

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 15, 2023

Martha Guzman Aceves
EPA Region 9 Administrator
Office of the Regional Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Administrator Aceves:

We are writing to request the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) to provide a public notice evaluating and summarizing all the air quality monitoring information and sampling data gathered regarding the November 7 – December 1 hangar fire in the former Marine Corps Air Station in Tustin, California, as well as its plans moving forward.

First, we would like to thank the EPA Environmental Response Team for its role in leading air quality monitoring efforts in coordination with South Coast Air Quality Management District (“AQMD”) early in the incident. On December 1st, Orange County Fire Authority announced that there were no longer any active hotspots detected in the hangar, and the City of Tustin has transitioned to a stabilization phase. Since then, we are aware that the Environmental Response Team has demobilized and that the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (“CTEH”) will now be responsible for air quality monitoring and CalEPA Department of Toxic Substances Control (“DTSC”), as the State’s lead agency in overseeing the transfer of closed federal military installations, will oversee long-term cleanup and restoration activities.

Although the EPA, Navy, and City of Tustin’s air quality monitoring and sampling data results show no detected airborne asbestos fibers during the 24-day hangar fire, there is growing public concern over the long-term health effects of the Tustin hangar fire. The absence of official information creates conditions for alarm, misinformation, and accusation. To address these concerns, we are requesting that EPA provide all information and data collected so far and written answers to the following questions:

- 1) What level of testing has been completed by the EPA thus far, and what are the results?
 - a. Which standards determine what is considered safe and what is not?
 - b. Should the community worry whether friable asbestos exists notwithstanding the air monitoring results, and is there the potential for inhalation risk from asbestos-

- containing materials spread throughout the communities during the fire (i.e., inside homes or in soil)?
- c. Is air quality in the affected area such that residents may open their windows? Is it safe for pets and children to play in nearby parks? Is it safe to run air conditioning or heating inside homes?
 - d. Now that the hangar doors are taken down, will that cause recontamination of buildings that were cleaned previously?
- 2) How did EPA work to smoothly transition its duties to CTEH and the DTSC?
 - 3) What role, if any, will EPA play in future air monitoring, clean up, remediation efforts and public outreach?
 - 4) What is EPA's plan to provide the community with safety messages and updates to reassure the public that no asbestos and lead (at levels of concern) have been detected in the areas surrounding the hangar?

Thank you for your prompt response to these questions.

Sincerely,



Young Kim
Member of Congress



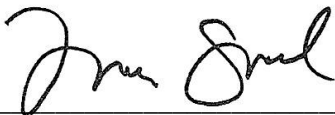
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



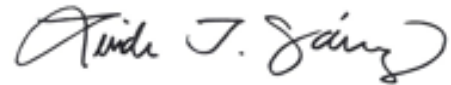
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress

Cc: Wayne Nastri – Executive Officer, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Ben Castellana – On-Scene Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Thanne Berg – Region 9 Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency