

MOTION

Los Angeles continues to evolve; communities are changing, and zoning must continue to be updated to both respond to and prepare for the continuous population movement. New housing, new schools, new childcare, restaurants, and recreational areas are creating residential neighborhoods next to industrial sites. These inconsistencies can pose real threats to public safety and the potential severe health risks posed by exposure to airborne contaminants and concern that this is disproportionately happening in low-income communities of color.

Black and Brown communities have always been targeted as dumping sites for toxic pollution. This issue was brought into the national spotlight in 1982 when a landfill in Warren County, North Carolina became the proposed site for dumping toxic soil filled with polychlorinated biphenyls – chemicals that were commonly found in electrical equipment with a known range of adverse health impacts. Warren County was one of the only majority African American counties in the state. This event is widely seen as the beginning of the environmental justice movement.

In this era of deeper concern for the air we breathe, the impact on our pulmonary health, the increasing public knowledge of how particles (human and/or industrial) can move through the air now necessitates that the operation and location of recycling plants be reviewed. Senate Bill (SB) 1249 by Senator Jerry Hill became law January 1, 2015, after fires at metal shredding facilities in his district, as well as historic concerns about metal shredders and their impact on the environment, raised concerns about metal shredder safety. SB 1249 required the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to thoroughly evaluate the operations of metal shredding facilities to ensure adequate protection of human health and the environment, particularly when these facilities are near sensitive, vulnerable populations.

A metal recycling facility (known as a “scrap recycling facility” in statute) is a facility where machinery and equipment are used for processing and manufacturing scrap metal into prepared grades and whose principal product is scrap iron or nonferrous metallic scrap for sale for re-melting purposes. A scrap recycling facility includes, but is not limited to, a feeder yard, a metal shredding facility, a metal crusher, and a metal baler.

A “metal shredding facility” represents a unique subset of metal recycling facilities, one which uses a shredding technique to process end-of-life vehicles, appliances, and other forms of scrap metal to facilitate the separation and storing of ferrous metals (metals that contain iron, such as steel), nonferrous metals (metals that do not contain iron, such as aluminum and copper), and other recyclable materials from nonrecyclable materials that are components of end-of-life vehicles, appliances, and other forms of scrap metal. “Metal shredding facility” does not include a feeder yard, metal crusher, or metal baler, if that facility does not otherwise conduct metal shredding operations.

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Over the past 20 years, in a challenging urban setting, voters directed L.A. Unified School District to build 131 new campuses and expand 65 existing ones, the largest effort ever in the nation. Locations for these new schools were selected to minimize destruction of scant housing and often fell to industrial locations.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the City Council direct the Department of Building & Safety with assistance from the Department of City Planning to report back in 30 days on the following:

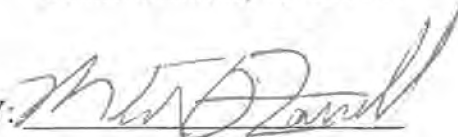
- 1) Identify any/all metal recycling or metal shredding facilities which are housed inside the City of Los Angeles and are next to any of the following:
 - a) Schools
 - b) Residential uses
 - c) Child care facilities
 - d) Recreational facilities
 - e) Hospital and medical facilities
 - f) Parks and Open Space
- 2) Report on any/all complaint histories and/or public records of violations against these facilities.
- 3) Rank each of these facilities by number of code enforcement complaints and gravity of code enforcement violation allegations.
- 4) List corrective actions taken by the Department of Building & Safety or any other City Department for each facility on the roster (Chronological Case History)
- 5) Identify any sites from this roster which are recommended as incompatible with existing or proposed residential uses and other land uses and an action plan to advance the complete remediation of any sites found to be incompatible.
- 6) Identify locations where schools and adjacent industry should be considered for rezoning to protect children and families from potentially harmful air, water, or other pollutants.

PRESENTED BY:


HERB J. WESSON Jr.

Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL