

19-0925

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MOTION

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

On Wednesday, June 11th, the Board of Public Works authorized the Director of the Bureau of Sanitation to release the RFP for the Citywide Exclusive Franchise System, a monumental step forward in the City's effort towards zero waste. By establishing this franchising approach, communities across Los Angeles will benefit from mitigated vehicle traffic by requiring routes with the least mileage, reduced exposure to vehicle emissions, and a more efficient collection of source-separated materials. Specifically, the objectives of the RFP, as listed in the Joint Board Report, are established as follows: 1) Higher Recycling [90% Diversion from landfills by 2025]; 2) Fair Customer Rates; 3) Reduced Street Impacts and Cleaner Air; 4) Superior Customer Service; 5) Improved health and safety for solid waste workers; 6) Long Term Competition; and 7) Reliable system Infrastructure.

The innovativeness of this approach will have a positive effect in mitigating environmental impacts at both the beginning and end of the waste stream. However, the listed objectives of the RFP overlook the need to specifically address environmental justice, health, and quality of life concerns found through the middle of the waste stream, particularly in communities where most waste transfer stations, waste disposal facilities, and waste processing facilities are concentrated, such as the Sun Valley community in Council District Six.

Fortunately, a critical component of the RFP requires franchisees to use facilities that are certified by the City to handle the materials collected from commercial and multi-family customers. Such a requirement provides the City with the opportunity to further leverage the benefits of the Exclusive Franchise System for underserved and environmentally impacted communities by incorporating requirements and standards that address and mitigate the environmental and quality of life impacts created by waste facilities. As indicated in the RFP, the Certification Program remains to be established. With RFP responses due in late October 2014, it is imperative that a thorough and community oriented approach be taken to develop standards and requirements for Certification.

Over the years, several residents and community leaders in Sun Valley have actively engaged in reviewing land use applications submitted by waste hauling and recycling facilities, transfer stations, as well as landfills. Through this experience, these community leaders – known as the "Working Group" – have raised awareness of the environmental justice and quality of life concerns stemming from these intense land uses. Furthermore, the insight, and commitment of these residents to their communities has resulted in the successful establishment of terms and conditions on various land use approvals that have resulted in a shift towards cleaning up and greening these industrial facilities. The Sun Valley Working Group would be an invaluable asset to the City during the development of the Certification Program for the Exclusive Franchise System.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, work with Council District Six to engage the Sun Valley Working group for requirements, terms, objectives, and definitions to be considered in the development of the Certification Program for the Exclusive Franchise System.

I FURTHER MOVE that prior to the review or evaluation of any RFP responses – a draft Certification Program be prepared for consideration by the Council, along with a report on the concerns and recommendations obtained from the Sun Valley Working Group, indicating which recommendations were incorporated into the Certification Program, and the reasons for any recommendations not being included.

PRESENTED BY:

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NURY MARTINEZ

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SECONDED BY:

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