



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
New York, N.Y. 10007

**CITY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS FOR THE
NYC COMMERCIAL WASTE ZONE PROGRAM**

Name of Action: NYC Commercial Waste Zone Program

CEQR Project Identification: 19DOS003Y

SEORA Classification: Unlisted

Location: Citywide

Lead Agency: NYC Department of Sanitation
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Pursuant to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act – SEQRA) of the Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Part 617, and the City Environmental Quality Review procedure, Title 62, Chapter 5 of the Rules of the City of New York and as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977, as amended, the New York City Council as involved agency makes the following findings.

The Commercial Waste Zone (“CWZ”) Program as proposed in Intro 1574-A and companion bill Intro 1082-A and discussed in the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) dated February 22, 2019 and Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) dated September 17, 2019 and in a Technical Memorandum dated October 25, 2019, the facts and conclusions of which are incorporated herein by reference, would support the advancement of the City’s efforts to increase commercial recycling, reduce carter truck traffic and associated air, noise, and greenhouse gas emissions, and improve carting industry operational standards.

The No Action Alternative would not accomplish the program’s goals and objectives, and the excessive truck travel and other drawbacks of the current commercial waste system

would continue. The Exclusive Zone Alternative would achieve the program's goals and objectives, but was not preferred given concerns about the ability for exclusive carters to adequately provide waste collection services with exclusive zones, the lack of redundancy within the collection system, and the elimination of competition and customer choice within an exclusive zone system.

After considering the benefits and potential impacts of the CWZ Program discussed in the FGEIS to improve the commercial waste industry, the City Council concludes that the social, economic, and environmental benefits provide a rationale to proceed with the Proposed Action.

CERTIFICATION OF FINDINGS TO APPROVE/FUND/UNDERTAKE

Having considered the relevant potential environmental impacts, facts, and conclusions disclosed in the DGEIS, including comments on the DGEIS and the responses thereto, the FGEIS and the preceding written facts and conclusions, and having weighed and balanced relevant environmental impacts with social, economic, and other essential considerations required by 6 NYCRR 617.11, the City Council finds and certifies that:

- the requirements of Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (SEQRA) and its implementing regulations found at 6 NYCRR Part 617 and the requirements of City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) found at Title 62, Chapter 5, of the Rules of the City of New York and as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977, as amended, have been met; and
- consistent with social, economic, and other essential considerations of state and city policy, from among the reasonable alternatives available, the Proposed Action is one that avoids or minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, that no significant adverse environmental impacts were predicted from the Proposed Action, and that adverse environmental impacts will be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable by incorporating as conditions to the decision mitigation measures that the FGEIS and this Statement of Findings have identified as practicable.



Terzah Nasser
Deputy Director, Infrastructure Division
New York City Council

October 25, 2019