

## CITY OF LOS ANGELES

## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: April 29, 2025

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

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

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



**SUBJECT: 2025 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT, 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 2025 Annual Progress Report.

#### **References to Zero Waste Ordinance**

The Harbor Department developed the Harbor Department Zero Waste Plan (ZWP), submitted to the Mayor's office on September 30, 2022, in response to the Green New Deal. In the Harbor Department's first annual progress report dated April 22, 2024, it was reported that the Harbor Department intended to formally adopt the Zero Waste Ordinance through its ZWP and once adopted, the Harbor Department would include the requirements of the Zero Waste Ordinance in all new contracts, leases, and event forms/permits. After further review and consideration of the Zero Waste Ordinance, it was determined that the Harbor Department will strive to reach zero waste facilities and events through the ZWP, without the formal adoption of the Zero Waste Ordinance. The Harbor Department has crafted the ZWP, which seeks to reduce waste while recognizing the unique operations of the Harbor Department and its tenants. As a proprietary department responsible for its own property, assets and funds, rather than adopt the Zero Waste Ordinance, the Harbor Department seeks to implement its own zero waste principles by the guidelines outlined in the 2022 ZWP, which will be updated in 2025 and presented to

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the Board of Harbor Commissioners for their consideration. This decision will minimize any undue competitive disadvantage that the Zero Waste Ordinance may put on the Harbor Department's food or beverage providing tenants in that competing food or beverage operators on private property across the street, in other parts of the City, or in other cities, are not held to the same standards. In this extremely competitive and expense sensitive retail land use environment, full adoption could cause irreparable harm to current and future visitor serving tenants and hinder leveraging the Harbor Department's \$1 billion investment in the LA Waterfront. The Harbor Department will continue outreach to our food or beverage tenants and encourage following the City's Zero Waste Ordinance to the extent feasible. Further, the Harbor Department-owned facilities operated by City employees as well as Harbor Department events, contractors and operators managed by the Harbor Department, will comply with the City's Zero Waste Ordinance to the extent feasible. The Harbor Department's current "Special Events" Permit Conditions (enclosed) contain language requiring organics recycling and recommend food donation and associated reporting.

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

[www.portoflosangeles.org/environment/sustainability/zero-waste](http://www.portoflosangeles.org/environment/sustainability/zero-waste).

**Implemented Zero Waste Measures at City-Sponsored Events and City Facilities**

The Harbor Department intends to achieve zero waste under its ZWP, by reducing waste generation, expanding existing recycling programs, conducting tenant educational outreach, and developing new organics and industrial recycling programs, as needed. The zero waste goals will be achieved through coordination with all Harbor Department Divisions and validated through detailed waste characterizations, which will allow custom programming appropriate for each Division's operations and personnel. The Harbor Department is closely working with its recycLA 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. In addition, since 2024, the Harbor Department utilizes a vendor, Wallop Water, to provide refillable water stations and compostable cups to reduce single-use plastic water bottles for large-scale Harbor Department-sponsored events.

**Waste Management Metrics by Weight**

The Harbor Department's recycLA provider, Athens, has limited reporting capabilities for differentiating waste tonnage (trash, recyclables, and organics) from the Harbor Department-sponsored events versus at City facilities. Athens' waste tonnage reports (enclosed for 2023) are cumulative for all Harbor Department accounts/facilities for a calendar year. Table 1 shows the waste generation, diversion, and disposal quantities for calendar year 2023 by category. The waste diversion rate without Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste is 29% and the waste diversion rate with C&D is 56%, as shown in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

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LAHD Waste Generation, Diversion, and Disposal Data for 2023 (Tons)						
Year	Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Disposed Of	Source Reduced Material <sup>1</sup>	Recyclable Materials Diverted	Organics Diverted	C&D Disposed Of	C&D Materials Diverted <sup>2</sup>
2023	2,197	10	220	687	201	2,116

**Table 1.** Harbor Department waste generation, diversion, and disposal data for 2023.

1 – Source reduction is defined as the practice of reducing the quantity of waste generated prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal by changing the processes that generate waste in the first place.

2 – Note that the C&D Materials Diverted category includes both C&D waste (e.g., concrete and asphalt) as well as other materials originating from the Construction Division, such as green waste, scrap metal, and wood.

LAHD Waste Diversion without C&D Year 2023		
Total Waste Diverted w/o C&D <sup>3</sup>	Total Waste Handled w/o C&D <sup>4</sup>	Waste Diversion %
911 tons	2,197 tons	29%

LAHD Waste Diversion with C&D Year 2023		
Total Waste Diverted w/ C&D <sup>5</sup>	Total Waste Handled w/ C&D <sup>6</sup>	Waste Diversion %
3,032 tons	2,398 tons	56%

**Table 2 and 3.** Harbor Department total waste diverted and handled (with and without C&D) for 2023.

3- Summation of categories: Source Reduced Material, Recyclable Materials Diverted, and Organics Diverted.

4- Summation of categories in 3 and MSW Disposed Of.

5- Summation of categories in 4 and C&D Materials Diverted.

6- Summation of categories in 5 and C&D Disposed Of.

**Conclusion**

The Harbor Department is diligently working on executing the strategies outlined in the ZWP to reach the City’s zero waste targets. The Harbor Department is committed to implementing meaningful zero waste measures at local community events and at Harbor Department-owned facilities occupied by City employees. Questions regarding this report may be directed to Lisa Wunder, Acting Director of Environmental Management, via email at [lwunder@portla.org](mailto:lwunder@portla.org) or (310) 732-7688.

Enclosure

cc: Barbara Romero, 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.



Waste & Recycling Tonnage/Diversion Report  
Port of Los Angeles  
2023

January-2023	Total (Tons)
Trash/Rolloff	123.35
Trash/Front End	66.94
Recycling	4.18
Green Waste	33.20
C&D	2.21
INERTS	16.08

Total Trash Tons: 190.26  
 Total Recycling Tons: 4.18  
 Total Green Waste Tons: 33.20  
 Total C&D Tons: 2.21  
 Total INERTS Tons: 16.08  
 Diversion Rate: 22.6%

Feburary-2023	Total (Tons)
Trash/Rolloff	98.50
Trash/Front End	66.47
Recycling	4.94
Green Waste	26.73
C&D	1.99
INERTS	188.00

Total Trash Tons: 164.97  
 Total Recycling Tons: 4.94  
 Total Green Waste Tons: 26.73  
 Total C&D Tons: 1.99  
 Total INERTS Tons: 188.00  
 Diversion Rate: 57.3%



Waste & Recycling Tonnage/Diversion Report  
Port of Los Angeles  
2023

March-2023	Total (Tons)
Trash/Rolloff	77.66
Trash/Front End	64.29
Recycling	4.59
Green Waste	19.03
C&D	4.66
INERTS	53.43

Total Trash Tons: 141.95  
 Total Recycling Tons: 4.59  
 Total Green Waste Tons: 19.03  
 Total C&D Tons: 4.66  
 Total INERTS Tons: 53.43  
 Diversion Rate: 36.5%

April -2023	Total (Tons)
Trash/Rolloff	134.02
Trash/Front End	66.85
Recycling	5.16
Green Waste	0.00
C&D	0.00
INERTS	35.96

Total Trash Tons: 200.87  
 Total Recycling Tons: 5.16  
 Total Green Waste Tons: 0.00  
 Total C&D Tons: 0.00  
 Total INERTS Tons: 35.96  
 Diversion Rate: 17.1%



Waste & Recycling Tonnage/Diversion Report  
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 2023

May-2023	Total (Tons)
Trash/Rolloff	115.83
Trash/Front End	67.85
Recycling	5.69
Green Waste	7.60
C&D	0.00
INERTS	122.26

Total Trash Tons: 183.68  
 Total Recycling Tons: 5.69  
 Total Green Waste Tons: 7.60  
 Total C&D Tons: 0.00  
 Total INERTS Tons: 122.26  
 Diversion Rate: 42.5%

June-2023	Total (Tons)
Trash/Rolloff	96.92
Trash/Front End	66.30
Recycling	6.06
Green Waste	15.65
C&D	4.77
INERTS	147.93

Total Trash Tons: 163.22  
 Total Recycling Tons: 6.06  
 Total Green Waste Tons: 15.65  
 Total C&D Tons: 4.77  
 Total INERTS Tons: 147.93  
 Diversion Rate: 51.7%



Waste & Recycling Tonnage/Diversion Report  
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 2023

July-2023	Total (Tons)
Trash/Rolloff	71.37
Trash/Front End	63.06
Recycling	16.33
Green Waste	17.94
C&D	0.00
INERTS	288.87

Total Trash Tons: 134.43  
 Total Recycling Tons: 16.33  
 Total Green Waste Tons: 17.94  
 Total C&D Tons: 0.00  
 Total INERTS Tons: 288.87  
 Diversion Rate: 70.6%

August-2023	Total (Tons)
Trash/Rolloff	128.62
Trash/Front End	60.89
Recycling	17.89
Green Waste	30.12
C&D	19.20
INERTS	204.07

Total Trash Tons: 189.51  
 Total Recycling Tons: 17.89  
 Total Green Waste Tons: 30.12  
 Total C&D Tons: 19.20  
 Total INERTS Tons: 204.07  
 Diversion Rate: 58.9%



Waste & Recycling Tonnage/Diversion Report  
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 2023

September-2023	Total (Tons)
Trash/Rolloff	154.84
Trash/Front End	60.62
Recycling	17.26
Green Waste	27.28
C&D	0.00
INERTS	0.00

Total Trash Tons: 215.46  
 Total Recycling Tons: 17.26  
 Total Green Waste Tons: 27.28  
 Total C&D Tons: 0.00  
 Total INERTS Tons: 0.00  
 Diversion Rate: 17.1%

October-2023	Total (Tons)
Trash/Rolloff	193.68
Trash/Front End	59.95
Recycling	13.26
Green Waste	39.33
C&D	19.24
INERTS	40.51

Total Trash Tons: 253.63  
 Total Recycling Tons: 13.26  
 Total Green Waste Tons: 39.33  
 Total C&D Tons: 19.24  
 Total INERTS Tons: 40.51  
 Diversion Rate: 30.7%



Waste & Recycling Tonnage/Diversion Report  
 Port of Los Angeles  
 2023

<u>November-2023</u>	<u>Total (Tons)</u>
Trash/Rolloff	124.95
Trash/Front End	59.09
Recycling	10.39
Green Waste	48.89
C&D	12.91
INERTS	27.80

Total Trash Tons: 184.04  
 Total Recycling Tons: 10.39  
 Total Green Waste Tons: 48.89  
 Total C&D Tons: 12.91  
 Total INERTS Tons: 27.80  
 Diversion Rate: 35.2%

<u>December-2023</u>	<u>Total (Tons)</u>
Trash/Rolloff	116.94
Trash/Front End	57.68
Recycling	10.59
Green Waste	25.51
C&D	17.38
INERTS	60.31
Wood	5.4

Total Trash Tons: 174.62  
 Total Recycling Tons: 10.59  
 Total Green Waste Tons: 25.51  
 Total C&D Tons: 17.38  
 Total INERTS Tons: 60.31  
 Total Wood Tons: 5.4  
 Diversion Rate: 40.6%

Total 2023 Trash Tons: 2,196.64  
 Total 2023 Recycling Tons: 116.34  
 Total 2023 Green Waste Tons: 291.28  
 Total 2023 C&D Tons: 82.36  
 Total 2023 INERTS Tons: 1,185.22  
 Total 2023 Wood Tons: 5.4  
 Total 2023 Diversion Rate: 43.3%