Sacramento has strong programs in place for residential, commercial, and construction and demolition recycling that have produced a 52% recycling rate. Although the city is currently running a pilot food scrap program at restaurants, it lacks a full scale program. One of the strengths of Sacramento’s recycling program is the strong management systems used to manage trash. While the city collects trash for residences under four units, most of Sacramento’s trash services and processing are managed through franchise agreements and service contracts with private companies. These contracts lay out the terms of their relationship with private companies and set a variety of standards that direct trash to certain facilities, establish franchise fees that are paid to the city, and establish service requirements. Recycling facility contractors are also required to abide by the city’s living wage ordinance; however, franchisees are not required to pay haulers a living wage. As the city strives to reach Zero Waste by 2040, there is an opportunity to build a high-road recycling sector by expanding existing job quality standards throughout the waste stream and building on efforts to build a strong recycling-reliant manufacturing sector.

Sources:
Department of Utilities, Solid Waste and Recycling
Sacramento Sustainability Master Plan
2030 Sacramento General Plan