

**EXIDE ADVISORY GROUP E-NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2016**

The following statement was made this morning by Director Barbara A. Lee of the Department of Toxic Substances Control to the Assembly Committee on Budget Subcommittee for Resources and Transportation:

Today, the administration is ready to move the \$176.6 million appropriation for the cleanup of communities surrounding the Exide facility without a CEQA exemption. The exemption was proposed to start the cleanup of the highest priority homes as quickly, effectively and safely as possible.

Over the last several weeks we have been in discussion with a number of community representatives, environmental advocates, and members of the legislature about our proposed cleanup plan which relied on environmental review under the existing state superfund law.

Through those discussions, it has become clear that many community representatives would prefer that we use the full CEQA process to review the cleanup plan. The full CEQA process, simply by virtue of the stipulated timeframes for review, will delay the start of this cleanup until spring of 2017. In light of this, the administration remains open to working with community leaders and the legislature to explore ways to expedite CEQA review. In the meantime, DTSC will be initiating the CEQA process.

Further, yesterday the Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency received a memo from the California Department of Public Health providing an analysis of blood lead levels for children in the area surrounding the Exide facility. This information will be used to further refine and target our testing and cleanup.

To date, over 1000 properties have been sampled and over 200 properties have been cleaned up in the area surrounding the Exide facility.

The health and safety of this community- especially the youngest and most vulnerable in it - has to be our top priority. In cooperation with the community, the legislature and other local officials, we're committed to continuing this important work and getting the job done.

Collecting Access Agreements

In the month of March, several community walk events were organized by the LA City Mayor's Office, community groups including East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, Comite Pro Uno, the City of Commerce and other partners. These events have been instrumental in gathering access agreements from property owners and tenants.

Investigation and Cleanup Progress

	Initial Assessment Area	Preliminary Investigation Area	Total
Total Properties	219	~10,000	~10,000
Properties with signed access agreements	195	1026	1221
Properties sampled	195	464	659
Properties assigned Priority 1	40	147	187
Properties cleaned up	186	21	207
Properties refused access for cleanup	6	0	6
Properties no cleanup required	3	2	5



Last update: 03/25/2016 For questions, contact: Susan Castro-Valenzuela, Public Participation Specialist 844-225-3887
PIA - Preliminary Investigation Area: 1.7-mile radius around Exide Facility

On-Site Cleanup

The sampling and laboratory testing of on-site soils is complete. A draft soil investigation report was submitted to DTSC on February 19, 2016 and is currently being reviewed. Groundwater sampling is on-going and a draft groundwater investigation report is due to DTSC at the end of April 2016.

Off-Site Industrial Area

As of March 4, 2016 the soil and dust sampling program for the Industrial Area has ended. Access to right-of-ways along railroad and public utility easements was recently granted; sampling along those easements has also been completed. A draft Industrial Area Investigation Report.

Status of Closure

DTSC was seeking public comments on the two draft plans that have been public noticed since Dec. 8, 2015:

- Exide's Proposed Draft Closure Plan
- DTSC's Draft Environmental Impact Report

The 105-day public comment period ended on March 28, 2016. DTSC will review and consider all public comments received before finalizing the Closure Plan and the EIR. DTSC will also prepare a written Response to Comments document and make it publicly available. Implementation of the approved Closure Plan will begin within 30 days after DTSC approves the plan.

NEXT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

Commerce Senior Center
Thursday, April 28, 2016
4:00-6:00 PM
2535 Commerce Way
Commerce, CA 90040

FOLLOWED BY A PUBLIC MEETING

Commerce City Hall
Thursday, April 28, 2016
6:30-8:30 PM
2535 Commerce Way
Commerce, CA 90040