

MOTION

On February 27, 2015, The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA) issued a report critical of how the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) enforces state regulations on toxic materials within the city, as a Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)

The LAFD's CUPA program - administered through the Fire Prevention Bureau - is responsible for applying statewide standards to facilities within its jurisdiction that treats or generates hazardous waste, operates underground storage tanks, or stores hazardous materials. To maintain its authorization as a CUPA, the City of Los Angeles must operate the program in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

City fire inspectors were cited for 19 deficiencies, including a failure to properly visit all of the chemical factories, gas stations, laboratories and other storage facilities that house dangerous substances. In some cases, the city failed to properly ensure some hazardous waste handlers were testing for leaks and other dangerous conditions.

In a densely-populated urban area like Los Angeles, it is extremely important that regulations on the handling of hazardous materials intended to protect public safety are strictly enforced. Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas has pledged to correct the deficiencies cited by Cal EPA and has instructed Deputy Chief John Vidovich, the Department's new Fire Marshal, to conduct an immediate overhaul of the CUPA.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Los Angeles Fire Department to report within 30 days on the steps the Department is taking to bring CUPA into full compliance with state law.

PRESENTED BY:



JOE BUSCAINO

Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:



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