



April 24, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from Vernon City Administrator Mark Whitworth on the Temporary Shutdown of Exide Technologies recycling facility

Vernon, CA – City of Vernon City Administrator Mark Whitworth today issued the following statement regarding the temporary shutdown of the Exide Technologies battery recycling facility in Vernon:

“The City of Vernon fully concurs with the order of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control to temporarily halt operations at the Exide Technologies battery recycling plant in Vernon due to the presence of a hazardous substance leak from a pipeline at the facility.

“The staff of the Vernon Department of Health and Environmental Control will closely monitor the work of state DTSC inspectors to ensure that workers at Exide Technologies and the environment surrounding the plant are made completely safe before the facility is cleared to resume operation.

“On April 8, the City of Vernon formally requested in a letter to Dr. Barry Wallerstein, Executive Officer of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, that AQMD issue a health advisory for L.A. County’s Eastern and Western regions due to potentially harmful arsenic ambient air pollutants being released from the Exide Technologies plant.

“We made this request because our top priority is the health and safety of Vernon’s residents, our city’s 55,000 private sector employees, and the more than 100,000 residents in nearby communities that are potentially affected.”

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Vernon was founded in 1905 to create jobs in California. Vernon’s 1,800 businesses create more than 105,000 jobs in the Los Angeles area – including 55,000 jobs within the city’s 5.2-mile boundary. The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation designated Vernon as California’s ‘Most Business Friendly City.’ Vernon generates more than \$330 million in state income and sales taxes, \$1.1 billion in taxable spending. Vernon’s businesses provide more than 4.4 billion in salaries and wages annually for workers in Los Angeles County. For more information, go to www.cityofvernon.org.

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