



**California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Exide Technologies Advisory Group  
Background and Operating Principles**



June 2016

**Background**

In 2014, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) formed an Exide Community Advisory Group as a means to provide and receive information from the public and elected officials for matters related to Exide Technologies (Exide). Subsequent to that date, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requested that SCAQMD join with DTSC to establish a single Advisory Group related to Exide. The initial meeting of the new Advisory Group was on May 28, 2015. Subsequent meetings of the Advisory Group took place throughout 2015 and early 2016. The purpose of this document is to further clarify the goals and objectives, membership, and operating procedures for the Advisory Group.

**Advisory Group Mission**

The mission of the Advisory Group is to facilitate a flow of communication between Advisory Group Members, community stakeholders, elected officials and the two primary agencies responsible for overseeing Exide's clean-up and closure (SCAQMD, DTSC).

**Advisory Group Goals**

1. Inform community stakeholders about Exide's clean-up efforts as required by DTSC & SCAQMD.
2. Create a forum for communities' and other stakeholders' concerns regarding Exide's clean-up and closure.
3. Provide DTSC & SCAQMD with feedback on their respective activities associated with the closure of the Exide plant and compliance with rules, regulations, orders, and laws applicable to requirements set forth for either agency to implement and enforce Exide clean-up measures.

**Advisory Group Objectives**

The Advisory Group shall achieve its goals by meeting a minimum of four times per year, to:

1. Share information with interested stakeholders regarding efforts by DTSC and SCAQMD related to clean up and plant closure, including closure plans, California Environmental Quality Act documents, enforcement actions, and technical data.

2. Receive specific comments from the Advisory Group Members and general community members regarding specific topics related to the mitigation of Exide operations and facility closure and clean up.
3. Promote communication among elected officials, responsible agencies, Advisory Group Members, and community stakeholders.
4. Identify information gaps, next steps and action items.

### **Advisory Group Membership**

In addition to DTSC and SCAQMD, Members of the Advisory Group shall consist of local, State, and federal elected officials or their representatives, government agencies, community leaders from areas surrounding Exide, environmental justice advocates, and health professionals. Roles and responsibilities of the lead agencies and support staff to the Advisory Group include:

#### DTSC

- Co-Chair of the Advisory Group
- Manage all aspects of local clean up and Exide facility closure.
- Access and coordinate funding for cleanup and closure activities
- Provide resources for public outreach and education

#### SCAQMD

- Co-Chair of the Advisory Group
- Conduct inspections of the Exide site
- Ambient monitoring of the areas on and around the Exide site
- Permitting and permit management of Exide
- Enforce air pollution regulations and laws

#### Technical Advisor to Community Members of the Advisory Group

- Help community members interpret data and technical reports and responds to member's questions.
- Provides recommendations on cleanup and closure of the Exide facility to the community

#### Facilitator

- Serve as a professional neutral party and is responsible for facilitating dialogue in meetings and overseeing the provisions of these Operating Principles.
- Ensure that all points of view held by meeting participants are heard and that the interests of each participant are considered.
- Provide assistance to participants requesting help with communications.
- Review draft meeting agendas and meeting summaries.
- Address and resolve ongoing conflicts.

The Advisory Group will consist of no more than 40 members. Each Member will designate only one representative and one alternate to the Advisory Group. No other persons will be allowed to represent a Member unless they have previously been identified and approved as an alternate. Elected officials must represent a community that is impacted by Exide's past operations. Members and alternates will be approved by DTSC and SCAQMD.

The Advisory Group will be served by three (3) co-chairs at all times including two permanent co-chair positions for the lead agencies. DTSC will be represented by the DTSC Director or the

Assistant Director for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs. SCAQMD will be represented by a member of the SCAQMD Governing Board or the SCAQMD Deputy Executive Officer of Engineering and Compliance. One community member will serve as the third Advisory Group co-chair. The Community co-chair will be selected by the community members.

Initial members were selected through a process by DTSC and SCAQMD of soliciting community interest and maximizing community participation representing a range of community representatives. New and/or replacement members may be added periodically based on need, vacancy, and qualifications. At no point will there be more than 40 members of the Advisory Group. Should new or replacement Members be added, the following procedures will be used:

1. The prospective new Member will submit a letter of application to the co-chairs describing why their interest is unique and is not currently and adequately represented on the Advisory Group by existing Members.
2. The co-chairs will review the application and will decide if the requested position is warranted to be added to the Group. Criteria for new Members will include but not necessarily be limited to the following questions:
  - Will the new Member add interests / perspectives not currently served on the Advisory Group?
  - Will the new Member add geographic representation not currently served by the Advisory Group?
  - Will the new Member provide some other form of diversity not currently served by Advisory Group?

#### **Advisory Group Operational Guidelines**

The Advisory Group Co-Chairs will prepare meeting agendas. Members may submit questions, comments, and requests for information to DTSC staff at least two weeks prior to each meeting to be considered / addressed in the upcoming meeting. Draft Agendas will be distributed to the Advisory Group and will be posted on the SCAQMD and DTSC project webpages no less than 7 calendar days before a meeting. Agendas will be subject to change and finalization after the initial posting and distribution of the Draft versions. Action items discussed during each meeting will be shared with all Advisory Group Members, and responsible agencies will follow up on corresponding action items. Meetings will be held at a variety of locations in and around the City of Vernon and will be open to the public.

Relative to discussion of agenda items, members of the Advisory Group and public are requested to: (1) listen to the viewpoint of others, (2) focus on issues, not personalities, (3) avoid questioning motives, and (4) be polite. Advisory Group Members are requested to raise their name tents to be recognized to provide comments or ask questions. During public comment, individuals will be given three minutes to provide input or ask questions, unless otherwise decided by the Advisory Group Co-Chairs.