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November 3, 2014
Energy and Environment Committee
City of Los Angeles

Re: Council File 14-1432, Zero Waste LA Franchises / Facilitating Organics Recycling in Compliance with AB 1826 (Chesbro)

Dear Honorable Members of the Energy and Environment Committee:

The Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) urges your support for the organics recycling motion, introduced by Councilmembers Paul Koretz, Jose Huizar, and Mike Bonin. The motion will support the implementation of AB 1826 (Chesbro), a law requiring businesses and multifamily residences generating a large amount of organic waste to subscribe to organics recycling services starting April 1, 2016. Signed into law on September 28, 2014, AB 1826 encourages cities like Los Angeles to create adequate facilities for recycling organics like food waste and green waste.

Nearly 4 years ago, LAANE launched the Don't Waste LA Coalition, made up of over 35 organizations and 250 small businesses, to transform the waste and recycling industry with clean air, good jobs, fair rates, and recycling for all. We recently celebrated the passage of the Zero Waste LA Franchise Ordinance, thanks to the leadership of City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti. With this new system, LA is on track to meet its goals to divert 90% of its waste by 2025, while simultaneously promoting job quality, worker health and safety, and fair customer rates.

Currently, organic waste makes up about one-third of our waste stream. Buried in landfills, organic waste rots and produces a greenhouse gas called methane. In October 2013, the City of Los Angeles released its draft environmental impact report for the Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan (SWIRP). The report concluded that fully implementing the SWIRP would require the construction and operation of 1 large-scale composting facility or 6 small-scale composting facilities.

This motion would complement the Bureau of Sanitation's phase-in of organics collection as recommended in the new Zero Waste LA Franchise Ordinance.

By assessing the needs for organics recycling collection and processing infrastructure as outlined in the organics motion, and the successful implementation of the Zero Waste Exclusive Franchise System, Los Angeles is well on its way to achieving zero waste and improving our environment.

For this reason, we ask for your support on the organics recycling motion.

Sincerely,

Jackie Cornejo, Director
Don't Waste LA Project