

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

November 12, 2014

On March 11, 2014, this Board created a County Toxic Threat Strike Team, comprised of multiple County agencies to engage and collaborate with State agencies and other local jurisdictions as needed, to gain leverage towards a solution concerning Exide Technologies. Their charge included identifying action to achieve Exide's closure until the State Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC) makes a final determination regarding Exide's permit.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency determined that Exide was the worst lead polluter in California, and the third worst in the nation. The Southern California Air Quality Management District's 2012 risk assessment warned that the cancer threat due to Exide's toxic lead, arsenic and benzene is greater than any other facility in Southern California. Toxic lead levels have been found in soil samples outside the Exide facility, most disturbingly in homes in the surrounding neighborhood. And recently it was discovered that trucks from Exide have leaked toxic material into communities throughout Southern California, on County roads and beyond.

MOTION

Molina _____

Ridley-Thomas _____

Yaroslavsky _____

Antonovich _____

Knabe _____

Despite these horrific facts, DTSC has allowed this hazardous facility to operate for 33 years without the required permit. DTSC knows that unacceptable levels of lead, arsenic and benzene caused by Exide's battery recycling operation have contaminated the air, water and soil in the surrounding area. It's clear that DTSC has been unable to take any action to permanently shutter Exide.

This community deserves better protection of its environment. The Board of Supervisors should continue its pursuit of actions to shutter the Exide facility and swiftly abate the pollution that Exide has caused.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that that the Board of Supervisors authorize County Counsel to explore potential legal actions against Exide Technologies either individually or in concert with other jurisdictions or public agencies, and report back to this Board in one week with those legal options to shutter Exide and abate the toxic conditions surrounding the facility and in the affected neighborhoods.

GH/sf