

Speaker Biographies

PAUL ALVA | LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Paul Alva is a civil engineer with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. He oversees the County's solid waste planning efforts, facility oversight, and policy development. He holds a degree in Civil Engineering from Cal Poly Pomona. He serves on the Board of several solid waste organizations, and resides in the San Gabriel Valley.

JOHN KELLY ASTOR | CALIFORNIA REFUSE RECYCLING COUNCIL

Mr. Astor has been a lawyer for 28 years. His individual practice involves a concentration in governmental affairs and solid waste management law. He is a registered lobbyist, and represents various segments of the solid waste industry, including several trade associations and private companies. Mr. Astor has extensive experience in the negotiation, development, and implementation of solid waste collection franchises and ordinances, and has represented waste collection and recycling firms before several State Agencies, the California Legislature, and more than fifty local agencies (cities, counties, special districts) throughout California. He has been involved with the development of every significant legislative enactment in California affecting solid waste management since 1987. Mr. Astor has held a Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating of AV Preeminent for more than 15 years.

KAREN COCA | LOS ANGELES REGIONAL AGENCY

Karen Coca has worked in the solid waste and recycling field since 1991, when she served as an unpaid intern in the City of Los Angeles Planning Department, updating the solid waste element of the City's General Plan. During her 20 years with the City of Los Angeles, Karen has been involved in every aspect of solid waste and waste diversion, from performing waste characterizations at the Lopez Landfill, working at City HHW collection events, assisting with siting and permitting of facilities, CEQA review, budget analysis, managing the City's base year study, and development and implementation of new waste diversion and recycling programs.

One of the most exciting projects is the collaboration with other cities in Los Angeles County, which evolved into a state recognized Regional Agency for purposes of AB939 Compliance in 2003. The members of this agency share issues, solutions, and work together to reach our common waste diversion goals. The Los Angeles Area Regional Agency (LARA) is the largest in the state, and enjoys a diversion rate equivalent of 70% in 2010.

JEFF DUHAMEL | CITY OF INDUSTRY

Jeff Duhamel is the solid waste and recycling consultant for the City of Industry. Mr. Duhamel is also the founder Waste Systems Technology, Inc., and Waste Systems Management, LLC, both environmental solid waste management firms offering contract services to a number of municipalities.

Mr. Duhamel started in the waste management industry nearly 20 years ago, designing and developing large volume solid waste facilities.

Over the last 15 years Jeff Duhamel been retained by a number of municipalities across the State of California, offering solid waste and recycling consulting services, auditing services and facility design devices. For the last 10 years Jeff Duhamel has been the environmental consultant for the City of Industry, overseeing all waste and recycling programs including their very successful permit salvage program.

HOWARD LEVENSON | CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING & RECOVERY (CALRECYCLE)

Dr. Howard Levenson is CalRecycle's deputy director for materials management and local assistance. He previously held the position of assistant director of the former California Integrated Waste Management Board's (CIWMB)--and then CalRecycle's--materials management and local assistance program.

For four years Dr. Levenson served as deputy director of the board's Permitting and Enforcement Division and prior to that position, supervisor of the board's Organic Materials Management Section. From 1991-1998 Dr. Levenson served as advisor to CIWMB Board Member Paul Relis.

Prior to his service at the board, Dr. Levenson worked from 1983-1991 as a senior associate in the Environment Program of the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), a nonpartisan analytical support agency of the U.S. Congress. While there he worked on a range of environmental issues, including marine pollution, groundwater pollution, climate change, and municipal and industrial solid waste management. Levenson was the primary author of OTA's 1989 assessment, "Facing America's Trash: What Next for Municipal Solid Waste?"

Dr. Levenson has Bachelor of Science and master's degrees in natural resources management from Humboldt State University and a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Kansas.

Robert Ferrante

TOBIE MITCHELL | LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Tobie Gutierrez Mitchell serves in a project management capacity for the Los Angeles County Conversion Technology Project. Since joining the Environmental Programs Division in 2007, she has worked on facility site identification and technology evaluation for the demonstration and commercial phases of the County's program. Tobie regularly provides presentations to stakeholder groups, the Los Angeles County Waste Management Task Force, and Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee on the progress of this effort.

Tobie holds a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a Graduate Degree in Public Administration from Cal State Northridge.

CAROLL MORTENSEN | CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING & RECOVERY (CALRECYCLE)

Caroll Mortensen was appointed CalRecycle director by Edmund G. Brown Jr., in October 2011. As director, Ms. Mortensen leads efforts on waste reduction and recycling as well as oversight of waste disposal in order to protect public health and the environment.

Ms. Mortensen has an extensive background in the development of environmental policy and legislation. She most recently served as consultant for the State Senate Committee on Environmental Quality where she analyzed legislation and provided policy guidance related to solid and hazardous waste, and air and water quality.

As chief consultant for the State Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials from 2005-2007, Ms. Mortensen worked on issues related to hazardous waste, green chemistry, pesticides, brownfields, and other related policy areas.

Prior to her work in the Capitol, Ms. Mortensen previously spent 13 years at the former California Integrated Waste Management Board working in a wide variety of positions within the board and later as a member of the executive team as legislative director.

Ms. Mortensen earned her Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science from California State University, Sacramento.

PAUL PRESTIA | LOS ANGELES COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS

Paul is a registered Civil Engineer who obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Cal Poly Pomona and a master's degree in environmental engineering from Cal State Long Beach. Paul has worked for the Sanitation Districts for over 22 years, spending 14 years being involved in the operation and maintenance of the Districts' 11 Water Reclamation Plants. In 2006 Paul began working in the Districts Solid Waste Department when he became manager of the Energy Recovery Facilities Section. Paul has recently moved over to now lead the Districts Waste-by-Rail Section.

RON SALDANA | LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISPOSAL ASSOCIATION

For the past 17-years Ron Saldana has been president and owner of Pacific Rim Communications (PRC), representing primarily solid waste industry clients in the areas of public relations, legislative advocacy, marketing, and industry management services. Currently Ron serves as Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Disposal Association (LACDA), representing mostly small and medium-sized waste haulers throughout Southern California. He also serves as the industry representative on the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force. Prior to the formation of LACDA, Ron served as Executive Director for the California Disposal Association.

PRC also represents various solid waste companies throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties, generally on a project-by-project basis. Much of this work has been involved with public relations campaigns in support of permitting activities for solid waste facilities and other permitting efforts for developments in and around closed landfills. Some past clients have included BFI/Republic Industries, the BKK Corporation, Standard Pacific Homes (housing

developments adjacent to the BKK-West Covina Landfill), and the California Refuse Removal Council-Southern Section.

Prior to forming PRC, Ron worked with several solid waste associations as part of the Hy Weitzman Company and spent many years working in the areas of public relations and legislative advocacy as an employee of several major national trade associations.

HEIDI SANBORN | CALIFORNIA PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Heidi has been active in the solid waste industry in California for 20 years, working in various public and private positions including with consulting firms to cities and counties drafting solid waste management plans and designing and implementing recycling programs, as well as being an independent consultant, and then serving in state government as the technical advisor to the Chair of the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), now CalRecycle.

As a consultant, Ms. Sanborn was the primary author of the contractor's report to the CIWMB titled "Framework for Evaluating End-of-Life Product Management Systems in California" (7/07). This report analyzed different policy systems around the world and recommended that California utilize EPR policy for problem products to ensure fully funded and sustainable recycling systems for products banned from disposal like mercury lighting and batteries.

Ms. Sanborn is widely recognized as the expert in EPR policy in California and internationally. She has been called to serve as an expert witness making presentations on packaging EPR to the California Ocean Protection Council and in the California legislature on producer responsibility legislation, and has presented to the National EPA Pollution Prevention conference in Washington D.C, at the international EPR Packaging conference in Brussels Belgium in October 2010, and was the keynote speaker at the Solid Waste and Recycling Annual conference in Perth Australia in September 2011. Ms. Sanborn has authored numerous articles and reports on producer responsibility.

Ms. Sanborn is a graduate of the University of California at Davis with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science – Public Service and a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Southern California.