

Director Barbara Lee

Department of Toxic Substances Control

March 30, 2016

Statement by DTSC Director Barbara A. Lee regarding Exide

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, at the soonest. 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.