

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: October 17, 2022

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No. 22-0002-S115
Assignment No: 22-10-0592

SUBJECT: Resolution to OPPOSE administrative action which would replace the existing United States Postal Service's fleet of delivery trucks with new vehicles that use traditional gasoline engines.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Koretz – De Leon) to include in the City's 2021-2022 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION to any administrative action which would replace the existing United States Postal Service's fleet of delivery trucks with new vehicles that use traditional gasoline engines.

SUMMARY

The Resolution (Koretz – De Leon), introduced August 12, 2022, states that approximately 70% of the 230,000 delivery vehicles used by the United States Postal Service are between 25 and 32 years old. The Postal Service announced their plans to order between 50,000 to 165,000 new vehicles over the next 10 years to replace its aging fleet, and nearly 90% of the new vehicles are expected to use traditional gasoline-powered engines. The Resolution notes that transportation is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, and that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) projects that greenhouse gas emissions from the Postal Service's new gas-powered trucks would total nearly 20 million metric tons over the vehicles' projected 20-year life span, roughly matching the annual emissions from 4.3 million passenger vehicles. The Resolution argues that, because climate change is a global issue that requires action at all levels of government, the City should oppose any administrative action from the Postal Service to replace their fleet of delivery vehicles with new vehicles that use gasoline-powered engines because such vehicles would operate in direct contrast with the City's and Federal Government's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Therefore, the Resolution requests that the City oppose any administrative action which would replace the existing United States Postal Service's fleet with new vehicles that use traditional gasoline engines.

BACKGROUND

The United States Postal Service reported in late February 2022, that it had awarded a \$482 million contract to Oshkosh Defense to finalize production for the next-generation of postal delivery vehicles. The Postal Service stated it had committed to have electric vehicles make up 10% of its next generation fleet as part of its multibillion-dollar plan to retire 30-year-old delivery vehicles. The contract, which could be worth more than \$6 billion in total, allows for the delivery of 50,000

to 165,000 vehicles over 10 years. The Postal Service noted there could be additional electric vehicles purchased beyond the 10% rate if it gets additional funding to do so. The Postal Service claimed that full electrification of their fleet would cost \$3.3 billion more than the current gas-powered plan.

The EPA informed the Postal Service that the fleet contract violated the law, calling the Postal Service's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) "seriously deficient" by not addressing a number of environmental concerns and underestimating the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.

As of late July 2022, the Federal Administration is requiring the Postal Service to acquire 50,000 trucks from Oshkosh Defense, half of which will be electric vehicles. It will also buy another 34,500 commercially available vehicles, with sufficient electric vehicles, approximately 40%, in its delivery.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

None

CD Fields

Christopher Fields
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution (Koretz – De Leon)

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, approximately 70% of the 230,000 delivery vehicles used by the United States Postal Service are between 25 and 32 years old; and

WHEREAS, in February, 2022, the Postal Service announced their plans to order 50,000 to 165,000 new vehicles over the next 10 years to replace its aging fleet, and nearly 90% of the new vehicles are expected to use traditional gasoline-powered engines; and

WHEREAS, transportation is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States; and


WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency projects that greenhouse gas emissions from the Postal Service's new gas-powered trucks would total nearly 20 million metric tons over the vehicles' projected 20-year life span, roughly matching the annual emissions from 4.3 million passenger vehicles; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a global issue that requires action at all levels of government, and the City of Los Angeles is taking aggressive measures to combat further climate impacts; and

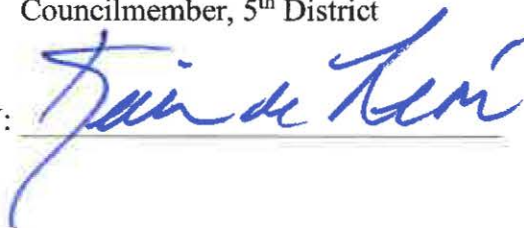
WHEREAS, the City should oppose any administrative action from the Postal Service to replace their fleet of delivery vehicles with new vehicles that use gasoline-powered engines because such vehicles would operate in direct contrast with the City's and Federal Government's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION to any administrative action which would replace the existing United States Postal Service's fleet of delivery trucks with new vehicles that use traditional gasoline engines.

PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



AUG 12 2022

cf



ORIGINAL