

# Los Angeles Approves Exclusive Franchise Program for Waste Hauling

By: Daniel F. Freedman, Esq.

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The City Council in Los Angeles has approved a controversial plan to carve up the city into 11 exclusive waste hauling districts for garbage and waste collection from commercial customers and large apartment buildings (more than 4 units). Under the plan, the City would enter into a contract in each area for one vendor to provide exclusive waste hauling services to commercial businesses and large apartment buildings located within the district.

Our previous article, [City of Los Angeles Waste Hauling Takes Big Step to Exclusive Franchise System](#), discussed the plan and its approval by two City Council Committees. Now that the entire City Council has approved the effort, by 11 to 3 vote on November 14, 2012, planning towards implementation will go forward.

But that doesn't mean the battle is over. This is shaping up to be a nuclear waste Armageddon as business interests, including many of the smaller commercial waste haulers that stand to lose businesses if exclusive contracts are handed out, face off against environmental and labor groups who support the measure.

The waste companies are threatening to sue to halt the effort, claiming among other things that the City Council moved forward in violation of California's environmental laws. Specifically, they argue that the California Environmental Quality Act requires that an environmental impact report ("EIR") be prepared. As [reported](#) by the LA Times, a representative of Cerrell Associates, the Los Angeles-based public affairs and political consulting firm representing the waste haulers and business interests, circulated a letter stating that the EIR is required "because the new system is 'a sweeping change' that could result in more trucks on the roads and other environmental impacts."

Time will tell if the City plan for exclusive waste hauling districts sees the light of day. Challenges aside, the City does not expect the program to take effect until 2017.

Single family homes and apartment buildings with four units or less are not impacted by the program. Waste from these properties is collected by city workers, not private waste haulers.

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