



May 2, 2012

Los Angeles City Council
City Hall
200 N. Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Clean Up Green Up motion – CF 11-0112

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing on behalf of Prevention Institute to urge members of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee and the full City Council to VOTE IN FAVOR of the Clean Up, Green Up motion, CF 11-0112.

Prevention Institute is a national center dedicated to improving community health and well-being by building momentum for effective primary prevention of illness and injury. Prevention Institute also coordinates the *Healthy Places Coalition*—a multi-sector coalition that advances public health involvement in land use and transportation planning to ensure that all neighborhoods in California promote the opportunity to live a healthy life—and is committed to improving air quality for communities exposed to harmful toxins and contaminants.

According to the American Lung Association, over 90% of Californians live in areas with unhealthy air quality. Statewide, Los Angeles ranks #1 for ozone pollution, #3 for year round particle pollution, and #4 for short-term particle pollution.¹ Research shows that neighborhood and city designs can directly impact rates of health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, obesity, depression, unintended injuries, and some cancers.² And low-income communities and communities of color, tend to get ill more frequently, more severely, and at younger ages. The Clean Up Green Up policy proposal can help reduce these disturbing levels of air pollution—complementing other important environmental initiatives taking place in Los Angeles including the South Coast Air Quality Management District’s (AQMD) Clean Communities Plan.

The Clean Up Green Up initiative is an innovative yet balanced solution to the problem of the overconcentration of polluting land uses adjacent to homes, schools, parks and other sensitive uses. Clean Up Green Up’s approach involves creating overlay districts in three pilot communities—Boyle Heights, Pacoima and Wilmington—to directly address these environmental inequities. By combining economic incentives with traditional planning tools and promoting collaboration among government agencies, residents and businesses, the Clean Up Green Up initiative can engage local business to reduce existing levels of pollution cost effectively, while also spurring economic development by attracting new green businesses to our communities.

Prevention Institute endorses the Clean Up Green Up motion because it demonstrates that working together, business, government and residents can develop meaningful solutions to the problem of air pollution that not only protect public health but also ensure a healthy economic climate where businesses can thrive. Thank you for your time and support for this matter.

Sincerely,
Manal J. Aboelata, MPH
Managing Director, Prevention Institute
On behalf of the Healthy Places Coalition

¹ American Lung Association. “Most Polluted Cities.” *State of the Air 2012* Accessed at <http://www.stateoftheair.org/2012/city-rankings/most-polluted-cities.html>

² For example, in the study, “Researchers Link Childhood Asthma to Exposure to Traffic-Related Pollution,” USC researchers found that children living in close proximity to a freeway or major thoroughfare are more likely to develop asthma.