

City Managers Workshop 2

August 26, 2021

1 – 3 p.m.

- 1:00 Welcome/Introduction
Lilly Simmering, Deputy County Executive Officer
- Keynote Address
"Not Your Father's Waste Management System"
Tom Koutroulis, Director, OC Waste & Recycling
- 1:30 "Status of Edible Food Recovery in OC"
Mike Learakos, Executive Director, Abound Food Care
- 1:45 "Resolving Challenges: The Bottom Line" - Consultant panel
Trevor Blythe, Vice President, EcoNomics Inc.
April Hamud, Project Manager, HF&H
- 2:15 "A City Perspective: How Santa Ana is Marching Forward"
Nabil Saba, Executive Director, City of Santa Ana Public Works
- 2:35 Q+A / Discussion
All speakers plus Cara Morgan, Branch Chief, CalRecycle
- 3:00 Closing Comments
Tom Koutroulis

SPEAKERS

TOM KOUTROULIS

Director, OC Waste & Recycling

Anyone who knows Tom knows that he loves to “talk trash.” He began his career in the solid waste industry in Orange County working in a family business. With nearly 30 years of experience in the industry, Tom has witnessed first-hand the ever-changing waste and recycling landscape. He has held various roles working on business improvement projects for safety, efficiency, customer service, technology implementation and provided key research and development in organics recycling. Prior to being appointed OCWR director in 2017, Tom was senior manager, organics project development, for Waste Management, Inc., where he worked for 13 years. He holds a bachelor’s degree in English literature from University of California, Irvine and earned his master’s in technology management and implementation from University of Phoenix.



MIKE LEARAKOS

Executive Director, Abound Food Care

Mike brings more than 35 years of experience across all segments of the food industry, including president and co-founder of a broad-spectrum food service company. He has served as a sales and marketing manager representing food service manufacturers, processors, facility designers, and distributors. He is the impassioned architect of the nationally recognized Waste Not OC Food Recovery Model. After serving in a volunteer role at WNOOC for several years, Mike became the executive director in 2016. He guided the non-profit organization’s transition to a nationwide movement as Abound Food Care, which works with healthcare providers, the foodservice industry, municipalities and waste haulers toward a common outcome: to assist people suffering from food insecurity by recovering wholesome food destined for landfills and direct it to area food pantries.



TREVOR BLYTHE

Vice President, EcoNomics, Inc.

Trevor Blythe has more than 15 years of consulting experience with EcoNomics, Inc. in the sustainable materials management industry. He works with local governments and private industry to overcome operational and financial barriers to implement state-mandated sustainability programs at the municipal scale. With the passage of SB 1383 and its organics recycling mandates, Trevor has assisted several cities in developing diversion programs through hauling contract negotiations, competitive procurements and extensive financial modeling. Trevor holds an MBA in sustainable management from the Presidio Graduate School in San Francisco and a bachelor’s in environmental sciences from the University of California, Santa Barbara with an emphasis on geographic information systems.



APRIL HILARIO HAMUD
Project Manager, HF&H Consultants

As an HF&F project manager since 2011, April's experience includes negotiating and drafting contracts and conducting procurements of contracts in the areas of solid waste collection, recycling, solid waste facility development and operation and street sweeping. She has developed financial models for the operation of county-wide disposal systems. April also assists clients in managing their solid waste franchise agreements, providing state mandate compliance and diversion monitoring, and program implementation services. She serves on the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Southern California founding chapter board as the Young Professional representative. April holds a master's degree in economics from Cal State Fullerton and a bachelor's in mathematics from the University of California, Riverside.



NABIL SABA
Executive Director, City of Santa Ana Public Works

Nabil directs the four divisions of Santa Ana's Public Works department, which is served by a professional staff of 200 employees. He is responsible for Santa Ana's infrastructure and quality of life, including the development and maintenance of all public streets, storm drains, sewers, and water facilities; management of refuse collection and recycling; street sweeping, public right-of-way landscaping, graffiti removal, traffic mitigation, and water quality and sustainability. In addition to his tenure as chairman of the Orange County Water District Groundwater Producers, he has served as liaison between the City and such public interests as the Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) Member Agency Managers Group and Orange County Water District (OCWD) Producers Group. A California state registered civil engineer, Nabil holds a master's degree in civil and environmental engineering from Loyola Marymount University and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Cal Poly.



CARA MORGAN
Branch Chief, CalRecycle

Having served on the team that developed the SB 1383 regulations, Cara is a foremost expert on the legislation. She now leads teams on developing implementation tools and training for jurisdictions and stakeholders. As branch chief, Cara heads CalRecycle's Local Assistance and Market Development team, which provides technical assistance and oversees compliance for the California's more than 540 jurisdictions and 200 state agencies. Her branch also works closely with each of the 40 Recycling Market Development Zones in the state, assisting recycling manufacturers that are interested in expanding operations or siting a new facility in California. On behalf of such manufacturers, team members collaborate with the Governor's Office of Economic Development and other sister agencies to provide a full suite of services, including CalRecycle's funding programs, state tax incentives, bond financing programs, workforce training reimbursement programs, free site selection services and feedstock sources. Cara holds a bachelor's degree in biology from California State University, Sacramento.

