact fluorescent lamp or a linear fluorescent lamp, on or after January 1, 2025. The bill would exempt various lamps that meet specified criteria.



Bill Number / Author	Task Force Position	Status
----------------------	---------------------	--------

AB 2247

Bloom

Support

Vetoed, September 29, 2022

This bill requires, as part of the hazardous waste control laws, California Department of Toxic Substances Control to contract with an existing multistate chemical data collection entity that is used by other states and jurisdictions to implement a publicly accessible data collection interface to collect information about perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and products/product components containing PFAS.

AB 2374

Bauer-Kahan

Support

Chaptered, September 29, 2022

This bill would increase the maximum fine for the dumping of commercial quantities of waste by a business that employs more than 10 employees from \$3,000 to \$5,000 for the first conviction, from \$6,000 to \$10,000 for the second conviction, and from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for the third and any subsequent convictions.

AB 2440

Irwin

Support

Chaptered September 16, 2022

This bill would enact the Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022, which would require producers, either individually or through a stewardship organization, to establish a stewardship program for the collection and recycling of covered batteries and covered battery-embedded products.

AB 2784

Ting and Irwin

Support

Vetoed, September 19, 2022

This bill would require the total thermoform plastic containers sold or imported by a food or beverage producer to contain specified amounts of postconsumer thermoform recycled plastic based on a tiered plan commencing January 1, 2025; no less than 20% or 30% postconsumer recycled plastic per year on and after July 1, 2030.

Bill Number / Author	Task Force Position	Status
----------------------	---------------------	--------

SB 45

Portantino

Support In Concept

Chaptered September 19, 2022

The bill would require CalRecycle, in consultation with the Air Resources Board, to provide assistance to local jurisdictions, including but not limited to, any funding appropriated by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act, to assist local agencies to comply with provisions, including any regulations adopted by CalRecycle.

SB 54

Allen, Stern, and Weiner

Neutral*

Chaptered June 30, 2022

The Act establishes the Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act, which prohibit producers of single-use, disposable packaging or single-use, disposable food service ware products selling in the state such packaging or products that are manufactured on or after January 1, 2032, unless they are recyclable or compostable. *Due to last minute amendments creating roadblocks to development of conversion technology facilities.

SB 1046

Eggman and Gonzalez

Support If Amended

Chaptered, September 30, 2022

Prohibits, on and after January 1, 2025, a store from providing a precheckout bag, as defined, to a customer if the bag is not either a compostable or a recycled paper bag.

SB 1187

Kamlager

Support

Chaptered September 27, 2022

This bill would require CalRecycle to establish a temporary pilot project of up to 3 years located in the Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura in partnership with garment manufacturers in order to study and report on the feasibility of recycling fabric.



Bill Number / Author	Task Force Position	Status
----------------------	---------------------	--------

SB 1215

Newman

Support

Chaptered September 16, 2022

This bill would, among other things, expand the definition of “covered electronic device” to include a “covered battery-embedded product,” thereby expanding the scope of the existing electronic device recycling statutes to include covered battery-embedded products. The bill would require a consumer, on and after January 1, 2026, to pay a covered electronic waste recycling fee upon the purchase of a new or refurbished covered battery-embedded product.

SB 1256

Wieckowski

Support

Vetoed, September 29, 2022

This bill would prohibit the sale of disposable propane cylinders commencing January 1, 2028. Violations would be subject to civil penalties imposed by city attorney or county counsel.

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, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or Mike Mohajer, a Member of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.