



August 1, 2022

The Honorable Michael S. Regan, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Support of Funding Request for the Cleanup of the Former Exide Facility

Dear Administrator Regan:

We the undersigned members of the California Legislature write to express strong support for the recent request that the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) submitted to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to designate the former Exide facility in Vernon, CA and the affected residential properties and parkways surrounding the facility as a Superfund Site within the US EPA's National Priorities List (NPL).

Designating the Exide facility and the surrounding communities as a Superfund site would mean that the site and the surrounding communities will have access to additional federal resources and expertise to help address the remaining cleanup work at the facility and its surroundings.

The former plant operated for more than 100 years as a lead acid battery recycling facility, but went bankrupt in 2020, without investigating the full extent of its contamination, and without cleaning up the contamination the State of California identified as originating from the former facility's operations.

In October 2020, a Delaware bankruptcy court allowed Exide to walk away from its obligations and transferred the facility to the newly created Vernon Environmental Response Trust (VERT) under USEPA oversight. Subsequently, VERT hired contractors to remove most of the above-ground structures in accordance with DTSC's guidance using limited funds from a settlement agreement financed by Exide. VERT's contractor concluded its work on May 1, 2022, and DTSC has engaged a new contractor to ensure operations and maintenance activities and cleanup work continue uninterrupted. Further, DTSC continues with the investigation and cleanup of an estimated 10,000 parcels with lead contamination from the facility in the surrounding communities.

To date, close to 3,800 parcels out of 5,940 scheduled for cleanup in the area surrounding the former Exide facility have been remediated by DTSC using state funds. These parcels include residential

properties, schools, daycare centers, and parks. DTSC is committed to the investigation and cleanup of the impacted communities it serves despite the bankruptcy, wildfires, or COVID-19.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. The pollution that the Exide facility recklessly released into the community has left generations of Los Angeles County residents impacted by toxic lead levels. Listing of Exide as a Superfund site is critical to preventing further harm to these traditionally underrepresented communities.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly



Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo
51st Assembly District



Assemblymember Cristina Garcia
58th Assembly District



Assemblymember Miguel Santiago
53rd Assembly District



Senator Lena Gonzalez
33rd Senate District



Assemblymember Richard Bloom
50th Assembly District

Handwritten signature of Maria Elena Durazo in black ink.

Senator Maria Elena Durazo
24th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Bill Quirk in black ink.

Assemblymember Bill Quirk
20th Assembly District

Handwritten signature of Ben Allen in black ink.

Senator Ben Allen
26th Senate District