

Memo to PPCC and the Community from Ami Fields-Meyer, West LA Representative, Mayor Eric Garcetti – April 5, 2019

I'm writing to follow up on the two big questions that came out of my remarks at the last PPCC meeting. These answers were furnished by our infrastructure team, which oversees the departments in question.

What work has been done to get us ready to take on the 100% Wastewater Recycling Goal?

In early 2017, Terminal Island recycled water capacity was expanded so that facility recycles all the wastewater going through. A small portion of the flow is still discharged as a result of the treatment process. Treated wastewater from Tillman and LA Glendale WRP goes to non-potable reuse and supporting environmental and recreational uses such as LA River / Lake Balboa, with plans to expand groundwater recharge at Tillman. At our largest WRP, Hyperion, a Membrane Bioreactor Pilot Facility was announced February 2018 that aims to double the recycled water capacity at Hyperion by testing the efficacy of new membrane bioreactors. Additionally, the design of a new 1.5 MGD (up to a maximum 5 MGD) Advanced Water Purification Facility is underway to supply LAX by 2021.

Can we certify that the materials LA residents place in Blue Bins are still being recycled as advertised?

Yes, contents in blue bins are still going to municipal recycling facilities where the material is sorted, baled, and sent to other facilities where they are processed and made into new products. However, due to stricter requirements placed on the facilities, material must be extremely clean. As a result, there are instances now where material may not be recycled due to contamination. This issue is primarily related to mixed paper and plastic 3-7 where the threshold for contamination is very low. We unfortunately have seen instances where an entire recycling load may be diverted to landfill because the contamination is determined to be too high. This emphasizes the importance of knowing what can and cannot go in blue bins and keeping paper and cardboard clean and dry.

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