

Exide Residential Cleanup: Call to Action

Background



In April of 2016, the Governor approved a historic \$176.6 million loan to DTSC to jump-start the cleanup of the homes most contaminated by Exide. To date, however, less than 300 homes have been cleaned. In July of 2017, DTSC completed the CEQA review of the cleanup plan as requested by the community – but more than six months later DTSC has yet to resume the cleanups under the plan. Each day without cleanup increases the significant risk of exposure of lead in the community, with

pregnant women and children especially at-risk. The community is justifiably upset about the slow pace of the residential cleanup.

To address this unacceptable situation, Exide residential cleanup must resume immediately. Furthermore, DTSC must make the three essential changes below to their Exide residential cleanup plan to increase its efficiency and effectiveness, and to address the ongoing and growing concerns of the community.

1. Cleanup of Parkway Property Adjacent to Residences

• Concern:

Children walk and play in the parkway areas in front of their homes, and may come in contact with contaminated soil, even after the rest of the residence is cleaned.

However, DTSC is not cleaning up the parkway property in front of homes when it cleans up the rest of the property.

Leaving the parkways uncleaned also risks recontamination of cleaned residential properties from dirt tracked onto the property from the adjacent parkway.

• Solution:

DTSC's residential cleanup must include the parkways adjacent to residences to ensure that the entire property is cleaned.



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2. Cleanup of the Interiors of the Residences

• Concern:

Currently, DTSC provides residents with an optional “coupon” to redeem for an interior cleanup by a 3rd party vendor after the exterior of the property is cleaned, which is an inadequate solution. This “coupon” has led to confusion and a reluctance to accept this service by some in the community.

• Solution:

Interior cleanup must be provided by DTSC as part of the comprehensive residential cleanup plan, including testing to confirm that any lead in dust and soil inside the house has been removed. Three key elements of this solution are: (1) DTSC adoption of a recommended protocol for comprehensive interior cleanup; (2) interior cleanup is conducted under the direct oversight of DTSC following the exterior cleanup; and (3) DTSC tests the residential interior after the cleanup is completed to confirm that the cleanup was effective.

3. Cleanup of Residences on a Block-By-Block Basis

• Concern:

DTSC reports that its Parcel-by-Parcel Cleanup Strategy will clean-up no more than 2,500 prioritized properties. DTSC’s method for selecting homes for priority cleanup results in significant uncertainty that homes not prioritized are safe. Additionally, further rounds of disruptive cleanup will be required on blocks if/when DTSC returns to cleanup properties not initially prioritized. Finally, there remains an ongoing risk of re-contaminating previously cleaned properties from adjacent uncleaned properties and/or during later adjacent cleanups.

• Solution:

A Block-by-Block Cleanup Strategy would prioritize approximately 4,900 to 6,500 parcels for cleanup. There will be greater confidence that parcels are safe since blocks identified for cleanup use a much larger sampling dataset. A Block-by-Block Cleanup treats all homes on a block the same. A single efficient and comprehensive cleanup of the entire block, including parkways, minimizes the risk of recontamination.

