



League of United Latin American Citizens

Resolution In Support of Latino Waste Workers and Response to Fatalities and Workplace Hazards in the Waste Management Sector

WHEREAS the CA LULAC Napa Valley Waste Workers Advocacy Committee was formed to support Latino workers at Clover Flat Landfill/Upper Valley Disposal Service in Napa County, California, who have been exposed to hazardous working conditions including exposure to fires and unregulated radioactive material, and to seek justice following a Latino worker fatality at Upper Valley Disposal Service; and

WHEREAS Napa County is one of nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area of northern California, a region that has seen numerous recent workplace fatalities of Latino workers in the waste and recycling sector, as well countless Latino worker fatalities in other sectors, highlighting a regional crisis; and

WHEREAS these repeated fatalities and unsafe working conditions represent not only an immediate danger to Latino workers, their families and communities, but also indicate a broader pattern of systemic neglect, lack of oversight, and racial and economic inequities in the workplace; and

WHEREAS unsafe conditions for waste and landfill workers, especially those who are Latino and often immigrant, also pose broader environmental and public health risks to surrounding communities due to the mishandling of toxic waste, under-reported fires and large-scale contamination incidents, and inadequate worker protection protocols; and

WHEREAS the lives of essential waste workers—who provide critical services that ensure the health and safety of our communities—must be protected through stronger labor enforcement, regulatory accountability, and culturally and linguistically appropriate workplace standards;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. **LULAC National** recognizes the hazardous conditions facing Latino waste workers in the San Francisco Bay Area and Latino workers in the northern California region as an urgent racial, environmental, and labor justice crisis.
2. **LULAC supports** the efforts of the CA LULAC Napa Valley Waste Workers Advocacy Committee and local LULAC councils to pursue justice for the deceased worker at Upper Valley Disposal Service and the deceased Latino workers from other waste companies and sectors and to advocate for comprehensive safety reforms.
3. **LULAC calls upon** local, state, and federal regulatory agencies—including Cal/OSHA, the Office of the California Labor Commission, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Labor—to conduct independent investigations and

hearings into workplace safety, wage theft, and discriminatory practices in the waste and recycling sector, with special attention to the treatment of Latino and immigrant workers.

4. **LULAC urges** the creation of culturally competent safety standards, multilingual worker training, and whistleblower protections for all waste workers—particularly those in underregulated facilities such as landfills and transfer stations.
5. **LULAC demands** the expansion of funding for worker-led monitoring, community oversight, and rapid-response systems to ensure accountability and prevent further worker deaths.
6. **LULAC affirms** that environmental justice must include workplace justice, and that protecting waste workers and workers in all sectors from preventable harm is essential to the safety and sustainability of all communities.

SUBMITTED BY: Sacramento Lorenzo Patiño LULAC Council 2862

Maria Guiterrez, President

Voted and approved by the National Assembly of the 2024 LULAC National Convention on August 9, 2025

Roman Palomares LULAC National President