



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 25, 2024

Michael S. Regan
Administrator - United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Addition of Exide-Vernon Facility to Superfund National Priorities List

Dear Administrator Regan,

I write to you in strong support of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)'s consideration of the former Exide facility in Vernon and its surrounding impacted areas for inclusion on the National Priority List (NPL) under federal Superfund Law (section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act [CERCLA], as amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 9605).

Beginning in the 1920's, until its closure in 2014, the Exide-Vernon Facility spewed lead and other pollutants into neighboring communities. While operations have ceased, the impacts remain. Significant amounts of lead have been discovered at schools, playgrounds, and in the yards of family homes. To date, California has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to clean up over 5,000 residential properties impacted by the facility -- one of the largest cleanups in US history. Designation of the Exide-Vernon Facility on the NPL will unlock vital federal resources to ensure that this community gets the health protective cleanup remedy it deserves.

I appreciate your ongoing partnership and look forward to our continued cooperation to address the impacts from legacy contamination at this site. If you have any additional questions, please contact CalEPA Secretary Yana Garcia at yana.garcia@calepa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom
Governor of California