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KATHRYN BARGER

August 4, 2020

Wayne Nastri, Executive Officer
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Dear Mr. Nastri:

We are writing to inform you that the County of Los Angeles is opposed to the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) continued processing of Quemetco, Inc.'s (Quemetco) application to modify the operating permit for its battery recycling facility (Facility) in the city of Industry until the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has rendered a final decision on whether to renew Quemetco's hazardous waste facility operating permit. We also request that SCAQMD explain to the public the scope and effect of the SCAQMD's recent settlement agreement with Quemetco (Settlement).

In the past three years, Quemetco has received four Notices of Violation (NOVs) for unlawful release of toxic air pollutants from the Facility, including two NOVs for exceeding the level of permitted arsenic emissions. In May 2020, SCAQMD announced, in a short press release, that it entered into the Settlement to resolve the outstanding NOVs; however, SCAQMD never explained to the public the effect of the Settlement or how it intended to spend \$600,000 in settlement proceeds.

Finally, it is premature to consider Quemetco's requested permit to increase its throughput and modify its operations, when DTSC is still considering Quemetco's operating permit renewal. In addition, allowing Quemetco to expand and modify its operations could have negative effects on public health. We urge SCAQMD to consider Quemetco's history of violations, as well as the environmental justice and public health impact that expanded operation of the Facility would have on the surrounding communities.

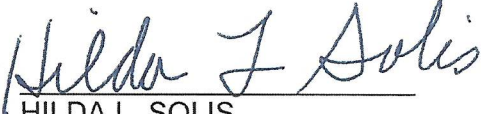
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Therefore, we respectfully request that SCAQMD: (1) hold a public meeting to explain the terms of the Settlement to the public, including how the violations were resolved and how the funds will be used, and to take public comment; (2) consider using a portion of the Settlement proceeds to benefit the community impacted by Quemetco's operations; and (3) halt consideration of Quemetco's permit to expand its throughput until after DTSC decides on Quemetco's request to renew the Facility's operating permit. These are critical steps toward achieving the environmental justice communities of East Los Angeles County deserve.


Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,


KATHRYN BARGER
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, Fifth District


HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District


MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District


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