

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION 500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 383 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 (213) 974-1411 • FAX (213) 620-0636 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS

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SHEILA KUEHL

IANICE HAHN

KATHRYN BARGER

December 22, 2016

Barbara A. Lee, Director California Department of Toxic Substances Control 1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814-2828

Dear Ms. Lee:

We are writing to urge the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to consider the environmental justice and overall cumulative impact of Quemetco, Inc.'s continued lead-acid battery recycling operation.

As the lead agency that oversees the hazardous waste permits and regulations that Quemetco operates under, the DTSC is responsible for determining if past emissions of airborne lead impacted the residential and industrial neighborhoods, public streets and waterways surrounding the facility. As recently as July 2016, the DTSC cited Quemetco and ordered it to correct violations related to its leak-detection system and containment building.

In June 2014, Quemetco requested a permit modification to allow the battery recycling and lead smelting facility to increase its production by 25 percent, which would allow the facility to operate 24 hours per day. Allowing Quemetco to increase its production and operating hours could have a severe, negative effect on public health.

As the permit modification request is processed, and the related Environmental Impact Report is prepared, we urge the DTSC to consider the environmental justice and public health impact that the continued operation of this facility has on the surrounding communities, and to continue applying rigorous oversight of the facility.

Barbara A. Lee, Director December 22, 2016 Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS Chairman of the Board

Supervisor, Second District

HILDA L. SOLIS

Supervisor, First District

SHEILA KUEHL

Supervisor, Third District

ANICE HAHN

Supervisor, Fourth District

KATHRYN BARGER V

Supervisor, Fifth District



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KATHRYN BARGER

December 22, 2016

Dr. William A. Burke, Chairman South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765

## Dear Chairman Burke:

We are writing to urge the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to consider the environmental justice and overall cumulative impact of Quemetco, Inc.'s proposed permit modification request.

Quemetco is currently subject to a SCAQMD-issued Title V permit which restricts the facility's operating hours. In June 2014, Quemetco requested a permit modification to allow the battery recycling and lead smelting facility to increase its production by 25 percent, which would allow the facility to operate 24 hours per day. In the last several years, Quemetco has been cited for violating emission standards for benzene and arsenic. Allowing Quemetco to increase its production and operating hours could have a severe, negative effect on public health.

As the SCAQMD processes this permit modification request, and also prepares the Environmental Impact Report, which will evaluate the potential environmental impact of the proposed modification, we urge the SCAQMD to consider the environmental justice and public health impact that allowing the facility to operate 24 hours per day would have on the surrounding communities.

Dr. William A. Burke, Chairman December 22, 2016 Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Chairman of the Board
Supervisor, Second District

HILDA L. SOLIS

Supervisor, First District

SHEILA KUEHL

Supervisor, Third District

ANICE HAHN

Supervisor, Fourth District

KATHRYN BARGER

Supervisor, Fifth District