



July 18, 2016

Oakland City Council
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza #2
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Closure of Glass King Recycling Center in West Oakland

Dear Oakland City Council Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California is aware of the impending closure next month of the Glass King recycling center (formally Alliance Metals) in West Oakland. We are concerned about the disparate impact the recycling center's closure will have on the hundreds of Oakland residents who rely on this facility for their income – a group that is disproportionately made up of the poor, people of color, and people with disabilities. Governmental actions that have such an adverse impact on these vulnerable groups deserve special scrutiny – not just from courts, but from local governments.

This group of almost 400 walk-up recyclers are dependent on Glass King for a livelihood. Many of the recyclers will lose their only source of income and could become homeless if the recycling center closes. We understand that there are people in the neighborhood who have had complaints about the behavior of some of the recyclers, but a solution that will have such harsh consequences for all of them seems itself harsh. Closing a facility that is relied upon by so many vulnerable community members – without providing any alternative resources – will only serve to increase homelessness, panhandling, hunger, and desperation.

We ask that the City Council of Oakland allow the recycling center to remain open until a new location is found for a recycling center that is accessible for walk-up recyclers – or until another compassionate solution is found. Oakland has faced many complex social issues as a city and prides itself on recognizing there is no conflict between sound public policy and compassion for the community's most vulnerable. We sincerely hope that Oakland can live up to that ideal in this instance.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Schlosser', written in a cursive style.

Alan Schlosser
Senior Counsel