



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Barbara A. Lee, Director
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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

October 26, 2015

The Honorable Hilda Solis
Supervisor, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, District 1
856 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Agenda Item S-1/18

Dear Supervisor Solis:

I write to welcome Los Angeles County's ("County") contribution of resources to this extensive, long-term and important cleanup effort. I also want to urge the County to coordinate any sampling of lead around the Exide Technologies facility with the Department of Toxic Substances Control ("DTSC") and to correct a mischaracterization in the motion on Exide's contamination (Agenda Item S-1/18). Coordination is a key ingredient in efforts to protect public health, preserve the ability to hold Exide accountable for cleaning up its contamination and avoid duplication of work.

DTSC recently secured \$7 million for this site. The money will first go to protect public health by cleaning up contamination. The funds will also be used to hold Exide accountable for causing this contamination. We will continue coordinating with the local agencies and governments, including the County and the public as we move forward. Federal agencies that have cleaned up larger sites in areas where children had high blood lead levels have emphasized the importance of agencies coordinating efforts because these sites are very complex and take sustained effort to complete. DTSC takes this advice to heart.

Agencies must work together to give the public accurate information about actions to protect their health. Unfortunately, this has not occurred in the lead up to proposing the motion. Consequently, the motion has an inaccurate account of the properties that DTSC has cleaned up.

To date, 174 residential properties have been cleaned, 130 more properties than mentioned in the motion. DTSC has also ensured that the interior of every residence where people have granted DTSC access is cleaned. However, the motion cites only 44

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residences, which misrepresents the number of cleanups DTSC has required. The public deserves to be fully and accurately informed about clean up efforts. We would be happy to supply you with current information, which is also available on our website.¹

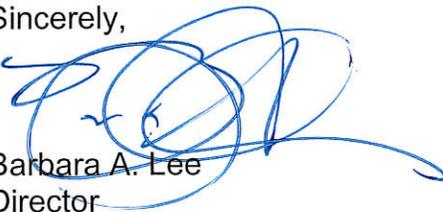
DTSC has already taken a number of steps to protect public health at the site. In addition to cleaning 174 residences, DTSC is working to remediate the remaining homes in the initial assessment areas. The Department also has sampled residences and other areas up to four miles away from the facility. As mentioned, DTSC has obtained \$7 million to continue sampling and initiate cleanups in yards in these other areas with the greatest potential exposures.

DTSC has committed to share plans and procedures with the community's Advisory Group as a means of improving their input into this process. Once we have shared our near-term work plans with the Advisory Group on October 28, DTSC will be in the field sampling additional residential properties and beginning the cleanup of homes where contamination presents the greatest threat.

I applaud your leadership and commitment to addressing lead exposure in the communities you represent. In this regard, we want to discuss the importance of lead-based paint as a source of this exposure. If cleanup occurs without addressing an ongoing lead paint problem, the paint could continue to pose a health threat and re-contaminate yards. These additional County funds, plus the County's expertise and unique role in addressing lead-based paint, will be invaluable to help stop continuing exposures to lead in the community.

People are best served when state and local agencies coordinate their efforts. Coordination in this case will also best help to ensure that Exide is held accountable for cleaning up its contamination. To accomplish this goal, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this situation directly with you and, at a minimum look forward to continuing to work with all local governments, including the County, as DTSC continues protecting public health by making certain that Exide's lead is cleaned up.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Lee
Director

cc: See next page.

¹ DTSC's webpage on the cleanups is located at:
<https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/UpdateExideSuspension.cfm>

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The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas

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The Honorable Sheila Kuehl

Supervisor, Third District

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The Honorable Don Knabe

Supervisor, Fourth District

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The Honorable Michael D. Antonovich

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