

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – December 5, 2005 CONTACT: MITCHELL ENGLANDER AT 213-473-7012

Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH SAYS NO BURN, NO WAY

LOS ANGELES – City Councilman Greig Smith introduced a motion Friday that will exclude incineration, or mass burn, of trash from the options being considered by the URS Corporation as part of its alternative technologies project for the City of Los Angeles. The motion will be heard in the Council’s Ad Hoc RENEW LA Committee on Tuesday.

"Incineration is simply not an option for the City of Los Angeles," Councilman Smith said. "We will never allow the burning of trash, when it can be safely converted to green energy and fuels that help to eliminate pollution, rather than cause it."

The conversion of source-separated, residual municipal solid waste (MSW) will help to conserve the resources that are currently wasted in landfills, and is the cornerstone of the Councilman’s RENEW LA plan.

The motion was seconded by incoming Council President Eric Garcetti. "We can reduce what we consume without polluting our neighborhoods," Councilman Garcetti said. "This allows us to do both."

Conversion Technologies can involve thermal, biological or physical processes or a combination of these. The thermal technologies heat trash in an enclosed, oxygen-free vessel. It is not burned, but rather converted into a syngas, which is then cleaned and used to generate green electricity or alternatives to fossil fuels, like ethanol.

Incineration, or so-called mass burn, involves the burning of trash and creates harmful emissions, including furans and dioxin. It is important for the City of Los Angeles to send a strong message that it does not support incineration and will not install an incinerator, or mass burn facility to handle the City's waste.

By committing to exclude incineration, the City demonstrates its desire to work closely with the environmental community to create an industrial-environmental sector that generates green energy and alternative fuels from resources that were previously lost forever to landfills.

In June 2005, Councilman Smith introduced his RENEW LA plan, a blueprint ending the City's dependence on landfills while creating incentives for maximum recycling and resource recovery.

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