

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5108  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4022  
FAX (916) 327-8817

DISTRICT OFFICE  
1808 W. SUNSET BLVD.  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026  
TEL (213) 483-9300  
FAX (213) 483-9305

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
KEVIN DE LEÓN  
CHAIR

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
TWENTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ENERGY, UTILITIES &  
COMMUNICATIONS  
GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATION  
HEALTH  
PUBLIC SAFETY

JOINT COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET



December 17, 2013

Honorable Jerry Hill  
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Request Oversight Hearing on Hazardous Waste/DTSC/Exide Technologies**

Dear Senator Hill:

I write to request an Oversight Hearing by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on California's hazardous waste regulatory system and the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), including the specific issues at the Exide Technologies lead battery recycling facility in Vernon.

As a representative of communities that are exposed to toxic emissions, it's extremely frustrating when our regulatory system fails to adequately address the pollution these residents suffer on a daily basis. The longstanding problems at the Exide Technologies lead battery recycling facility in Vernon are only the most recent example of the system's failures. The plant has been allowed to operate for more than three decades on an interim permit, while it has repeatedly violated environmental and public health standards.

Additionally, roughly a quarter of the 117 facilities regulated by DTSC to store, treat or dispose of hazardous waste in California continue to operate on a permit whose original expiration date has long past. Among these facilities, one facility has been operating with a permit whose original expiration date has passed by as many as 17 years. These cases, as well as others, do little to reassure residents that their neighborhoods are safe. We can and should do better.

This January, I am expecting the release of a report I requested from the Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes regarding the litany of allegations regarding our hazardous waste regulatory system detailed in a report by Consumer Watchdog. Moreover, I am moving forward with legislation early next year to begin to address many of the issues that need our attention, beginning with addressing the loopholes in our permitting system. I welcome your committee's expertise to inform and shape this legislation as it moves forward so we can strengthen our efforts to ensure toxic waste doesn't pollute our most vulnerable communities.



Senator Hill -- *Oversight Hearing on Hazardous Waste*  
December 17, 2013  
Page 2 of 2

It is my sincere hope to work with your Committee to help DTSC successfully meet its core mission that is “to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation, and pollution prevention.”

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (916) 651-4022 or Nidia Bautista of my staff at [nidia.bautista@sen.ca.gov](mailto:nidia.bautista@sen.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



**KEVIN DE LEÓN**

**Twenty-Second Senate District**

cc: Honorable Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Rachel Machi Wagoner, Chief Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee