UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán
U.S. House of Representatives
1320 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Barragán,

Thank you for your letter dated May 3, 2017 to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt and your letter dated May 11, 2017 to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tom Price. Your letters have been redirected to us for follow up. We understand and share your concerns regarding the levels of hexavalent chromium in the Paramount community and toxic air pollutants in the Compton and Lynwood communities.

It was a pleasure to meet you at the Port of Los Angeles event two weeks ago and to briefly discuss your concerns about potential air toxics in Compton. We also appreciated the opportunity to participate in the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD's) air toxics briefing for you on May 17, 2017. As my staff expressed, EPA stands ready to support SCAQMD as they begin air monitoring efforts in Compton, just as we have supported SCAQMD's air toxics efforts in Paramount. We have conducted joint inspections and have further investigations underway in Paramount. We provided $161,000 to fund four months of monitoring staff time for SCAQMD's Paramount investigations and provided $100,000 to support their purchase of a Scanning Electron Microscope. This advanced analytical laboratory equipment will be useful for SCAQMD's community air toxics investigations associated with facilities across the South Coast region, including in Paramount, Compton and other communities.

As SCAQMD turns their air toxics investigations to Compton, we will provide assistance as needed, and as our resources allow. We will have two representatives at the SCAQMD town hall on June 1 in Compton, and are communicating frequently with SCAQMD. We are coordinating with the HHS's Agency for Toxics Substances and Disease Registry as they determine what public health activities would provide a meaningful response to your and the Compton community's health concerns. The concerns you raise are important and I appreciate your reaching out to us. If we can be of further assistance, please call me at (415) 972-3572 or refer staff to our Congressional Liaison, Brent Maier, at (415) 947-4256.

Sincerely yours,

Alexis Strauss 30 May 2017
Alexis Strauss
Acting Regional Administrator

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