

COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

Final Environmental Impact Report and Final Closure Plan for the Exide Technologies Battery Recycling Facility

The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines. The Final EIR includes DTSC's detailed analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with closing the hazardous waste treatment and storage facility owned and operated by Exide Technologies, Inc. (Exide), a secondary lead smelter located at 2700 South Indiana Street in Vernon, CA. DTSC incorporated extensive public input when preparing the Final EIR.



DTSC recognizes the importance of public participation and input in the environmental review process for the proposed Closure Plan for the Exide facility. Public participation is an essential component of CEQA and is crucial to sound and transparent decision-making and environmental protection. DTSC received 15 comment letters from government agencies and community groups, and written and oral comments from more than 65 individuals. DTSC appreciates each agency, group, and individual's time and effort in providing meaningful input during the review of Exide's Closure Plan. DTSC's environmental review benefitted from public input—resulting in clearer analysis and, in several places, modifications to the Closure Plan and to environmental mitigation.

Final Environmental Impact Report

The Final EIR consists of the Draft EIR that was released for public input on December 8, 2015, public comments received during the public comment period, DTSC's responses to those comments and a summary of changes DTSC made to the Draft EIR as a result of public input. DTSC considered a range of alternatives for closing the facility in the Draft EIR. These alternatives were refined and further developed by DTSC and their environmental consultants based on input from the public and other agencies during public meetings and during the 105-day public comment period that ended on March 28, 2016. The alternatives DTSC considered include:

1. Not approving a Closure Plan (not selected),
2. Decontaminating buildings and leaving them in place (not selected),
3. Using police escorts or closing freeways for trucks (not selected),
4. The use of rail instead of trucks to transport deconstruction waste (not selected),
5. The use of zero-emission trucks (not selected),
6. Alternate ways to remove solidified lead from kettles – mechanical removal and water jet cutting.



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Exide proposed to use gas burners to heat, and liquefy the lead so that it could be transferred from the kettles and removed from the facility. DTSC proposed two potential alternatives to this in the Draft EIR:

- a) The mechanical removal alternative considers using traditional construction equipment to cut up the solid lead, and potentially the kettles as well, into smaller manageable pieces, and transport it off site (selected),
- b) The water jet cutting alternative considers using high pressured water jets to cut up the solid lead into smaller manageable pieces, remove it from the kettles, and transport it off site (not selected).

Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) Conclusions

The FEIR identified potentially significant impacts to the following environmental resource areas: air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, cultural and historic resources, geology and soils, and noise and vibration. DTSC developed mitigation measures for air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, cultural and historic resources, and noise and vibration which will reduce the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources, and noise and vibration to less than significant. Impacts to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and geology and soils will potentially be significant but are unavoidable if the project is to move forward.

DTSC staff conducted extensive analysis of environmental and public health impacts for each alternative. DTSC also considered public comments about Exide's proposal to remove the lead that remains in the large kettles on the site by re-firing the gas burners to melt the lead. DTSC adopted, mechanical removal, rather than the method Exide proposed, because mechanical removal will have the least significant impacts on the environment. DTSC's selected alternative prohibits the use of burners to heat the lead in kettles. DTSC has prepared a Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations to explain the findings of the FEIR and DTSC's reasons for approving the Final Closure Plan.

Final Closure Plan

The Final Closure Plan includes modifications DTSC made in response to extensive public comments and based on the analysis of potential impacts that were identified in the Final EIR. DTSC has required the following in the Final Closure Plan:

- Enhanced protections for workers - detailed Health and Safety Plan that incorporates suggestions from commenters, complies with the most up to date Cal OSHA standards, protects workers in confined spaces, and is reviewed and updated as conditions change;
- Complete enclosures of buildings to prevent release of dust as they are deconstructed;
- Real-time air monitoring to continuously monitor particulate concentrations and stop work if needed;
- Clean and dry trucks that are covered before exiting the facility to prevent contamination from being tracked off site;
- Restrictions on truck routes to prevent trucks hauling construction waste from driving through communities;

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- Visible marking of trucks (bright yellow flag) for community members to easily identify trucks leaving Exide;
- Third-party oversight – An independent consultant, directed by DTSC and the South Coast Air Quality Management District, responsible for real-time air monitoring, confirming compliance with truck-loading procedures, truck-decontamination procedures and transportation routes, and ensuring that the closure activities do not add additional environmental impacts.
- Inclusion of inspectors from each agency in the oversight process to ensure that all work meets the highest standards of environmental compliance.

DTSC’s reasons for certifying the FEIR and approving the Final Closure Plan are further explained in its Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations.

Next Steps	Exide Is Ordered To Submit A Closure Implementation Plan Within 30 Days After The Closure Plan Is Approved	Next Steps
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Documents can be reviewed at our website at

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/ExideClosure.cfm> or at the following locations:

Resurrection Catholic Church Office 3324 E. Opal St. Los Angeles, CA 90023 (323) 268-1141	Robert L. Stevenson Branch Library 803 Spence St. Los Angeles, CA 90023 (323) 268-4710	Commerce Public Library 5655 Jillson St. Commerce, CA 90040 (323) 722-6660	Anthony Quinn Library 3965 Cesar E Chavez Ave. Los Angeles CA 90063 (323) 264-7715
Maywood Cesar Chavez Library 4323 Slauson Ave. Maywood, CA 90270 (323) 771-8600	Huntington Park Library 6518 Miles Ave. Huntington Park, CA 90255 (323) 583-1461	City Terrace Library 4025 E City Terrace Dr. Los Angeles CA 90063 (323) 261-0295	Bell Library 4411 E. Gage Ave Bell CA, 90201. (323) 560-2149
DTSC Cypress Regional Office 5796 Corporate Ave. Cypress, CA 90630 (714) 484-5300	DTSC Sacramento Regional Office 8800 Cal Center Drive Sacramento, CA 95826 (916) 255-3758	DTSC Chatsworth Regional Office 9211 Oakdale Ave. Los Angeles CA 91311 (818) 717-6500	City of Vernon 4305 S. Santa Fe Ave. Vernon CA 90058 (323) 583-8811

For more information: 844.225.3887

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