

DTSC Issues Exide Draft Cleanup Plan & Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Residential Cleanup around Exide Facility in Vernon, CA

As part of ongoing efforts to hold Exide accountable and ensure homes, daycare centers, parks and schools with the greatest risk are cleaned as safely and quickly as possible, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public comment on the Draft Cleanup Plan (or RAP) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the residential area around the former Exide Technologies (Exide) facility in Vernon, California. The Draft Cleanup Plan describes DTSC's proposed actions to protect the health of people in communities around the facility by cleaning up about 2,500 properties with the highest levels of lead and the greatest risk of exposure to people, especially children and pregnant women. Cleanups will occur at residential properties, schools, parks, daycare centers, and childcare centers located within a 1.7-mile radius of Exide. The Draft EIR identifies the potential environmental impacts associated with activities described in the Draft Cleanup Plan. The documents can be found here <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/Residential-Cleanup.cfm>.

SUMMARY

The Draft Cleanup Plan outlines California's largest cleanup of residential properties - which will be completed as quickly and safely as possible - and includes key protections for community members and workers. The plan proposes the following:

- Clean up approximately 2,500 properties with the highest levels of lead and the greatest risk of exposure, especially to vulnerable individuals such as children and pregnant women.
- Prioritize properties for cleanup by conducting a case-by-case assessment of exposures to lead in soil across an entire property, and then rank properties based on their risks.
- Excavate contaminated soil, six-inches in depth at a time, until clean soil is found or to a depth of 18 inches. Fill excavated areas with clean soil, replace landscapes, and provide interior home cleaning.
- Average 50 cleanups per week, using low-emission trucks and equipment, air monitoring, dust suppression, visible flags on truck carrying lead-impacted soil, and other safeguards to protect the health of community members and workers.
- Provide time for public comments on the Draft RAP and Draft EIR between Dec. 15, 2016 and Feb. 15, 2017; hold three public meetings; present at city councils in each municipality in the cleanup area; and encourage early comments to help maintain the timeline for cleanups beginning as soon as possible. DTSC will use the comments to prepare a Final Cleanup Plan and Final EIR, and then begin cleanup activities in the Summer of 2017.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR
THE EXIDE DRAFT CLEANUP PLAN AND DRAFT EIR
December 15, 2016 through February 15, 2017**

The public comment period for the Draft Cleanup Plan and Draft EIR will begin December 15, 2016 and will end on February 15, 2017. During this public comment period, any interested person may submit written comments and/or data in support of his or her comments on the Draft Cleanup Plan or DEIR. **All public comments must be postmarked by February 15, 2017 or e-mailed by February 15, 2017 and sent to:**

Attn: Ms. Hortensia Muniz
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
E-mail: ExidePIACleanup@dtsc.ca.gov

HISTORY

The facility began operations in 1922 and Exide began operating it in 2000. In 2013, DTSC ordered the company to start sampling soil for lead contamination in residential areas nearest the plant. Sampling in those initial areas continued into 2014 and 2015 – which lead to the DTSC also ordering Exide to cleanup 186 of these properties.

Also, in February 2015, DTSC Director Barbara Lee notified Exide that the Department would deny Exide’s request for a new operating permit. DTSC then ordered Exide to expand the soil sampling, and the Department conducted a preliminary analysis of about 20,000 samples, which determined that lead contamination released by Exide’s operations extended 1.3 to 1.7 miles from the plant.

In August 2015, Gov. Brown authorized \$7 million to test additional residential properties within the 1.7 miles, and to clean up 50 of those with the highest levels of lead and greatest risk of exposure. In April 2016, the Legislature approved the Governor’s \$176.6 million general fund loan to expedite and expand testing – approximately 10,000 properties could be sampled, and to cleanup about 2,500 properties with the highest levels of lead and greatest risk of exposure.

As part of the \$176.6 million, DTSC created the Workforce for Environmental Restoration in Communities (WERC) program to train under-employed residents who live in the communities impacted by the Exide Facility in environmental fields. Between July and December 2016, the WERC program hired 45 local residents as Certified Lead Sampling Technicians to safely perform lead sampling in their communities in Phase 1 of the program. In Phase II, the program will include additional training for

skilled jobs in soil remediation, lead hazard control, interior home cleaning, landscaping, and health education.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

DTSC is the lead agency overseeing the investigation and cleanup of residential properties, schools, parks, daycare, and childcare centers within approximately 1.7-mile radius of the former Exide facility. DTSC is working with communities within this proposed cleanup area (called the Preliminary Investigation Area or PIA), which includes the Cities of Bell, Commerce, Huntington Park, Los Angeles (Boyle Heights neighborhood), Maywood, and Vernon, and the County of Los Angeles (East Los Angeles).

The Draft Cleanup Plan presents the proposed process for cleaning up about 2,500 properties. DTSC’s proposes to evaluate the potential health risks at each property using a Health Based Screening and Cleanup Level (the 95% Upper Confidence Level (UCL) of 80 ppm for lead). The 95% UCL is a health-protective statistical method that analyzes sample results across an entire property. DTSC will also look for localized areas of higher lead levels within a property, and reduce potential exposures as needed in those areas. DTSC will prioritize cleanups at properties with the highest levels of lead and the greatest potential for exposure using a Relative Risk Ranking process based on EPA’s Hazard Ranking System.

The Draft Cleanup Plan also identifies cleanup technologies and screens them against federal and state criteria used to determine whether such technologies are appropriate. The Draft Cleanup Plan identifies soil washing as a potentially viable technology that may reduce the amount of lead-impacted soil transported to and disposed of in landfills. DTSC is doing Bench Scale Testing to determine how well the technology works on soil types within the PIA. If the testing is successful, DTSC will compare soil washing and other options to determine the best approach for managing lead-impacted soil.

The Cleanup Plan and Draft EIR are scheduled to be finalized by June 2017, and cleanup activities to begin in the Summer of 2017.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

DTSC will hold three public hearings on the Draft Cleanup Plan and Draft EIR during the public comment period. A court reporter will be present to record any oral comments provided during each meeting so that responses can be provided in the Final EIR. The public meetings will be held at the following locations and dates:

PUBLIC MEETINGS			
Community	Date	Time	Location
East Los Angeles	Wednesday, January 11, 2017	6:00 – 9:00 pm	Our Lady of Victory Church 1316 S Herbert Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90023
Maywood	Thursday, January 19, 2017	6:00 – 9:00 pm	Maywood City Council Chambers 4319 East Slauson Avenue Maywood, CA 90270

Boyle Heights	Saturday, January 28, 2017	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Resurrection Church 3324 Opal Street Los Angeles, CA 90023
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DTSC requests anyone who wishes to make an oral comment to sign in and fill out a comment card before the meeting. Commenters will be heard in the order that comment cards are received. Anyone else wishing to make an oral comment at the meeting will have an opportunity after all registered persons have been heard. Reasonable limits will be set for time allowed for oral comments. A written transcript of the oral comments provided during each meeting will be made available to the public on DTSC's website.

Translation services will also be provided at the meetings. Project documents are available for public review at the Information Repository locations listed in this Fact Sheet below. For comments to be considered, they must be made orally at one of the three public meetings or submitted in writing no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 15, 2017, at the address below or by logging on to <http://dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields/Exide/Exide-Remedial-Action-Cleanup-Plan-and-Environmental-Impact-Report-Comment-Period.cfm>. The Draft Cleanup Plan and Draft EIR and other Project related documents are available for public review at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/UpdateExideSuspension.cfm>, at EnviroStor at http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=60002267, and at the Information Repositories listed below:

Anthony Quinn Library 3965 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90063 (323) 264-7715	Resurrection Catholic Church 3324 E. Opal Street Los Angeles, CA 90270 (323) 268-1141
Bell Library 4411 Gage Avenue Bell, CA 90201 (323) 560-2149	Robert Louis Stevenson Library 803 Spence Street Los Angeles, CA 90033 (323) 268-1141
City Terrace Library 4025 E. City Terrace Drive Los Angeles, CA 90063 (323) 261-0295	Vernon Public Library 4305 Santa Fe Avenue Vernon, CA 90058 (323) 582-8811
Commerce Public I Library 5655 Jillson Street Commerce, CA 90040 (323) 722-6660	DTSC Regional Office- Los Angeles 9211 Oakdale Avenue Chatsworth, CA 91311 (818) 717-6500 Monday – Friday: 8 am to 5 pm

Huntington Park Public Library 6518 Miles Avenue Huntington Park, CA 90255 (323) 583-1461	DTSC Regional Office- Cypress 5796 Corporate Avenue Cypress, CA 90630 Monday – Friday: 8 am to 5 pm (714) 484-5300
Maywood Cesar Chavez Public Library 4323 Slauson Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90270 (323) 771-8600	DTSC Regional Office- Sacramento 8800 Cal Center Drive Sacramento, CA 95826 (916) 255-3758 Monday – Friday: 8 am to 5 pm

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES

DTSC will continue to keep the public informed during the cleanup process. A notice will be sent to anyone who has requested notification of the availability of the Draft Cleanup Plan and Draft EIR for review and comment. Information about DTSC’s oversight of Exide can be found at DTSC’s main website: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov> under QUICK LINKS. Cleanup-related documents are also available for electronic review at www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov. Select Advanced Search and enter “Exide Residential Cleanup”.

If you would like DTSC to notify you via e-mail when new EnviroStor documents, such as workplans and reports for the cleanup, are available online, please click on the “Sign Up for E-mail Alerts” link to the right of “Exide Residential Cleanup”, and complete the sign up form.

WHOM TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

All documents made available to the public by DTSC can be made available in an alternate format (i.e., Braille, large print, etc.) or in another language as appropriate, in accordance with State and Federal law. If you have any questions about the Draft Cleanup Plan, Draft EIR, or other related activities, please contact: Michelle Banks-Ordone, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, toll free at 1-844-225-3887 or by email at Michelle.Banks-Ordone@dtsc.ca.gov for assistance.

California Relay Service

California Relay Service is a telecommunications relay service, which provides full telephone accessibility to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled. Specially-trained Communication Assistants (CAs) complete all calls and stay on-line to relay messages electronically over a text telephone (TT), so called TTY for “Teletype”, or verbally to hearing parties.

TTY Users	1-877-735-2929*	Voice Users	1-888-877-5379*
	1-888-877-5378*	Spanish	1-888-877-5381*

*888 and 877 are all toll free numbers.

NOTICE TO HEARING-IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

TTY users can obtain additional information by using the California Relay Service at the number above.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

For news media inquiries only, please contact Jorge Moreno, DTSC Public Information Officer at (916) 327-4383 or by email at Jorge.Moreno@dtsc.ca.gov.

For more information about DTSC, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov