

The People's Senate

A Community-Based Approach to Reforming DTSC

The Problem – Department of Toxic Substances Control

- Conflicting and unclear agency mission
- Lack of strong and consistent agency leadership
- Industry capture
- No governing board or other systems of accountability and transparency
- Unchecked agency discretion; no standardized criteria

The Result?





Exide

- Only toxic waste facility which DTSC allows to operate without a permit.
- South Coast Air Quality Management District: Exide presents “**higher cancer risk to more people than any of more than 450 facilities the agency has regulated... in the last 25 years.**”
- Long history of violations, including serious lead and arsenic air emissions violations.
- All nearby residences tested by DTSC had elevated levels of lead in their soil.



Autumnwood

- Housing development built on suspected toxic soil.
- 2 healthy young women died; dozens of unexplained illnesses; many residents abandoned their homes and possessions.
- Private sampling showed elevated levels of **benzene, dichloroethane, and formaldehyde**.
- DTSC found nothing wrong and conducted no clean up; but raw data showed dozens of chemicals exceeding health standards.
- EPA now reviewing DTSC's investigation.



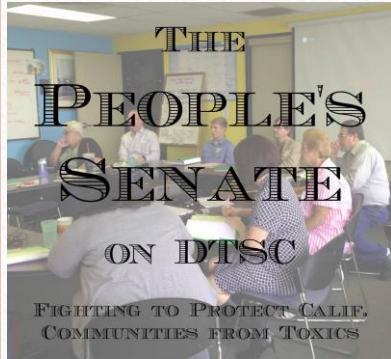
Phibro-Tech

- DTSC allows toxic waste recycling facility to operate on expired permit for 16 years.
- Hexavalent chromium in groundwater traced to Phibro-Tech as **three million times the public health goal**.
- Residents complain of elevated cancer rates and deaths in the residential areas around the facility.
- DTSC ordered a clean-up in 1990s, but the facility has yet to comply.



Jordan Downs

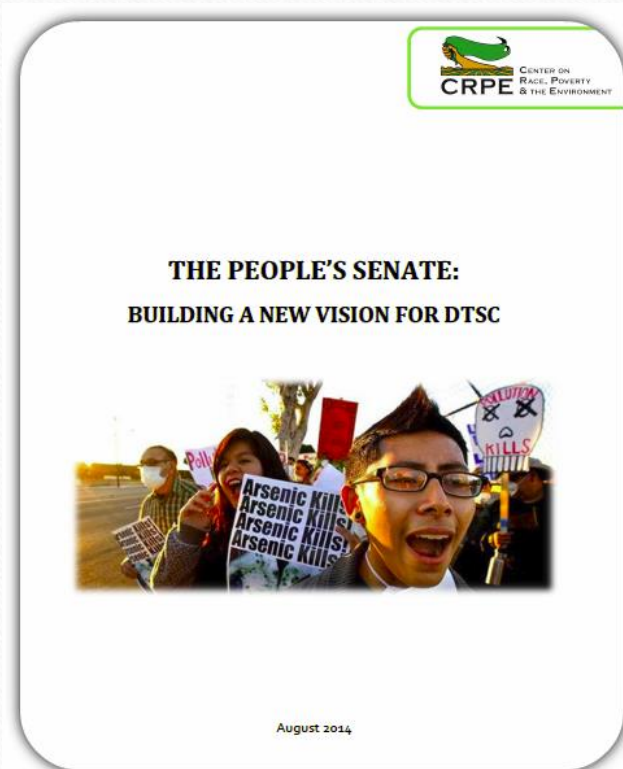
- There are over two dozen DTSC clean up sites within 3 miles of Jordan Downs
- Redevelopment site contaminated with lead, arsenic, oil, and cancer causing industrial chemicals.
- Half of residential soil samples tested by DTSC exceeded lead health standards.
- Despite the contamination, **DTSC deemed the area safe and is requiring no clean-up.**



The People's Senate

- Representatives from impacted communities across the state
- 12 communities represented
- Relationship building
- Visioning workshops
- Recognizing shared concerns
- Developing shared solutions

Key Accomplishments



- SB 812 (De Leon)
- The People's Senate Report
- NBC Investigative Report
- Assembly Toxics Committee Hearing
- Meetings with DTSC top officials
- Platform for agency-wide reform

Questions?



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