CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

Draft Outreach and Community Engagement Plan

Lead Sampling and Cleanup in Communities Surrounding Exide

FY15/16

Summary: October 28, 2015

Introduction

DTSC's draft Outreach and Community Engagement Plan describes planned and ongoing actions for the lead sampling and cleanup in communities surrounding the former Exide facility and for the closure of this facility through June 2016. This Engagement Plan is in draft form and may be modified as part of discussions with community members, Exide Advisory Group members*, additional external partners, and staff.

Summary

This Engagement Plan has three goals: 1) Inform impacted communities about lead sampling and cleanup activities associated with Exide and the closure of the Exide facility; 2) Engage communities, local governments, nonprofit organizations, legislative offices, and other agencies; and 3) Protect public health by ensuring that appropriate resources and information are made available to communities.

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DTSC's overall approach to the closure, sampling, and cleanup activities associated with Exide includes:

- Sampling and cleanup of residential areas with funds already secured, while pursuing additional funding.
- Engaging federal, state, and local agencies to obtain resources and expertise to support a comprehensive and coordinated cleanup of areas around Exide.
- Coordinating with federal, state and local agencies to reduce exposure to lead-based paint and ensure properties are not re-contaminated after cleanup.
- Partnering with community-based organizations to inform and engage residents, seek input, and arrange access with property owners for sampling and cleanup.
- Implementing a comprehensive cleanup plan to continue cleanup in future years, including all of the required environmental reviews, and input from the Advisory Group and the public.
- Using the safest approach to close the Exide facility, in coordination the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and with input from the Advisory Group and the public.
- Collecting evidence and using all available tools to help ensure that Exide pays to clean up their contamination in the community.

More background information related to Exide can be found at DTSC's website: https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/UpdateExideSuspension.cfm

The Engagement Plan builds on Goal 5 of DTSC's 2014-2018 Strategic Plan: Engage the Public - Increase the effectiveness of organizational engagement with external partners. Guidance for this goal includes:

- Building public confidence in DTSC and its decisions through meaningful engagement with communities and other stakeholders.
- Meeting the information and engagement needs of the communities DTSC serves, including communicating with communities and individuals in the way they need to be communicated with.
- Presenting complex technical information and processes in a manner that is accessible and understandable to impacted communities and the public.
- Ensuring that communities, the public, and other stakeholders are made aware of opportunities to participate in DTSC decisions, and the ways in which they may participate.
- Recognizing that good government requires transparency.

Goal 1: Inform impacted communities about lead sampling and cleanup activities associated with Exide.

Key Actions

1. Mail notifications to residents in focus areas regarding sampling and cleanup activities, and public health information on reducing exposures to lead. Continue mailings to properties in the preliminary area of investigation. (November 2015 - ongoing)
2. Partner with community-based organizations, local governments, and community health worker networks (*promotores*) to reach renters and property owners individually and obtain access agreements for sampling and cleanup. (November 2015 – ongoing)
3. Develop a weekend neighborhood walk program to disseminate information and engage community partners and resources. (November 2015 – June 2016)
4. Provide information about the health risks of lead and how to reduce exposure in all notifications and continue communications to impacted communities. (ongoing)
5. Establish open dialogue and clear communication with tenants and property owners undergoing sampling and cleanup. (ongoing)
6. Provide online communication tools for residents to apply for property sampling and receive updates on where neighborhood walks, sampling and cleanup is taking place. (ongoing)

Goal 2: Engage communities, local governments, nonprofit organizations, legislative offices, and other agencies.

Key Actions

1. Explore the creation of programs that promote public health and support the local economy, such as technical certifications so that community members can take part in the cleanup process while building technical and job skills. (November 2015 – June 2016)

2. Create a local DTSC satellite office and additional contact points for community members to obtain information and responses to questions, such as libraries, community centers, schools, churches, and shared space in government and community partner buildings. (November 2015 – February 2016)
3. Hire a Los Angeles-based community outreach consultant through the State's RFP (Request for Proposal Process) or Inter-Agency Agreement Process to further develop and coordinate implementation of the Engagement Plan. (November 2015 – February 2016)
4. Develop community trainings and materials on sampling, cleanup, and monitoring. (ongoing)
5. Continue monthly Exide Advisory Group meetings and quarterly public meetings to provide regular updates on sampling, cleanup, and other work and proposals to enhance the effectiveness of these activities. Clearly identify objectives of each meeting and provide agenda and any needed materials in advance. (ongoing)
6. Establish a coordination group focused on public outreach and community engagement. (November – December 2015)
7. Participate in established local community meetings and networks. (ongoing)
8. Assess and utilize most effective communication channels within communities. (ongoing)

Goal 3: Protect public health by ensuring that appropriate resources and information are made available to communities.

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Key Actions

1. Establish a coordination group with federal, state, and local governments, as well as community partners to develop strategies to address lead-based paint that continues to pose a health threat and could re-contaminate properties where lead in soil has been cleaned up. (November 2015 - ongoing)
2. Support the development of a public health symposium to explore challenges and solutions to addressing lead exposure in urban environments. (December 2015 – January 2016)
3. Support community-driven monitoring and feedback tools. (December 2015 – June 2016)
4. Encourage blood lead testing and sampling by creating incentive programs, such as providing HEPA vacuums (or other incentives) to families who participate in blood lead testing and sign up for sampling. (January 2015 – June 2016)
5. Provide information about the health risks of lead and how to reduce exposure in all notifications and continued communications to impacted communities. (ongoing)

***Exide Advisory Group**

The Exide Advisory Group was created by DTSC and SCAQMD in May 2015 and meets on a monthly basis. As established, the purpose of this Advisory Group is to create a forum for the diverse interests of the community to discuss their needs and concerns related to the oversight of closure and cleanup work on and around the Exide facility. A membership list of the Advisory Group members follows.

Community Representatives

1. Monsignor John Moretta, Resurrection Church
2. David Pettit, Natural Resources Defense Council
3. Roberto Cabrales, Communities for a Better Environment
4. mark! Lopez, East Yard Communities of Environmental Justice (Advisory Group Co-Chair)
5. Andrea Hricko, USC Medical School
6. Martha Jimenez, Unincorporated East Los Angeles
7. Theresa Marquez, Boyle Heights
8. Sal Martinez, Community leader
9. Mike Dennis, East Los Angeles Community Corporation
10. Jane Williams, California Communities Against Toxics
11. Leonardo Vilchis, Union de Vecinos
12. Frank Villalobos, Barrio Planners
13. Irving Pacheco, Huntington Park Resident
14. Felipe Aguirre, Maywood Resident
15. Mary Lou Calanche, Legacy LA

Business/Labor Representatives

16. Marisa Olguin, President/CEO, Vernon Chamber of Commerce

Elected Officials

17. Honorable Barbara Boxer, US Senate
18. Honorable Dianne Feinstein, US Senate
19. Honorable Xavier Becerra, US House of Representatives
20. Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, US House of Representatives
21. Honorable Kevin de León, California State Senate
22. Honorable Ricardo Lara, California State Senate
23. Honorable Tony Mendoza, California State Senate
24. Honorable Miguel Santiago, California State Assembly
25. Honorable Anthony Rendon, California State Assembly
26. Honorable Cristina Garcia, California State Assembly
27. Honorable Hilda Solis, Los Angeles County Supervisor
28. Honorable Ali Saleh, City of Bell, City Council
29. Honorable Jose Huizar, City of Los Angeles, City Council
30. Honorable Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce, City Council
31. Honorable Oscar Magaña, City of Maywood, City Council
32. Honorable Mayor Karina Macias, City of Huntington Park, City Council

Government Agencies

33. Barbara A. Lee, Director, Department of Toxic Substances Control (Advisory Group Co-Chair)
34. Dr. Barry R. Wallerstein, Executive Officer, South Coast Air Quality Management District (Advisory Group Co-Chair)

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35. Angelo Bellomo, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Department of Environmental Health, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
36. Leonard Grossberg, Director, Health & Environmental Control Department, City of Vernon
37. Mark Whitworth, City Administrator, City of Vernon
38. Deldi Reyes, EPA Environmental Justice Program
39. Samuel Unger, Executive Officer, State Water Resources Control Board

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