



**Contacts:**

Robert Cabrales, CBE  
mark! Lopez, EYCEJ  
Monsignor John Moretta

rcabrales@cbeal.org; 323-826-9771, x 107  
MLopez@eycej.org; 323.263.2113  
323-261-5750

**MEDIA ADVISORY FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015**

**East Los Angeles and Southeast Los Angeles  
Communities Celebrate Exide Shutdown & Demand  
Full Remediation of Contaminated Homes**

**WHAT:** Residents who have tirelessly advocated for Exide's closure for years will join together to celebrate the communities' victory & discuss next steps.

**WHEN:** March 12, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

**WHERE:** [1271 S. Indiana St, Los Angeles, CA 90023](#) (Residential Home)

**WHO:**

- Exide neighbors from communities of East LA and Southeast Los Angeles
- Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)
- East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ)
- Monsignor John Moretta, Resurrection Church



## COMMUNITIES FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

*Building Community Power to Achieve Environmental Justice,  
Clean Energy and Healthy Communities*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:**       **Robert Cabrales** (323) 439-2098  
                          **Milton Nimatuj** (323) 617-7039  
                          **Gladys Limón** (650) 823-7619

#### Long Overdue, Forced Shut-Down of Exide Vernon Facility

**7:00 AM, THURSDAY March 12, 2015, Vernon California:** After decades of egregious violations of environmental laws, threatening the health and safety of surrounding residents, workers, and the Southeast Los Angeles community, Exide's Vernon Lead-Acid Battery Recycling facility is finally forced to shut down!

In the face of felony criminal charges, Exide has been forced to relinquish the possibility of continued operations at its Vernon facility, despite what seemed to be an everlasting battle between unjustly burdened community members, Exide operators and various oversight State agencies.

Mauro Barrera, Youth EJ member from Southeast LA, had this to say about today's news:

“As a person of color and a resident of east LA, I'm overjoyed that Exide was finally brought to justice after its 34 year-long mass pollution spree. Now with Exide gone, our families and children can breathe cleaner air and play in cleaner soil. We might not have the status or resources of the elite, but united we can change things for the better. This is a clear example of the power communities hold when we rally together and fight for what we deserve as people. We must take encouragement from this victory over a serial polluter and continue in our fight against environmental racism.”

The part that remains un-addressed by the shutdown is the fact that the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) has also fallen down on the job. The DTSC's utter failure to enforce the law against Exide contributed significantly to the burden placed on East LA and Southeast LA residents for far too long. We will call upon our elected representatives and call EPA to investigate the misfeasance on the part of DTSC and ensure the community that this will not happen again.