



## Department of Toxic Substances Control



*Matthew Rodriguez*  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

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

*Edmund G. Brown Jr.*  
Governor

November 18, 2015

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

Mr. Angelo J. Bellomo, REHS, QEP  
Deputy Director for Health Protection  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Exide Residential Sampling Coordination

Dear Mr. Bellomo:

I am encouraged by the conversations our agencies have held recently (November 6 and 17, 2015), which I believe were conducted in the spirit of collaboration and coordination. As stated in my October 26, 2015 letter to Supervisor Hilda Solis, 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.

Your role as the local health agency is a critical one. The \$2 million approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will provide welcome support to protect public health. The Department of Toxic Substances Control ("DTSC") views the County's plans to launch a comprehensive health campaign, provide medical screenings, and increase access to medical resources for the communities affected by Exide's contamination as clear examples of appropriate and complementary support for environmental health protections. We understand a portion of the funding will also be used for sampling soil in residential areas. We encourage you to also consider the remediation of lead based paint, which can contribute to a family's exposure to lead and recontaminate yards where children play after those yards have been cleaned up.

As you and your staff prepare to carry out the directives of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, we would like to emphasize two key issues: 1) The importance of using sampling protocols that meet DTSC's sampling and data quality objectives; and 2) The coordination of sampling activities to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize the value of public funds spent on this critical effort.

Regarding the first issue, before the County begins any sampling activities, DTSC urges you to provide your draft sampling protocols to DTSC technical staff for review. The importance of using a complete and defensible sampling protocol in this effort cannot be overstated. In order to accurately assess the extent of Exide's contamination; consistently and fairly prioritize cleanups for properties that present the highest risk to people in the community; and hold Exide accountable, the samples collected must meet specific data objectives. A failure to meet these objectives could preclude the Department from relying on this data.

Regarding the second issue, DTSC has mailed notifications and is implementing an outreach plan to contact tenants and property owners in the focus areas identified during the Exide Technologies Advisory Group ("Advisory Group") meeting on October 28, 2015. DTSC has begun to secure access agreements in these areas. In order to avoid duplicative property sampling, as well as potential confusion to residents, the Department urges you to focus your sampling efforts on properties in neighboring areas. Specifically, we suggest the County target sampling resources in areas of unincorporated East Los Angeles adjacent to DTSC's focus area. This would avoid duplicative sampling efforts and support earlier prioritization of a larger number of properties for cleanup.

As you know, the Department has developed plans to sample and clean up properties in selected focus areas based on the likely higher impact of Exide's contamination. DTSC fulfilled its commitment to share these plans and procedures with the Advisory Group, of which you are a member, on October 28th. Consistent with the plans, the Department is also maximizing resources by starting work in these specific areas.

Since that time, and as part of the Department's outreach efforts, 2,800 letters were mailed during the week of November 9, 2015. This mailing included English and Spanish information about the Exide closure and cleanup process, as well as property sampling access agreements and public health information (available at [www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide)). A printed map of the area was included in the meeting materials on October 28th, and that information has been available at the website link provided above since October 29, 2015.

Collaboration in all of our mutual activities is essential. The Department has shared our draft Outreach and Community Engagement Plan with your staff, and we look forward to receiving your agency's outreach and sampling plans as a next step in continued collaboration. We also look forward to developing complementary strategies to efficiently and effectively sample the properties around Exide.

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The comprehensive health campaign you are charged with developing will be a tremendous resource to the community. We encourage you to share that campaign as widely as possible, and we stand ready to support its implementation.

DTSC continues to act with both a sense of urgency and thoroughness. We look forward to continued coordination with you and your staff in protecting the environmental health of communities impacted by Exide's contamination.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Lee  
Director

