

Sustainable Solid Waste Management Future Roadmap Implementation Working Group: County Unincorporated Communities Subcommittee

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Ave, Alhambra CA 91803
Alhambra Room

Thursday, April 23, 2015
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The purpose of this subcommittee is to assist the County unincorporated areas meet the disposal reduction targets set by the Board, of 80% landfill diversion by 2025, 90% by 2035, and 95%+ by 2045, and to assist the County Unincorporated Communities comply with Federal and State laws related to waste reduction.

2. Recap Previous Meeting

- During the last meeting, Public Works presented on the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Ordinance, with discussion on requirements for County projects to meet C&D recycling.

3. Enhanced Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance

- The ordinance, adopted in 2005, requires recycling 50% of mixed debris and 65% of concrete and asphalt. A revision of the ordinance has been drafted specifying 70% recycling requirements for mixed debris and 100% for concrete and asphalt.
- We are proposing to make County construction projects meet these same targets through a separate policy.
- The ordinance will specify an upfront deposit system instead of assessing penalties for non-complying projects. Compliance rates are much higher with upfront deposits, and paperwork is reduced. There was a question about whether recycling is the responsibility of the hauler or the project developer. The responsibility rests with the owner/project developer, as the hauler simply uses the lowest cost option unless otherwise directed.

4. Organics Management Plan and Collection Methods for the County Unincorporated Communities

- New state law (AB 1826) requires jurisdictions to develop a plan to assist commercial entities to divert organic waste from landfills. This includes businesses, public agencies, and multi-family buildings.

- We have developed an outline for a new organics management plan which needs to be vetted by the County and stakeholders, prepared and submitted to the Board of Supervisors, and ultimately submitted to the state, as required by the new law.
- Suk Chong described the current commercial franchise system in the unincorporated areas and garbage disposal districts, and services available to commercial entities.
- Options of collecting organics must be evaluated. These include:
 - source separation (a separate bin for organic waste)
 - adding organic waste to the existing green waste bin
 - a two bin wet/dry system
 - a separate bag for organic waste that is separated at a processing facility
 - routing (separate truck collects from businesses that generate organic waste, like restaurants and grocery stores)
- A large producer of organic waste is defined as one that generates 8 cubic yards of food or green waste or more, per week.
- Multi-family buildings will be affected by the new law, single-family homes will not.
- Building owners will be responsible for diverting organics. Significant additional infrastructure will be needed, and haulers will need trucks capable of collecting the organics.

5. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)/Pharmaceutical Ordinance

- EPR requires manufacturers of products to take additional responsibility for the end of the life impacts of their products.
- One of the County's largest programs is the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program to divert hazardous waste from landfills. As part of this program the County also has partnerships to provide collection bins for used batteries, sharps, and expired pharmaceuticals. Collecting and properly disposing of these products is very costly. EPR mitigates those costs while providing a convenient mechanism for residents to properly manage HHW.
- There are two approaches we are pursuing to support EPR policies:
 - Support legislation that relates to EPR, such as AB 1159, which would expand the materials that are part of the framework for EPR to sharps and batteries, and oppose legislation such as AB 45 which would create a new restrictive framework for household hazardous waste and put responsibility on local governments.
 - Adopt EPR policies at the local level, such as the Pharmaceutical ordinance adopted recently by Alameda County. Public Works is setting up a meeting with Public Health and Health Services to discuss pursuing a similar Ordinance in Los Angeles County.

6. Waste Assessments and Program Evaluations

- We need to identify how we currently evaluate our programs, what is working well and what can be improved. We also need to develop data gaps and identify ways to track additional data.

- For County Operations we are developing a survey. We may want to use a similar survey to collect data on externally focused programs. We have good information on disposal and need a better way to measure waste generation/diversion.
- Internal Services Department (ISD) developed a dashboard website to track sustainability metrics of County buildings. We might want to look at a similar system to track waste diversion performance. We could also add a link to ISD's dashboard on the Roadmap website, and build on it with additional metrics.

7. Open Discussion and Next Steps

- Pat Proano noted that implementing these additional programs is likely to increase waste management costs, and we need to prepare stakeholders for this.
- Public Works to discuss with ISD the possibility of including waste diversion metrics into their sustainability dashboard.
- Public Works to present progress in outlining steps for completing organics management plan along with options for collecting and recycling commercial organic waste. Our next meeting will likely focus on this plan.

8. The next Subcommittee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 27, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting Participants

Name	Department
Frank Estrada	Animal Care & Control
Burt Kumagawa	CEO
Steve Olson	Fire
Terry Millsaps	Fire
Alexander Ng	Fire
Dan Zenarosa	Fire
Dennis Morelos	Internal Services
Lois Giron	Internal Services
Ted Lo	Internal Services
Inna Sarac	Medical Examiner – Coroner
Gerry Villalobos	Public Health
Maurice Pantoja	Public Health
Joshua Hussey	Public Works – BSD
Armando C Aguilar	Public Works

Name	Department
Clark Ajwani	Public Works
Coby Skye	Public Works
David Coscia	Public Works
Gabriel Arenas	Public Works
Kathy Salama	Public Works
La Salle Duong	Public Works
Larissa Yu	Public Works
Pat Proano	Public Works
Patrick Holland	Public Works
Ingrid Mayer	Public Works
Iris Chi	Regional Planning
Tina Fung	Regional Planning
Maya Saraf	Regional Planning