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# Assembly California Legislature



**MIGUEL SANTIAGO**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTY-THIRD DISTRICT

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May 23, 2017

Director Barbara A. Lee  
California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
P.O. Box 806  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806

## **RE: Dust from Building Demolition near Exide**

Dear Director Lee:

I am writing in regards to the demolition of an industrial warehouse at 3820 East Union Pacific Avenue in Los Angeles. This warehouse is located within the area currently being tested and remediated by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) for lead contamination from the now-shuttered Exide battery recycling facility in Vernon. Decades of lax regulation at Exide resulted in repeated environmental violations and contamination of the surrounding communities—poor, working class, and heavily Latino communities—with toxic heavy metals.

It is my understanding that during demolition of the warehouse, proper steps were not taken to mitigate dust. Accordingly, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) issued a Notice of Violation to the property owner. Community members have understandably voiced concerns about contaminated dust from the warehouse demolition migrating to residential properties.

With respect to the warehouse demolition, I hope that you are able to provide responses to the following questions:

- (1) Did the City of Los Angeles coordinate with, notify, or contact DTSC before approving the demolition?
- (2) Has DTSC determined, either on its own, or in coordination with AQMD and the City of Los Angeles, if dust containing lead from the demolition migrated to residential properties?
- (3) If DTSC determines, in regards to the demolition, that dust containing lead migrated to residential properties, how does DTSC plan to address this?

C2d: BG



We must understand how and why this lapse in judgement occurred. Our working-class communities are continually saddled with environmental injustices, and this is just one more inexcusable example that we must address.

I thank you for your continued time, consideration, and dedication to working closely with me on this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Miguel Santiago". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Miguel" and last name "Santiago" clearly legible.

**MIGUEL SANTIAGO**  
Assemblymember, 53<sup>rd</sup> District