



July 2, 2015

Mr. Michael LoGrande
Director, Department of City Planning
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street, 5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Clean Up Green Up (CPC-2015-1462-CA) –Proposed Zoning Changes
(CF# 11-0112)

Dear Mr. LoGrande:

On behalf of El Nido Family Centers, I respectfully submit this letter in strong support of the proposed Clean Up Green Up Initiative and Zoning Code Amendment dated May 14, 2015.

First, we would like to thank Hagu Solomon-Cary and other city planning staff for their efforts in drafting such unprecedented land use policies and the far-reaching Clean Up Green Up program.

We strongly support the proposed new development standards for the three pilot Green Zones of Boyle Heights, Pacoima/Sun Valley and Wilmington. The standards provide much needed local regulatory tools to address issues arising from the proximity of incompatible land uses – largely industrial uses close to homes, schools, parks and other places where vulnerable populations gather. The standards also deal with the cumulative adverse impacts that result from concentrations of certain uses close to such sensitive uses. The proposed land use regulations address these adverse cumulative effects, whereas business-by-business regulations governed by other entities often do not recognize or effectively respond to such conditions.

The Clean Up Green Up Initiative is an important step towards achieving environmental justice and protecting the public health of residents from three of LA's most polluted communities (Boyle Heights, Pacoima/Sun Valley and Wilmington) and we expect their example will lead the way for the rest of the city.

- We support companion changes to the Planning and Zoning Code including the conditional use permit for asphalt manufacturing and refinery facilities. We understand that most California communities that have such uses provide for conditional use permits to tailor appropriate land use to limit the effects of such facilities on nearby communities. We concur that such controls can make them better neighbors.

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- We support the new standards which will help improve the overall quality of life for local residents. Neighborhoods that were once barren, will now be transformed into urban greenery with newly planted trees and improved landscapes. These improvements will help clean the local air and provide much needed relief from the sweltering heat frequently experienced in San Fernando Valley and elsewhere during the summer months.
- We also support the proposed change in the Building Code that will require higher quality air filtration systems for certain new structures within 1,000 feet of freeways. Numerous studies have shown that ultra-fine particles that come from freeways have a serious health impact on people who spend a lot of time close to these freeways, especially in lung development in children. The density of the city and the lack of developable land that is not proximate to freeways, combined with traffic volumes on LA's freeways suggest that the need for such filtration systems in LA is perhaps among the greatest in the state.
- We also applaud the emphasis of the CUGU program on supporting local businesses with financial and technical assistance to become more economically and environmentally sustainable.
- We'd like to emphasize the importance of two parallel actions beyond the scope of the proposed zoning code changes— the recommendation to hire an ombudsperson for the Green Zones and efforts to streamline inspection and enforcement programs. The ombudsperson position will support businesses in complying with environmental regulations and assist them in more easily accessing funding and incentive programs that promote environmentally friendly practices. A streamlined enforcement program will help identify those businesses that operate without proper permits as well and add certainty and equitable treatment to those businesses which strive to operate safely and properly.

We eagerly anticipate the passage of the Clean Up Green Up policies and we look forward to the success of the three pilot zones, which will lead the way to economic innovations and a healthier, safer and greener Los Angeles.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed Clean Up Green Up Zoning Amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Liz Herrera".

Liz Herrera, L.C.S.W.

Executive Director

Cc: Hagu Solomon-Cary
Los Angeles City Council
City Clerk



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RE: Clean Up Green Up (CPC-2015-1462-CA) –Proposed Zoning Changes
(CF# 11-0112)

Dear Mr. LoGrande:

On behalf of the Urban & Environmental Policy Institute (UEPI) at Occidental College, I respectfully submit this letter in strong support of the proposed Clean Up Green Up Initiative and Zoning Code Amendment dated May 14, 2015. UEPI has worked with community organizations and residents in the three pilot neighborhoods on issues related to pollution, public health, and land use, and we believe that the proposed Clean Up Green Up Ordinance is an innovative tool to enhance environmental justice and economic development in Los Angeles.

Many thanks to Hagu Solomon-Cary and other city planning staff for their efforts in drafting such unprecedented land use policies and the far-reaching Clean Up Green Up program.

We strongly support the proposed new development standards for the three pilot Green Zones of Boyle Heights, Pacoima/Sun Valley and Wilmington. The standards provide much needed local regulatory tools to address issues arising from the proximity of incompatible land uses – largely industrial uses close to homes, schools, parks and other places where vulnerable populations gather. The standards also deal with the cumulative adverse impacts that result from concentrations of certain uses close to such sensitive uses. The proposed land use regulations address these adverse cumulative effects, whereas business-by-business regulations governed by other entities often do not recognize or effectively respond to such conditions.

The Clean Up Green Up Initiative is an important step towards achieving environmental justice and protecting the public health of residents from three of LA's most polluted communities (Boyle Heights, Pacoima/Sun Valley, and Wilmington) and we expect their example will lead the way for the rest of the city. In particular, the standards address the challenges of existing incompatibility and can become a model for new zoning standards in the Re:code LA discussions.

In particular, we support the following:

Mr. Michael LoGrande

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- The companion changes to the Planning and Zoning Code including the conditional use permit for asphalt manufacturing and refinery facilities. We understand that most California communities that have such uses provide for conditional use permits to tailor appropriate land use to limit the effects of such facilities on nearby communities. We concur that such controls can make them better neighbors.
- The proposed change in the Building Code that will require higher quality air filtration systems for certain new structures within 1,000 feet of freeways. Numerous studies have shown that ultra-fine particles that come from freeways have a serious health impact on people who spend a lot of time close to these freeways, especially in lung development in children. The density of the city and the lack of developable land that is not proximate to freeways, combined with traffic volumes on LA's freeways suggest that the need for such filtration systems in LA is perhaps among the greatest in the state.
- The emphasis of the CUGU program on supporting local businesses with financial and technical assistance to become more economically and environmentally sustainable.

In addition to the proposed zoning changes, the CUGU proposal includes important implementation components. The first is the recommendation to hire an ombudsperson for the Green Zones and efforts to streamline inspection and enforcement programs. The ombudsperson position will support businesses in complying with environmental regulations and assist them in more easily accessing funding and incentive programs that promote environmentally friendly practices. Additionally, a streamlined enforcement program will help identify those businesses that operate without proper permits as well and add certainty and equitable treatment to those businesses which strive to operate safely and properly.

We look forward to the timely passage of the Clean Up Green Up policies and to the success of the three pilot zones, which will lead the way to economic innovations and a healthier, safer, and greener Los Angeles.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed Clean Up Green Up Zoning Amendments.

Sincerely,



Martha Matsuoka
Associate Professor, Urban and Environmental Policy
Director, Urban & Environmental Policy Institute
Occidental College

Cc: Hagu Solomon-Cary
Los Angeles City Council
City Clerk