



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

Welcome

Exide Cleanup Project Community Meeting January 14, 2021, 5 pm – 7 pm

Meeting materials: www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide



Meeting Guidelines

- By participating in this meeting:
 - You understand that this meeting is being recorded.
 - You may be muted for background noise.
- During the Questions and Comments we will focus on topics related to today's presentations.
- We'll do our best to listen and address all comments and questions so that everyone has the opportunity to participate.
- Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Language and Captions

- Simultaneous audio interpretation is available through Zoom. Click the interpretation icon at the bottom of your screen or Zoom app to select language.
 - If you're calling in by phone only and would like Spanish audio interpretation, please call: (877) 920-8432, enter code 741502#
- Spanish translated presentation slides are available on the meeting announcement at: www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide.
- Automated closed captions have been turned "on" for this meeting. You can turn them off by clicking the "CC" icon, or move the captions box.

California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and the environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

Tonight's Meeting

- Purpose: Share updates with communities affected by the Exide Cleanup project, invite feedback, and answer questions on residential, parkways, budgets, contracts, and facility closure project activities.
- Meeting materials available at: www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide
- Media Questions: Barbara Zumwalt, DTSC Public Information Officer, at Barbara.Zumwalt@dtsc.ca.gov

Agenda

<u>Start</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
5:00	Welcome and Introductions
5:10	<p>Presentations: Residential Cleanup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essential Workers and COVID-19 Protocols - DTSC• Budgets Update and Progress on State Audit - DTSC• Progress on Residential Cleanup and Parkways - DTSC
5:30	Questions and Comments
6:00	<p>Presentations: Facility Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vernon Environmental Response Trust (VERT) - US EPA• Closure Overview and Current Status – DTSC• VERT Purpose and Objectives - PathForward Consulting, Inc.
6:20	<p>Questions and Comments</p> <p>Potential breakout rooms for additional Q&A and dialogue</p>
6:50	Closing and 2021 Calendar of Engagement

How to Ask a Question or Make a Comment

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Exide Offsite Residential Cleanup

Suhasini Patel, Assistant Deputy Director
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program





*Thank
you!*

1/14/2021

Health & Safety

- COVID-19 Protocols:
- Include the following documents –
 - DTSC Field Advisory and Fact Sheet
 - NEC Operations COVID-19 Protocol
- These documents are reviewed every 2 weeks
- Posted on our website at: www.dtsc.ca.gov/residential-cleanup



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Exide Offsite Residential Cleanup State Audit



October 2020: State Audit Recommendations

- Prioritize remaining parks, schools, childcare facilities and daycare centers.
- Increase the pace of cleanups.
- Estimate date of completion for cleanup of all properties.
- Estimate cost for cleanup of all properties.
- Future cleanup contracts to partially incorporate fixed prices.

DTSC has already begun to implement some of these.

December 2020: DTSC Response

- DTSC remains committed and focused on the expeditious cleanup of as many lead-contaminated properties as possible with the already appropriated funds.
- DTSC submitted 60-Days Progress Report to the State Auditor on December 28, 2020.
- DTSC's progress in meeting the Auditor's recommendations will be updated on our website at: www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide-audit



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Exide Offsite Residential Cleanup Budget Status



Residential Cleanup Budget Overview

- As of December 5, 2020



* \$56.4 Million have already been already encumbered

Over 95% of Funds to Address Contaminated Soil and Restore Properties



Residential Cleanup Contract

- Cleanups are moving forward with one contractor NEC:
 - 25 Cleanup Crews in the field
 - 72 WERC Program Graduates employed
- Current average cost of cleanup per property based on last 100 properties cleaned:
 - \$ 68,091 per property
 - 62.5 tons of soil removed



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Exide Offsite Parkways Budget Status



Parkways Budget

- As of June 30, 2020:



*Includes DTSC resources - \$ 69,923

** Reverted to General Funds for statewide COVID-19 response

Contact Information

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Site Mitigation and Restoration Program

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(916) 956-1855

DTSC Exide Cleanup Project Information Hotline: (844) 225-3887



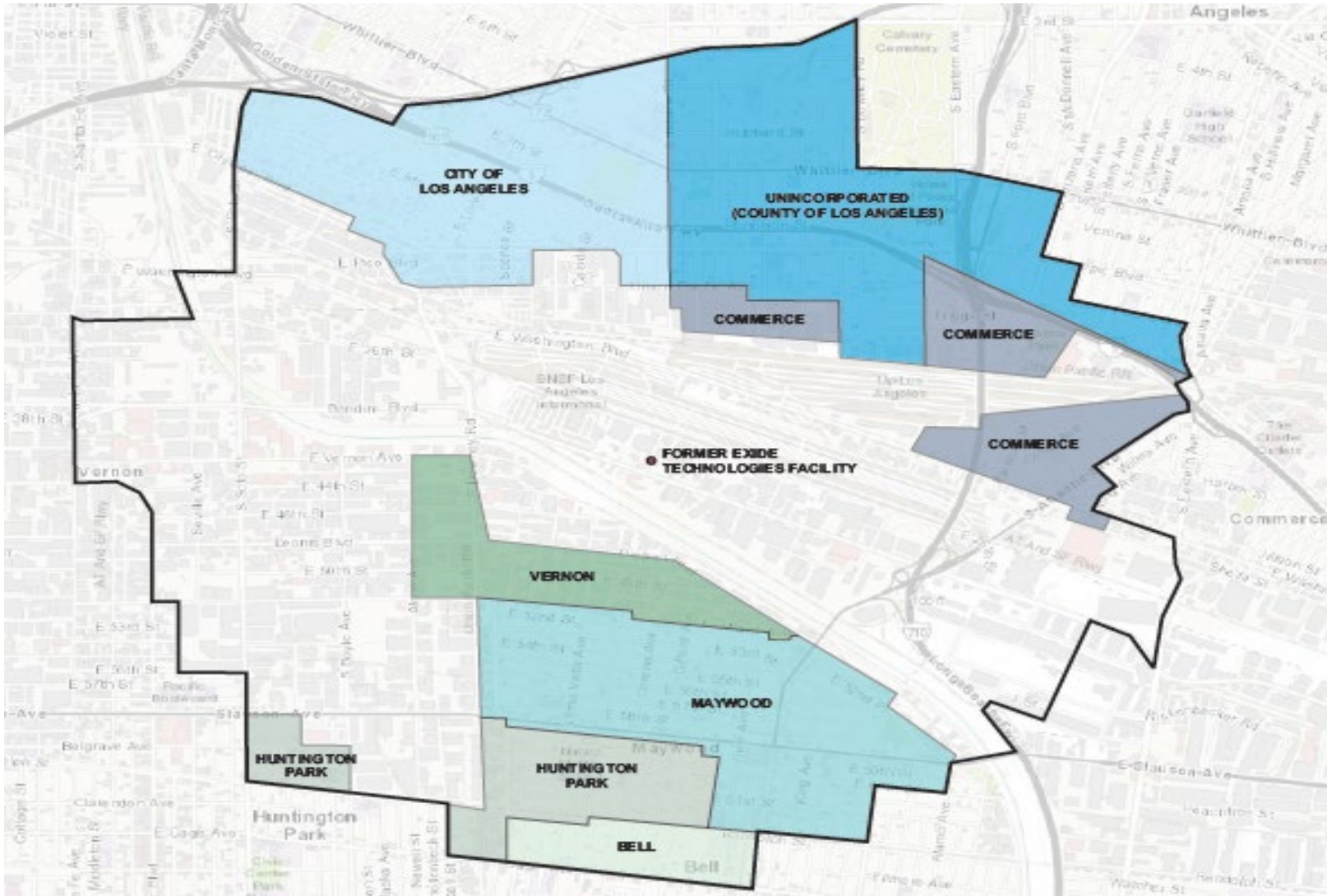
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Residential Cleanup

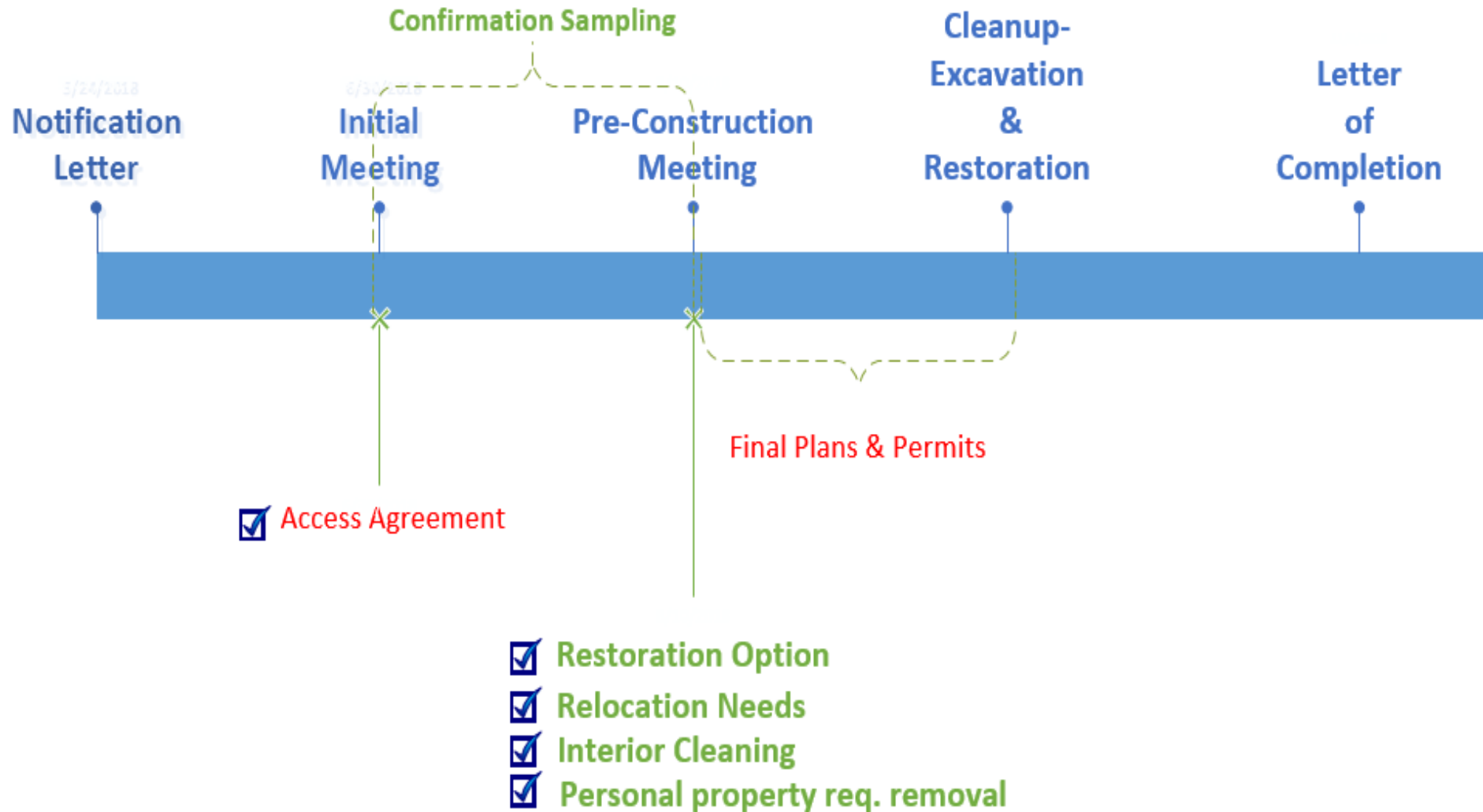
Hortensia Muniz, PE
Residential Cleanup Project Manager



Preliminary Investigation Area (PIA)



Overview of the Cleanup Process

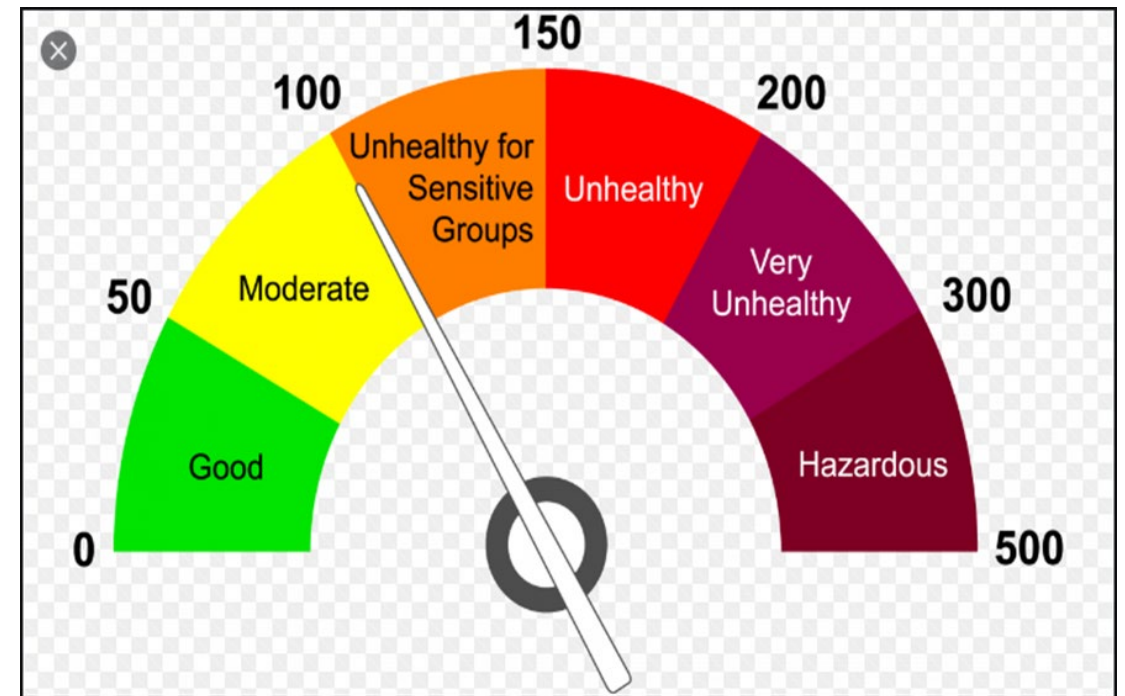


Project Challenges: COVID-19

- Revised Health and Safety Plans
 - Everything in common areas is sanitized every hour
 - All tools, handles, and shared equipment are sanitized with EPA-approved sanitizing wipes
- All personnel on site must:
 - Wear masks
 - Have temperatures taken twice per day, morning and lunch
 - Not share tools
 - Not congregate
 - Social distance
- All personnel must follow protocols outside of work

Project Challenges: Regional Fires

- Air Quality Index (AQI)
 - 100 triggers safety measures for personnel depending on duration and how strenuous the activities are; and
 - 150 triggers additional safety measures & rescheduling of strenuous activities.

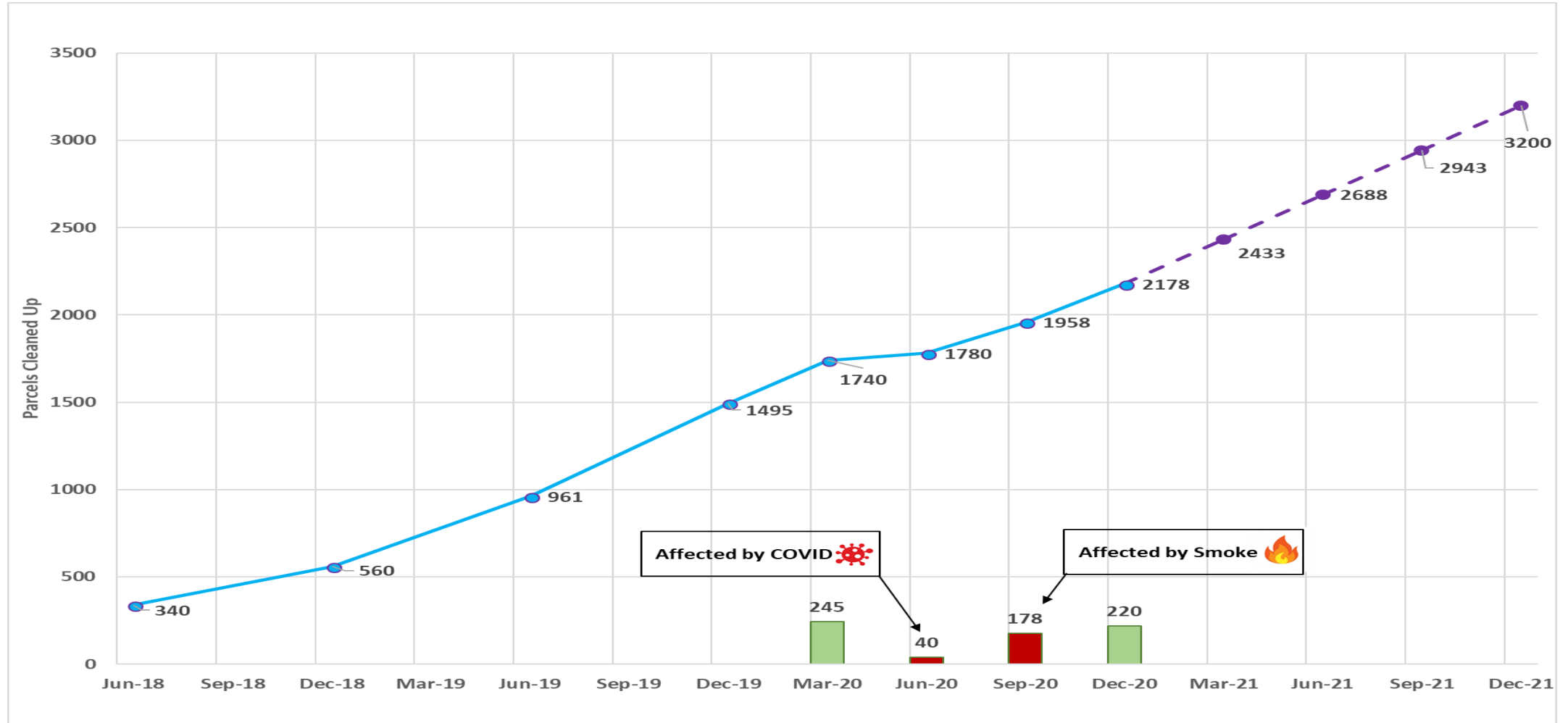


Residential Cleanup Progress

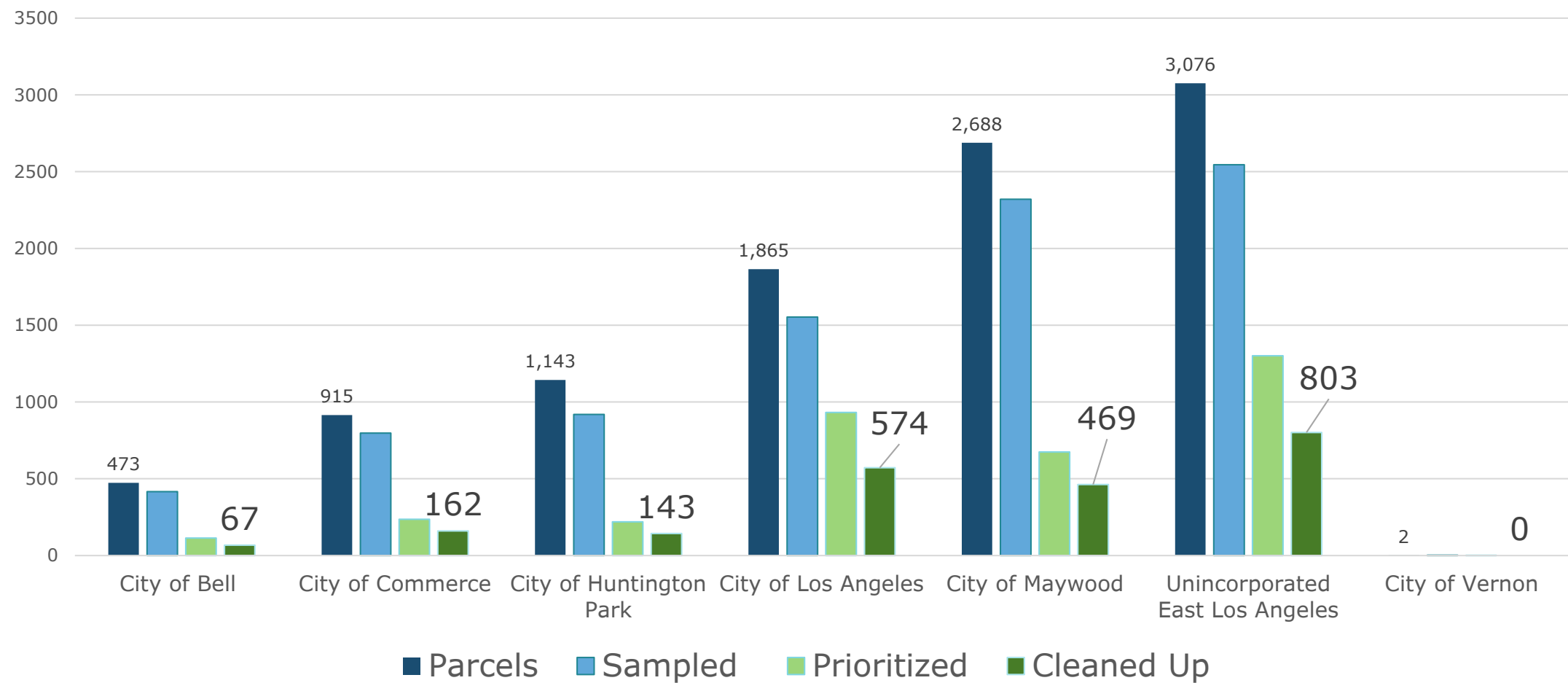
- As of January 4, 2021:



Parcels Cleaned Up



Status of Cleanup by Jurisdiction - January 4, 2021



Getting Back on Schedule

Project Challenges

- COVID-19
- Regional Fires
 - 8 days
- Rain events
 - 35 days
- Unresponsive Owners

Solutions

- Increase number of crews to make up for days lost to date
- Increase measures to gain access
 - Letters to all property owners
 - Coordinate with local government agencies



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Parkways Investigation

Hortensia Muniz, PE

Residential Cleanup Project Manager



Investigation and Risk Assessment

- Investigation
 - Lead is present in the parkways.
 - Lead concentrations are highest near the surface and decrease rapidly with depth.
 - No correlation found between lead concentrations in parkways and adjacent parcels.

Investigation and Risk Assessment Con't.

- Risk Assessment
 - Identifies and confirms Chemicals of Concern.
 - Identifies and confirms potential routes and pathways of exposure.
 - Characterizes potential adverse effects and risk.
 - Evaluate all available information to determine cleanup goal based on risks from concentrations in the parkways.

Next Steps

Feb 2021 - Public Comment Period

- Investigation Report
- Risk Assessment Report

May 2021 – Public Notice

- Draft Cleanup Plan for Parkways
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Document

Jun - Aug 2021

- Finalize Parkways Cleanup Plan

For More Information Residential Cleanup & Parkways

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U.S. EPA's Role with the Vernon Environmental Response Trust (VERT or The Trust)

Amanda Cruz

415-972-3084

Cruz.Amanda@epa.gov



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



- EPA's involvement resulted from the Exide bankruptcy settlement, which established the Vernon Environmental Response Trust (or VERT or the Trust)
- EPA, DTSC, and the Trustee are working cooperatively
- The Trust and DTSC's financial assurance established a limited amount of money available for cleanup
- EPA is committed to work with DTSC to keep the community protected from the facility



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Closure Overview

Pete Ruttan, P.G.
DTSC, Unit Chief
Closure & Corrective Action



Brief Overview

CLOSURE PLAN

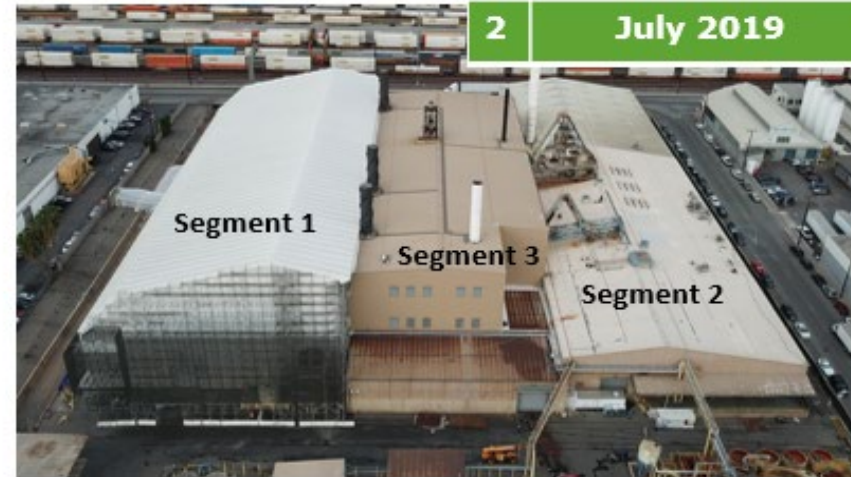
- The Closure Plan was finalized by DTSC in December 2016.
 - Phase 1 Closure - Decontamination, deconstruction, and removal/disposal of equipment used in hazardous waste management.
 - Phase 2 Closure - Addresses contaminated soils from the former hazardous waste unit operations.
 - Post-Closure Activities – If Phase 2 remediation does not meet residential standards, this may include deed restrictions on the property, long term inspections and reporting, and maintaining a stabilized and secure Facility.

Brief Overview Continued

CLOSURE IMPLEMENTATION

- Phase 1 Closure Implementation Plan approved by DTSC in October 2017.
- Phase 1 Closure began in November 2017.
- Anticipate completing Phase 1 Closure by December 2021.

Timeline of Phase 1 Closure



DTSC Oversight

DTSC will continue providing oversight at the Facility ensuring that the Trust complies with:

- Closure Plan
- Environmental Impact Report
- Closure Implementation Plan
- Health and Safety Plan
- COVID-19 Protocols

DTSC Contact Information

- Pete Ruttan, PG - Unit Chief, Closure and Corrective Action
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- Poonam Acharya - Project Manager, Closure
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- Dionne Faulk - Public Participation Specialist
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(323) 513-7876
- DTSC Exide Cleanup Project Information Hotline: (844) 225-3887



Vernon Environmental Response Trust

Purpose and Objectives

January 14, 2021

Prepared for
Public Meeting – Facility Closure Status

Presenter
Roberto Puga, P.G.

Presentation Agenda

1. Trust purpose and objectives
2. Facility transition to Trust
3. Resumption of decontamination and demolition activities
4. Beneficial reuse of property

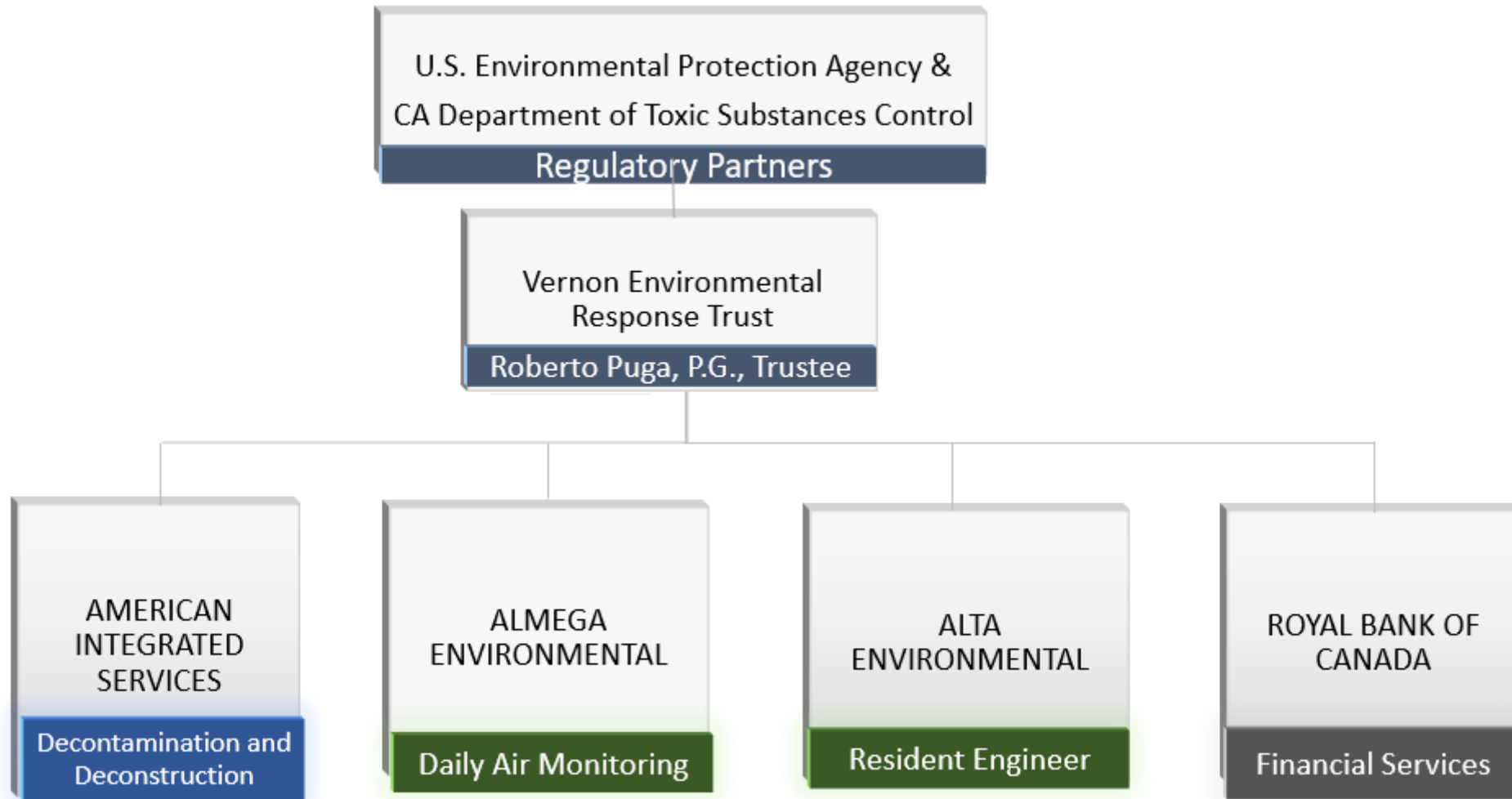
Trust Purpose and Objectives

The Vernon Environmental Response Trust (Trust) took over the site operations on October 26, 2020.

The primary objectives and purpose of the Trust are:

- Administration of Trust and property management
- Implementation approved environmental actions
- Find a beneficial reuse of the property

Trust Organization



Facility Transition to Trust

- The Trust has transitioned the facility to its control from the former owners.
 - This included continuing all daily monitoring and maintenance activities.
 - Also includes assuming responsibility for facility permits.
- The Trust has resumed decontamination and deconstruction of the main production building/smelter complex at the facility.
- The Trust is also working on scheduling the decontamination of the remaining structures at the facility in 2021.

NOTICE REMEDATION WORK RESTART

The Vernon Environmental Response Trust (VERT), under the oversight and approval of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), as of November 2020 has restarted remediation work at this former Exide facility.

This phase of remediation work consists of decontamination and demolition of the on-site structures. Work hours for remediation activities are Monday through Saturday 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM. These activities are anticipated to be completed by 2022.

For more information please click:

www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide-home/



VERNON
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESPONSE TRUST

Resumption of Decontamination and Demolition Activities



Resumption of Decontamination and Demolition Activities



Beneficial Reuse of the Property

The Trust is working with US EPA and CA DTSC to find a reuse of for the property. Factors to be considered:

- A reuse that is consistent with the surrounding areas and consistent with City of Vernon zoning
- A reuse that yields additional funds to the Trust so that additional facility work can be completed
- A reuse that creates jobs



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Ongoing Public Engagement Key Elements

1. Door-to-Door, Phone, and Local Office
2. Project Area Mailings
3. Email/Website Notifications
4. Community Meetings
5. Exide Technologies Advisory Group
6. Interagency Coordination
7. Participation in Community/Organizational Meetings

2021 Calendar of Engagement

Key Meetings

<u>Month</u>	<u>Meeting Type</u>
January	Community Meeting
February 18/March 22	Parkways Public Comment on Sampling and Health Risk Assessment
March	Advisory Group Meeting
May	Community Meeting
July	Advisory Group Meeting
September	Community Meeting
November	Advisory Group Meeting

More Information

www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide

DTSC Exide Cleanup Project Hotline: (844) 225-3887

Subscribe to the Exide E-list: www.dtsc.ca.gov/dtsc-e-lists