



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
41-A.		Favor	Alice Tomaselli	Please allocate part of this budget to test inside of houses especially soft goods
			Aline Ketefian	We need to allocate funds to help those with standing houses cover the cost of indoor air, indoor surfaces, and soil testing, which insurance often denies or civers incompletely.
			AMY D DEAVOLL	<p>Please consider reallocating the funds for lead testing INSIDE our homes where we reside. The soil testing has already been done and the results were shared on April 10 by the LA County Department of Public Health. We know that the soil exceeds lead limits! We need to know what our homes contain so that abatement and remediation can be handled correctly, as well as to prove to our insurance companies that should rightfully pay for cleaning, replacement, and post-remediation testing so that we can move back HOME without fearing for our health and the health of our children. THIS IS IMPERATIVE. My household has moved 9 times over the past 3 months. The fight for insurance help is horrible. We pay taxes and count on our local government. We have already been terribly let down by public services since the night of the fires in Altadena/Pasadena. Please help citizens who have lived here our whole lives and now have a decimated community. We rely on your support and guidance – please help.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Amy</p>
			Ani Orinakyan	<p>Supervisors,</p> <p>Since the day after the Eaton Fire, residents of Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre with unburned homes near the burn zone have raised concerns to public officials about contamination of homes and the local environment by ash containing lead and other toxic substances. More than 90% of the homes in Altadena were built before 1975—when lead and asbestos were prevalent in both building materials and paint—and when 9,418 structures burned in the fire, those materials dispersed into the environment, traveling as far as 7 miles according to testing conducted by CalTech.</p> <p>On February 11th, the Department of Public Health issued an advisory warning residents living within 250 yards of the burn zone that hazards from this ash may cause poor health outcomes as a result of these dangerous substances, and urged caution to those returning to the area as debris removal and rebuilding proceeds.</p> <p>Despite acknowledgement of the dangers present in our environment, residents' emails, phone calls, public comments, community meeting questions, and in-person town hall conversations have gone unanswered, extending the stress and suffering of the fire for those hoping to return to homes damaged by smoke and ash who need answers and remediation. Officials also made no effort to address or rectify our exclusion from programs like the Household Relief Grant and the Red Cross, despite countless pleas</p>



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from desperate constituents.

To fill the gap, Eaton Fire Residents United, and schools like LMU, UCLA, USC, and CalTech have stepped in over the last two months to use their expertise to confirm what we've known all along: the soil in Altadena has been contaminated by lead from the Eaton Fire. In response to this overwhelming consensus of data, The Department of Public Health released a statement on April 10th announcing "unanticipated" elevation of lead levels in studies they conducted downwind of the fire, and confirming that soil in the Palisades (where the average home age is newer) did not suffer the same level of contamination.

Now that other organizations have done the work, we are glad to see that Supervisor Barger, the only local official who has so far refused to speak with concerned resident groups, has introduced a motion to allocate \$3 million from the Lead Paint Hazard Mitigation Program towards soil testing.

This is a good first step, but it's not enough.

EFRU and Caltech, on their own time and budgets, have also proved significant contamination from lead (and other heavy metals) in the interior of homes, verified through both scientific studies and submitted tests from professional industrial hygienists. EFRU's contamination map, comprising over 100 tests, shows presence of lead inside all homes—100%— that tested for lead throughout the area affected by the Eaton Fire, with 75% of those reporting above 40 µg/ft², the EPA threshold for safety for windowsills. The threshold for floors is 5 µg/ft².

Lead toxicity is especially dangerous for children, who can suffer lifelong complications that are often not identified until many years after exposure, and which include kidney problems, developmental issues, coma, and death, according to the CDC. Lead is also dangerous for the elderly and pregnant. The prevalence of lead and other hazards that permeated homes near the Eaton Fire burn zone is a looming health crisis that, like the lead in soil, has so far been ignored by officials despite press coverage, outreach, and hard data.

As a resident of Pasadena, I request that the Supervisors amend their motion to include a further \$3 million to create a fund to test for contaminants and to remediate the interiors of unburned homes and schools within 1 mile of the Eaton Fire Burn zone, and to reimburse uninsured renters and homeowners who paid for professional testing out pocket due to necessity or refusal of insurance companies to follow due diligence.

Professional heavy metals testing, which ranges from \$3,000 to over \$20,000, is a financial obstacle to returning home safely to standing homes affected by the fire for many homeowners and renters, keeping many residents displaced now 3 months after the fire. This affects the health of local businesses and the safety of our communities. Other residents have moved back into homes without knowing the dangers present, left to attempt lead remediation on their own. Schools near the burn zone that have reopened, including PUSD, have returned students to buildings that have had no testing for lead or asbestos, which will likely lead to illness and cancer clusters like those that happened to New York City school children exposed to these same contaminants in the aftermath of 9/11.

In 2018, Los Angeles County received a \$134 million settlement, which, as



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	<p>described by the Santa Monica Daily Press, was "a landmark legal victory against three former manufacturers of lead paint [...] these companies created an ongoing public nuisance by advertising lead paint use in homes while having knowledge of the toxic hazard to human health." An approved motion put forth by Supervisors Hahn and Barger in 2019 allocated those funds to a Lead Paint Hazard Mitigation Program for testing and abating lead hazards inside homes built before 1951, from which Supervisor Barger now proposes to draw from to test soil. While the LA Times points out that the settlement was insufficient to address the breadth of the issue inside homes, with 90% of the homes in Altadena built before 1975, it is likely that a significant portion of homes standing in the vicinity of the fire were built before 1951, and would be eligible for lead testing and removal due to contamination from paint present in homes that burned even under the existing program. I urge the Supervisors to finally address the critical needs of constituents and their families of unburned homes affected by the Eaton Fire by establishing a testing and remediation fund for those of us who have been denied this help from all other programs. Neither lead and heavy metal exposure, nor their devastating health impacts, are theoretical. We need your help to keep our community safe.</p>
anna ballou	the need for indoor hygienist testing is SEVERELY needed, this is incredibly expensive and not attainable and we need support to be able to know we're living in a SAFE home with our children
ARVID CROONQUIST	Please consider testing the soil around intact homes within the burn scar too. More testing is greatly appreciated.
Beth Romero	Please help us homeowners test our soil. Our insurance companies do not cover this and our lives depend on it.
Bettina Rohan	Please consider us, the surviving families, and our collective health, by granting us this reallocation request.
Bianca M Salceda	
Caroline Paules	We also need testing on the INSIDE of standing homes. Testing is extremely expensive and many people don't know what hazards are inside their homes until testing is done. We are taking risks with our health in order to move back home.
Cathie Chavez-Morris	Please expand this to include private schools. Also please ensure that standing homes around the golf course are taken care of first.
Chris Salvano	Please include funding to help residents who have surviving structures to test *inside* of our homes. We need baseline testing of toxins and heavy metals inside homes so we know whether our homes and personal items inside our homes are safe and salvageable, or whether they are too toxic to clean. Thank you.
Christy Denes	Many of us do not have insurance, or our insurance will not cover the cost of testing. It is vital for public health and safety that the county help us determine whether our homes, schools, and parks are safe.
Christy C Billock	



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Cindy Flynn	
Claire T	
Clara Goldfarb	Please allocate funds to test the both soil and inside of structures. Many residents, like myself, have standing homes in deep burn zones, and are very concerned about on-going contamination inside and outside our homes which will continue through phase 2 cleaning and rebuilding as fire particulate and toxic dust circulate. We are looking for data to be collected and standards to be set so we have regulations that our home insurance needs to follow. Many of us are terrified of the health impacts of moving back to areas with lead and other unknown chemical compounds in our homes and the land all around us.
Claudia Fucigna	
Colleen Zhu	Based on several studies that have come out with limited samples, the lead has spread farther than people think. I think more people should test their homes outside of the burn scar.
Cory Sewelson	This is a good first step, but funds must also be allocated to help residents with standing homes in the Eaton Fire zone pay for testing inside their homes as well. This can be very expensive but it is vital to ensure as healthy a return to their homes as possible.
Danica Hamilton	This is absolutely necessary, and more needs to be done to pass ensure testing of homes also happens. It has been found that homes many miles outside the burn zone have unsafe levels of lead, not just the soil. Let's do more to keep our people and children safe.
Danielle Gund	Please prioritize properties around the golf course. We address in area that is down wind of the fire and down wind of the recycling of fire debris.
David Morris	Please be sure to include private schools in the allocated funding under the agenda item. There are schools in the nearby proximity to the fire zone that need testing as well.
Debbie McMahon	<p>I am a homeowner in Altadena. My house stands, because my husband and neighbor fought fires all night January 7 and again the 8th at our properties as no firefighters came, no evacuation warning was given. We have a small child and do not know if it will ever be safe to return. Our property is 20 feet from multiple burned structures who never opted in or out of Right of Entry.</p> <p>Because the Army Corps of Engineers only attends to burned properties, those of us with standing homes are left with toxic properties and virtual silence from the County and State re testing and remediation. The lack of awareness of the scale of contamination is frankly stunning. While rubble is cleared and watered down, inches of soil removed, standing homes have been ignored.</p> <p>This urban fire is historically unprecedented. Urban fires are not wildfires. I highly recommend reading this interview with leading expert, Dawn Bolstad-Johnson: aiha.org/blog/the-challenges-of-post-fire-assessments-part-2?amp to begin to understand the scale of what we are facing.</p>



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	<p>No level of lead dust is safe for children. Yet every house that has tested for lead in the area has tested above safe levels. That is 100 percent of interiors. Not just lead, but numerous metals, cyanide, and other toxins. Caltech has stepped up and found lead dust miles south of the fire.</p> <p>Homeowners have paid out of pocket, with sparse support from insurance and that coverage (when it has been granted) is only indoors. We need our representatives to grasp the gravity of the level of toxicity we face and step up to restore our community. Gathering data by way of testing is a first step. It is irresponsible to depend on individuals to pay thousands for testing and clean up ourselves. If not, we would be dragging contaminated soil throughout the community.</p> <p>I urge you to support Supervisor Barger's proposal to fund at least some of testing costs. It is a small but necessary first step. I'd like to one day bring my family back to our home.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Donna DILORETO	As one of the few standing homes in NW Altadena, we are concerned with the lead in our homes caused by the Eaton Fire. Please help owners test lead so that we know it is safe to return home.
elisa nixon	Please!!!! Eaton Fire survivors need this AND testing inside our homes to be assured we are not putting our HEALTH AND OUR CHILDREN's HEALTH in danger by moving back to our homes.
Emily Moynihan	We need INDOOR and OUTDOOR industrial hygienists to test inside and out! We will need additional funds for silica testing, now that we have an industrial concrete recycling plant in our backyards! Where is our health protection?!?
Emily Stough	I support soil testing for homes in and near the Eaton fire area. I also want to strongly emphasize the need for indoor testing for homes. Many people cannot afford this testing, and insurance is not covering it. Please allocate some funds to indoor testing by an industrial hygienist. Thank you
Erin McCarthy	PLEASE PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE SURVIVING HOMES AROUND THE GOLF COURSE
Gil Barel	I'm a single mom with two kids. I am also a renter in Pasadena, District 2. My landlord has done remediation for the structure, but the remediation was horrible. They say they did a test but will not disclose what test was done, by whom, and the results, other than saying it turned up with good results. They refuse to do soil testing. There needs to be proper guidelines for landlords about soil testing and indoor testing, as well. I want to test for contaminants in my home, but I cannot afford the high prices of testing. Lead results have been elevated in homes surrounding mine. I am nearly 1 mile from the nearest burn, on Washington Blvd in Pasadena. We have been displaced since January 7, and after a few jumps from location to location, we finally settled on a temporary rental, a small back house studio space in Los Angeles; I share the bed with my son; and, I pay \$500 more per month for this



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	<p>little space than I do for my two-bedroom that I am displaced from. I am stuck between health concerns for my kids and going home, and the financial stress of the high cost of renting beyond my financial ability. I have renters' insurance. However, I have exceeded my \$6,000 Loss of Use. My insurance refuses to cover any testing. Even if they did, my coverage most likely wouldn't be enough to cover the cost of testing, plus the remediation and replacement of my personal property.</p> <p>Yes, financial assistance is needed for homeowners with structures still standing to pay for soil testing. But it needs to come with proper guidance and rules for landlords, in particular.</p> <p>Yes, financial assistance is needed for homeowners with structures still standing to pay for soil testing. But homeowners and renters need assistance with in-home testing, too!</p>
Gregory Han	<p>As a resident who had to pay out of pocket to test our home, I vote in favor of funding lead testing for all residents before and after any cleaning. We discovered double and triple digit numbers of lead contamination throughout the house exceeding safe EPA levels despite an intact home; if we had not done this our insurer would have surely pressured us toward using standard restoration rather than stringent lead abatement protocols necessary to remove lead. I</p> <p>It is essential for the long term health of residents to have this testing done to improve chances Altadena residents to do not suffer any unnecessary consequences after returning to their homes, even more so noting the sizable population of senior citizens, young children, and immunocompromised residents like my wife who is recovering from cancer. It would be a tragedy if the people of Altadena begin to develop cancer and other conditions caused directly by unnecessary exposure to lead within and around their homes in 5 to 10 years from now – victims not of the fire, but improper response to its aftermath.</p>
Hannah Parikh	<p>INDOOR TESTING</p> <p>So many of our neighbors with homes still standing do not have the funds to do their own testing. Many are insured by State Farm which is refusing to pay for testing. See this contamination map of other folks all across Altadena who have pooled our test results to try to help our neighbors get help - from insurance, and government officials: EFRU.LA</p> <p>Our neighbors are in need of testing INDOORS, not just outside.</p> <p>PARKS</p> <p>But in addition to the testing of outside, all parks should be vigilantly tested before any reopenings. 6+ inches of soil should be fully removed, and new mulch should be laid down in garden areas. All play areas should have mulch removed, and new soft park rubber flooring added (not mulch). Play structures should be vigilantly tested before remediation to determine which toxins are present, in order to lay out specific abatement procedures. As plastic is porous, most all play structures should be replaced.</p> <p>In addition, many that have remediated have had post-testing and found that</p>



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	<p>the remediation did not rid of many of the toxins. This happens often in urban fires. When we rush timelines, use "cheap companies" that don't know what they're doing and do NOT use science as a guide we put our communities, families and children in danger, and spend a lot more wasted time, money and energy.</p> <p>Please bring Altadena back safely without rushing, using science as your guide via the avenue of testing. Thank you!</p>
Heather Walker	<p>Allocation of the \$3M lead testing should be used to address testing for INSIDE of homes, including industrial hygienist. This should be for any home in relevant area, not just areas "south" of the burn scar.</p>
Ines Korinna Sehringer	<p>Please expand this motion to INSIDE contamination testing of all known urban wildfire toxins</p>
Jacqueline E Lewis	<p>There is a desperate and urgent need for the County to allocate funds to cover the cost of indoor toxins testing, especially for homes impacted by the Eaton Fire in Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre. While insurance should cover this as investigative costs, the reality is many residents are left unprotected. As the State and County know, some insurance companies are denying requests for testing, and others possibly only reimbursing investigative costs under certain conditions. Thousands rely on the California FAIR Plan, which often excludes testing and remediation; others are uninsured altogether—many having inherited their homes and unable to afford today's soaring insurance costs. Renters face even greater risk, with landlords failing to provide any testing or cleanup. The County must step in. This funding should function as a critical public health measure ensuring safe living conditions in homes, and also addressing contamination in public spaces like libraries, rec centers, schools, preschools, and local businesses. The current agenda item offers a vital opportunity to protect the health and safety of our communities across all sectors.</p>
Jay E Framson	<p>It's important to assist those who don't otherwise have access to testing to have their residences tested, as well as the soils throughout the community as much as possible.</p>
Jennifer Chatellier	<p>We were told by insurance we would not receive reimbursement for environmental hygienist testing at our residence located few hundred feet from burn scars. We paid out of pocket for testing and the results were lead levels 10 times the EPA limit indoor and many times outdoor in the soil. We paid out of pocket for this test although it was necessary for the determination of cleanup and or disposal of our personal property.</p>
Jennifer Rochlin	<p>We also need allocation of funds for testing inside the home of standing structures. Every home that has been tested has tested positive for lead but insurance won't cover it for most people. This is a very serious issue and is keeping me and my family from moving back home.</p>
Jonathan Hull	<p>Hello, there is evidence that lead may have spread 20+ miles southwest of the fire, and could impact a generation of children and their IQ by playing outside. We need this funding.</p>



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	Toxin Test Research is a 501c3 non-profit formed in Pasadena CA with a mission to provide scientific research and advice to local residents, with a particular focus on toddlers and young children. We have been paying privately for our own testing and research for the benefit of others, and would greatly appreciate more resources.
Jonathan Yeager	Please allocate some of these funds toward testing interiors of non damaged structures before they're repopulated- schools, businesses, homes.
Joy Malik-Hasbrook	We need testing and help for the toxic ash in our homes as well. It isn't safe for me and my family to move home, no one is helping us or guiding us, insurance companies deny the science, it is shocking the lack of support and guidance standing structures are getting. I am so scared for my two children to be at home and at school.
Julie McKune	I strongly support the motion to allocate \$3 million in funding to test for lead in soil of unbuilt homes. Also, I demand the allocation of this \$3 million should address the industrial hygienist testing of the inside of houses/dwellings. I need my house, built in 1939, to be safe for my young grandchildren. We need clean air, fresh air, decent public health practices for all human life. Please submit the EFRU contamination map as evidence, testing by Caltech, EPA threshold for lead safety, CDC, and the Associated Press reports. Prevent harm. Listen to the Science! Regards, Ms Julie McKune, Altadena resident of 69 yrs. P. S. I have had to increase the dosage of my asthma medication. And severely limit my outdoor activity. I used to play pickleball at Farnsworth Park 3x a week. The stress/suffering is unacceptable. Prevent harm.
Karen Girard	Most homeowners' policies don't cover their yards, and testing soil is an addition expense when we're all struggling to keep roofs over our heads and find the money to get back in our homes. Help those of us with homes still standing, please!
Katerina Chatzioannou	
Kathleen Souders	We need testing for residences but also schools.
Kevin Bogdon	Since Cal Fair Plan will not pay for clean up, I believe the houses that are in the Eaton Canyon Fire zone should be tested for heavy metal and other toxins inside and outside the house. By doing this, we could force Cal Fair Plan to pay for the clean up. I know that every time I go back to my house I feel a little off. This can't be good for my 12 year old daughter
Laura Pearlman	My home is south of the burn scar, and lead was found inside my home. I would like to know how much lead is present in my front and back yard.
Leah Slemmons	I have a standing home in the Altadena area that I cannot go back to yet due to possible contaminated soil outside and toxic ash inside. Anyone with this concern should receive the money to have their property tested. This fire was not my fault and yet all the money raised for the Eaton fire victims seems to be going elsewhere. Please redirect it back to those who need it. We all pay property taxes, I just paid mine, and I cannot afford now to know if my land,



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	my soil has lead.
Linda Goodrich	This is extremely important because testing for Intact Properties is very expensive and insurance companies are refusing to pay for it.
Lisa Schultz	This is an excellent first step. However, this should go further and include testing and remediation inside homes. There is ample evidence that homes in and near the burn zone contain dangerous levels of lead and this money should be extended to assist people who cannot afford to properly test and/or remediate their homes.
Louise Corson	Altadena will not recover from the Eaton Fire until all the soil is remediated. Currently, the US Army Corps of Engineers plans to remove 6 inches of topsoil from lots where the homes were destroyed but only within the "ash footprint." They are ignoring lots with standing homes and lots with destroyed homes outside the ash footprint. These latter two situations cannot be ignored. Studies by Roux for LADPH and by Caltech have shown there is significant lead contamination in the soil due to the fire in these cases.
Marc Baum	We are a local nonprofit who is looking to support free lead testing for families who do not have the means to pay for a hygienist. We have the labs to do the testing and need support for materials and employee time. We are also looking to enlist students to help with the testing
Mayka Mei	This is the perfect application of science. Repopulation of surviving structures is entirely contingent on this data for Eaton Fire residents.
Michelle Botica	Allocation of these funds should also address industrial hygienist testing of the inside of homes. We are a middle aged couple that whose plans for family planning are on pause until our Altadena home is appropriately remediated. State Farm is refusing to cover funds for lead testing of our home, despite the incredibly high levels of lead found in our neighborhood. Lead remediation is different than smoke remediation and until this is addressed, we cannot move forward with remediation. We will not jeopardize the health of our family.
Nancy C Inguanzo	The EPA is not planning to do any debris or soil removal from hoes that are inside the burn area but are still standing. I hope this will apply to those homes. I'd like the EPA to do debris removal from standing homes as well.
NICOLE MACCALLA	I urge the Supervisors to finally address the critical needs of constituents and their families of unburned homes affected by the Eaton Fire by establishing a testing and remediation fund for those of us who have been denied this help from all other programs. Neither lead and heavy metal exposure, nor their devastating health impacts, are theoretical. We need your help to keep our community safe. THIS IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION! WE NEED TESTING FOR SOIL. NEXT MEETING LETS TALK ABOUT TESTING FOR THE INTERIOR OF HOMES.
Patricia Chavez	Please be sure to include private schools in the allocated funding under the agenda item. There are schools in the nearby proximity to the fire zone that need testing as well.
Paula J Bilovsky	We also need funds to test inside standing homes. Pre remediation test are needed as the results impact how homes are remediated. Post remediation test are needed to ensure homes are inhabitable. Testing is expensive and



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	<p>not always covered by insurance. This is one of the most stressful, expensive, and under supported aspects of getting people back into their standing homes. Many do not want to move back because we fear long term health impacts. I have heard the argument that the county does not want to test inside private property. You successfully implemented ROEs for destroyed structures, why can't you implement a similar right of entry for testing within standing homes? The term intact is not correct. Intact is defined as not damaged or impaired in any way. Our homes have smoke and soot damage. We are trying to determine if they also have lead or asbestos. We need help! We need to be supported! Our houses may be standing but they are not intact and we need assistance to make them so.</p>
Phoenix Delman	<p>We desperately need help accessing testing for our homes and our soil. Thousands of residents will be forced to build on top of contaminated soil if it is not tested post-remediation. Thousands of residents will be forced to move back into standing homes that have not been properly tested or cleaned because the expense is not accessible. Thousands of children may be exposed to lead on playgrounds, in neighborhoods, and in schools. This is a public health crisis and residents are highly vulnerable to a host of health consequences resulting from the inability to test homes and soil. Please help us prevent the health disaster after the Wildfires.</p>
Raimy Rosenduft	<p>I support the Board's motion to allocate \$3 million for lead testing in soil near unburned homes, but I urge you to expand this funding to include indoor testing by certified industrial hygienists.</p> <p>Many residents cannot afford professional testing inside their homes, yet this is where exposure is most direct and dangerous—especially for children, elders, and vulnerable populations. Soil testing is important, but it's only part of the picture. Without testing the interior of homes, we risk overlooking major sources of contamination and ongoing exposure.</p> <p>Please ensure this funding covers both exterior and interior testing, and prioritize access for residents who've been unable to afford this critical health protection on their own.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership and commitment to public health.</p>
Rossanna Wright	<p>My house at 2427 Holliston Ave is still standing, but my detached garage, as well as many of the houses around mine have burned down. As with many of my neighbors, my windows blew open and broke from the wind on January 7, allowing ash and soot from the fires to pour into my house. My insurance company has refused to do any testing and will only pay for basic smoke remediation methods which may not adequately remove lead and other toxins from my home. I would like to ask the Board of Supervisors to please approve funding for indoor hygienist testing for standing homes in the burn zone like mine, so that we can make sure to safely clean and rebuild. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Sarah A Ali	
Scott Unger	



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Serina Diniega	Numerous lines of evidence show that lead and other contaminants are blanketing Altadena and the area downwind of the Eaton Fire. Clearly establishing the extent and amount of toxic contamination so that folks can do proper cleaning/remediation is key, for near- and long-term health of all residents.
Shannon Larsuel	As a resident of Altadena just outside of the burn zone it is of the utmost importance that the state fully test every single burned lot and intact homes in the standing area to ensure current and future safety.
Sharon Wang	
Suzanne Coston	I am concerned about my soil contamination as my home while standing is not safe or livable for a long time surrounded by complete devastation. Is there lead in my soil, what about the interior of my home? I'm a cancer survivor and need to know it will be safe when time comes for my family and I to return. Please approve this is much needed.
Tami Kitchen	Will some of this money be available to residential property owners to test for lead inside their homes if they have not been remediated yet? Many residents of standing homes are still not able to move back because of possible lead ash contamination
Tiprin Follett	Please extend this to test indoors as well with particular attention to properties surrounding the Altadena Golf Course.
Tori Takeuchi	There are schools in the area with a lot of kids who spend a significant amount of time on campus, including high school boarding students who live on campus. Schools need to be included in this.
Ultra Soto-Rojas	It is critical that all homes, partially burned or damaged be tested by industrial hygienist for fire contaminants and toxic metals. Not doing so will be detrimental to our health but to the entire community affected by the Eaton Fire. We might be seeing the effects into the health of the Altadena and Pasadena population soon enough. We urge you to support full testing, not only lead to all damaged or partially burned homes. Thanks, Ultra Soto-Rojas
Wes M Takeuchi	Please include schools in the area
Yolanda Serrato-Jonian	My home and neighbors homes have already tested positive for lead. Only a few of my neighbors have been able to test for heavy metals and have tested positive. My husband and I were forced back home but my parents are still displaced and are currently living 90 miles from home because we have no proof that our home is safe. My nextdoor neighbors remain displaced because their home tested positive for lead, but have not tested for heavy metals. Their home remains unsafe for their 9 month old and 13 year sons. Please include indoor hygienist testing in the 3 million allocation for testing of unburned homes.
zoe priore	
Other	Amy Cannon
	As someone who tested positive for high levels of lead inside the home from soot and ash but whose outdoor lead levels tested normal, I urge you to include testing for indoor spaces in standing homes as well.



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
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Ann Lee Grimstad	Please make sure schools are included in this, not just residences.
Aurore B Wright	I urge the supervisors to open the settlement funds for Interior Lead Contaminaton testing. I have been unable to return to my home since the Eaton Fire and my insurance company will not pay for testing by a CIH to determine what is inside my home. IF there are high levels of lead outside homes, my home with visible ash intrusion less than half a mile from the edge of the Eaton Fire is likely highly contaminated inside. Insurers are not doing their part to protect the residents or the people tasked with 'cleaning' homes post fire from the lead inside. Please consider that the need is greater for INTERIOR lead testing. I can't return to my home until this is remediated properly. I am of course concerened about the soil outside, but getting the home livable again is top priority.
Chief Marcella fain-sims	
Claudia Gold	Please consider using these funds to have inspection of standing apartments and homes. Many of us, like myself, have been displaced due to toxicity concerns. It puts a huge toll on us. I live within 30 yards or so from the Franklin Elementary School which burnt down in the Friends Retirement Association. All were asked to return despite debris removal and the Public Health advisory to stay away due to health concerns. I am exhausted by being displaced nine times since the wildfires. Please help us. Help seniors and disabled and others traumatized.
Debra K Koepplinger	This is a good start, however more funding is needed for testing of home interiors. I urge the Supervisors to finally address the critical needs of constituents and their families of unburned homes affected by the Eaton Fire by establishing a testing and remediation fund for those of us who have been denied this help from all other programs. Neither lead and heavy metal exposure, nor their devastating health impacts, are theoretical. We need your help to keep our community safe.
Efram Potelle	Hello Supervisors, The motion to allocate \$3 million from the Lead Paint Hazard Mitigation Program toward soil testing near the Eaton Fire burn zone shows your heart is in the right place. But for those of us still living in or displaced from unburned homes affected by the fire, what we urgently need is support to test and clean our living spaces, where we and our families actually spend our time. The evidence is clear: the Eaton Fire spread toxic ash, including lead and asbestos, into nearby neighborhoods. Many homes that burned in the Eaton fire were built before 1975, when these substances were commonly used in construction materials and paint. According to Caltech, (scienceexchange.caltech.edu/topics/sustainability/ask-expert-sustainability/ask-expert-fires/francois-tissot-lead-water-soil-ash-eaton-fire) ash from the fire traveled up to seven miles, carrying dangerous contaminants far beyond the burn zone. EFRU (Eaton Fire Residents United) and academic institutions like Caltech, LMU, UCLA, and USC have stepped up where public support has been



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		<p>lacking. Their independent efforts confirm elevated lead levels not just in soil, but—crucially—inside homes. EFRU's testing map (efru.la/) currently includes over 100 home test results. Of the 90 homes tested for lead, 100% detected lead dust. Over 80% of those homes showed lead concentrations well above the EPA maximums, many of them at alarmingly high levels.</p> <p>This is not just about soil. It's about the air our children breathe indoors, the surfaces we touch every day, the risk we carry in our clothes, and in the food we prepare for our families. Soil testing alone doesn't address that. Professional testing by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) can cost between \$3,000 and \$20,000 per home. Without financial help, many families are either displaced or forced to live in contaminated spaces. Others have taken on this cost themselves, while insurance companies deny coverage or dismiss the risk altogether. Some schools have reopened with no testing at all, exposing students to lead and asbestos, which can have life-altering consequences for children, pregnant people, and the elderly. I'm asking you to amend your motion to include an additional \$3 million to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">CIH-led testing inside homes and schools within one mile of the burn zoneProfessional remediation where necessaryReimbursement for families who paid out-of-pocket when insurers refused <p>We know from past disasters what happens when lead contamination is ignored. The data is here. The science is here. What's missing is the funding to protect the people actually living in these homes. Please act now to make our homes safe again.</p> <p>Sincerely, Efram Potelle</p>
	Elle Schneider	<p>As a resident of Altadena, I request that the Supervisors amend their motion to include a further \$3 million to create a fund to test for contaminants and to remediate the interiors of unburned homes and schools within 1 mile of the Eaton Fire Burn zone, and to reimburse uninsured renters and homeowners who paid for professional testing out pocket due to necessity or refusal of insurance companies to follow due diligence.</p> <p>I urge the Supervisors to address this ongoing, critical need of constituents in unburned homes affected by the Eaton Fire by establishing a testing and remediation fund for those of us who have been denied this help from all other programs. Neither lead and heavy metal exposure, nor their devastating health impacts, are theoretical. We need your help to keep our community and families safe.</p>
	Jane L Potelle	<p>Supervisors,</p> <p>Our community desperately needs testing of indoor homes for lead and other heavy metal contaminants. Eaton Fire Residents United (EFRU) has been collecting professional industrial hygienist testing of homes in the Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre areas sent to them from property owners and residents. Currently there are 107 tests mapped to the site: EFRU.LA.</p>



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99% of indoor homes tested are positive for contaminants. The single one that did not have a positive result only tested for asbestos.

100% of indoor homes tested for lead tested positive.
100% of indoor homes tested for wildfire debris tested positive.

If you look at the EFRU map you will see the contamination spreads throughout Altadena, Pasadena, and parts of Sierra Madre. This is not a small section of residents. The contamination of indoor residencies is rampant.

We need you to address the lead and other contaminants found inside buildings exposed to the ash and smoke of the LA Fires. Indoors spaces are contained spaces. The recirculation of air indoors with the contaminants of lead, arsenic, antimony, chromium, cadmium, cobalt, copper, nickel, and zinc are a serious hazard and the existence of this concern is clearly indicated on this map. Some home hygienic tests didn't include the wide array of toxins as others do due to the fact that many of these tests were paid for out of pocket by the resident. Some insurance companies are just starting to cover the cost of testing which is why more recent tests have more extensive testing.

There are thousands of residents in the Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre area who haven't the means for testing:
CA Fair Plan that does not cover the cost of testing and remediation.
Generational homes where people inherited their homes and don't have the means for insurance
Renters who may or may not have renters insurance which only covers personal property but not the structure and who have landlords who are ignoring the ash and contamination of their property.

And what about our public spaces? Our libraries, our rec centers, our schools? Testing for ash/soot/char is not enough. We need testing of actual contaminants to understand what level of remediation needs to be done and there needs to be post remediation testing to ensure the contaminants have been removed.

The EFRU.LA map as well as the Caltech map (scienceexchange.caltech.edu/topics/sustainability/ask-expert-sustainability/ask-expert-fires/francois-tissot-lead-water-soil-ash-eaton-fire), which included markers not just for soil, but the lead inside of homes, indicate that EVERY SINGLE RESIDENCY in Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre needs to have access to indoor professional hygienic testing for contaminants.

There needs to be pre-remediation testing conducted to understand the level of contamination, appropriate remediation conducted based on the kind of contamination found, and post remediation testing to ensure the removal of the contaminants.



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	<p>In the case of a residency already having had remediation, testing needs to be conducted to ensure there aren't remaining contaminants.</p> <p>If this is not addressed, people will get sick. Some terminally. This is a serious hazard that needs to be dealt with immediately. The summer's high temperatures will only compound the issue where emissions will increase. Please address this serious concern now.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jane Lawton Potelle</p>
KATHERINE WARNER	<p>Allocation should include testing inside of homes. I am a renter in a home that survived the fire one block away from ground zero and have suffered along with my fellow tenants, two of which are elderly, a great deal of symptoms of lead poisoning long after minimal interior and exterior remediation as covered by basic insurance. Remediation should include the entirety of the neighborhood, indoors and out. Like in the laughable historic non-smoking section of a restaurant, we are not given an invisible wall for airborne contaminants effectively protecting from anything.</p>
Linda Marais	<p>Can you please include funding for testing the interior of intact houses? People are finding it difficult or impossible to get insurance support for much needed testing of the interior of their houses. Soil testing will be helpful, but it needs to be accompanied by interior tests for fire contaminants.</p>
Lisa Kohlenberger	<p>Yes, testing the soil and remediating it throughout Altadena and at least some of Pasadena. But equally, if not more important, is testing of the lead and other harmful components of our still standing houses due to the fire. Our insurance companies nearly always refuse to pay for pre and post remediation of our homes.</p> <p>I am age 65, disabled, and I have asthma. When I first walked into my house with a N95 mask on after the fire, I quickly reacted to the air quality inside my house. I began coughing (for the next 24 hours). I got a sore throat and my voice (I sing in the Pasadena Chorale) became very hoarse and prevented me from being able to sing. My nose became runny and I got a horrible headache. Obviously, the air had become toxic with who knows what in it. There is no way I could go back and live in this condition. And the only way to know how to remediate the house is to know what is there. Can my soft goods be cleaned adequately? Or do they need to be trashed. A huge question for each of us. I have plenty of health issues already and cannot /will not live in my home if it may further harm my health.</p> <p>An industrial hygienist for testing for each standing house, including my own, is a MUST. Please either allocate part of these funds for testing the insides of our still standing houses. And please let our homeowners insurance companies know that they MUST provide this for each of us. We cannot be required to live in a toxic soup within our homes, which is being required of many of us unless we are lucky enough to have several thousands of dollars</p>

				"just laying around".
			Mary D McGinnis	IN FAVOR of reallocation of settlement funds from the Lead Paint Litigation to Assist Residential Property Owners of Intact Properties South of the Eaton Fire Burn Scar with Soil Testing for Lead, BUT, ALSO need addition of funds for the original purpose of testing and abating lead INSIDE homes from the original settlement funds.
			Nancy Ward	Testing is needed for inside homes as well. There are many people in my neighborhood who don't know about the dangers or who are elderly and don't know where to turn, and it's been very complicated for many residents and they don't understand the danger of this fire and it's ash and soot because it's so different than what happened before. Evidence for this can be found in results coming back from theses sources: Eaton Fire Residents United contamination map lead testing conducted by CalTech February 11th Public Health Advisory for those residing near burned structures Public Health statement on April 10th about lead levels found in soil downwind of the fire EPA threshold for lead safety CDC description of lead health hazards Associated Press article on EFRU's work CBS/KCAL segment on EFRU's map
			Pirjo L Ranasinghe	
			Rachel E Sondag	I am in favor, in general, but have one concern. Please see attachment.
			Russell Maycumber	
			Valerie Ganguin	We need to include testing for the indoor of our homes I have been sick with respiratory issues abs well as my son since the fires I want to return home but when it's safe
		Item Total	92	
Grand Total			92	



April 14, 2025

LA County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street
Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Dawyn Harrison, County Counsel

On behalf of the CAP.LA team, we appreciate the motion (#41-A, April 15, 2025) put forward by Supervisors Barger and Horvath to reallocate Lead Paint Hazard Mitigation Program settlement fund to assist property owners in and around the Eaton Fire burn area with costs for laboratory testing of soil for lead. We believe this testing effort can help fill the void left by FEMA and Governor Newsom.

The R&S Kayne Foundation is supporting CAP.LA to conduct soil testing in both the Eaton and Palisades areas. Soil testing will give households vital information about whether it is safe to rebuild on their lots and/or better understand what contaminants may be present. We are testing all samples for the following metals: Lead, chromium, vanadium, cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc, arsenic, selenium, cadmium, and mercury. We are testing a subset of the samples for the following per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): PFOA, PFOS, PFBA, PFSA, PFHxS, and PFNA. Over 3400 households have signed up for testing and we have committed to funding 1200 so far, with goals to meet all needs.

We are hopeful that the motion passes tomorrow and suggest the following:

1. A transparent process with test results made available to property owners along with assistance to interpret those results.
2. Confidentiality for property owners that choose to participate. For example, the CAP.LA results are grouped and mapped by neighborhood, and will be available and updated regularly on the CAP.LA website, but no names or specific addresses will be listed with the results. Researchers will then use the deidentified data in publications and presentations.
3. Consideration for mental health support and resources for property owners navigating a complex and emotionally challenging process.
4. Program management that ensures samples are properly collected and the selected contractor(s) are monitored.

We believe the CAP.LA team, composed of university researchers and philanthropic leaders, is well positioned to support this effort along with contract labs to infuse both independence and confidence in the testing effort. Please let us know how we can be helpful.

info@cap.la | 310-338-4565

More information about our research is available online at the CAP.LA website (www.cap.la). In the wake of the Eaton and Palisades Fires, disaster recovery experts from multiple universities came together to expedite and empower household and business recovery decisions. Their efforts, as part of a data-informed civic action, will enable residents to be proactive recovery partners. CAP.LA (Community Action Project LA) is funded by the R&S Kayne Foundation and includes researchers from Loyola Marymount University, UCLA, and Purdue University.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

On behalf of the CAP.LA Executive Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Ali', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sarah Ali
CEO
R&S Kayne Foundation

April 15, 2025

Dear LA County Supervisors:

I am heartened to hear that LA County Supervisors acknowledge the dangers of fire and smoke contaminants in the homes that are still standing, but partially damaged in Altadena after the Eaton Fire.

In 2019, Supervisor Barger allocated funds to the Lead Paint Hazard Mitigation Program for testing and abating lead hazards inside homes built before 1951, and she is now proposing to draw from that fund to test soil in the burn areas. While that goal is laudable, it leaves no funds for testing and abating lead hazards that we now know exist in our post-fire homes.

I urge the Supervisors to address the urgent needs of those of us who have still standing and/or partially damaged homes from the Eaton Fire by establishing a testing and abatement fund for we who have had to take on this huge financial burden ourselves, since our insurance carriers are denying us.

Our home was built in 1928, and was partially damaged by fire in one room of the house, but due to the balloon framing design of that era, toxins from the smoke spread everywhere throughout all three stories of the house.

State Farm, our insurance carrier, refused payment for any testing done by an industrial hygienist. We had to pay for the testing ourselves, which totaled \$18,755. That is the bill for testing BEFORE any cleaning or remediation can take place. This testing was necessary to find out what type of remediation will be required. State Farm initially sent ServPro to do an estimate on remediation of our partially-burned house. They did not do any testing at all. We have not seen their estimate for cleaning yet, but without testing for smoke toxins, they will have missed the fact that our entire house needs specific types of cleaning and abatement for lead.

While we are still waiting on the final written report, initial results from our industrial hygienist have confirmed that there is lead throughout our 3-story house. We aren't sure yet what that means in terms of cleaning/remediation, but I am now educating myself about "lead abatement" procedures. As we now investigate which companies have the expertise to clean/remediate/abate lead-laden post-fire homes, we know there will also need to be testing AFTER cleaning or remediation takes place to make sure we can safely return to our beautiful Altadena home.

This same type of lead contamination has been found throughout Altadena and beyond, as evidenced by recent testing conducted by CalTech:

<https://scienceexchange.caltech.edu/topics/sustainability/ask-expert-sustainability/ask-expert-fires/francois-tissot-lead-water-soil-ash-eaton-fire>

I am a member of Eaton Fire Residents United, and we have crowd-sourced data from other members who have had their homes tested, showing similar lead levels as the CalTech data: <https://www.efru.la/>

In 2024, the EPA finalized new standards to determine the lead levels when EPA recommends lead abatement work and the lead levels when EPA recommends abatement can be considered complete. The new standards demonstrate the desperate

need for action by the County Supervisors in mitigating the lead disaster from the Eaton Fire:

<https://www.epa.gov/lead/hazard-standards-and-clearance-levels-lead-paint-dust-and-soil-tsca-sections-402-and-403>

Supervisors, the data is clear, and EPA standards agree. Lead inside homes after the Eaton Fire is hazardous to our health.

Please help us return to our homes knowing that they are safe from lead by establishing a testing and abatement fund for us. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Mary McGinnis

637 East Altadena Drive

Altadena, CA 91001

Supervisors,

Since the day after the Eaton Fire, residents of Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre with unburned homes near the burn zone have raised concerns to public officials about contamination of homes and the local environment by ash containing lead and other toxic substances. More than 90% of the homes in Altadena were built before 1975—when lead and asbestos were prevalent in both building materials and paint—and when 9,418 structures burned in the fire, those materials dispersed into the environment, traveling as far as 7 miles according to [testing conducted by CalTech](#)¹.

On February 11th, the Department of Public Health [issued an advisory](#)² warning residents living within 250 yards of the burn zone that hazards from this ash may cause poor health outcomes as a result of these dangerous substances, and urged caution to those returning to the area as debris removal and rebuilding proceeds.

Despite acknowledgement of the dangers present in our environment, residents' emails, phone calls, public comments, community meeting questions, and in-person town hall conversations have gone unanswered, extending the stress and suffering of the fire for those hoping to return to homes damaged by smoke and ash who need answers and remediation. Officials also made no effort to address or rectify our exclusion from programs like the Household Relief Grant and the Red Cross, despite countless pleas from desperate constituents.

To fill the gap, [Eaton Fire Residents United](#)³, and schools like LMU, UCLA, USC, and CalTech have stepped in over the last two months to use their expertise to confirm what we've known all along: the soil in Altadena has been contaminated by lead from the Eaton Fire. In response to this overwhelming consensus of data, The Department of Public Health [released a statement on April 10th](#)⁴ announcing "unanticipated" elevation of lead levels in studies they conducted downwind of the fire, and confirming that soil in the Palisades (where the average home age is newer) did not suffer the same level of contamination.

Now that other organizations have done the work, we are glad to see that Supervisor Barger, the only local official who has so far refused to speak with concerned resident groups, has [introduced a motion to allocate](#)⁵ \$3 million from the Lead Paint Hazard Mitigation Program towards soil testing.

¹

<https://scienceexchange.caltech.edu/topics/sustainability/ask-expert-sustainability/ask-expert-fires/francois-tissot-lead-water-soil-ash-eaton-fire>

²

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/phcommon/public/media/mediapubdetail.cfm?unit=media&ou=ph&prog=media&cur=cur&prid=4963&row=25&start=26>

³ <http://efru.la>

⁴ <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/phcommon/public/media/mediapubhpdetail.cfm?prid=5006>

⁵

<https://www.coloradoboulevard.net/barger-proposes-3-million-for-soil-testing-near-eaton-fire-burn-zone-a-mid-lead-concerns/>

This is a good first step, but it's not enough.

EFRU and Caltech, on their own time and budgets, have also proved significant contamination from lead (and other heavy metals) inside the interior of homes, verified through both scientific studies and submitted tests from professional industrial hygienists. EFRU's contamination map, comprising over 100 tests, shows presence of lead inside all homes—100%— that tested for lead professionally throughout the area affected by the Eaton Fire, with 75% of those reporting above 40 µg/ft², the [EPA threshold for safety](#)⁶ for windowsills.

The threshold for floors is 5 µg/ft².

Lead toxicity is especially dangerous for children, who can suffer lifelong complications that are often not identified until many years after exposure, and which include kidney problems, developmental issues, coma, and death, [according to the CDC](#)⁷. Lead is also dangerous for the elderly and pregnant. The prevalence of lead and other hazards that permeated homes near the Eaton Fire burn zone is a looming health crisis that, like the lead in soil, has so far been ignored by officials despite press coverage, outreach, and hard data.

As a resident of Altadena, I request that the Supervisors amend their motion to include a further \$3 million to create a fund to test for contaminants and to remediate the interiors of unburned homes and schools within 1 mile of the Eaton Fire Burn zone, and to reimburse uninsured renters and homeowners who paid for professional testing out pocket due to necessity or refusal of insurance companies to follow due diligence.

Professional heavy metals testing, which ranges from \$3,000 to over \$20,000, is a financial obstacle to returning home safely to standing homes affected by the fire for many homeowners and renters, keeping many residents displaced now 3 months after the fire. This affects the health of local businesses and the safety of our communities. Other residents have moved back into homes without knowing the dangers present, left to attempt lead remediation on their own.

Schools near the burn zone that have reopened, including PUSD, have returned students to buildings that have had no testing for lead or asbestos, which will likely lead to illness and cancer clusters like those that happened to [New York City school children exposed to these same contaminants](#)⁸ in the aftermath of 9/11.

⁶

<https://www.epa.gov/lead/hazard-standards-and-clearance-levels-lead-paint-dust-and-soil-tsca-sections-402-and-403>

⁷ https://archive.cdc.gov/www_atcdr_cdc_gov/csem/leadtoxicity/physiological_effects.html

⁸

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/09/07/911-stuyvesant-high-school-ground-zero-victims-survivors/>

In 2018, Los Angeles County received a \$134 million settlement, which, [as described by the Santa Monica Daily Press](#)⁹, was “a landmark legal victory against three former manufacturers of lead paint [...] these companies created an ongoing public nuisance by advertising lead paint use in homes while having knowledge of the toxic hazard to human health.”

An approved motion put forth by Supervisors Hahn and Barger in 2019 allocated those funds to a Lead Paint Hazard Mitigation Program for testing and abating lead hazards inside homes built before 1951, from which Supervisor Barger now proposes to draw from to test soil. While [the LA Times points out that the settlement was insufficient to address the breadth of the issue](#)¹⁰ inside homes, with 90% of the homes in Altadena built before 1975, it is likely that a significant portion of homes standing in the vicinity of the fire were built before 1951, and would be eligible for lead testing and removal due to contamination from paint present in homes that burned even under the existing program.

I urge the Supervisors to finally address the critical needs of constituents and their families of unburned homes affected by the Eaton Fire by establishing a testing and remediation fund for those of us who have been denied this help from all other programs. Neither lead and heavy metal exposure, nor their devastating health impacts, are theoretical. We need your help to keep our community safe.

With respect,
Elle Schneider

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<https://smdp.com/news/la-county-wins-134-million-lead-paint-settlement-will-use-funding-to-remove-lead-from-4000-homes/autoload/>

¹⁰ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-12-30/la-me-lead-poisoning-la-county>

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Professional heavy metals testing, which ranges from \$3,000 to over \$20,000, is a financial obstacle to returning home safely to standing homes affected by the fire for many homeowners and renters, keeping many residents displaced now 3 months after the fire. This affects the health of local businesses and the safety of our communities. Other residents have moved back into homes without knowing the dangers present, left to attempt lead remediation on their own. Schools near the burn zone that have reopened, including PUSD, have returned students to

buildings that have had no testing for lead or asbestos, which will likely lead to illness and cancer clusters like those that happened to [New York City school children exposed to these same contaminants](#) in the aftermath of 9/11.

In 2018, Los Angeles County received a \$134 million settlement, which, [as described by the Santa Monica Daily Press](#), was “a landmark legal victory against three former manufacturers of lead paint [...] these companies created an ongoing public nuisance by advertising lead paint use in homes while having knowledge of the toxic hazard to human health.” An approved motion put forth by Supervisors Hahn and Barger in 2019 allocated those funds to a Lead Paint Hazard Mitigation Program for testing and abating lead hazards inside homes built before 1951, from which Supervisor Barger now proposes to draw from to test soil. While [the LA Times points out that the settlement was insufficient to address the breadth of the issue](#) inside homes, with 90% of the homes in Altadena built before 1975, it is likely that a significant portion of homes standing in the vicinity of the fire were built before 1951, and would be eligible for lead testing and removal due to contamination from paint present in homes that burned even under the existing program.

I urge the Supervisors to finally address the critical needs of constituents and their families of unburned homes affected by the Eaton Fire by establishing a testing and remediation fund for those of us who have been denied this help from all other programs. Neither lead and heavy metal exposure, nor their devastating health impacts, are theoretical. We need your help to keep our community safe.

With respect,
Debra Koeplinger

Hello,

I'm a resident of Altadena's west side and I'm writing to echo comments made by members of the EFRU. I'm appreciative of everything the supervisors are doing to protect our safety, especially as a resident who is being pushed back into a severely smoke-damaged standing structure in the middle of the burn scar where the heaviest levels of lead have been found. .

I'm very happy to see the funds allocated for the testing of soil around standing structures, and I agree with other community members that some of those funds going to testing inside would help many people.

My partner and I have paid out of pocket for independent testing, but I know others aren't even able to do that.

We are facing an (intentionally, I think) uninformed and unconcerned insurance company's effort to expedite our return so they can close a claim while doing and spending as little as possible. Data is our only tool. So I urge the supervisors to do much as possible to help standing-structure families arm themselves with data.

My partner and I, like so many other "standing structure" friends we know, feel our long-term health and safety would have been better off if our home had burned. And this has been a nightmare.

Again, I appreciate the monumental efforts to protect all Altadena's as we rebuild.

Thank you,
Rachel Sondag

Dear Board of Supervisors,

We, the owners of unburned homes need to be heard and we need help.

We have been displaced for over 3 months, didn't qualify for any grants and are being bullied by our insurances against testing.

While we applaud the reallocation of \$3million for soil lead testing for unburned homes, our needs go far beyond that. Our homes are contaminated with countless harmful toxins, not just with lead. I went inside my home with an N95 mask and after only 20 minutes my tongue was burning, I got very nauseous and I got a very strong headache. These symptoms lasted for 3 full days before it changed into a respiratory illness. It is clear that there's not only lead in the ash that came into my home but also VOC's, heavy metals, PAH's, Cyanide and dioxin anions. All gravely harmful to our family's health. Everyone of the unburned homes needs to test INSIDE for all these toxins. We know we need a Certified Industrial Hygienist to do the full testing, not just lead. I had my unburned car tested that stood in front of the house during the fire and it tested positive for cyanide in the car seats. While the car insurance declared this only 3yo car a total loss within a day, our home insurers are fighting all of us homeowners to pay for thorough testing inside of our homes. We know from the survivors of the Marshall fire, that these toxins are everywhere, also in between the walls and they will start off gassing even more once it gets warmer and the homes will start to smell bad, stay toxic and become even more uninhabitable. Testing by a CIH costs easily \$20,000.- that insurers want us to swallow up. WE NEED SUPPORT in form of a fund for testing more than anything else. I would like to urge you to expand the reallocation of testing funds not only to lead in soil of unburned homes but also to testing for all known urban wildfire toxins INSIDE our homes.

Thank you for taking our concerns seriously and for creating this financial help.

Kind regards,

Korinna Sehringer

Altadena Resident, just north of New York drive and east of Allen.

1739 Morada Pl, Altadena, CA 91001

323-363-3493

Proposal: Rapid Assessment of Lead Contamination in Outdoor Play Areas of Pasadena Preschools Following the January 2025 Eaton Canyon Fire

Background & Rationale

The Eaton Canyon Fire (January 7-31, 2025) burned through areas containing predominantly pre-1978 structures with lead-based paint. Preliminary county testing has shown *elevated lead levels in downwind residential soils*¹, potentially affecting children's outdoor play areas in Pasadena preschools. This study aims to establish baseline data on potential lead contamination that could affect vulnerable toddlers, children, and caretakers. *Lead exposure is particularly harmful to children under 6, causing irreversible neurological damage even at low levels.*

Study Design

Scope: 10 preschools with outdoor play areas in Pasadena, California

Sampling Strategy: Triplicate composite sampling (3 samples per site)

Protocol: California DTSC standard operating procedures for school site assessment

Analysis Method: EPA Method 6010D (ICP-AES) by ELAP-certified, NLLAP-recognized laboratory

Threshold: California DTSC screening level (80 mg/kg) for residential soil

Required Certifications

Personnel: California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Certified Inspector/Assessor to oversee sampling

Support Staff: CDPH Certified Sampling Technician to assist with field collection

Laboratory: Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) certification plus National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLLAP) recognition

Quality Assurance

Rigorous chain-of-custody documentation with tamper-evident seals

Field blanks and duplicate samples (20% of total)

Triplicate sampling to establish statistical confidence intervals

Certified personnel and laboratory oversight throughout process

1. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/phcommon/public/media/mediapubhpdetail.cfm>

Deliverables

1. Technical report with methods, results, and recommendations
2. One-page summary for preschool administrators and parents
3. GIS map showing sampling locations and results relative to fire boundary
Prioritized list of sites requiring intervention based on contamination levels
Peer-reviewed study documentation for regulatory submissions

Timeline: 8 weeks

Sampling completion: 1 week

Laboratory analysis: 2 weeks

Data interpretation and preliminary report: 2 weeks

Submission for Peer Review: 2-4 weeks

Sponsorship & Funding

Toxin Test Research is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to publish research for public good. This study is seeking sponsors and donors for the benefit of toddlers, children and caretakers who cannot advocate for themselves, and for parents who do not have the technical knowledge or representation to make fact-based decisions.

Note A detailed budget will be added following professional quotation for implementation costs. Potential sponsors are invited to contact clearchemistry@gmail.com for partnership opportunities and acknowledgment in the final publication.

Good morning,

My name is Alice Tomaselli and I am a resident of a standing alone house in the Eaton Fire area.

My house is inexplicably still standing, but suffered damages on one side and backyard and is surrounded by burned houses.

I know Supervisor Barger finally decided to allocate \$3 million for soil testing for survived houses, however we think is essential to test the interiors more than the exterior.

I had tested my house, and fortunately even if metals detected were higher than the threshold suggested by EPA, these chemicals are cleanable on hard surfaces.

However.. when they analyzed pieces of my daughter bean bag (my daughter's room was the less exposed to the fire area) they found a concentration of chemicals 10 times higher than the threshold. Same happened when they analyzed a piece of the sofa.

Some of these chemicals are persistent and very hard if not impossible to remove especially from foam with simple remediation.

Unfortunately insurances are asking us to clean these items or simply vacuum them, for as much as we would all love to be that simple, is not. These items need to be removed and dispose as soon as possible.

Replacing my foam items is a matter of 5000\$ a ridiculous number if compared to a kid life that can be compromised.

I am sure that in the future we will have special procedure for houses that survived this big disasters like this, hopefully one day we will not need to even test and these items we will be automatically removed, but for now insurance are asking proof of damages and you can only proof with testing.

By the way these tests are not expensive (500~1000\$) but since there is no knowledge or regulations companies are taking advantages of people, if these tests would be done by the county they would be done better and in a more efficient way, and these datas can be used for other purposes in the future.

So I really hope that you will consider to allocate some of these money to test at least some of these houses, maybe by area or something, and make sure people trash away their contaminated soft items.

Thank you very much for all your daily commitment to our community
Alice Tomaselli

Supervisors,

Our community desperately needs testing of indoor homes for lead and other heavy metal contaminants. Eaton Fire Residents United (EFRU) has been collecting professional industrial hygienist testing of homes in the Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre areas sent to them from property owners and residents. Currently there are 107 tests mapped to the site: www.EFRU.LA.

99% of indoor homes tested are positive for contaminants. The single one that did not have a positive result only tested for asbestos.

100% of indoor homes tested for lead tested positive.

100% of indoor homes tested for wildfire debris tested positive.

If you look at the EFRU map you will see the contamination spreads throughout Altadena, Pasadena, and parts of Sierra Madre. This is not a small section of residents. The contamination of indoor residencies is rampant.

We need you to address the lead and other contaminants found inside buildings exposed to the ash and smoke of the LA Fires. Indoors spaces are contained spaces. The recirculation of air indoors with the contaminants of lead, arsenic, antimony, chromium, cadmium, cobalt, copper, nickel, and zinc are a serious hazard and the existence of this concern is clearly indicated on this map. Some home hygienic tests didn't include the wide array of toxins as others do due to the fact that many of these tests were paid for out of pocket by the resident. Some insurance companies are just starting to cover the cost of testing which is why more recent tests have more extensive testing.

There are thousands of residents in the Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre area who haven't the means for testing:

- CA Fair Plan that does not cover the cost of testing and remediation.
- Generational homes where people inherited their homes and don't have the means for insurance
- Renters who may or may not have renters insurance which only covers personal property but not the structure and who have landlords who are ignoring the ash and contamination of their property.

And what about our public spaces? Our libraries, our rec centers, our schools? Testing for ash/soot/char is not enough. We need testing of actual contaminants to understand what level of remediation needs to be done and there needs to be post remediation testing to ensure the contaminants have been removed.

The EFRU.LA map as well as the **Caltech map** (<https://scienceexchange.caltech.edu/topics/sustainability/ask-expert-sustainability/ask-expert-fires/francois-tissot-lead-water-soil-ash-eaton-fire>), **which included markers not just for soil, but the lead inside of homes**, indicate that EVERY SINGLE RESIDENCY in Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre needs to have access to indoor professional hygienic testing for contaminants.

There needs to be

- pre-remediation testing conducted to understand the level of contamination,
- appropriate remediation conducted based on the kind of contamination found,
- and post remediation testing to ensure the removal of the contaminants.

In the case of a residency already having had remediation, testing needs to be conducted to ensure there aren't remaining contaminants.

If this is not addressed, people will get sick. Some terminally. This is a serious hazard that needs to be dealt with immediately. The summer's high temperatures will only compound the issue where emissions will increase. Please address this serious concern now.

Sincerely,
Jane Lawton Potelle

Hello Supervisors,

The motion to allocate \$3 million from the Lead Paint Hazard Mitigation Program toward soil testing near the Eaton Fire burn zone shows your heart is in the right place. But for those of us still living in or displaced from unburned homes affected by the fire, what we urgently need is support to test and clean our living spaces, where we and our families actually spend our time.

The evidence is clear: the Eaton Fire spread toxic ash, including lead and asbestos, into nearby neighborhoods. Many homes that burned in the Eaton fire were built before 1975, when these substances were commonly used in construction materials and paint. [According to Caltech](#), ash from the fire traveled up to seven miles, carrying dangerous contaminants far beyond the burn zone.

EFRU (Eaton Fire Residents United) and academic institutions like Caltech, LMU, UCLA, and USC have stepped up where public support has been lacking. Their independent efforts confirm elevated lead levels not just in soil, but—crucially—inside homes. [EFRU's testing map](#) currently includes over 100 home test results. Of the 90 homes tested for lead, 100% detected lead dust. Over 80% of those homes showed lead concentrations well above the EPA maximums, many of them at alarmingly high levels.

This is not just about soil. It's about the air our children breathe indoors, the surfaces we touch every day, the risk we carry in our clothes, and in the food we prepare for our families. Soil testing alone doesn't address that.

Professional testing by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) can cost between \$3,000 and \$20,000 per home. Without financial help, many families are either displaced or forced to live in contaminated spaces. Others have taken on this cost themselves, while insurance companies deny coverage or dismiss the risk altogether. Some schools have reopened with no testing at all, exposing students to lead and asbestos, which can have life-altering consequences for children, pregnant people, and the elderly.

I'm asking you to amend your motion to include an additional \$3 million to cover:

- CIH-led testing inside homes and schools within one mile of the burn zone
- Professional remediation where necessary
- Reimbursement for families who paid out-of-pocket when insurers refused

We know from past disasters what happens when lead contamination is ignored. The data is here. The science is here. What's missing is the funding to protect the people actually living in these homes.

Please act now to make our homes safe again.

Sincerely,

Efram Potelle

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

I am a resident of Altadena staying in a fifth-wheeler trailer, my ninth relocation/displacement since the wildfires in Altadena because of concern about toxicity of my Friends Retirement Association apartment. I simply am worn out from moving so much, yet must leave this trailer by the end of April when it turns into a seasonal Air BnB.

All residents of the Friends Retirement Association—the elderly and disabled, were told to return home, despite the Public Health advisory to stay away during debris removal of the burnt down Franklin Elementary School within approximately 30 feet next door, and with no cleaning having been done outside or inside the apartments. I implore you to initiate testing of our remaining homes instead of soil testing at this point. Many of us are having effects of trauma of the fire and are displaced away at great expense emotionally and financially, and it would help us tremendously to return to our homes and now if it safe to. Please help us. Thank you for your consideration of our desperation.

Sincerely,

Claudia Gold, MS, MPH

penofgold@gmail.com

310-707-6306

2691 Lincoln Avenue (entrance on Ventura next to school)

Altadena, CA 91001

Public Comment to Address Agenda Item 41a on Tuesday, April 15, 2025

From: Pirjo L. Ranasinghe (parent of child at EF Academy in Pasadena)

I am requesting that the agenda item 41a to open up funds for testing soil for lead on standing structures one mile from the Eaton burn area **include schools as well** (currently considered only for residences).

Our child attends EF Academy in Pasadena on 1505 E. Howard Street, within one mile of the burn areas.

Thank you.

Pirjo L. Ranasinghe