



## Testimony Regarding LO25-0017 - Zero Waste

Good morning, my name is Dante Davidson-Swinton. When hearings regarding waste management in the city come up, they are often missing the most key question: How much does it cost to move toward zero waste and away from the incinerator versus the status quo? I'm going to try my best to answer that as quickly as possible.

The city estimated around 2018 that the cost of a two-phase expansion of QRL would be around \$100 million, or \$117 million in today's dollars. However, we could build a 425,000 ton material recovery facility - the size of San Francisco's MRF - for approximately \$63 million. Coincidentally, this is about the same amount of waste sent to the incinerator from public and private sources in the city annually. We could build a 180,000-ton compost facility for around \$17 million - combined, that's still much cheaper than the landfill expansion. Compare this to the \$111 million it would cost WIN Waste *just* to modernize its nitrogen oxides pollution controls.

The city budgets around \$12 million annually to incinerate around 200,000 tons.. If we captured and sold just the aluminum and steel cans, PET bottles and jars, HDPE, and cardboard in that tonnage, the city would garner over \$17 million annually. ***That's a \$29-million-dollar swing because we chose to stop burning money every day.***

Incineration produces 1 job per 10,000 tons of material managed. Recycling produces 36. **But reuse and remanufacturing produces 300 jobs per 10,000 tons of material managed.** It is not logical from an economic or environmental standpoint to stick with the incinerator at all. A MRF could be built in two years, as well as a composting facility. It's time we make the right and just decision for our city. Thank you.

For more information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Kind regards,

Dante Davidson-Swinton  
Executive Director  
Our Zero Waste Future  
ourzwf.org