Date: Fri Aug 05 14:20:04 EDT 2022
From: "Gaines, Cynthia" <Gaines.Cynthia@epa.gov>
To: "CMS.OEX" <cms.oex@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Memo from Sen. Lena A. Gonzalez

-----Original Message-----
From: Cuneta, Markanthony <cuneta.markanthony@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Gaines, Cynthia <Gaines.Cynthia@epa.gov>
Cc: Sharpe, Sarah <Sharpe.Sarah@epa.gov>
Subject: Memo from Sen. Lena A. Gonzalez

Hi Cynthia,

Per our telecon, attached is the memo we received today via USPS mail. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

V/r,
Tony
Markanthony (Tony) Cuneta
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 Office of the Regional Administrator
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone No.: (415) 947-4277
Cell No.: (415) 535-3732

-----Original Message-----
From: cuneta.markanthony@epa.gov <cuneta.markanthony@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 1:24 PM
To: Cuneta, Markanthony <cuneta.markanthony@epa.gov>
Subject: Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer

Please open the attached document. It was scanned and sent to you using a Xerox Multifunction Printer.

Sent by: [cuneta.markanthony@epa.gov]
Attachment File Type: pdf, Multi-Page

For Assistance, please call IRM Helpline at 415-947-8023. Thank you!

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE
LENA A. GONZALEZ
STATE SENATOR, 33RD DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

SACRAMENTO CA 95
18 JUL 2022 PM 1

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Forward to
EPA Region 9,
San Francisco CA

FCL-156D-492

JUL 25 2022

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

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California State Senate

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PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE

SENATOR LENA A. GONZALEZ
THIRTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT
SENATE MAJORITY WHIP
CHAIR, SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

July 13, 2022

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

Subject: Support of Funding for the Cleanup of the Former Exide Facility

Dear Administrator Regan,

As the State Senator representing California's 33rd Senate District, I am writing to express strong support for the recent request that the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) submitted to the 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, which is located in my Senate district, 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. 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 federal bankruptcy court allowed Exide to walk away from its obligations and transferred the facility to the newly created Vernon Environmental Response Trust (VERT) under US EPA oversight. Subsequently, VERT hired contractors to remove most of the above-ground structures following DTSC's guidance and using limited funds from a settlement agreement financed by Exide. VERT's contractor concluded its work on May 1, 2022, and DTSC engaged a new contractor to ensure operations, maintenance activities, and cleanup work continue uninterrupted. Further, DTSC continues with the investigation and cleanup of an estimated 10,000 parcels in the surrounding communities with lead contamination from the facility.

Approximately 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.

Exide's willful betrayal of public trust resulted in thousands of children and families being poisoned or exposed to lead and other toxic chemicals. As a result, the communities in my district now suffer from pollution while California taxpayers bear the cleanup cost. This is deplorable and additional federal resources are critically needed to address this injustice.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you designate the former Exide facility and the affected residential properties as a Superfund Site within the US EPA's NPL. Thank you for your consideration of this request, which will not only revitalize these impacted communities, but will help provide unparalleled positive quality of life, health, and economic benefits for the impacted communities surrounding the former Exide facility. The return on investment will be significant, long-lasting, and tangible for all parties involved. Should you have any questions regarding my support, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (916) 651-4033.

Sincerely,

Lena Gonzalez
Senator, Senate District 33

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 2088
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4033
FAX (916) 651-4933

LONG BEACH DISTRICT OFFICE
3939 ATLANTIC AVE., SUITE 107
LONG BEACH, CA 90807
TEL (562) 256-7921
FAX (562) 256-9991

HUNTINGTON PARK DISTRICT OFFICE
3355 E. GAGE AVENUE
HUNTINGTON PARK, CA 90255
TEL (323) 277-4560
FAX (323) 277-4528

SENATOR.GONZALEZ@SENATE.CA.GOV • WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/GONZALEZ