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April 20, 2017

Planning Commission Chairperson Carolyn Hemming
and members of the Planning Commission
City of Pomona
505 S. Gary Avenue
Pomona, CA 91766
[Sandra_elias@ci.pomona.ca.us]

Re: Proposed Code Amendment for Waste & Recycling Facility
(Hearing date March 8, 2017 rescheduled or April 26, 2017)

Dear Honorable Chairwoman and Planning Commissioners:

SA has been a valuable business in the city of Pomona for over 30 years helping Pomona residents and business get rid of unwanted metal items that would otherwise end up in the street or in a landfill. SA understands your concerns over past problems with some recycling facilities and that you want to hold off on issuing any new permits for recycling facilities until you get a better understanding on the industry. However, SA is concerned with the existing proposed Code Amendment regarding Waste and Recycling facilities because that amendment goes beyond new recycling facilities and it would cause existing recycling facilities to be nonconforming subject to existing sections of the code that would require legally existing operations like SA to close in the near future.

SA's use permit was approved in 1986 with no time limitation. SA significantly improved the property and built a substantial business in reliance on the use permit. To SA's knowledge there have been no complaints or violations about the recycling operation at this location since it opened, with the exception of the recent code enforcement notice to remove a piece of equipment used to recycle scrap cars and the request to remove or obtain a permit for a wall that extends over the city height limits. That request was made as a result of inspections requested by the council for all recycling facilities in the city and not the result of a complaint. The equipment has been removed and a request for height waiver has been submitted to the planning department. Neither of these issues created any health or safety risk nor did it create any type of nuisance.

Here a few facts about metal recycling that we think is important to consider when considering adopting a code amendment that will eliminate existing recycling businesses from the city:

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- Metal recycling keeps unneeded items out of landfills and keeps discarded items out of the streets.
- SA buys any anything steel from your household such as appliances, lawn furniture bicycles and BBQs. These are things that you could find dumped in a vacant lot if a recycling facility like SA did not buy them.
- SA buys industrial scrap that is discarded by local Pomona based businesses as a leftover of a manufacturing process or a repair.
- Recycling metal to make new metal products reduces between 50% and 90% of the energy used and greenhouse gases produced when metal products are made from virgin metal.
- Recycling is mandated by state law.
- Scrap metal purchased at SA comes from a 2-3 mile radius.
- 50% of the recycled metal is sold to SA by customers that live in the Pomona or have a business in the city of Pomona.
- SA Employees 15 employees, many of whom live in Pomona.
- SA pays \$2,300 a year on business license tax
- SA provides jobs to many local Pomona residents that collect and sell unwanted metal.

Some have said that they agree with recycling, as long as it is done correctly. SA agrees with this statement whole handedly. The fact is that SA does it right. SA has had no complaints about its operation, it has had no fires, there have been no allegations of nuisances and it is properly located in the heavy industrial part of the city.

If the city wants to limit new recycling businesses in the city, SA requests that the code amendment be changed to allow existing, lawfully existing facilities to remain as a conforming business. SA is always available to work with city staff to develop better regulations or enforcement methods to help improve recycling in your city.

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Thank you all for your leadership and partnership.

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Corporate Counsel for
SA Recycling LLC.

Cc: Andrew Jared, Esq., City Attorney
Brad Johnson, Development Services Manager