



June 4, 2012

Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, Director  
Los Angeles County Health Department  
313 N. Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Subject: Opposition to Possible Relaxation of Food Truck Standards**

Dear Dr. Fielding:

**On behalf of the LA Fashion District Business Improvement District (BID) we are writing to protest any relaxation of food truck restroom standards by the County of Los Angeles.**

Communities and neighborhoods have strong interests in public health and as BIDs we are responsible for cleaning up after mobile food vendors. It is important to note BID services are paid for by special assessments to property owners to provide a clean, safe and friendly place to work, shop and do business - - not to clean up after food truck vendors who do not contribute their fair share to the upkeep of the public environment.

Since BID services are on the streets 24 hours a day – 7 days a week and based on our experience the current food truck standards should be increased not decreased for a number of reasons. We are concerned about the quality of the food prepared in and served from the food trucks given the propensity their operators have exhibited to NOT adhere to even the current standards. We are also concerned about the lack of food truck customer restroom facility availability.

If brick and mortar restaurants are required to have restroom and hand washing facilities then this same standard should be appropriately applied to food trucks. Any relaxation of standards for accessing clean water sources for food preparation and employee hygiene inevitably will negatively impact public health.

Many mobile vendors in the LA Fashion District remain at the same location from early morning to late afternoon.

Please consider our strong opposition to any relaxation of restroom standards for food trucks and maintain the current restroom regulations.

Sincerely,

Kent Smith, Executive Director  
LA Fashion District BID

cc: Angelo Bellomo, Director of Environmental Health  
LA Fashion District BID Board of Directors



**JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.**  
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June 6, 2012

Kent Smith, Executive Director  
LA Fashion District Business Improvement District (BID)  
110 E. 9th Street, Suite A 1175  
Los Angeles, CA 90079

Dear Mr. Smith,

Your letter to Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding dated May 31, 2012, regarding opposition to possible relaxation of food truck standards was referred to me for a response.

The Department is committed to protecting public health within Los Angeles County. In the course of pursuing this goal, we work to ensure our resources are directed to those issues that most affect the public's health.

To this end, we have been meeting with industry representatives to discuss and clarify the requirements for operation of mobile food facilities (e.g. food carts, trailers and trucks). With regards to restroom standards, our discussions have focused on the accurate and reasonable application of relevant laws, while minimizing the associated risks.

If you have a specific complaint regarding mobile food facilities, we encourage you to contact Michelle LeCavalier, Chief of the Vehicle Inspection Program at (626)430-5500.

We appreciate you sharing your concerns and welcome your input. If you would like to further discuss this matter with us, please feel to call me at (626)430-5130.

Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Jocas".

Patricia Jocas, MS, REHS  
Environmental Health Services Manager

c: Angelo J. Bellomo, REHS  
Director of Environmental Health

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director and Health Officer