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May 3, 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:

The Clean Up Green Up initiative is an innovative yet balanced solution to the overconcentration of polluting near homes, schools, parks and other sensitive areas. This approach involves creating overlay districts in the three pilot communities, Boyle Heights, Pacoima and Wilmington, combining economic incentives with traditional planning tools, and promoting collaboration among government agencies, residents and businesses. In light of difficult economic times, taking this sensible approach by providing various incentives will reduce existing levels of pollution while encouraging local businesses to clean up and green up and attracting new green businesses to our community.

This policy proposal complements other important environmental initiatives taking place in Los Angeles including the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) Clean Communities Plan. This program also seeks to reduce the exposure to air toxics throughout the District, with emphasis on cumulative impacts. We are excited about the potential for synergy and collaboration between the future City Clean Up Green Up pilot program and AQMD's efforts

We understand that the City Council will be considering the proposed Clean Up Green Up program as reflected in the attached motion. We respectfully request your approval of the three pilot overlay districts in Boyle Heights, Pacoima and Wilmington. However, the LABC urges the committee to be clear in their support and implementation of the Clean Up Green Up program. This program should involve the local business community, be carefully designed to provide continuous support to the local businesses, and ensure the Clean Up Green Up program does not increase their long-term costs. The Council should also be clear that the charge is not to drive businesses away from these areas but rather work collaboratively to identify technical ways to reduce pollution and secure funding opportunities and other measures to encourage reduction of air pollution in these communities. We believe that a strong outreach to the businesses in these areas is a necessary requirement of this program.

Los Angeles Business Council believes that the Clean Up Green Up pilot program can be a useful opportunity to see if a positive collaboration can be used to reduce pollution and at the same time promote economic growth for communities

Best regards,

Many Lesie Mary Leslie, President