

Clean Air Coalition of
North Whittier and Avocado Heights
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May 13, 2014

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, Ca 90630

Dear Stacey Lear:

Our group appreciates your Department's timely response.

Exide and Quemetco are battery recycling companies in operation for an extensive length of time. They are the only battery recycling companies on the West Coast of the USA who are recycling approximately the same tonnage.

The widespread contamination Exide has generated throughout their years of operation, resulting in health concerns for a large number of people, has brought on our request for soil and possibly water testing for toxic contaminants for our community.

Quemetco had been unchecked for many years and as the result of formal complaints SCAQMD installed air monitoring equipment. Soil testing on their grounds also resulted from their air violation. An unacceptable level of arsenic, lead and mercury in the grounds resulted in Quemetco's solution of paving the grounds. No testing was done off their grounds.

Quemetco recently exceeded their lead level and has been ordered to do a health risk assessment to be completed May 2014.

The Location for Testing: The department should have access along San Jose Creek banks, which are directly in back of Quemetco. North Whittier, Avocado Heights and Gladstone communities are due west and located north and south of San Jose Creek. SCAQMD wind flow charts show a westerly pattern directly over our area. The owner of Wildwood Mobile Country Club at 901 So. 6th Ave., Hacienda Heights, consisting of 457 mobile homes chose not to be tested.

The San Jose Creek is part of our re-percolating drinking water system and we are concerned that the contamination from its banks and wind draft fallout will be detrimental to our health.

A response to start to resolve our issues will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Richard H. Kamimura, Co-Chairperson

Attached petition 5