



**Yana Garcia**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D.  
Director  
1001 "I" Street  
P.O. Box 806  
Sacramento, California 95812-0806



**Gavin Newsom**  
Governor

February 17, 2023

Dr. Jill Johnson  
Associate Professor  
University of Southern California  
Keck School of Medicine  
SSB 2001 North Soto Street  
Health Sciences Campus  
Los Angeles, CA 90033  
[jilli@usc.edu](mailto:jilli@usc.edu)

Dear Dr. Johnson:

I am writing to request that you share the results and methodology of your Get The Lead Out! study. DTSC is committed to addressing the concerns raised in your work, and wants to fully understand the details of your study to inform any corrective action that may need to be taken.

We recognize the sensitivity of this matter in light of the long history of environmental injustices that the residents of communities surrounding Exide have experienced. DTSC's top priority is protecting the health and safety of people in the community. To date, we have removed lead-contaminated soil at 4,463 properties and we remain committed to prioritizing cleanup at residential properties, schools, parks, day care centers, and childcare facilities with the greatest risk of exposure within the Preliminary Investigation Area (PIA) consistent with our [publicly-vetted cleanup plan](#).

It is DTSC's understanding that this community-academic research collaboration between University of Southern California (USC), Occidental College, and East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice seeks to understand lead levels in the community and address public health needs. We want to support community-led science and its role in informing ongoing cleanup actions. We are interested in learning from, and working with, you and your team to advance ongoing cleanup work in the community.

DTSC has not yet been provided the opportunity to review and comment on the workplan or report summarizing the results of the soil analysis. DTSC reached out to your office via

a meeting on August 29, 2022, and follow-up email on September 6, 2022, to obtain a copy of the sampling results in the PIA but your office declined to share or discuss the findings at that time, stating that the results will be published in a scientific journal.

We would like to again request the information from your soil sampling work, including the information that was shared with the Los Angeles Times. We also would like to offer to provide all the sampling data DTSC has obtained within the PIA to your researchers. A common and complete understanding of the results will facilitate our ability to address concerns and apprehension in the community at large – concerns which have the potential to reduce the participation of some property owners in the cleanup for the foreseeable future.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and hope that we can work collaboratively going forward.

Sincerely,



Meredith Williams, Ph.D.  
Director

cc:  
mark! Lopez  
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice  
markl.eycej@gmail.com

Bhavna Shamasunder, Associate Professor and Chair,  
Occidental College, Urban and Environmental Policy Institute  
[bhavna@oxy.edu](mailto:bhavna@oxy.edu)

Attachment

**From:** [Faulk, Dionne@DTSC](mailto:Faulk_Dionne@DTSC)  
**To:** [eiresearchlab@usc.edu](mailto:eiresearchlab@usc.edu); [Venezia Ramirez](#); [Frenchy Castro](#)  
**Cc:** [Bettahar, Mehdi@DTSC](#); [Fuerte, Tracy](#); [Hariri, S.Steven@DTSC](#); [Muller, Jeffrey@DTSC](#); [Cazares, Yvonna@DTSC](#)  
**Subject:** Exide Project: Thank You and Follow-up to our Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 6, 2022 5:58:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
[image013.png](#)  
[image014.png](#)  
[image015.png](#)  
[image016.png](#)  
[image017.png](#)  
[image019.png](#)

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Hi Dayane,

I hope you are doing well. Thank you for meeting with our Exide Project Team last week.

DTSC's top priority is protecting the health and safety of people in the community, especially the most vulnerable. We remain committed to cleaning up lead-contaminated soil at residential properties, schools, parks, day care centers, and childcare facilities with the highest levels of lead in soil and the greatest risk of exposure within the Preliminary Investigation Area (PIA) and we thank you for the meeting held on August 29, 2022.

The purpose of the meeting was to request information on the USC Research Study that is currently being conducted by USC under the direction of Dr. Jill Johnston. Per our conversation at the meeting, DTSC would like to obtain a copy of the sampling results of properties located within the preliminary investigation area (PIA). We understand that the data is deemed confidential at this point, and we are willing to work with you on completing a non-disclosure agreement if necessary to obtain this data.

As stated during our meeting, this data is relevant to the residential cleanup work DTSC is conducting within the PIA and obtaining this data would primarily benefit the community we serve.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Best regards,  
Dionne



**Dionne Faulk**

Office of Environmental Equity  
Manager, Public Engagement  
CalEPA Department of Toxic Substances Control  
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Commerce, CA 90040  
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[dionne.faulk@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:dionne.faulk@dtsc.ca.gov)

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**From:** Faulk, Dionne@DTSC  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 4:39 PM  
**To:** ejresearchlab@usc.edu  
**Cc:** Fuerte, Tracy <Tracy.Fuerte@dtsc.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Environmental Justice Research Lab-Get the Lead Out Web Page

Hi Dayane,

Thank you Tracy for connecting us and Dayane for agreeing to meet with us!

Yes, Monday August 29<sup>th</sup> at 2pm works for us. We will look for your zoom invitation.

We look forward to our meeting on Monday.

Thank you,  
Dionne

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**From:** Environmental Justice Research Lab <[ejresearchlab@usc.edu](mailto:ejresearchlab@usc.edu)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 3:40 PM  
**To:** Fuerte, Tracy <[Tracy.Fuerte@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Tracy.Fuerte@dtsc.ca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Faulk, Dionne@DTSC <[Dionne.Faulk@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Dionne.Faulk@dtsc.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Environmental Justice Research Lab-Get the Lead Out Web Page

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

This message came from outside your organization.

Hi Tracy,

Our staff is available for a call on Monday 8/29, does that date work for you?

If so, we can schedule a zoom call so everyone can join ( we have a couple people that provide support for the resource webpage).

Please let me know.

Best,

**Dayane Duenas Barahona**

*Program Administrator*

Division of Environmental Health

Department of Population and Public Health Sciences

Keck School of Medicine of USC

[ejresearchlab.usc.edu](http://ejresearchlab.usc.edu)

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**From:** Fuerte, Tracy <[Tracy.Fuerte@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Tracy.Fuerte@dtsc.ca.gov)>

**Date:** Monday, August 22, 2022 at 4:51 PM

**To:** Environmental Justice Research Lab <[ejresearchlab@usc.edu](mailto:ejresearchlab@usc.edu)>

**Cc:** Faulk, Dionne@DTSC <[Dionne.Faulk@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Dionne.Faulk@dtsc.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** Environmental Justice Research Lab-Get the Lead Out Web Page

Hello,

We would like to connect with someone who manages the content of this page:

<https://ejresearchlab.usc.edu/en/get-the-lead-out/>

Please give me a call back at 323-204-6877. We would like to assist with the most recent information regarding the Exide project as some of the links do not exist or are broken on the page for community members to get information regarding soil remediation of affected areas.

Thank you for your time and return call back.

Sincerely,

**Tracy Fuerte**

Public Participation Manager, Office of Environmental Equity

[Tracy.Fuerte@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Tracy.Fuerte@dtsc.ca.gov)

(323) 204-6877

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