



ERIC GARCETTI  
MAYOR

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** The Honorable Members of the City Council  
C/o City Clerk

**From:** Eric Garcetti, Mayor *EG*

**Subject:** Exemption of Environmental Specialist I

**Date:** September 30, 2015

The Bureau of Sanitation requested the exemption of one Environmental Specialist I, pursuant to Charter Section 1001 (b), for the employment of persons "to provide management services or render professional, scientific or expert services of an exceptional character." The Charter allows for a maximum of 200 exempt positions under Section 1001(b). Currently, there are 156 approved exemptions. Approval of this request will increase the count.

The Environmental Specialist I position will review scientific reports and modeling efforts that provide scenarios for future impacts due to climate change; gather information from departments to measure their carbon footprints and greenhouse gas emissions; review climate change legislation and determine the impact on the City; seek funding to implement projects that will mitigate or reduce the impact of climate change on City infrastructure; and engage neighborhood councils and other community groups in planning, creating and implementing adaptation plans.

The Environmental Specialist I position requires graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a degree in environmental, ecological, biological, chemical, atmospheric or earth science, oceanography, environmental policy, urban planning or a related field; or graduation from an accredited four-year college or university and one year of full-time paid professional experience in one or more of the following activities: environmental review and analysis, toxic and hazardous material management, the development of characterization and site remediation plans, or environmental legislative and regulatory review of development.

Sanitation has authority for three positions to work on climate change issues in conjunction with my Chief Sustainability Officer. While the Environmental Specialist position is a Civil Service classification, Sanitation states that qualifying experience for an Environmental Specialist has been very broad. Sanitation plans to fill two of its climate change positions through the Civil Service process. However, this exemption will allow candidates from within the City, as well as outside, to compete and display their expertise in the area of climate change.

The exemption of this position will allow the Bureau of Sanitation the flexibility to recruit and select the best-qualified candidate who possesses the necessary experience and expertise for the position. The duties and requirements as described are appropriate to the class of Environmental Specialist I.

Based on my review of the Sanitation's request, as well as the review of the Personnel Department, I hereby approve the request for the exemption of this position and transmit my action to the City Council, pursuant to City Charter Section 1001(b)(1).

EG:ms

cc:

Enrique Saldivar, Bureau of Sanitation  
Ana Guerrero, Office of the Mayor  
Pamela Finley, Office of the Mayor  
Miguel Santana, City Administrative Officer  
Wendy Macy, Personnel Department