

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)
AND PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS**

DATE: February 26, 2013

TO: Responsible and Trustee Agencies
Local and Regional Agencies
Interested Public and Groups
State Clearing House, Office of Planning and Research

PROJECT NAME: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for City Ordinance: City-Wide Exclusive Franchise System for Municipal Solid Waste Collection and Handling

PROJECT LOCATION: Citywide

COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide

DUE DATE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS: March 27, 2013

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meetings

The City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation (Sanitation) will be the Lead Agency for preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to identify and analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with a proposed City ordinance to establish and implement a City-wide exclusive franchise system for municipal solid waste collection and handling services for large multi-family residential units (5 units or more), commercial, industrial, and institutional (Commercial).

Proposed City-Wide Exclusive Franchise System Goals

- Meet City's Zero Waste goal of 90% by 2025;
- Meet and exceed California environmental laws;
- Improve health and safety for solid waste workers;
- Improve efficiency by minimizing collection routes;
- Improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission by requiring low emission, late model clean fuel vehicles;
- Meet customer needs with uniform rates and cutting edge programs City-wide;
- Furthering strategic planning for long-term waste infrastructure needs, including sorting, transfer and processing facilities;
- Maximizing accountability for waste haulers and processing facilities; and
- Foster long-term competition

Original 2/20/2013 noticed revised 2/26/2013 to add two additional Scoping Meetings

Overview of City's Existing Waste Collection System

Currently, solid waste collection, management, and disposal in the City is handled both by Sanitation crews and by various permitted private solid waste haulers. The City provides solid waste collection, recycling and green waste collection services primarily to single family properties and multi-family properties with 4 units or less. Some larger multi-family dwellings (5 units or more) were "grand-fathered" into public collection and will continue to receive City services under the proposed exclusive franchise system. Private solid waste haulers currently collect from all large multi-family dwelling and commercial sites not collected by the City, based on an open permit system.

There are currently between 500 and 750 permitted waste haulers operating in the City. These permitted private haulers provide solid waste collection and disposal services to approximately 75,000 accounts, including large multi-family dwellings, office buildings, commercial buildings, stores and shops, shopping malls, hotels, institutions (such as hospitals and schools), sports and entertainment venues, and TV/movie studios. Approximately 45 haulers serve commercial establishments and the remaining waste haulers primarily collect construction and demolition (C&D) debris. The top 15 haulers collect 97 percent of the solid waste, with the top four haulers collecting 85 percent of the solid waste.

Private waste haulers wishing to collect waste within the City must obtain a Private Waste Hauling Permit from the City. The City does not currently limit the number of waste hauling permits issued annually. Under this system, commercial customers negotiate directly with permitted waste haulers for waste and/or recycling services. The City is not involved with pricing for service or the services offered, including recycling.

There are very few requirements placed on permitted waste haulers. Haulers must obtain an annual permit, submit an annual report and pay quarterly fees. Waste haulers are not required to: provide recycling services, operate clean fuel vehicles, offer similar cost for similar services, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and are not subject to increased scrutiny for worker safety.

The existing open permit system limits the ability of the City to address compliance with State mandates and the City's diversion goals. Although the City has obtained a 72 percent diversion rate, nearly three million tons of solid waste from the City is still disposed in landfills annually. Nearly 70 percent of the City's solid waste disposed of in landfills is from large multi-family dwellings (5 units or more) and commercial customers. Much of the material disposed at landfill sites can be recovered for recycling or composting. Assembly Bill (AB) 341 (Oct 2011) mandated that by July 1, 2012 recycling is to be provided to multi-family dwellings over five units and businesses which dispose of a certain volume/tonnage of solid waste per week. Recycling is not provided to all customers through the current system.

In addition, the existing open permit system limits the ability of the City to address environmental and health impacts associated with solid waste collection and hauling. Unlike the City's solid waste collection truck fleet which are moving to clean alternative fuels, private solid waste haulers in the City are not required to use clean alternative fuel vehicles, which results in a negative impact on local air quality. In addition, existing

waste haulers base their collection routes on their individual customer lists that may be distributed throughout the City resulting in:

- Collection vehicles of multiple firms crossing paths on City streets to serve customers in the same areas on a daily basis.
- Vehicles which need to travel longer distances between stops and service fewer accounts during the day. This results in more collection vehicles on the street than necessary, resulting in an inefficient system, and negative impacts on air quality.
- Recycling is currently not in place at all large multi-family dwelling and commercial establishments in the City, and the addition of recycling services will create more vehicle trips for the 45 haulers servicing commercial accounts.

The existing open permit system also does not allow the City to monitor compliance by private waste haulers with state laws regarding worker health and safety requirements for their employees collecting and processing commercial solid waste collected in the City.

Project Description

On November 14, 2012 the City Council adopted the actions in the Energy and Environment and Ad Hoc on Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee Majority Report, under Council File No. 10-1797. The City Council instructed Sanitation to develop an Exclusive (one hauler per franchise area) Franchise System. Under the proposed system the waste collection system provided by permitted private haulers will shift from the current open permit system to an exclusive franchise. The City will establish a number of franchise collection zones in which a single franchised waste hauler will collect, manage, and dispose solid waste from both commercial and multifamily properties.

To meet Exclusive Franchise System Goals the franchise system will:

- Establish mandatory recycling programs
- Facilitate compliance with State mandates, including SB 32, AB 818, and AB 341;
- Implement clean fuel trucks for waste collection, under South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1193, to reduce air emissions;
- Maximize the efficiency of waste collection truck routing to reduce air emissions, street impacts and noise;
- Promote worker health and safety; and
- Further strategic planning for long-term waste infrastructure needs, including sorting, transfer and processing facilities.

To meet the City's Zero Waste goals and State mandatory commercial recycling requirements, the City will need to expand recycling and waste prevention services and program offerings in the commercial and multi-family sectors. An exclusive franchising system would allow the City to introduce new program and service offerings in these sectors by creating a simple, uniform waste collection and recycling system provided by

franchise holders that would divert more material from landfill disposal to beneficial reuse.

The EIR will be used by the City for consideration of the following discretionary action. The City proposes to adopt an authorizing ordinance to establish and implement an exclusive franchise system on a City-wide basis for collection and handling of municipal solid waste (including organic material and recyclables) from industrial, commercial, institutional and large multi-family (5 units or more) residential units serviced by permitted private waste haulers. This proposed exclusive franchise system would replace the City's current open permit waste collection and handling system for these sectors. The proposed exclusive franchise system would advance environmental protection, reduce negative community impacts, achieve efficiency, and increase accountability of waste hauling companies.

The proposed exclusive franchise system would allow for the creation of 10 to 20 waste service zones for franchisees. The following is the currently proposed methodology for developing waste service zones:

- Use the Bureau of Sanitation's defined wastesheds as the basis for service zone development
- Size service zones from 2,000 to 15,000 accounts
- Use major features (roads) and geography (mountains) in drawing zone boundaries
- Create smaller zones near the City owned and operated Central Los Angeles Recycling and Transfer Station (CLARTS)

Under the proposed exclusive franchise system, the City would issue requests for proposals ("RFPs") for each service zone; and select one private waste hauler per service zone at the culmination of a competitive bid process. If the ordinance is approved by the City Council, the earliest date for implementation of the proposed City-wide exclusive commercial franchise system for waste collection and handling would be January 1, 2017.

The industrial, commercial, institutional and large multi-family (5 units or more) waste collection franchise system would cover all solid waste now collected in the City pursuant to City permit, except certain exempted categories. It would not cover solid waste collected from single-family residential and small multi-family (4 or less) units now collected directly by City employees. The following waste categories would be exempt from the proposed project: construction and demolition waste; radioactive, pharmaceutical, hazardous and medical waste; recyclables that have been sold or donated by the generator; and green waste removed from a site as incidental to landscaping businesses. The proposed project would include extensive public education and outreach as well as waste hauler and processing facility incentives to ensure full participation and compliance with the project.

Issues to Be Addressed In the EIR: Based on the project description, and the Lead Agency's understanding of the environmental issues associated with the proposed project, the following topics have tentatively been identified to be analyzed in detail in the EIR:

- Air Quality
- Public Services/Facilities
- Solid Waste
- Traffic Circulation
- Land Use
- Cumulative Effects and
- Other: Green House Gases

Based on public and agencies input during the Notice of Preparation/Public Scoping process, should other environmental topics be identified that could result in a potential significant impact, such topics will also be addressed in the EIR.

Alternatives to be analyzed in the EIR will be defined based on their potential to reduce or eliminate significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. The specific alternatives to be evaluated in the EIR may include, but are not limited to, a non-exclusive franchise system; an exclusive system with multiple haulers per wasteshed; City collection of all material; and the No Project alternative.

Public Review Period

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Proposed Project will be available for public and agency review from February 20, 2013 to March 27, 2013 (35 calendar days). The NOP is a request for environmental information that you or your organization believes should be addressed in the EIR. As the Lead Agency, the City will use the EIR when considering the adoption of the City ordinance and other actions related to the proposed project. If you would like to provide written comments, please send your written comments so they are received no later than March 27, 2013, to:

Daniel K. Meyers, Assistant Division Manager
Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division
City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bureau of Sanitation
1149 S. Broadway, 5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015-2213

Or comments may be e-mailed to the Bureau of Sanitation at:
san.franchisecomments@lacity.org

In accordance with the time limits established by CEQA, response to this NOP should be sent to the above address or e-mailed at the earliest possible date, but no later than 30 calendar days after you have received this notice (CEQA Guidelines, §15082, subd. (b); Appendix I.)

Public Scoping Meetings: The City Bureau of Sanitation will hold Public Scoping meetings to receive public input on the proposed project, as follows:

- March 4, 2013, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Panorama Recreation Center, 8600 Hazeltine Ave, Panorama City, CA 91402
- March 6, 2013, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Wilmington Recreation Center (Multi-Purpose Room), 325 Neptune Ave., Wilmington, CA 90744
- March 12, 2013, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Deaton Auditorium (in Police Administration Building), 100 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015
- March 13, 2013, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Cheviot Recreation Center Auditorium, 2551 Motor Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90064

Additional Scoping meeting

- **March 7, 2013, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm - Lou Costello Recreation Center, 3141 E. Olympic Bl., Los Angeles, CA 90023**
- **March 11, 2013, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm - South LA Sports Activity Center, 7020 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90003**
- **March 14, 2013, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Granada Hills Charter High School Library, 10535 Zelzah Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344**

Where to Find the NOP: The NOP is available for review at the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation at 1149 S. Broadway, 5th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90015, and at www.lacitysan.org under *What's new ...*, and at the following public libraries:

- Central Library, 630 W 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071
- Van Nuys Branch Library, 6250 Sylmar Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91401
- West L.A. Regional Branch Library, 11360 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025
- San Pedro Regional Branch Library, 931 S. Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731
- **Granada Hills Branch, 10640 Petit Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344**

Your interest and participation in the EIR process for this proposed project is appreciated.