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# Assembly California Legislature



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

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May 23, 2017

Frank M. Bush, General Manager  
City of Los Angeles, Department of Building and Safety  
201 N. Figueroa St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

Dear Mr. Bush:

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 Department of Building and Safety coordinate with, notify, or contact DTSC before approving the demolition?
- (2) Has the City of Los Angeles since consulted with DTSC or AQMD to determine whether dust from the demolition migrated to residential properties?
- (3) Does the City of Los Angeles have a process in place to cross-check demolition and major project remodels with DTSC, AQMD, water departments, or other environmental oversight agencies?

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- (4) What does the permitting process look like for building demolition when it comes to consulting with outside agencies?
- (5) Does the City of Los Angeles have a process in place to notify locally impacted residents when a facility is being approved for demolition?

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 look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



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