

November 16, 2016

Los Angeles City Council
Energy and Environment Committee
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Bureau of Sanitation Zero Waste LA Franchise System – Recommendation of Waste Haulers (File Number 10-1797-S17)

Honorable Committee Members,

Prevention Institute is a member of the Don't Waste LA (DWLA) Coalition, which has advocated for the transformation of Los Angeles' commercial and multi-family waste hauling system and creation of the Zero Waste LA exclusive franchise system. In order to reach the ambitious goals as laid out in the Zero Waste LA policy, Prevention Institute encourages the Energy and Environment Committee to move forward with the recommendation of waste haulers made by the Bureau of Sanitation after an extensive two year vetting process.

Prevention Institute is a national non-profit organization that brings cutting-edge research, practice, and analysis to today's pressing health and safety concerns. Determined to achieve health and safety for all, to improve community environments equitably, and to serve as a focal point for primary prevention practice, Prevention Institute asks what can be done in the first place, before people get sick or injured. We build momentum for effective policies, such as the Zero Waste Franchise System, organizational practices, and collaborative efforts by synthesizing research and practice; developing prevention tools and frameworks; designing and guiding interdisciplinary partnerships; and conducting training and strategic consultation with government, foundations, and community-based organizations.

Zero Waste LA has the potential to bring multiple benefits to our City, including healthier community environments for all Angelenos and guaranteed access to recycling with stable rates and quality customer service. This new system will reduce negative impacts on the environment and health by helping our city achieve its goal to divert waste from landfills, by taking dirty diesel trucks off of the road, and by reducing truck traffic through efficient routes. The plan will also prevent and reduce adverse health impacts resulting from the presence of numerous industrial pollution sources in close proximity to homes, schools, parks and other public places frequented by vulnerable populations. Zero Waste LA will also create new green jobs, and incentivize investment in green infrastructure to process new waste materials

Like many others in the DWLA Coalition, we are confident that these waste hauler companies have met the high standards that have been set in the Zero Waste LA ordinance. By moving forward with recommendations of waste haulers made by the Bureau of Sanitation, we can move closer to making our city both a national and global leader when it comes to transforming the waste and recycling industry from dirty and dangerous, into a clean and environmentally sustainable industry that improves the health and safety of all city residents.

Prevention Institute urges the committee to move forward with these recommendations that will improve the quality of life, health and safety for all communities across Los Angeles as well as improve working conditions for thousands of waste and recycling workers. Thank you for your work to implement the Zero Waste LA Franchise System!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elva Yañez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elva Yañez

Director of Health Equity
Prevention Institute

Cc: Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Councilmember David E. Ryu
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Councilmember Curren D. Price
Councilmember Herb J. Wesson
Councilmember Mike Bonin
Councilmember Mitchell Englander
Councilmember Jose Huizar
Councilmember Joe Buscaino
Maria Espinoza
Erika Pulst
Ackley Padilla