Communication from Public

Name: Cassie Rauser
Date Submitted: 08/04/2026 09:51 AM
Council File No: 26-0925
Comments for Public Posting: RE: Council File 26-0925 – Support for a Modern Organics Processing and Composting Master Plan Chairperson and Members of the Energy & Environment Committee: On behalf of TreePeople, I am writing in strong support of Council File 26-0925 directing the Bureau of Sanitation to develop a Modern Organics Processing and Composting Master Plan. TreePeople applauds Councilmembers Blumenfield and Nazarian for recognizing that organic waste should be viewed not as a disposal challenge, but as a valuable local resource that can improve soil health, strengthen climate resilience, support urban greening, and provide lasting benefits to Los Angeles communities. The proposed Master Plan represents an important opportunity to move beyond compliance with SB 1383 and establish a truly circular local organics system—one that keeps organic materials within Los Angeles whenever possible and returns these resources to the communities that generated them. As an organization dedicated to healthy watersheds, urban forestry, and climate resilience, TreePeople strongly supports the motion's emphasis on increasing local composting capacity, implementing Mayor Bass' Climate Action Plan Target 6B, expanding partnerships with community composters, and prioritizing the use of locally produced compost in parks, urban farms, and community gardens. To maximize the long-term impact of the Master Plan, we respectfully recommend that the City also consider the following: Develop a comprehensive assessment of both compost processing capacity and local end-use opportunities, identifying where compost can be produced, distributed, and beneficially applied throughout Los Angeles. Create a citywide strategy for local compost utilization that prioritizes urban farms, community gardens, school gardens, parks, street tree programs, habitat restoration, green infrastructure, and other projects that improve soil health and climate resilience. Recognize that expanding compost production alone is insufficient. The City should also evaluate and reduce barriers to creating and expanding community gardens, urban farms, and other neighborhood green spaces that can beneficially utilize compost. This includes identifying opportunities to activate underutilized public land, vacant lots, schools, rights-of-way, and other publicly owned properties. Approach compost as essential green infrastructure that delivers

multiple public benefits, including healthier soils, improved water infiltration and retention, increased carbon sequestration, greater biodiversity, improved urban tree survival, food security, and more resilient neighborhoods. Coordinate implementation across City departments so that organics management supports broader goals related to climate adaptation, urban forestry, watershed health, biodiversity, parks, transportation, and community development. Los Angeles has an opportunity to become a national leader in local organics management by demonstrating how compost can serve as foundational climate infrastructure rather than simply a waste management product. Building a resilient local compost ecosystem—from collection and processing to distribution and beneficial use—will help maximize environmental, economic, and community benefits while advancing the City's climate goals. TreePeople appreciates the Committee's leadership and looks forward to supporting the development and implementation of the Master Plan. Sincerely, Cassie Rauser, Ph.D. The Fielding Family Chief Executive Officer TreePeople

August 3, 2026

RE: Council File 26-0925 – Support for a Modern Organics Processing and Composting Master Plan

Chairperson and Members of the Energy & Environment Committee:

On behalf of TreePeople, I am writing in strong support of Council File 26-0925 directing the Bureau of Sanitation to develop a Modern Organics Processing and Composting Master Plan.

TreePeople applauds Councilmembers Blumenfield and Nazarian for recognizing that organic waste should be viewed not as a disposal challenge, but as a valuable local resource that can improve soil health, strengthen climate resilience, support urban greening, and provide lasting benefits to Los Angeles communities.

The proposed Master Plan represents an important opportunity to move beyond compliance with SB 1383 and establish a truly circular local organics system—one that keeps organic materials within Los Angeles whenever possible and returns these resources to the communities that generated them.

As an organization dedicated to healthy watersheds, urban forestry, and climate resilience, TreePeople strongly supports the motion's emphasis on increasing local composting capacity, implementing Mayor Bass' Climate Action Plan Target 6B, expanding partnerships with community composters, and prioritizing the use of locally produced compost in parks, urban farms, and community gardens.

To maximize the long-term impact of the Master Plan, we respectfully recommend that the City also consider the following:

- Develop a comprehensive assessment of both compost processing capacity and local end-use opportunities, identifying where compost can be produced, distributed, and beneficially applied throughout Los Angeles.
- Create a citywide strategy for local compost utilization that prioritizes urban farms, community gardens, school gardens, parks, street tree programs, habitat restoration, green infrastructure, and other projects that improve soil health and climate resilience.
- Recognize that expanding compost production alone is insufficient. The City should also evaluate and reduce barriers to creating and expanding community gardens, urban farms, and other neighborhood green spaces that can beneficially utilize compost. This includes

identifying opportunities to activate underutilized public land, vacant lots, schools, rights-of-way, and other publicly owned properties.

- Approach compost as essential green infrastructure that delivers multiple public benefits, including healthier soils, improved water infiltration and retention, increased carbon sequestration, greater biodiversity, improved urban tree survival, food security, and more resilient neighborhoods.

- Coordinate implementation across City departments so that organics management supports broader goals related to climate adaptation, urban forestry, watershed health, biodiversity, parks, transportation, and community development.

Los Angeles has an opportunity to become a national leader in local organics management by demonstrating how compost can serve as foundational climate infrastructure rather than simply a waste management product. Building a resilient local compost ecosystem—from collection and processing to distribution and beneficial use—will help maximize environmental, economic, and community benefits while advancing the City's climate goals.

TreePeople appreciates the Committee's leadership and looks forward to supporting the development and implementation of the Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Cassie Rauser, Ph.D.
The Fielding Family Chief Executive Officer
TreePeople