



JOHN A. PÉREZ
SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY

April 5, 2013

Ms. Debbie Raphael, Director
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2828

Dear Director Raphael:

I am very concerned about the continued threat to public health and safety from the Exide plant in Vernon.

The latest revelations about extensive arsenic releases and the threat to public health across the City of Los Angeles are just one more chapter in this terrible story of ongoing pollution and malfeasance.

I applaud the Los Angeles City Council for their efforts to get to the bottom of this and the South Coast AQMD for their efforts to force the company to clean up its act. However, more must be done to protect residents who live in the impact area of this out-of-compliance plant and the workers who work within it.

I am writing to request you exercise every bit of your authority to immediately and fully investigate all potential violations at this plant and act without delay on any findings from those investigations. Anything less than a rapid resolution is unacceptable.

Further, this situation requires immediate action on the following points: site characterization and remediation of all past and present contaminations; financial assurances, such as an account from Exide, in place for clean-up so that taxpayers are not left with the bill for this mess; a finalized permit for the facility so that we can start anew with the company and the community with the most rigorous standards and protections for neighborhoods and workers in place.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this very serious matter.

Sincerely,

John A. Pérez
Speaker of the Assembly

