

COMMUNITY Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

RELEASE OF FINAL CLEANUP PLAN AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE CLEANUP OF RESIDENTIAL AND OTHER SENSITIVE LAND USE PROPERTIES IN COMMUNITIES SURROUNDING THE FORMER EXIDE TECHNOLOGIES FACILITY IN VERNON

On April 20, 2016, Governor Edmund G. Brown signed Assembly Bill 118 and Senate Bill 93 to appropriate \$176.6 million for the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to expedite residential sampling and cleanup in communities within a 1.7-mile area surrounding the former Exide Technologies, Inc. (Exide) battery recycling facility in Vernon, California (Facility). The 1.7-mile area surrounding the former Exide Facility is designated as the Preliminary Investigation Area (PIA). The Cleanup Plan is focused on cleaning up residential properties, schools, parks, daycare centers, and child care facilities within the PIA. The PIA includes sections of the cities of Vernon, Bell, Huntington Park, Commerce, Maywood, Los Angeles (Boyle Heights neighborhood), and an area of unincorporated Los Angeles County (East Los Angeles neighborhoods). In July 2017, DTSC released the Final Removal Action Plan (Cleanup Plan), and a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) related to the cleanup of properties in the PIA. Below you will find more information about the Cleanup Plan and the Final EIR.

DTSC published a Draft Cleanup Plan and Draft EIR on December 15, 2016, for public review and comment. Public comments were received on those documents through February 15, 2017. DTSC received about 1,000 individual comments from community members, government agencies, advocate organizations, and others. The documents published this month contain the comments received, detailed responses to those comments, and changes made to the Draft Cleanup Plan and Draft EIR as a result of the public comments received by DTSC.

FINAL CLEANUP PLAN

The Final Cleanup Plan describes the activities related to the cleanup of lead-impacted soils and includes a discussion of:

- **Prioritization Criteria** – Initial prioritization for this cleanup phase is based on properties sampled within the PIA prior to June 30, 2017. For each property sampled, the results were statistically analyzed to determine a representative, property-wide lead level that is more health protective than a simple average of results. Using these sampling and analysis criteria for the initial prioritization, the Cleanup Plan provides for the following categories of properties within the PIA to be addressed during this phase of the cleanup:
 - Residential properties with a representative soil lead concentration¹ of 400 ppm or higher;

¹ A representative soil lead concentration is determined by the 95 percent (%) upper confidence limit (UCL) of the mean lead concentration in soil. The 95% UCL is a health-protective statistical method that analyzes samples across an entire property and is more protective than averaging the samples. The 95 % UCL is widely used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other state environmental agencies to characterize contaminated sites.



- Residential properties with a representative soil lead concentration of less than 400 ppm, but where any soil sampling result of 1,000 ppm or higher is detected; and
- Daycare and child care centers with a representative soil lead concentration of 80 ppm or higher that have not yet been cleaned up.

All parks and schools that require cleanup will be cleaned up during this phase. In addition, DTSC is asking residents who have not signed up for sampling, to sign up, as this phase of cleanup may also address properties sampled between July 1, 2017, and December 31, 2017, that fall within the above categories².

- Relocation Options – Temporary relocation assistance and compensation for eligible relocation expenses are offered to residents during soil excavation and removal activities. The decision to relocate is made by individual residents, after information about the specifics is provided to them. Relocation options are available to residents who reside in single-family residential properties and small multi-family residential properties while soil excavation and removal activities are ongoing. For larger multi-family residential properties and apartment complexes, DTSC will provide temporary relocation assistance and compensation tailored to the specific cleanup planned for the property.
- Cleanup to 80 ppm - After residential properties are selected for cleanup, properties will be cleaned up to a representative soil lead concentration of 80 ppm or a maximum depth of 18 inches. DTSC will conduct confirmation testing to make sure excavation is successful in addressing the impacted soils.
- Elimination of Soil Washing Alternative - The Draft Cleanup Plan and Draft EIR presented soil washing as an alternative to disposal. In combination with soil removal and site restoration with clean backfill, sod, or drought tolerant landscaping, it was anticipated that soil washing could be used to reduce environmental impacts. To determine if the soils found in the PIA could be treated by soil washing, a Bench Scale/Treatability Study was conducted in January 2017. The results of the study indicate that the soil types in the PIA do not lend themselves to soil washing. DTSC's testing indicated that only a very small quantity of the soil in the PIA could be effectively washed, and the energy consumed in that process, as well as the localized impacts due to truck traffic, would more than offset any benefits that would accrue under this alternative. As a result, DTSC did not recommend the soil washing alternative because soil washing does not appear to be a practical or cost-effective alternative substitute or supplement to excavation and disposal of lead-impacted soil for the proposed Project.

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is the document that identifies, quantifies, and proposes mitigation measures to environmental concerns that may arise in conjunction with carrying out the project. In this case, the project is the cleanup of about 2,500 sensitive land use properties within the PIA. It is important to note that the EIR analyzes a larger cleanup project, up to 10,000 properties in the PIA, and would allow DTSC to continue the cleanup of properties beyond the 2,500 initially selected properties as funds allow. In the Final EIR, there is a proposed mitigation measure for greenhouse gas emissions to bring the environmental impact to "less than significant." Additionally, there is potential for

² DTSC may identify additional properties that have representative soil lead concentrations above DTSC's screening level for lead in residential soils of 80 ppm, but fall outside of the above categories, for cleanup if funding permits.



significant and unavoidable impacts related to vehicular emissions and noise during construction that would result from carrying out of the project.

The Final EIR identified mitigation for noise impacts, but some constraints with the configuration and size of some properties, may render the mitigation infeasible. Thus, the noise impact was deemed significant and unavoidable. The final assessment provides capacity to DTSC to clean as many as 50 properties per week, while acknowledging that 25 to 35 is the more likely average, and also includes discussion on the “clustering” of properties in order to clean up properties by blocks or clusters in situations where appropriate and property owners provide access.

CERTIFICATION OF FINAL CLEANUP PLAN & EIR

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), notice of these final documents are expected to be filed with the State Clearinghouse, a division of the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, on Monday, July 17, 2017.

SAMPLING OF PROPERTIES

Since the appropriation of funding in 2016, DTSC and its contractors have been in your neighborhood sampling properties. DTSC has completed sampling of all the properties that have provided access and, as of June 30, 2017, DTSC has sampled approximately 8,200 properties within the PIA. All properties that were sampled prior to June 30, 2017, will be assessed and evaluated in light of prioritization criteria described above. Residents who have not signed up for sampling can still do so. As explained above, this cleanup may also address properties sampled between July 1 and December 31, 2017.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

DTSC is hosting a series of opportunities for the public to learn more about the upcoming cleanup process. Both the Final Cleanup Plan and Final EIR will be discussed during these meetings, and DTSC will be available to answer questions about prioritization, as well as more specific questions related to your particular property. Please join us at the following meetings:

<p style="text-align: center;">July 15, 2017 Open House/Round Table Discussions Bandini Park Commerce 4725 Astor Ave. Commerce, CA 90040 10:00AM – 12:00PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">July 20, 2017 Exide Advisory Group Meeting Salesian High School 960 S. Soto St. Los Angeles, CA 90023 4:00-6:00PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">July 27, 2017 Community Meeting Maywood Christian School 3759 E. 57th St Maywood, CA 90270 6:00-8:00pm</p>
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We encourage property owners and residents to join us at these meetings and learn about upcoming activities as part of the cleanup process. We will be able to answer questions directly related to your property, and inform you about upcoming notifications and steps for cleanup.



REPOSITORIES

A copy of the Final Cleanup Plan and EIR will be available in printed form for review at the following repositories on July 17, 2017:

Commerce Public Library
5655 Jillson Street
Commerce, CA 90040
(323) 722-6660

Bell Library
4411 E. Gage Avenue
Bell, CA 90201
(323) 560-2149

Resurrection Catholic Church
3324 E. Opal Street
Los Angeles, CA 90270
(323) 268-1141

Huntington Park Public Library
6518 Miles Avenue
Huntington Park, CA 90255
(323) 583-1461

DTSC Regional Office
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Monday - Friday: 8 am to 5 pm
(818) 717-6500

City of Vernon
4305 S. Santa Fe Avenue
Vernon, CA 90058
(323) 583-8811

Robert Louis Stevenson Library
803 Spence Street
Los Angeles, CA 90023
(323) 268-1141

City Terrace Library
4025 E. City Terrace Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90063
(323) 261-0295

DTSC Regional Office
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
Monday - Friday: 8 am to 5 pm
(916) 255-3758

Maywood Cesar Chavez Public Library
4323 Slauson Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90270
(323) 771-8600

Anthony Quinn Library
3965 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063
(323) 264-7715

DTSC Regional Office
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Monday - Friday: 8 am to 5 pm
(714) 484-5300

For more information about this notice, please contact the DTSC Exide Cleanup Project Hotline at 1-844-225-3887.

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS: TTY users may use the California Relay Service at 1 877- 735-2929 (or 711). Ask for Jovie Gomez at 818-717-6567.

