April 8, 2013

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.
Executive Officer
Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, California 91765

Dr. Wallerstein:

On behalf of the residents and employees of the City of Vernon, we write to formally request that your agency issue a health advisory in the SCAQMD’s Eastern and Western Regions in accordance with the federal Clean Air Act (CAA), California Clean Air Act (CCAA), EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and Air Toxics Information & Assessment Act (ATIAA) for the City of Vernon and any surrounding Southeast Los Angeles County neighborhoods and communities that may be affected by the release of potentially toxic or harmful ambient air pollutants from the Exide Technologies recycling facility at 2700 S. Indiana Street in Vernon.

The residents and employees of the City of Vernon and our city’s 1,800 private businesses, 55,000 private sector employees, and a potential 100,000+ residents in nearby communities are dependent on your agency’s swift action in regard to this public health and safety matter.

It should be noted that our city was informed about this health and safety risk through media reports, not direct contact with us by your agency. Area residents and workers are justifiably alarmed by these media reports. They have questions. They deserve answers. We hope that AQMD’s public engagement and inter-agency cooperation can be improved as we move forward.

The director and staff of the City of Vernon Health and Environmental Control Department (VHECD) are prepared to assist your agency’s staff with any health and environmental protection measures that are within their statutory authority.

Respectfully,

Honorable William Davis
Mayor

Mark Whitworth
City Administrator

Exclusively Industrial
cc: William A. Burke, Ed.D., Chair, SCAQMD
Hon. Michael Cacciotti, Board Member, L.A. County Eastern Region, SCAQMD
Hon. Jose Huizar, Councilmember, City of Los Angeles
Hon. Ricardo Lara, Senator, 33rd District, California State Senate
Hon. Kevin de León, Senator, 22nd District, California State Senate
Hon. John Van de Kamp, Independent Reform Monitor
Leonard Grossberg, Director, Vernon Health and Environmental Control Dept.
John Hogarth, Plant Manager, Exide Technologies
Marisa Olguin, Executive Director, Vernon Chamber of Commerce