MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND JANICE HAHN

December 20, 2016

As residents of the affected communities of Exide live through the arduous process of closing the Exide facility in Vernon, my district and my constituents are burden yet again with another battery recycling facility, this time located in the City of Industry.

The Quemetco facility has been in my district since 1959, and is surrounded by the communities of Hacienda Heights, Avocado Heights and La Puente and several elementary schools, parks and the San Jose Creek. Quemetco facility is the only remaining lead-acid battery smelter west of the Mississippi.

This facility is regulated by the same state agencies that failed to protect the health of the communities next to Exide. In the last several years Quemetco has been cited for violating emission standards for benzene, a known carcinogen, and for arsenic.

The facility wants to increase their production by 25% so that they can operate 24 hours a day. To date, both South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) will have purview over their permits and are currently reviewing their application.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE, THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Send a 5-signature letter to the Hearing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the Department Toxic Substance Control urging them protect public health, consider the environmental justice impacts to the surrounding and consider the overall cumulative impact for the immediate area.

2. Further direct the Department of Public Health to report back to this Board bimonthly on progress of the permits process by SCAQMD and DTSC.

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MOTION
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