

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: June 12, 2026

TO: **Honorable Members of the Energy and Environment Committee**

Attention: Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, Chair
Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, Vice Chair
Councilmember Ysabel Jurado, Member
Councilmember Imelda Padilla, Member
Councilmember Nithya Raman, Member

FROM: Eugene D. Seroka, Executive Director
Harbor Department, Mail Stop 260



SUBJECT: ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025, MOTION COUNCIL FILE 21-1208-S2 ON THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT ANNUAL PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE ZERO WASTE CITY FACILITIES AND EVENTS ON CITY PROPERTY ORDINANCE NO.187718 AND ZERO WASTE PLAN

On September 27, 2023, the City Council adopted Council File 21-1208-S2 (Council File). The Council File directed all City of Los Angeles (City) Departments and requested all City Proprietary Departments to provide annual progress reports to the Energy and Environment Committee on their compliance with Ordinance No. 187718, Zero Waste at City Facilities and Events on City Property (Zero Waste Ordinance), and their zero-waste plan. In accordance with the City Council's request, the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) provides this Annual Progress Report for calendar year 2025.

References to Zero Waste Ordinance

As a proprietary department responsible for its own property, assets and funds, the Harbor Department implements zero waste principles by the guidelines outlined in its 2025 Zero Waste Plan (ZWP), formally adopted in November 2025, by its Board of Harbor Commissioners. The ZWP acknowledges the City's Zero Waste Ordinance, and requires that food and beverage providing tenants, contractors and operators managed by the Harbor Department, as well as Harbor Department-owned facilities, comply with the ordinance as feasible. Further, "Special Events" permit conditions are included with all relevant Applications for Port Permits (APPs) and require adherence to City of Los Angeles ordinances and requirements as they pertain to food and beverage services, and contain language requiring appropriate receptacles for litter, recycling, and organics. The permit also encourages minimization of surplus food and to work with food rescues to donate surplus edible food items.

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Information regarding the Harbor Department’s sustainability efforts and ZWP can be found on the following website:

www.portoflosangeles.org/environment/sustainability/zero-waste.

Implemented Zero Waste Measures

The following are measures that were undertaken since last year’s report on April 29, 2025 to June 2026:

- The Harbor Department staff received and participated in the annual Zero Waste Training Course provided by City of Los Angeles Sanitation (LA Sanitation), which provides education on the Zero Waste Ordinance, Senate Bill 1383, and proper reduction/recycling etiquette.
- In 2025, the Harbor Department conducted outreach to over 30 tenants to discuss Assembly Bill 939, their waste management practices, including organics recycling, and general awareness of the Zero Waste Ordinance.
- In 2025, the Harbor Department Construction & Maintenance (C&M) Division procured mugs for all C&M staff and conducted a holiday mug exchange event.
- In the beginning of 2026, the Harbor Department began implementing three waste stream bins for all Harbor Department-sponsored events.
- In 2026, the Harbor Department conducted its first “Green Team” meetings with division liaisons to identify any new or improved waste-diversion opportunities and enhance reporting processes, with routine meetings planned to build momentum and foster a departmental culture focused on zero waste.
- In 2026, the Harbor Department, through its Harbor Department Employee Club, distributed reusable food utensils and pouch for all staff.
- The Harbor Department is working closely with its recyclLA provider, Athens, to develop and adopt a new service agreement that expands the Harbor Department’s organic recycling services for all applicable Harbor Department facilities.
- The Harbor Department continues to issue zero waste permit conditions to applicable APPs.
- In 2026, the Harbor Department will issue a Request-for-Proposals (RFP) for operating its cafeteria, Port Pantry. The RFP includes compliance with the Zero Waste Ordinance and implementation of sustainable/compostable alternatives, as feasible.

Waste Management Metrics by Weight

Table 1 presents year 2025 cumulative waste diversion and disposal metrics for Harbor Department facilities and events. The department-wide waste diversion rate is 79% and the diversion rate without Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste is 28%, as shown in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.

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Table 1. LAHD Department-wide AB 939 Reporting Summary for Year 2025

LAHD Department-wide AB939 Reporting Summary for Year 2025 (tons)	
<i>Landfill Diversion through Source Reduction and Recycling Programs (includes 682 tons Organics)</i>	10,490
<i>Landfill Disposal</i>	2,826
<i>Total Waste Managed</i>	13,316
<i>Landfill Diversion Rate</i>	79%

Table 2. LAHD Waste Management Summary for Year 2025 (not including C&D stream)

LAHD Waste Management Summary (not including C&D Stream) for Year 2025 (tons)	
<i>Landfill Diversion through Source Reduction and Recycling Programs (includes 635 tons Organics)</i>	872
<i>Landfill Disposal</i>	2,196
<i>Total Waste Managed</i>	3,068
<i>Landfill Diversion Rate</i>	28%

The Harbor Department achieved a 10% increase in waste diversion, rising from 69% in 2024 to 79% in 2025. This improvement was driven by higher C&D diversion, expanded organics source reduction from new green spaces, and more accurate reporting of landfill diversion activities. Looking ahead, the Harbor Department anticipates continued progress in waste diversion by strengthening sustainability culture, engaging employees through Green Team meetings, and expanding organics recycling services across facilities.

Closing

The Harbor Department is committed to implementing meaningful zero waste measures at local community events and at Harbor Department-owned facilities occupied/maintained by City employees. Questions regarding this report may be directed to Lisa Wunder, Director of Environmental Management, via email at lwunder@portla.org or (310) 732-7688.

EDS/MD/LW/RB/PL/mrx
 APP No.: 220412-509
 File: Y:\PROJECT FILES\Zero Waste\Annual Council File Updates\2025\Annual 2025 Progress Report Council File 21-1208-S2_04.24.2025_ - FINAL 04-25-2025.docx

Enclosure

cc: Joone Kim-Lopez, LA Sanitation and the Environment
 Erick Martell, Mayor’s Office Harbor Representative

Special Event Permit Conditions

- Only clean storm water is permitted to enter storm drain system or receiving waters. The permittee shall prevent any pollutant (including trash, sediment, debris, etc.,) from the event from entering harbor waters or the storm drain system.
- The permittee shall keep the facility clean and maintained regularly. All areas, including parking lots, shall be swept as needed to control trash, debris, and other waste. Sweepings shall be disposed of properly and not allowed to enter the storm drains or leave the property. The Permittee shall ensure that the site is properly cleared of trash, debris, and waste following the event.
- The permittee shall provide an adequate number of litter, recycling, and organics receptacles and signage during the event. Litter, recycling, and organics receptacles shall be covered and cleaned out as needed to prevent spillage.
- The permittee shall ensure portable restrooms have containment drip pans.
- Vendors shall follow City of Los Angeles ordinances and requirements as they pertain to food services (examples of these requirements are Straws Upon Request, compostable materials for food ware, food composting, adherence to the polystyrene ban and single-use plastic bag, and food waste minimization).
- The permittee is encouraged to work with food rescues to donate surplus edible food, as feasible and allowed by Health regulations per the State of California and County of Los Angeles. Permittee shall try to reduce generation of surplus edible food. The permittee is responsible for reporting per applicable regulations.
- The permittee is not permitted to conduct vehicle or equipment washing, repair or maintenance on site.
- Fueling of vehicles or equipment is strongly discouraged, however if absolutely necessary, fueling must occur on paved surfaces, using appropriate fueling best management practices, including having spill kits on hand, use of secondary containment, proper clean up, and disposal of any contaminated spill kit material. .
- Should an accidental spill occur, the permittee shall immediately stop the spill at its source, prevent spill from entering storm drain or harbor water, and clean-up any spill with adsorbent rags or material. Contaminated rags or adsorbent material shall be disposed of properly. Spills that could not be immediately contained and cleaned must be reported to Port Police.
- The permittee shall make every attempted to minimize wet cleaning methods. If an area must be washed, spot clean to minimize the amount of water used. Wash water shall be contained and recovered for proper disposal through a sanitary sewer system via a permitted connection. Wash water shall not be allowed to be discharged to the storm drain system or receiving waters.
- All vendor equipment and/or generators must have all necessary permits with South Coast Air Quality Management District and/or California Air Resources Board.

- The permittee shall comply with all applicable municipal codes and ordinances, including, but not limited to, those pertaining to amplified noise.
- Prior to driving any tent stakes and/or any subsurface intrusion work, Underground Service Alert of Southern California (a.k.a. Dig Alert) shall be notified (dial 8-1-1) a minimum of 48 hours in advance, and the issued Dig Alert ticket number shall be maintained on-site. The Dig Alert ticket number shall be provided to the Harbor Department if requested.
- To confirm there are no pipelines, utilities, or other subsurface obstructions, the permittee shall hand auger the upper 5-feet of each staking location. The permittee is responsible for any damage to subsurface structures as a result of their activities. The Harbor Department shall be notified immediately should subsurface structures be identified/contacted.
- All necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent any contamination of soil, groundwater, and/or surface water during the set up and operations of event.