

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2014/10AM PDT

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MEDIA ADVISORY AND DAYBOOK ITEM for MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2014

At a Press Conference Near Site of Exide Technologies...

Community Will Demand Complete Testing for & Cleanup of Lead at All Homes & Schools Near Battery Recycling Facility

Today's Scheduled Clean-Up of Only Two Homes Called Insufficient to Protect Residents from Exposure to Lead & Arsenic

Elevated levels of lead and arsenic —well above California EPA's health screening level—from recent composite soil testing near at least thirty-nine homes and two schools in East LA and Maywood have united community organizations in a demand that the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) and the lead-acid battery smelter, Exide Technologies, take the following measures to safeguard area residents:

- Discrete soil testing and interior testing at all 39 homes and schools in the assessment areas;
- Step-out sampling to ensure that every home and school in the surrounding communities is fully tested inside and out, and;
- Cleanup of both soil and interiors at any property with elevated lead levels above 80ppm.

The organizations believe that the DTSC-approved clean up by Exide of contaminated soil at two homes near its Vernon CA facility, which begins today (Monday, August 11th), is insufficient. East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, Communities for a Better Environment, Resurrection Church, and the Natural Resources Defense Council will call for complete testing and cleanup at all homes and schools in the surrounding communities.

Operating since 1922, the Exide facility smelts lead-acid batteries to recover lead. Without the strongest public health protections, this process can release lead and arsenic into the air, dangerous neurotoxins of particular concern for pregnant women and children. These airborne toxins can then deposit on the ground. DTSC is responsible for dealing with soil contamination and permitting hazardous waste facilities like Exide's, but the facility has been operating under an interim permit from DTSC for decades.

WHO: Monsignor John Moretta, Resurrection Church
CBE organizer Roberto Cabrales
EYCEJ Angelo Logan and Mark Lopez
NRDC environmental justice staff attorney Ramya Sivasubramanian

WHEN: **10 a.m. PT, Monday, August 11, 2014**

WHERE: Union Pacific Ave & S Eastman Ave Los Angeles, CA 90023
(at the corner of Eastman Elementary School)