

Quality and Productivity Commission
32nd Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
"Innovating for Impact"

2018 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12 point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: Exide's Exit: Unprecedented Community Empowerment

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION/ADOPTION: MARCH 01, 2015

(Must have been fully implemented for a minimum of at least one year - on or before July 1, 2017)

PROJECT STATUS: Ongoing One-time only

HAS YOUR DEPARTMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED THIS PROJECT? Yes No

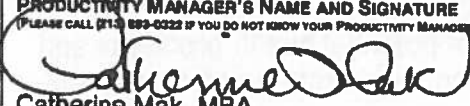
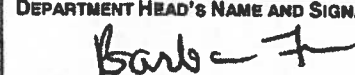
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Describe the project in 15 lines or less using Arial 12 point font. State clearly and concisely what difference the project has made.

1 In 2015, the Department of Public Health (DPH) in tandem with the 1st Supervisorial
 2 District, partnered with community leaders and federal prosecutors to permanently close
 3 the Exide Battery facility. Despite the closure, past toxic emissions have placed the
 4 communities at risk for cancers, lead poisoning, respiratory illness, and learning
 5 disabilities. DPH and the 1st Supervisorial District continue to address current and future
 6 health needs while urging State agencies to effectively remove the toxins from the
 7 homes. The ongoing remediation efforts span seven neighborhoods, representing the
 8 State's largest cleanup of toxic contamination to date, and resulted in AB 118 and 2189
 9 calling for an aggregate \$188M for cleanups. DPH is educating residents with multi-
 10 lingual information, resources and clinical and wellness services crucial in addressing
 11 long-term health impacts. This is a profound example of our work with the Health
 12 Agency departments of Mental Health and Health Services to empower a predominantly
 13 Latino community and provide primary care, blood lead testing, and mental health
 14 services. This is a model to empower and to improve health outcomes for one the most
 15 pollution burdened and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in the County.

BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY

(1) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST AVOIDANCE	(2) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST SAVINGS	(3) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE	(1) + (2) + (3) = TOTAL ANNUAL ACTUAL/ESTIMATED BENEFIT	SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
\$	\$	\$	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ANNUAL = 12 MONTHS ONLY

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS Department of Public Health 313 N. Figueroa Street, 8 th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90012	TELEPHONE NUMBER (213) 288-8117
PROGRAM MANAGER'S NAME Dr. Cyrus Rangan	TELEPHONE NUMBER (213) 738-3220 EMAIL tox@ph.lacounty.gov
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE <small>(PLEASE CALL (213) 893-0322 IF YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME)</small>  Catherine Mak, MBA	TELEPHONE NUMBER (213) 288-7240 EMAIL cmak@ph.lacounty.gov
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE  Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd	TELEPHONE NUMBER (213) 288-8117
DATE 7.2.2018	DATE 7.2.2018

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1st FACT SHEET – LIMITED UP TO 3 PAGES ONLY: Describe the **challenge(s), solution(s), and benefit(s)** of the project to the County. What quality and/or productivity-related outcome(s) has the project achieved? Provide measures of success and specify assessment time frame. Use Arial 12 point font.

Challenge:

After decades of inadequate regulation from State and local agencies, emissions from the Exide battery recycling plant exposed residents in the surrounding community to hazardous levels of lead, arsenic, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, and other harmful chemicals. Continued exposures to these substances increase the risk of developing cancer, immune system disorders, learning disabilities and lower life expectancy. In 2013, a Health Risk Assessment indicated an elevated cancer risk to residents and workers in an expansive area extending several miles from the Exide facility located in the city of Vernon. This is the largest excess risk level associated with a single industrial facility in California.

Although the Exide battery facility has been permanently closed for three years, the residential yards remain contaminated with high levels of lead. Each day homes with high levels of lead contamination wait for cleanup, the risk of exposure escalates. This is especially harmful for pregnant women and children as lead exposure could lead to health defects in children, including lower IQ, learning disabilities, behavior disorders, hearing problems, and abnormal bone growth. In adults, elevated lead exposure is associated with kidney and nerve damage, anemia, high blood pressure, problems with fertility, memory, mood, coordination, and vision. Individuals exposed to the toxins live with an increased risk for many unfavorable health conditions for the rest of their lives.

The targeted population is comprised of approximately 100,000 residents who are already disproportionately impacted by economic disparities and existing health conditions. In the impacted communities, the poverty rate (30%), is considerably higher than countywide (18%). Among adults, 16% do not have health insurance, compared to 12% countywide. The communities contaminated by the Exide facility are among the most pollution burdened in the State and face a legacy of racism, poverty, lack of secure employment, and low high school graduation rates.

Solution:

DPH effectively partnered with residents and community organizations to empower communities with information, opportunities for engagement, and educational materials needed to support affected individuals, families, and community members. This means ensuring access to care and specialized health screenings for the early identification and treatment of potential health problems and the availability of easily comprehensible information on the current and future health risks.

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Led by DPH, the County Health Agency, launched a healthcare initiative to connect patients with established medical providers to provide health screening, services, and individual consultations with clinicians at no cost to residents. DPH took advantage of local health fairs as well as other community held events, to host free and convenient, on-site blood lead testing to residents with socioeconomic and transportation challenges. Moreover, DPH, with support of the 1st Supervisorial District, established a permanent resource center at the East Los Angeles Service Center to provide support, information, resources, and blood lead screenings to residents and uninsured patients.

DPH launched a Community Health Outreach campaign to increase community awareness of contamination and potential impacts on the health of residents and workers. Engaging residents and providing information about exposure, associated health risks, health protective actions, and available resources is vital for the early identification and treatment of lead related illnesses. One of the most profound examples took place on June 10, 2017, in partnership with Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, community groups such as East Yard and Communities for a Better Environment, and, our colleagues from the Health Agency. Together, during a span of 6-hours, 1,500 DPH and Health Agency staff, and community volunteers visited 16,000 homes in an unprecedented large-scale door-to-door outreach event to provide resource packets and conduct community surveys. These surveys offered critical insight into what our residents are most concerned with and how we can better serve them. The results of the survey have been published and are available on our DPH webpage:

publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/exide/ExideCommunitySurvey.pdf

To enhance support and services, DPH provided local health providers and educators information on community health risks so they can better address the concerns and overall interests of residents with long-term exposure to hazardous chemicals. Healthcare providers were educated on the lifetime health risks for area children and adults and informed on the appropriate screening services needed for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment. DPH worked with local school districts and early education providers to plan for increased services, including cognitive and behavioral screening and intervention to assist children with learning difficulties, behavioral conditions, and other developmental problems.

To support community efforts, DPH ensured all residents have a voice and can participate in decisions that affect their community. DPH conducted surveys and community meetings to gather residential health and cleanup concerns and presented reports to State and local elected officials. DPH supported the community as they protested injustices and urged the State to fulfill its obligations to clean up properties with highly contaminated soil. Over the past three years, DPH testified at legislative hearings and met with State legislators to elevate community concerns and advocate for funding for cleanup, resulting in AB 118 and AB 2189.

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Benefits:

Since 2015, DPH has been elevating community voices and engaging new partners to guide public and private activities, initiatives, and investments towards supporting the community needs to address the long-term impacts of lead exposure from the Exide facility. Through extensive collaboration and ongoing community engagement, DPH has increased awareness across a broad array of organizations to expand capacity for assistance and assure health considerations will continue to be embedded into future decisions. The Exide outreach project is a historical moment for the Health Agency, as it is the first major project where all three health departments (DMH, DHS, and DPH) combined their staff, resources, and services to provide a comprehensive solution in effectively outreaching to the community about the issues of environmental contamination caused by Exide. To date, the following engagement activities have or will benefit the community impacted by Exide:

- 21,000 residents are aware of Exide contamination and the associated health impacts and have been linked to resources that support their health goals.
- State legislation was passed allocating \$176.6 million for testing and cleanup of about 2,500 of the most contaminated yards (AB 118) and \$12 million for expanded cleanup for the entire yard (AB 2189) as a result of DPH engagement.
- Research shows, for every dollar spent on lead poisoning prevention, at least \$17 would be returned in health care benefits such as increased IQ, higher lifetime earnings, lower special education costs, and reduced criminal activity.
- More than 700 health care providers were informed about health needs of residents and workers using a Hospital Alert system designed for mass communication with medical providers.
- A total of 255 local private medical provider clinics within 4 miles of the Exide facility were informed about the health risks associated with the toxic contaminants released by Exide and the need for blood lead testing and other health screenings of patients.
- DPH increased community awareness by conducting presentations and updates to over 850 parents and community members at schools, providing them with information on how to protect themselves and their pets from lead poisoning.
- Four local DHS Comprehensive Health Centers were made available for residents to receive free blood lead screening and financial screening for health insurance.
- DPH has also collaborated with three local Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) programs to disseminate and educate at risk individuals including pregnant women and children on the impacts of Exide.
- The cleanup and outreach effort informed future work to achieve health equity via the DPH Center for Health Equity.

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Linkage to the County Strategic Plan – 1 page only. Which County Strategic Plan goal(s) does this project address? Explain how. Use Arial 12 point font.

The Exide Community Health Outreach and Support work is featured in the 2018 County Board Priorities Semi Annual Report for helping to achieve **Goal II**, which is to **Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities**. The Outreach efforts effectively meet this goal by achieving the following objectives:

- **II.2.3 – Prioritize Environmental Health Oversight and Monitoring:** Strengthen the County's capacity to effectively prevent, prepare for and respond to emergency environmental and natural hazards and reduce impacts to disproportionality affected communities.
- **II.3 – Make Environmental Sustainability Our Daily Reality:** Envision and implement a comprehensive and integrated approach to improving the environmental, economic, and social well-being of our communities so that they may thrive now and into the future.

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COST AVOIDANCE, COST SAVINGS, AND REVENUE GENERATED (ESTIMATED BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY): If you are claiming cost benefits, include a calculation on this page. Please indicate whether these benefits apply in total or on a per unit basis, e.g., per capita, per transaction, per case, etc. You must include an explanation of the County cost savings, cost avoidance or new revenue that matches the numbers in the box. Remember to keep your supporting documentation. Use Arial 12 point font

Cost Avoidance: Costs that are eliminated or not incurred as a result of program outcomes. Please indicate whether these are costs to the County or to other entities.

Cost Savings: A reduction or lessening of expenditures as a result of program outcomes. Please indicate whether these were expenditures by the County or by other entities.

Revenue: Increases in existing revenue streams or new revenue sources to the County as a result of program outcomes.

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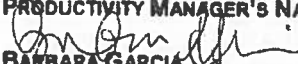
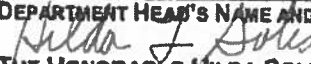
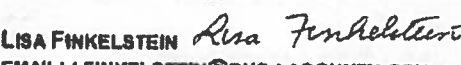
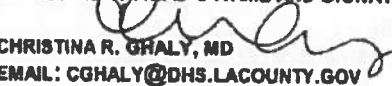
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(For single department submissions, do not include this page)

DEPARTMENT NO. 2 NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS OFFICE OF THE HONORABLE HILDA SOLIS-1 ST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 500 W. TEMPLE STREET, STE. 856, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012	
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE  BARBARA GARCIA EMAIL: BGARCIA@BOS.LACOUNTY.GOV	DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE  THE HONORABLE HILDA SOLIS, SUPERVISOR EMAIL: firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
DEPARTMENT NO. 3 NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES 313 N. FIGUEROA STREET, 9 TH FLOOR, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012	
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE  LISA FINKELSTEIN EMAIL: LFINKELSTEIN@DHS.LACOUNTY.GOV	DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE  CHRISTINA R. GHALY, MD EMAIL: CGHALY@DHS.LACOUNTY.GOV
DEPARTMENT NO. 4 NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH 550 S. VERMONT AVENUE, 12 TH FLOOR, LOS ANGELES, CA 90020	
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE KUMAR MENON, MSPA ALTERNATE PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER EMAIL: KMENON@DMH.LACOUNTY.GOV	DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE JONATHAN SHERIN, MD, PHD EMAIL: JSHERIN@DMH.LACOUNTY.GOV
DEPARTMENT NO. 5 NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS	
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE EMAIL: _____	DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE EMAIL: _____
DEPARTMENT NO. 6 NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS	
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE EMAIL: _____	DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE EMAIL: _____
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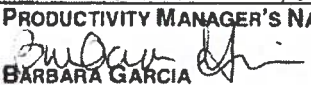
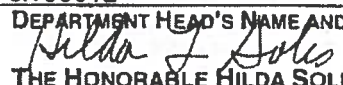
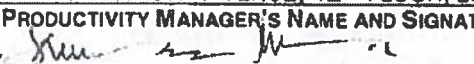
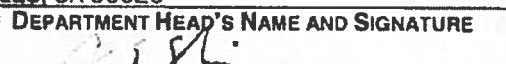
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