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

Introduction

DTSC's draft Outreach and Community Engagement Plan describes planned and ongoing actions for the lead sampling and cleanup in the residential areas[1] surrounding the former Exide facility and for the closure of this facility through June 2016[2]. This Engagement Plan is in draft form and may be modified as part of discussions with community members, Exide Technologies Advisory Group members (see page 3), additional external partners, and staff.

Summary

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

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, as well as nonprofit organizations, 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 sources of lead, including 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.
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive cleanup plan to continue cleanup in future years, including all of the required environmental reviews, and with input from the Exide Technologies Advisory Group and other community stakeholders.
- Using the safest approach to close the Exide facility, in coordination the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and with input from the Exide Technologies Advisory Group and other community stakeholders.

[1] This plan does not capture activities associated with the 219 properties identified as the "Initial Assessment Area". More information is available at DTSC's website: www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide

[2] The Exide facility closure process is expected to extend through 2018.

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- Collecting evidence and using all available tools to help ensure that Exide pays to clean up their contamination in the community.

The Engagement Plan builds on 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 affected 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.

More background information related to Exide can be found at DTSC's website: www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide

Goal 1: Inform affected 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 within the preliminary area of investigation (1.7 mile radius from Exide). (November 2015 - ongoing)
2. Partner with community-based organizations, local governments, and community health worker networks (*Promotores de Salud*) to reach renters and property owners individually and obtain access agreements for sampling and cleanup. (November 2015 – ongoing)
3. Develop a 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. (September 2015 - ongoing)
5. Provide online communication tools for residents to apply for property sampling and receive updates on where neighborhood walks, sampling and cleanup is taking place. (October 2015 - ongoing)
6. Partner with local elected officials to provide regular updates of activities. (November 2015 – ongoing)
7. Enhance media updates to raise awareness and coverage of key upcoming milestones, focusing on multi-lingual media outlets (October 2015 – ongoing)

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Goal 2: Collaborate closely with communities, local governments, nonprofit organizations, legislative offices, and other agencies on engagement strategies.

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 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. Establish a coordination group focused on public outreach and community engagement. (November – December 2015)
5. Develop community trainings and materials on sampling, cleanup, and monitoring. (ongoing)
6. Continue Exide Technologies Advisory Group meetings and provide other opportunities for 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)
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 information is made available to communities and resources are allocated appropriately.

Key Actions

1. Develop a coordination group with federal, state, and local governments, as well as community partners to develop strategies to address lead exposure from multiple sources, including 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-based networks to enhance outreach and compliance. (December 2015 – June 2016)
4. Coordinate with worker health and safety experts to promote safe practices throughout the sampling and cleanup process. (November 2015 – ongoing)

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5. Encourage blood lead testing and sampling by creating incentive programs to families who participate in blood lead testing and sign up for sampling. (January 2015 – June 2016)
6. Provide information about the health risks of lead and how to reduce exposure in notifications and continued communications to affected communities. Involve schools, churches, and recreational organizations in these efforts, as well as community-based medical providers. (ongoing)

Exide Technologies Advisory Group

The Exide Technologies 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 Exide Technologies Advisory Group members follows.

Community Representatives

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

Elected Officials (*or their assigned staff*)

15. Honorable Barbara Boxer, US Senate
16. Honorable Dianne Feinstein, US Senate
17. Honorable Xavier Becerra, US House of Representatives
18. Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, US House of Representatives
19. Honorable Kevin de León, California State Senate
20. Honorable Ricardo Lara, California State Senate
21. Honorable Tony Mendoza, California State Senate
22. Honorable Miguel Santiago, California State Assembly
23. Honorable Anthony Rendon, California State Assembly
24. Honorable Cristina Garcia, California State Assembly
25. Honorable Hilda Solis, Los Angeles County Supervisor

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26. Honorable Ali Saleh, City of Bell, City Council
27. Honorable Jose Huizar, City of Los Angeles, City Council
28. Honorable Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce, City Council
29. Honorable Oscar Magaña, City of Maywood, City Council
30. Honorable Mayor Karina Macias, City of Huntington Park, City Council

Government Agencies

31. Barbara A. Lee, Director, Department of Toxic Substances Control (Advisory Group Co-Chair)
32. Dr. Barry R. Wallerstein, Executive Officer, South Coast Air Quality Management District (Advisory Group Co-Chair)
33. Angelo Bellomo, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Department of Environmental Health, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
34. Leonard Grossberg, Director, Health & Environmental Control Department, City of Vernon
35. Mark Whitworth, City Administrator, City of Vernon
36. Deldi Reyes, EPA Environmental Justice Program
37. Samuel Unger, Executive Officer, State Water Resources Control Board

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