CalEPA
California Environmental
Protection Agency

Gavin Newsom
Governor

Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for Environmental Protection

July 1, 2022

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

REQUEST FOR U.S. EPA TO COLLABORATE WITH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ADDRESS LEAD CONTAMINATION IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES ALREADY OVERBURDENED BY POLLUTION

We are encouraged and pleased to see the Biden Administration's commitment to protect people from the serious health threats posed by lead. We welcome the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) recent announcement of plans to enhance its training efforts for contractors working in low-income and other underserved neighborhoods and to distribute educational materials to community members focused on protecting children from exposure to lead. As well, the multi-pronged approach outlined in U.S. EPA's Draft Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures and Disparities in U.S. Communities is exactly the type of work that can help safeguard vulnerable communities that are overburdened by pollution – including lead.

I write to ask that U.S. EPA collaborate not only across agencies at the federal level, but also with the State of California to protect people and workers in communities burdened by toxic levels of lead in their environment. We have an opportunity to develop a comprehensive approach to address lead contamination from industrial facilities and other sources that have affected people who live in nearby communities. Working together through our collective state and federal programs, we can implement a multi-pronged approach that reduces the health burden on workers and residents living in these areas. The breadth of lead sources necessitates solutions that allow us to apply the full complement of relevant regulatory tools to work together across media. With collaboration, we have the opportunity for federal and state coordination and action that helps people in these communities.

I am deeply grateful for the current administration's commitment to protecting environmental justice communities with a focus on the disparate impacts of lead contamination on these communities.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help to answer any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency