



Daniel Luna <daniel.luna@lacity.org>

Public Comments Not Uploaded Urgent Request for Update on Motion to Study Incompatible Industrial Uses Near Schools (Council File 20-0826)

1 message

'Ramirez Zarate, Alejandra' via Clerk-PLUM-Committee <clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org>

Thu, Apr 18, 2024 at 4:54 PM

Reply-To: clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

To: "councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.Lee@lacity.org" <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, "councilmember.yaroslavsky@lacity.org" <councilmember.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, "councilmember.padilla@lacity.org" <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, "cd10@lacity.org" <cd10@lacity.org>, "councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org" <councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org>, "councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org" <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>

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Dear Planning and Land Use Management Committee Members,

As detailed in the attached letter, a group consisting of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board Members, the LAUSD Greening Schools and Climate Resilience Committee, and concerned Community Stakeholders deeply invested in the environmental health and safety of our local school communities, is writing to **urge the committee to ensure the long-overdue implementation of Los Angeles City Council Motion 20-0826, which calls for a study of incompatible industrial uses located near schools and residential areas.**

Background:

- On September 30, 2020, this committee approved the motion directing the Department of Building & Safety (LADBS) to conduct a study on high-risk facilities near vulnerable areas, including a report within 30 days on specific aspects like inventory, violation history, and rezoning.
- On October 18, 2021, the LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety requested an update on the committee's progress. However, to date, no response or findings have been received.

Concerns:

- Industrial pollutants pose a significant threat to the health and safety of students and residents throughout Los Angeles.
- The situation at the Atlas Metal facility near Jordan High School exemplifies these concerns. Flying metal objects, toxic fumes, and excessive noise disrupt learning and endanger health.
- The recent EPA agreement with Atlas highlights broader environmental risks. Potential legal action by the facility has already delayed crucial improvements.

We urge the committee to expedite the implementation of Council File 20-0826. A comprehensive investigation is essential to protect the well-being of students and residents.

LAUSD remains committed to collaborating with LADBS and the Department of City Planning. Our Office of Environmental Health and Safety has identified numerous high-risk facilities, and we stand ready to offer expertise and resources.

For any inquiries, please contact Alejandra Ramirez-Zarate at t.ramirezzarate@lausd.net.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and safety of our communities.

Best,

Alejandra



Alejandra Ramírez-Zárate

Policy Director

Dr. Rocío Rivas, Board Member, District 2

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Los Angeles, CA 90017

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2024 Green Committee Letter to LA City Planning_Land Use Committee re Atlas.pdf

704K



COALITION FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES



April 18, 2024

Members, Planning and Land Use Management Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Request for Update Concerning Motion to Study Incompatible Industrial Uses
Next to Schools and Residential Areas, Council File 20-0826**

Dear Planning and Land Use Management Committee:

We, the undersigned, include Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board Members, the LAUSD Greening Schools and Climate Resilience Committee, and concerned community stakeholders deeply invested in the environmental health and safety of our local school communities. The purpose of this letter is to urge this committee to ensure the long-overdue implementation of the Los Angeles City Council's Motion to Study Incompatible Industrial Uses Next to Schools and Residential Areas (Council File 20-0826).

On September 30, 2020, this committee approved the Motion for the City Council to direct the Department of Building & Safety to conduct a study on high risk facilities, including metal recyclers, near vulnerable areas and report back within 30 days on 6 items. These include: inventory, violation history, ranking, corrective actions, incompatible sites, and rezoning. On October 18, 2021, on behalf of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Office of Environmental Health and Safety submitted a letter requesting an update on this committee's efforts to study the potential incompatibilities plaguing neighborhoods. To date, Los Angeles Unified has not received a response to this urgent request, and there has been little information shared about findings.

Industry pollutants threaten the health and safety of our school communities and neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles. Residents and students near the Atlas Metal facility face particularly significant health risks. Flying metal objects have landed on school grounds, toxic fumes have engulfed parts of the school, and excessive noise disrupts students at Jordan High School. Dust emissions potentially carry harmful metals, further endangering the surrounding communities. The residents of Jordan Downs, many of whom are low-income families and children, are particularly

vulnerable to the negative health impacts of environmental hazards. Moreover, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently reached an agreement with Atlas to improve their stormwater treatment system, preventing pollutants from reaching neighboring Jordan High School.¹ This action highlights concerns regarding the facility's potential broader environmental impact and associated health risks for nearby communities. Additionally, the potential for legal action by Atlas in the past has already caused delays in securing funding for critical improvements in the surrounding area. We cannot afford further delays in addressing these pressing health and safety concerns. The breadth and depth of incompatible industrial uses like Atlas Metal, evidenced by multiple health hazards, environmental violations, and close proximity to schools, should sound alarms within the Department of Building and Safety, the Department of City Planning, your committee and the Los Angeles City Council. **A comprehensive investigation is long overdue, and further delay would expose schools like Jordan High School and surrounding communities throughout the City to unacceptable health risks and potential long-term environmental consequences.**

Therefore, we urge the Planning and Land Use Management Committee to expedite the implementation of Council File 20-0826 and address this environmental injustice. A prompt and thorough investigation is essential to safeguard the health and well-being of students and residents throughout Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Unified School District remains committed to collaborating with the Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) and the Department of City Planning in this crucial endeavor. Our Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) has already identified numerous high-risk facilities near LAUSD schools, and Los Angeles Unified stands ready to offer expertise and resources throughout the assessment process.

For any inquiries, please contact Alejandra Ramirez-Zarate at t.ramirezzarate@lausd.net.

Sincerely,

Rocío Rivas, PhD
Chair, LAUSD Greening
Schools & Climate Resilience
Committee
**Member, LAUSD Board of
Education, District 2**

Jackie Goldberg
Member, LAUSD Greening
Schools & Climate Resilience
Committee
**President, LAUSD Board of
Education, District 5**

Dr. George J. McKenna III
**Member, LAUSD Board of
Education, District 1**

¹ United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2024, February 28). EPA Reaches Settlement with S & W Atlas Iron & Metal of Los Angeles over Stormwater Pollution Claims.

Aleigh Lewis
Co-founder
Angelenos for Green Schools

Tim Watkins (CEO WLCAC)
Member
Coalition for Healthy Families

Mikaela Randolph
Associate Director, Regional Programs
Green Schoolyards America

Alma Castrejon
Education Campaign Director
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)

Nicholas Gardner Serra
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Sunrise Movement Los Angeles

Charles Miller
Chairperson
Climate Reality Project - Los Angeles

Claire Latané
Founder
Collaborative for Healthy and Inclusive Learning Environments | Cal Poly Pomona

Héctor "Teto" Huevo
California Director
Jobs to Move America

Francesca de la Rosa
Campaign Manager
Los Angeles Living Schoolyards Coalition

Tori Kjer
Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Cc: Mayor Karen Bass
Council President Paul Krekorian
Councilmember Tim McOsker
Osama Younan, Department of Building and Safety
Vince Bertoni, Department of City Planning

Attachments:

- City Council Motion 20-0826
- LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety Letter, October 18, 2021

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
CITY CLERK

PETTY F. SANTOS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

City of Los Angeles
CALIFORNIA



Eric Garcetti
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

Council and Public Services Division
200 N. SPRING STREET, ROOM 395
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
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PATRICE Y. LATTIMORE
DIVISION MANAGER

CLERK.LACITY.ORG

When making inquiries relative to
this matter, please refer to the
Council File No.: [20-0826](#)

OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

September 30, 2020

Council File No.: [20-0826](#)

Council Meeting Date: September 30, 2020

Agenda Item No.: 10

Agenda Description: PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT relative to instructing the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), with assistance from the Department of City Planning (DCP), to report on metal recycling or metal shredding facilities housed in the City.

Council Action: PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT - ADOPTED FORTHWITH

Council Vote:	YES	BOB BLUMENFIELD
	YES	MIKE BONIN
	YES	JOE BUSCAINO
	YES	GILBERT A. CEDILLO
	YES	MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
	YES	PAUL KORETZ
	YES	PAUL KREKORIAN
	YES	JOHN LEE
	YES	NURY MARTINEZ
	YES	MITCH O'FARRELL
	YES	CURREN D. PRICE
	YES	MONICA RODRIGUEZ
	YES	DAVID RYU
	ABSENT	VACANT VACANT
	ABSENT	HERB WESSON

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
CITY CLERK

Adopted Report(s)

Title

Report from Planning and Land Use Management Committee

Date

09/17/2020

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

Megan K. Reilly
Interim Superintendent of Schools

CARLOS A. TORRES
Director, Environmental Health and Safety

JENNIFER FLORES
Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

October 18, 2021

Members, Planning and Land Use Management Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Request for Update Concerning Motion to Study Incompatible Industrial Uses Next to
Schools & Residential, Council File 20-0826

Dear Planning and Land Use Management Committee Members:

I am reaching out to the Committee in my capacity as the Director of Environmental Health & Safety for the Los Angeles Unified School District. As you may recall, I am tasked with the mission of ensuring a safe environment for over 600,000 students to learn, 24,000 teachers to teach and 73,000 employees to work. In concert with this mission, Los Angeles Unified reiterates its full support of the Motion to Study Incompatible Industrial Uses Next to Schools & Residential Areas.

Los Angeles Unified respectfully, but urgently requests an update on this committee's efforts to study the potential incompatibilities plaguing neighborhoods. As you know, this committee approved the Motion for the City Council to 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) Childcare 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.

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 21st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017 • Telephone (213) 241-3199 • Fax (213) 241-6816

*Our Mission: To ensure a safe and healthy environment for students to learn, teachers to teach, and employees to work.
Our Vision: To eliminate all environmental health and safety risks at schools.*

- 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.

It has been well over a year since the Motion was approved, but there has been little information shared about findings. Meanwhile, students and staff have returned to Jordan High School, where one example of incompatible use is clear. As you may recall, this school community needs regulatory oversight of a facility threatening the health and safety of the school population and the surrounding new Jordan Downs affordable housing community.

Los Angeles Unified has been working tirelessly to eliminate the environmental and health impacts caused by the ultra-hazardous metal recycling facility, Atlas Iron and Metal Company (10019 S Alameda St, Los Angeles, CA 90002). The facility shares fence lines with Jordan High School (2265 E 103rd St, Los Angeles, CA 90002) on one side and the housing community on the other. Of interest to this Committee are the emissions and the deposit of metal particulates from Atlas that have permeated the newly installed athletic facilities and internal buildings of our school. In addition, there are also dangers posed by projectiles and shrapnel flying over Atlas' walls onto the school campus. Each time this happens, there is a substantial risk of harm to students and staff from these flying metal shards. To make matters worse, the metal recycler has since erected a dangerous wall of shipping containers, stacked three containers high, next to the school that threatens the health and safety of students and staff. A structural engineer has reported that the school is in immediate harm due to the careless way the wall was erected.

This is just one example of incompatible industrial use that we know about and still, we struggle with keeping students and staff safe. What about the cases that we don't yet know about? There may be hundreds of similar situations putting residents in harm's way. It is imperative that the action items identified in the Motion be completed immediately. Please provide an update on this Motion as soon as possible. Lastly, Los Angeles Unified and the city planning department can work collaboratively in carrying out assessments since we have already identified many high risks facilities near our schools. We are happy to partner on this.

Please let me know if you have any questions or wish to discuss further. I can be reached directly at (213) 792-4265.

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Torres, Director
Office of Environmental Health and Safety
Los Angeles Unified School District