



MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA, INC.
1600 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
CHAIRMAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

October 2, 2012

The Honorable Bernard Parks
Councilmember
City of Los Angeles
City Hall, Room 460
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Parks,

I am writing to let you know of our opposition to the waste hauling exclusive franchise proposal now under consideration at the City Council. I want to make you aware that we are seeking to exempt studio facilities, and I ask for your support for this exemption.

Simply stated, the exclusive franchise system will hinder studio operations in two fundamental ways. First, it will undermine the studios' efforts and accomplishments in diverting waste from landfills. And second, it will impede the studios' efficient business operations by eliminating their ability to contract for their specific and unique needs.

For the past 23 years MPAA member companies have achieved an unprecedented level of diversion from landfills. In 2011, their collective rate of diversion exceeded 73 percent. In order to reach this rate, all of the companies have specific and detailed requirements of their haulers with respect to the ability to recycle and divert significant amounts of waste. Under an exclusive franchise system, the studios will have no guarantee that the franchised hauler will be able to meet the progressive diversion goals they have established, setting back the environmental accomplishments that our companies have achieved since the California legislature mandated municipal recycling in 1989.

The studios have diverse streams of waste, everything from construction and demolition to hazardous medical waste. And, the variety of waste changes on a daily basis, depending upon the nature of production on the studio lots. They have unique demands for the prompt and timely retrieval of waste from their facilities. For security reasons and to protect confidential information, they require the drivers employed by their haulers to submit to background checks before servicing studio facilities. In short, they need the ability to contract with waste haulers who can meet their unique specifications at a price they are free to negotiate.

Moreover, the exclusive franchise proposal will impose additional costs on studio facilities located within Los Angeles, making those soundstages outside the City less expensive for

productions to rent. At a time when costs drive decisions about where productions film, we urge you not to make Los Angeles soundstages less competitive for filming.

Since an exclusive franchise will interfere with their operations, both in executing their environmental commitments and in the running of their business, we ask for your support in exempting studio facilities.

It is my understanding that an exemption for filming that occurs outside the studio facilities will be included in the ordinance that will be considered by the City Council. I appreciate the recognition that the unusual and often unpredictable needs of "on location" filming cannot be met through an exclusive franchise arrangement. However, the studio facilities, unique to Los Angeles, also require an exemption.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher J. Dodd". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Christopher J. Dodd