

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COUNTYWIDE INTEGRATED
WASTE MANAGEMENT**



**SUMMARY
PLAN**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Los Angeles
County
Department of
Public Works
Environmental
Programs Division
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Summary Plan (Summary Plan) is prepared in response to the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (known as AB 939), as amended, and its associated regulations that were developed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). AB 939 and its regulations require each county in the state to prepare a Summary Plan that describes the steps that will be taken by local agencies, acting independently and in concert, to achieve the mandated waste diversion goals of 25 percent by 1995 and 50 percent by the year 2000.

As required by State law, the purpose of the Summary Plan is to:

- establish countywide goals and objectives for integrated solid waste management;
- describe the countywide system of governmental solid waste management infrastructure;
- describe the current system of solid waste management in the cities and unincorporated County;
- summarize the types of programs planned in the individual jurisdictions' Source Reduction and Recycling Elements (SRREs), Household Hazardous Waste Elements (HHWEs), and Nondisposal Facility Elements (NDFEs);
- describe programs that could be consolidated or coordinated countywide; and
- establish an administrative structure for preparing and maintaining the Summary Plan.

GOALS, POLICIES, AND OBJECTIVES

The goals, policies, and objectives that are presented in Chapter 2 express plans for integrating strategies aimed toward reducing, reusing, recycling, diverting, and marketing solid waste generated within Los Angeles County. The goals are generally qualitative and will guide the general direction of countywide integrated waste management programs in the future. The policies are guidelines that delineate the types of specific actions that should be taken in order to realize the objectives and thus achieve the goals of the plan. The objectives are specific and measurable milestones that, as they are achieved, indicate progress toward the fulfillment of the goals. The goals, policies, and objectives are summarized in Table ES-1.

CURRENT INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

As discussed at length in Chapters 3 and 4, Los Angeles County has one of most complex and extensive solid waste management systems in the State and possibly in the nation. This system is comprised of over 250 solid waste collection companies and various municipal solid waste collection agencies, a wide variety of solid waste transfer stations, nine major landfills, five minor landfills and numerous recyclable processing facilities. This complex infrastructure provides solid waste and recyclable processing services to one of the most dynamic economies in the world.

In 1995, the residents and businesses of Los Angeles County disposed of approximately 12.0 million tons of solid waste at existing permitted land disposal and transformation facilities located in and out of the County. Of this amount, approximately 10.9 million tons were disposed at in-County Class III landfills, 530,000 tons at permitted unclassified landfills (inert waste only), 510,000 tons at transformation (waste-to-energy) facilities, 52,000 tons exported to out-of-County Class III landfills. The above 1995 solid waste disposal quantities exclude approximately 775,000 tons of waste imported from Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura, and other counties.

Each of the 89 jurisdictions in Los Angeles County collect waste in a manner best-suited for that jurisdiction, as discussed in detail in Chapter 4. For residential waste collection, the majority of the jurisdictions (58 out of 89) report having franchises with private haulers. Of the remaining jurisdictions, eight report having contracts with private haulers, seven issue permits to haulers, ten use city crews, and six use some combination of franchises, contracts, permits, and city crews. For commercial and industrial waste collection, 38 jurisdictions report having franchises with private haulers and 30 jurisdictions issue permits. Of the remaining jurisdictions, eight have contracts with private haulers; two use city crews; eight use a combination of franchises, contracts, permits, and city crews; and three cities (Bradbury, La Habra, and Rolling Hills) reported no commercial collection. The most commonly offered recycling program is curbside residential recycling. The most commonly offered composting programs are participation in the Christmas tree recycling program and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' alternative daily cover program. The most commonly offered household hazardous waste program is the Countywide Household Hazardous Waste Management Program.

Los Angeles County has developed a variety of countywide source reduction, diversion, and household hazardous waste programs for residents of the 88 cities and the unincorporated areas. To reduce the amount of household hazardous waste in the wastestream, the County has implemented the Countywide Household Hazardous Waste Management Program. The County has also implemented the Countywide Yard Waste Management Program (formerly the Countywide Backyard Composting Program) to reduce the amount of green waste disposed in landfills. The Countywide Public Education/Awareness Program serves to promote recycling, source reduction, and material reuse among the residents and businesses in Los Angeles County.

Recycling Market Development Zones play a major role in the development of markets for diverted materials in Los Angeles County. To date, five Recycling Market Development Zones have been established in the County. These include the cities of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Lancaster and the County of Los Angeles (which includes the cities of Burbank, Carson, Commerce, Compton, Covina, El Monte, Glendale, Huntington Park, Lynwood, Montebello, Pasadena, South El Monte, South Gate, Vernon, and all the unincorporated areas). Other market development programs have included "buy recycled" procurement policies by cities and the County, promotion of the use of rubberized asphalt, and the sharing of market development information among jurisdictions.

JURISDICTIONAL SRREs, HHWEs, AND NDFEs AND THE SITING ELEMENT

The jurisdictional SRREs, HHWEs, and NDFEs summarized in the first section of Chapter 5 of this document delineate the direction each jurisdiction proposes to go in order to reach the waste diversion goals. The Countywide Siting Element, a separate document from this Summary Plan, addresses the proper management for the residual waste remaining after all the 88 cities and the unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County have completed their reducing, reusing, recycling, composting, and other waste diversion activities. The Siting Element is a State-mandated plan which provides for 15 years of disposal capacity needed by the 88 cities and the County. There are various other agencies and organizations whose rules, regulations, policies, and guidelines affect how solid waste is managed in the County. These include local, regional, state, and federal governmental agencies as well as solid waste management districts, authorities, joint powers authorities, and informal groupings of jurisdictions.

POTENTIAL COUNTYWIDE PROGRAMS

To continue the progress toward the 50 percent diversion goal by the year 2000, the last section of Chapter 5 of the Summary Plan identifies a range of potential countywide programs, based on the countywide goals, policies, and objectives listed in Chapter 2. These programs are designed to stimulate and support increased diversion by focusing on non-residential waste reduction; procurement of recycled-content products; sharing of information and resources; communication, outreach, promotion, and education; multijurisdictional projects; and augmented services for the recycling, reuse, or proper disposal of certain specified materials.

SUMMARY OF COSTS FOR DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, AND ADMINISTRATION OF WASTE DIVERSION PROGRAMS

As required by State law, the costs of development, administration, implementation, and the requirements for programs selected in all 89 jurisdictional SRREs and HHWEs in Los Angeles County were tabulated and presented in Chapter 6. Based on projections of diversion program costs that were provided in the individual SRREs and HHWEs, jurisdictions in the County anticipated expenditures totaling approximately \$97,500,000 (1991 dollars) to develop and implement diversion programs through 1995.

ADMINISTRATION, MAINTENANCE AND FUNDING FOR THE SUMMARY PLAN

As the lead County agency advising the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on waste management issues, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works is responsible for preparation, maintenance and administration of the Summary Plan. Pursuant to Chapter 20.88 of the Los Angeles County Code, funding for these activities is provided through imposition of a "tipping fee" surcharge, referred to as the Solid Waste Management Fee, on each ton of solid waste disposed of at landfills and/or transformation facilities located in Los Angeles County, and on each ton of solid waste that is exported out of the County for disposal at landfills and/or transformation facilities.

SUMMARY PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Under the auspices of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force, the Summary Plan and its Negative Declaration were prepared by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The preparation of the Preliminary Draft of the Summary Plan and its Draft Negative Declaration was completed in early 1996. Subsequently, the documents were released to cities, governmental agencies, neighboring counties, environmental organizations, and private industries for a 45-day comment period on March 11, 1996. In order to assure availability of the documents to citizens, copies of the Preliminary Draft Summary Plan and its Draft Negative Declaration were also delivered to over 230 County and city libraries throughout Los Angeles County, as well as the Department of Public Works Headquarters and its field offices. Additionally, the Department conducted a series of 13 community information meetings throughout Los Angeles County during the period of April 1 to April 22, 1996. Notices of the availability of the documents and the times and locations of the public information meetings were published in the Los Angeles Times and numerous local newspapers in an effort to maximize participation. These outreach efforts are documented in Volume III, Appendices J, K, and L of the Summary Plan.

Due to the positive response by both the cities and the public, and to ensure maximum participation by all concerned, the comment period was subsequently extended twice for a total of over 200 days, ending on October 17, 1996. Additionally, the Department worked with groups, such as the Natural Resources Defense Council and Landfill Alternatives Save Environmental Resources, to gain a greater insight into areas of the Summary Plan that may be revised for greater clarity and to expand the document's information. All comments received, both at the public meetings and/or contained in letters received during the comment period, are presented with appropriate responses in Volume III, Appendices G, H, and I and the Negative Declaration's Appendices ND-A, ND-B, and ND-C. The Final Draft of the Summary Plan also includes input from the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (see Appendix P) and the County Board of Supervisors (see Appendix O). The Final Drafts of the Summary Plan and its Negative Declaration incorporate the changes developed in response to the comments received.

Section 41721 of the PRC requires the Summary Plan be "approved by the county and by a majority of the cities within the county which contain a majority of the population of the incorporated area of the county." In addition to the local jurisdictions' approvals, the Summary Plan must be reviewed and approved by the CIWMB.

**TABLE ES - 1
GOALS, POLICIES, AND OBJECTIVES FOR SUMMARY PLAN**

Carrying out the listed goals, policies, and objectives will be the responsibility of the County and other participating jurisdictions, unless otherwise noted.

GOALS	POLICIES	OBJECTIVES
<p>Goal 1: Encourage the continued development of an integrated solid waste management system that will assist jurisdictions in maximizing waste reduction efforts by enhancing existing programs and services.</p>	<p><i>The cities in Los Angeles County, the County, the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) and the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County will support and contribute to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>the implementation of programs and services that maximize the source reduction of waste;</i> <i>the recycling of reusable materials;</i> <i>the mulching and composting of organic materials;</i> <i>the development of environmentally safe transformation facilities to reduce dependence on landfills for the disposal of the residual solid waste;</i> <i>the continuation and expansion, as necessary, of programs that contribute to the reduction, reuse, recovery, and proper disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW); and</i> <i>the efforts in revising State law to exclude "transformation" from the definition of disposal and establish a solid waste management hierarchy as listed below:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Source Reduction - Recycling/Composting - Transformation - Environmentally Safe Land Disposal 	<p>Enhance the existing Christmas Tree Recycling Program by coordinating the program with participating jurisdictions.</p> <p>Enhance the existing Countywide Backyard Composting Program by developing appropriate backyard demonstration sites into more comprehensive Home Garden Learning Centers (which also incorporate waterwise gardening and grasscycling).</p> <p>Enhance the existing Countywide HHW collection program by identifying geographic areas that would benefit most by increasing the number of program events and by increasing the convenience of collection for the most common HHW items (e.g., latex paint, used motor oil, etc.).</p> <p>Expand the existing backyard composting demonstration program by including public-private partnerships (e.g., demonstration projects in nurseries and landscape supply businesses).</p> <p>Enhance cooperative efforts to site needed waste diversion facilities such as Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs), composting facilities, and manufacturing facilities that utilize recycled materials by promoting the Recycling Market Development Zones (RMDZs) in the County.</p> <p>Encourage the expansion of materials reuse programs such as thrift stores and materials rehabilitation organizations.</p> <p>Prepare and introduce State legislation to promote development of environmentally safe transformation facilities to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed in landfills, and to exclude "transformation" from the definition of disposal allowing jurisdictions to consider the use of transformation facilities.</p>

**TABLE ES - 1 (Continued)
GOALS, POLICIES, AND OBJECTIVES FOR SUMMARY PLAN**

Carrying out the listed goals, policies, and objectives will be the responsibility of the County and other participating jurisdictions, unless otherwise noted.

GOALS	POLICIES	OBJECTIVES
<p>Goal 2: Encourage the continued development of an integrated solid waste management system that will assist jurisdictions in maximizing waste reduction efforts by developing new cooperative activities and projects.</p>	<p><i>The cities in Los Angeles County, the County and the Task Force, through cooperative efforts and as a means to maximize waste reduction efforts, will:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. assist in the investigation and development of new diversion programs; and</i> <i>b. review all existing land use policies relating to new development and solid waste facilities.</i> 	<p>Develop a technical assistance program for the private sector that will encourage the reduction of solid waste sent for disposal.</p> <p>Investigate and prepare a report on the viability of implementing a pilot food waste recycling program.</p> <p>Develop a model construction/demolition material recycling ordinance for adoption by the participating jurisdictions and incorporate the ordinance into their building code requirements.</p> <p>Develop a model plan to promote land use policies aimed at discouraging incompatible land uses adjacent to solid waste management facilities for use and consideration by the participating jurisdictions.</p>
<p>Goal 3: Eliminate or reduce barriers and promote intergovernmental and intersectoral cooperation among jurisdictions, agencies, and the private sector in order to create new opportunities for development and implementation of diversion programs.</p>	<p><i>The Task Force will be the primary forum for addressing solid waste issues on a countywide basis.</i></p> <p><i>The Task Force will provide a forum that will:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. promote the development of intergovernmental and intersectoral agreements that will assist with program integration;</i> <i>b. foster communication between the public and private sectors to exchange ideas and experiences; and</i> <i>c. provide for the development of consistent policies and programs to achieve the AB 939 diversion mandates.</i> 	<p>The Task Force will support the continued existing periodic meetings conducted on solid waste issues by groups such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Joint Power Authorities (JPAs); b. informal groups of cities; and c. joint public/private sector groups; <p>participating in such meetings whenever possible, and will expend efforts to coordinate and encourage productivity by these groups by promoting the Task Force as the best forum for jurisdictions, JPAs, informal city groups, and the private sector for working cooperatively to address solid waste issues on a countywide basis.</p> <p>Publish and maintain a directory of city, County, and State solid waste personnel and programs.</p> <p>Develop an on-line computer service for disseminating waste reduction and diversion information to jurisdictions and the public.</p>

**TABLE ES - 1 (Continued)
GOALS, POLICIES, AND OBJECTIVES FOR SUMMARY PLAN**

Carrying out the listed goals, policies, and objectives will be the responsibility of the County and other participating jurisdictions, unless otherwise noted.

GOALS	POLICIES	OBJECTIVES
<p>Goal 4: Encourage and develop stronger long-term markets and demand for diverted materials and end products.</p>	<p><i>The County and the Task Force will encourage jurisdictions and the private sector to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. establish procurement standards to maximize the percent of total goods purchased using recycled materials, easily recyclable, or packaged to reduce waste; and</i> <i>b. support the enhancement of the existing Recycling Market Development Zones (RMDZs) to assist in the development of businesses primarily involved with recycling, composting, and other waste reduction efforts.</i> 	<p>Enhance the effectiveness of the commercial/ industrial technical assistance program.</p> <p>Develop a model plan giving procurement preference to goods and materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. made from recycled material, and/or b. manufactured to be easily recycled, and/or c. distributed in a manner to minimize packaging and shipping waste, <p>for use and consideration by participating jurisdictions.</p> <p>Develop a Recycled Product Vendor Show for the public and private sectors to present current products containing recycled materials and state of the art commercial and industrial waste reduction technologies.</p> <p>Encourage jurisdictions to cooperate in the purchasing of recycled-content items in bulk.</p>

TABLE ES - 1 (Continued)
GOALS, POLICIES, AND OBJECTIVES FOR SUMMARY PLAN

Carrying out the listed goals, policies, and objectives will be the responsibility of the County and other participating jurisdictions, unless otherwise noted.

GOALS	POLICIES	OBJECTIVES
<p>Goal 5: Increase public awareness of solid waste management (diversion/disposal) issues, and their participation in source reduction, recycling, composting, household hazardous waste management programs, and other waste diversion efforts.</p>	<p><i>The Task Force and County will assist jurisdictions in securing public education and promotional materials addressing various aspects of the Integrated solid waste system including:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. source reduction;</i> <i>b. recycling;</i> <i>c. reuse;</i> <i>d. composting;</i> <i>e. transformation; and</i> <i>f. management of the remaining residual solid waste to ensure the protection of public health and safety.</i> 	<p>Enhance and expand educational materials for the school programs to cover grades kindergarten through 12.</p> <p>Develop a waste reduction exhibit for use at schools and fairs.</p> <p>Develop a program for businesses within the County of Los Angeles that provides recognition from the participating jurisdiction's governing body for winners of waste reduction awards programs, including the California Integrated Waste Management Board's WRAP program.</p> <p>Expand the Task Force's "Inside Solid Waste" publication to increase the awareness of jurisdictions, the media, and the general public of solid waste diversion and disposal issues.</p> <p>Develop a countywide speakers bureau that would be available to speak at schools, businesses, civic groups, and cities.</p> <p>Assist in the coordination of local promotional campaigns by developing and making available standardized messages, phrases, and facts that could be incorporated by jurisdictions into local brochures and programs. For example, promote telephone directory recycling and point-of-purchase education programs to reduce HHW.</p>

**TABLES - 1 (Continued)
GOALS, POLICIES, AND OBJECTIVES FOR SUMMARY PLAN**

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GOALS	POLICIES	OBJECTIVES
<p>Goal 6: Assure adequate long-term solid waste disposal capacity for the cities and County unincorporated areas.</p>	<p><i>The County, the cities in Los Angeles County and the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County will support the development of new disposal facilities and expansion of existing facilities identified in the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Action Plan adopted on April 5, 1988 by the County Board of Supervisors (as revised by the Countywide Siting Element), as long as they are found to be technically and environmentally feasible.</i></p> <p><i>The Task Force will actively seek and identify transformation and other alternative technologies and programs having the potential to conserve capacity at in-County landfill sites.</i></p>	<p>Adopt the Countywide Siting Element.</p> <p>Adopt the Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Summary Plan.</p> <p>Expedite, streamline and coordinate necessary permitting to address the State-mandated 15-year disposal capacity need.</p> <p>Investigate and report on alternative technologies and programs which have the potential for conserving in-County landfill capacity.</p>
<p>Goal 7: Demonstrate public leadership in all aspects of solid waste management by implementing appropriate programs and practices within public sector agencies.</p>	<p><i>Jurisdictions in Los Angeles County, as representatives of the public sector, will lead society by example by implementing appropriate solid waste management programs and practices within their own organizational operations that reflect the applicable goals, policies, and objectives of this Summary Plan.</i></p>	<p>Each participating jurisdiction's governing body will appoint a lead agency under its jurisdiction that will be responsible to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. conduct waste audits of appropriate departmental facilities in the jurisdiction; b. provide recycling and other waste diversion information, program design and implementation assistance to each departmental facility, as needed; c. develop a reporting procedure to describe the effectiveness of various programs and practices implemented by the departments for submittal to the governing body and forwarding to the Task Force; and d. develop a newsletter for periodic publication and distribution to appropriate staff at each department for sharing waste reduction and diversion information (appropriate and effective electronic distribution may be utilized as a component of the jurisdiction's waste reduction program).

TABLE ES - 1 (Continued)
GOALS, POLICIES, AND OBJECTIVES FOR SUMMARY PLAN

Carrying out the listed goals, policies, and objectives will be the responsibility of the County and other participating jurisdictions, unless otherwise noted.

GOALS	POLICIES	OBJECTIVES
<p>Goal 8: Demonstrate public leadership and accountability by assessing and reporting jurisdictional progress in attaining the goals, policies, and objectives listed in the Summary Plan.</p>	<p><i>Jurisdictions in Los Angeles County will encourage accomplishment of the goals, policies, and objectives of this Summary Plan by establishing an assessment and reporting mechanism for the periodic review of their progress.</i></p>	<p>Each participating jurisdiction's governing body will appoint a lead agency under its jurisdiction that will be responsible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. develop a reporting mechanism for assessing the jurisdiction's progress in achieving the applicable goals, policies, and objectives listed in the Summary Plan, wherever possible (for instance, where they provide a measurable milestone); and b. produce a periodic status report (at least annually) for their governing body and for their residents on progress toward achievement of the goals, policies, and objectives within the jurisdiction.