



April 18, 2023

Dr. Meredith Williams, Director
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Williams:

We, the undersigned Legislators, would like to request additional information to better inform funding decisions in this year's State Budget to fund the cleanup of parkways around Exide Technologies' (Exide) that have been contaminated by lead. To date, we have made significant investments to complete remediation work to improve the quality of life for residents in Los Angeles with the health of our communities being the priority, but more work needs to be done.

As you know, the former plant operated for more than 100 years as a lead acid battery recycling facility but went bankrupt in 2020 and abandoned its full liability for cleanup of the site and surrounding residential areas. The pollution Exide recklessly released into the surrounding area has left generations of Los Angeles County residents impacted by toxic lead levels.

In 2018, in response to community concerns that parkways had been left out of the initial residential cleanup plan and analysis, the Legislature allocated funding to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to specifically sample 8,000 parkways and to characterize that lead contamination. With the sampling and site characterization now complete, we believe it is critical to identify funding for the cleanup of the parkways so it is done alongside other residential cleanup efforts. An additional appropriation will allow the parkways to be cleaned without impacting the funding available for cleaning residential parcels. In that effort, we request that DTSC provide the following information to the Legislature as part of the Governor's May Revise:

1. What is the estimated cost to cleanup parkways using the same standard as the residential parcel cleanup (80 parts per million of lead)?
2. If the Legislature appropriates funding for the cleanup of parkways in this year's budget, how will DTSC integrate this cleanup effort alongside the cleanup of residential parcels?
3. What are the anticipated revenues to the Lead-Acid Battery Cleanup Fund (LABCF) for the next three years? Are these anticipated revenues, in addition to the existing balance, sufficient to cover the cost of cleaning the parkways and other anticipated lead cleanup efforts?

Over the past couple of years, the Legislature and Governors Brown and Newsom have secured \$573.5M for the cleanup of residential areas around the former Exide site. We have also expressed strong support to designate the former Exide facility and the affected residential properties and parkways surrounding the facility, as a Superfund Site within the U.S Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List, an effort that is ongoing with our congressional counterparts. Providing additional funding for the cleanup of the contaminated parkways is a critical step towards reducing our exposure to lead and halting the generations of harm that Exide brought to our community. We must act expeditiously to correct past mistakes that continue affecting our communities who are still exposed to lead concentrations above safe levels.

If you have any questions, please contact the office of Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo at (916) 319-2052. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



WENDY CARRILLO
Assemblywoman, District 52



ANTHONY RENDON
Assemblymember, District 62



MIGUEL SANTIAGO
Assemblymember, District 54



LENA A. GONZALEZ
Senator, District 33



STEVE BENNETT
Assemblymember, District 38



MARÍA ELENA DURAZO
Senator, District 26



BLANCA PACHECO
Assemblymember, District 64

CC: Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance