COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

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August 14, 2013

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. Cynthia A. Harding
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **TOXIC EMISSIONS EXPOSURE AND THE EXIDE TECHNOLOGIES PLANT IN VERNON, CALIFORNIA**

On June 25, 2013, your Board directed the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) to identify options for protecting the health of County residents from exposure to toxic emissions similar to the situation at the Exide Technologies plant in Vernon, California. The attached PowerPoint presentation presents DPH's preliminary ideas about how best to protect the health of County residents from such exposures, including near the Exide plant.

DPH Environmental Health staff continues to work with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), the State agencies with regulatory authority over Exide, to determine an appropriate course of action with respect to Exide, as detailed in the attached PowerPoint presentation. Working jointly with these agencies will provide for the timely reduction of emissions and associated risks to levels that are deemed acceptable by both the regulatory agencies and the County Health Officer.

The PowerPoint presentation also presents some preliminary options for how DPH could address cumulative risks in similarly burdened communities. DPH will continue to explore the feasibility of these options and confer with our County and State partners to develop the key elements for a program of this kind and the resource requirements for its implementation.

We will report back to your Board with our recommendations on August 27, 2013. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

JEF:ajb
PH:1307:002

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Reducing Toxic Air Emissions and Mitigating Health Risks

July 22, 2013

Angelo J. Bellomo
Director of Environmental Health

County of Los Angeles
Public Health

Health Risk Assessment Summary

Exide Technologies Site, Vernon, California

	Resident	Worker	Public Notice Threshold	Risk Reduction Threshold
Maximum Individual Cancer Risk	22 in one million[1]	156 in one million[1,2]	10 in one million	25 in one million

[1] Triggers Public Notification
[2] Triggers Risk Reduction

Source: *Revised AB 2588 Health Risk Assessment, Exide Technologies, Environ International Corporation, January 2013*

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Proposed Near-Term Objectives (6 months)

- Achieve emission reductions at Exide site sufficient to meet "acceptable risk criteria" established by AQMD, DTSC and County Health Officer

- Conduct assessment of contaminants in surface soils and dusts within the adjoining community

- Mitigate contaminants in surface soils and dusts within the adjoining community to prevent exposure to the public

- Perform blood-contaminant screening of community residents, and initiate recommended interventions based on findings

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County Strategy to Achieving Near-Term Objectives

- DPH will convene an *Interagency Steering Committee* (DTSC, AQMD, Vernon Health Department , County Health Officer) to ensure County goals and objectives are achieved

- Steering Committee to be charged with taking actions pursuant to *"acceptable risk criteria"* as determined jointly by the agencies

- Fully utilize enforcement authorities of DTSC, AQMD and County DPH in support of necessary actions

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Timeline for Blood-Contaminant Screening

▪ Secure funding	Sep 2013
▪ Contract for sampling & testing services	Oct 2013
▪ Perform testing	Nov 2013
▪ Analyze and report results	Jan 2013

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Timeline for Assessment of Contaminants in Surface Soils within Adjoining Community[1]

▪ Prepare SOW / Order for Assessment Workplan	Oct 2013
▪ Implementation of Approved Workplan	Jan 2013
▪ Assessment Report & Recommendations	Mar 2014
▪ Order Necessary Interim Remedial Measures	Apr 2014

[1] Dates are preliminary. Schedule to be developed by Interagency Steering Committee

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Advantages of Proposed Strategy

- Interagency approach via Steering Committee will ensure DPH involvement and full use of available regulatory authorities to achieve County goals
- Appropriate decision criteria for facility emissions and associated risks will be established jointly by AQMD, DTSC and the County Health Officer
- Agencies will focus first on immediate concerns of air emissions and potential exposure of residents to contaminants in surface soils and dusts
- Conditions on-site and in the surrounding community will improve at greater pace

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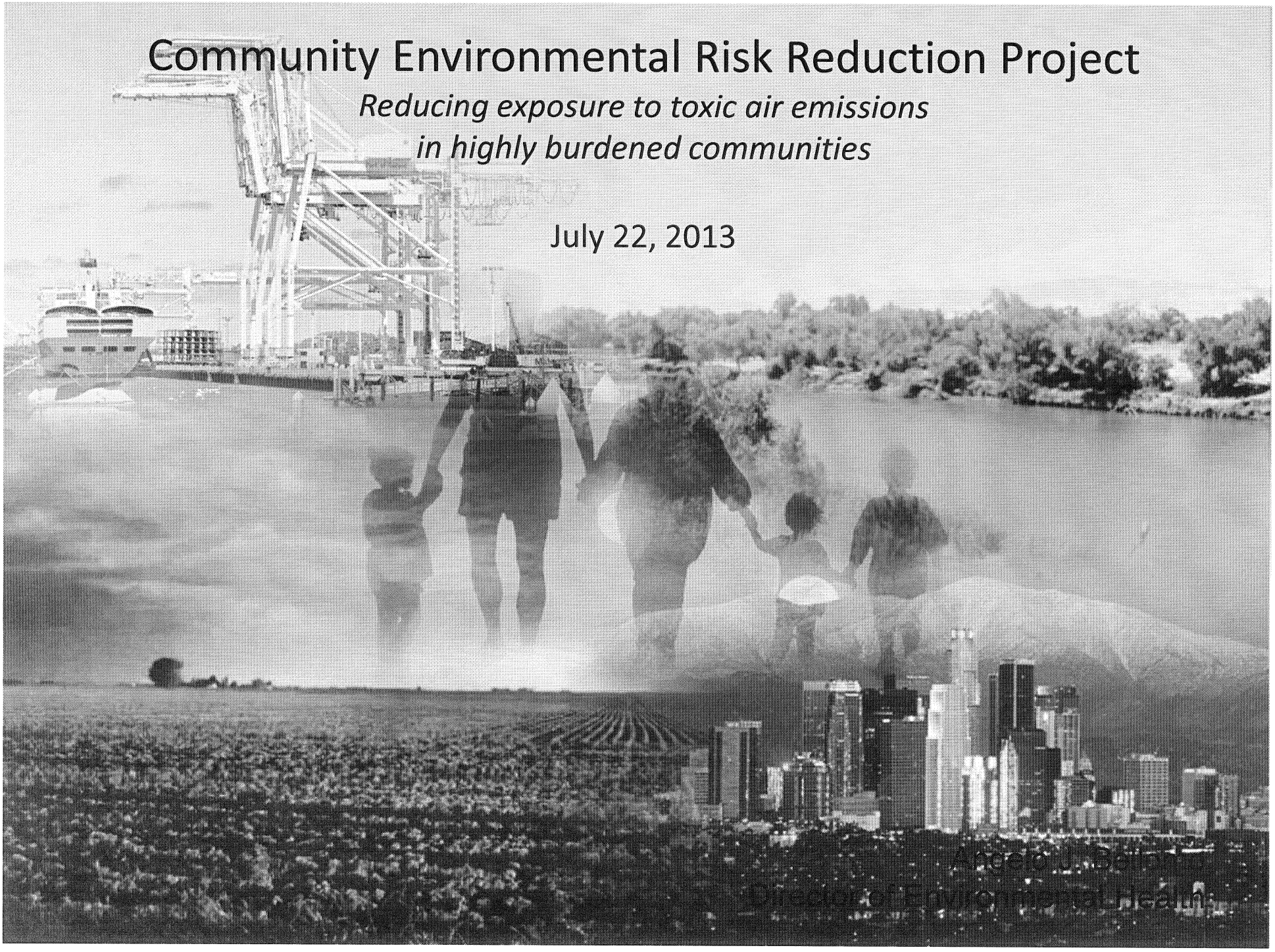
Community Environmental Risk Reduction Project

Reducing exposure to toxic air emissions in highly burdened communities

July 22, 2013



Angela Jubelirer
Director of Environmental Health

A Los Angeles County Initiative

Goals

- Demonstrate effectiveness of State and local regulatory interventions to reduce cumulative risk in highly burdened communities

- Provide public health perspective and recommended policies to better inform proposed land-use and regulatory decisions in highly burdened communities

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Objectives

- Convene "interagency workgroup" to develop strategies for risk reduction in highly burdened communities
- Establish *Priority List* of communities with greatest cumulative health risks due to chemical exposures; select two for pilot project
- Initiate pilot project; implement potential risk reduction measures, and assess improvements in cumulative risks
- Develop draft public health policy measures aimed at influencing proposed land-use and regulatory decision in highly burdened communities

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Interagency Workgroup

- County DPH (Chair)
- State Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC)
- Air Quality Management District (AQMD)
- Cal/EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
- Others

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Establish *Priority List* of Communities with Greatest Cumulative Health Risks

California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool, Version 1
(CalEnviroScreen 1.0)

State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
Cal / EPA

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Cumulative Risk based on Pollution & Population Indicators

Pollution Burden

- Ozone concentration
- $PM^{2.5}$ concentration
- Diesel PM emissions
- Pesticide use
- Toxic releases
- Traffic density
- Contaminated sites
- Groundwater threats
- Hazardous wastes
- Impaired water bodies
- Solid waste sites

Population Characteristics

- Prevalence of children & elderly
- Rate of low birth-weights
- Asthma emergency visits
- Educational attainment
- Linguistic isolation
- Poverty
- Race & ethnicity

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Ten Highest Scoring ZIP Codes in LA County[1]

- Vernon
- Baldwin Park / Irwindale
- East Los Angeles
- Compton / Rancho Dominguez
- Carson / Long Beach
- South El Monte
- Gardena
- Paramount
- Boyle Heights
- Bell Gardens

[1]California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool, Version 1, Cal/EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, April, 2013

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Potential Risk Reduction Measures for Use in Pilot Project

- Outreach to Agencies, Industry and Communities
- Community Grants
- Focused Enforcement & Site Clean-up
- Stricter Criteria for Permit Decisions (Alternative Standards)
- Enhanced Environmental Monitoring

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Other Actions to Influence Decisions

- Bring community risks to attention of local planning agencies to encourage consideration of public health in permit and land-use determinations (e.g., sensitive land-use near freeways)

- Encourage cooperative agreements among industrial operators to reduce emissions beyond regulatory standards ("better neighbors" / "environmental stewards")

- Outreach to raise awareness and educate communities about toxic risks

Expected Results

- County leads successful pro-active approach to dealing with toxic exposures in highly burdened communities, reducing need for reactive interventions
- DPH assumes more effective role with planning agencies through policy development, and by becoming earlier partner in permitting processes
- Planning agencies asked to demonstrate a proposed permit will result in zero-impacts -- or a reduction in cumulative risk -- to public health
- Operators become community partners by adhering to stricter, self-imposed guidelines for toxic emissions; may reduce potential liability and litigation
- Improvements will occur in pilot communities, and will promote more health-protective planning and permitting decisions in all LA communities