



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Barbara A. Lee, Director
1001 "I" Street
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

May 28, 2015

To: All Agencies, Interested Parties, and Individuals

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting

As Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)¹ and accompanying Guidelines,² the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is providing notice that it has determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is necessary to assess the potential environmental effects associated with the closure of the Exide Technologies, Inc. (Exide) Recycling Facility located in Vernon, California. This Notice of Preparation is being sent to you to request information, comments, and suggestions regarding the scope and content of the EIR pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.4 and California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 15082.

Project Title

Closure Plan Approval for the Exide Technologies Recycling Facility

Project Location

2700 South Indiana Avenue, Vernon, California 90058
Latitude: 34°00'22" Longitude: 118°11'48"

Project Description

The facility was a secondary lead recycling facility that recovered lead from automotive batteries and other lead-bearing materials received from off site and on site. The facility was used for a variety of metal fabrication and metal recovery operations since 1922. The primary use of the facility has been lead-battery recycling since the late 1970s until the facility ceased operations in March 2014.

¹ Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq

² California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 15000 et seq

During operations, the facility received spent (used) lead-acid batteries and other lead-bearing materials and recycled them to recover lead and polypropylene. Under the proposed project, Exide would permanently close the facility and implement a DTSC-approved Closure Plan that would include dismantling operations and a comprehensive cleanup of the facility. The Closure Plan would outline a multi-year approach for removal and decontamination of equipment, structures, and soils at the site during three phases:

1. Phase One would include removal of all hazardous wastes from all hazardous waste units and decontamination and removal of contaminated equipment, structures, and soils. Phase One activities are expected to require 19 to 24 months to complete.
2. Phase Two would include subsurface sampling to characterize the contamination under the equipment and structures, and removal of contaminated soil beneath the equipment, buildings, structures, and pavement.
3. Phase Three would include post-closure and contingent post-closure work to implement long-term inspections, monitoring, and maintenance.

Probable Environmental Effects of the Project

DTSC anticipates the following environmental impacts will need to be addressed in the EIR:

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Noise
- Hazardous and Solid Waste
- Transportation
- Geological Resources

The Draft EIR will address the short- and long-term effects of the closure of the Exide facility on the environment. DTSC will propose mitigation measures for impacts that are determined to be significant.

Response

DTSC requests information, comments, and suggestions about the scope and content of the environmental information that should be included in the EIR. All information, comments, and suggestions must be submitted in writing to Wayne Lorentzen, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826 or by email to wayne.lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov by June 29, 2015. Your communication must identify the potential environmental effects that should be considered in the EIR.

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Scoping Meeting

DTSC will conduct a public scoping meeting to describe the project and the EIR process, and listen to public comments and suggestions regarding the scope and content of the Draft EIR. The meeting will be held:

Thursday, June 18, 2015, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Maywood City Hall – Council Chambers
4319 E. Slauson Avenue, Maywood, CA 90270

If you need further assistance to respond to this notice, please contact DTSC's Project Manager, Wayne Lorentzen at (916) 255-3883 or Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov.

cc: Barbara A. Lee, Director
Department of Toxic Substances Control

Scott Morgan, Director
State Clearinghouse
Governor's Office of Planning and Research