



305 E. 1st Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
goodfoodla.org

November 22, 2016

Councilmember Nury Martinez, Chair
Energy and Environment Committee
200 N. Spring St., Room 1010
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

Dear Councilmember Martinez,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, and as a member of the Don't Waste LA Coalition, I would like to express our strong support for and look forward to the passing of the Zero Waste LA Franchise System. Our broad coalition has advocated for the transformation of LA's commercial and multi-family waste hauling system, which we anticipate will bring multiple benefits to the City.

The LA Food Policy Council is a collective impact initiative, representing over 1,000 organizations, working to make Southern California a Good Food region for everyone—where food is healthy, affordable, fair and sustainable. Our key objectives are to improve the health and wellbeing of residents, particularly in disadvantaged communities; develop a thriving “Good Food” economy; and strengthen agricultural and environmental stewardship throughout the region. Our Food Waste Prevention & Rescue Working Group has been working to advance policy goals that support a comprehensive vision for food recovery work, one that bridges and unites food assistance and food recycling advocates to address hunger, food access, good jobs, sustainability and thriving urban farms.

Zero Waste LA will change how our city handles our waste on more than one front, including guaranteed access to recycling for all Angelenos with stable rates and quality customer service. We're most excited about how this new system will reduce negative impacts on the environment by helping our city achieve its goal to divert waste from landfills by requiring haulers to partner with food recovery organizations to save edible surplus food and connect it to hunger relief organizations. This policy will also improve community air conditions by taking dirty diesel trucks off of the road and by reducing truck traffic through efficient routes. By increasing our level of recycling, Zero Waste LA will also create new green jobs, and incentivize investment in green infrastructure to process new waste materials.

In order to reach the ambitious goals as laid out in the Zero Waste LA policy, we encourage the Committee to stay on course and move forward with the waste hauler recommendations made by the Bureau of Sanitation. We are confident these companies have met the high standards laid out in the ordinance. Let's continue to lead the way as a national and global leader, transforming the waste and recycling industry from dirty and dangerous, into a clean and environmentally sustainable industry that benefits all Angelenos.

We hope this committee acts quickly to move forward with these. Thank you for all your work on the Zero Waste LA Franchise System!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clare Fox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clare Fox
Executive Director
Los Angeles Food Policy Council

CC:
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Gil Cedillo
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell