



CITY OF CERRITOS

CIVIC CENTER • 18125 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
P.O. BOX 3130 • CERRITOS, CALIFORNIA 90703-3130
PHONE: (562) 916-1310 • FAX: (562) 468-1095
RESIDENCE PHONE: (562) 860-6644
E-mail: bbarr90703@aol.com
WWW.CI.CERRITOS.CA.US



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
BRUCE W. BARROWS

August 3, 2009

Dear Community Member:

The City of Cerritos has received hundreds of telephone calls and e-mail messages from Cerritos residents expressing their concerns about the air pollution study that was released by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in June 2009. I am writing to inform the community about the City of Cerritos' findings related to the pollution study and share the actions the City is taking in response to this issue.

I would first like to assure you that results of air monitoring tests by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) show there is no significant air toxic risk in Cerritos as was erroneously reported by the news media. The South Coast AQMD also reported that the EPA's pollution study was based on old data, from 1989, that was not validated. A full report on the pollution study and current air quality in Cerritos will be made to Cerritos residents at a Town Hall Meeting to be presented by the City and the South Coast AQMD. The EPA has been invited to participate in the meeting. ***The meeting will be held on August 18 at 7 p.m. in the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts Sierra Room and I encourage you to attend.***

As widely covered in the news media, the EPA's pollution study (the 2002 National Air Toxics Assessment) indicated that a particular census tract in Cerritos had the highest cancer risk in the United States. The City shares the community's concerns for the public's health and Cerritos' reputation and immediately began investigating this issue. The news media reports incorrectly suggested the pollution cancer risk was from mobile sources on area freeways. The EPA's study only considers cancer risks associated with stationary sources of pollution (i.e. industrial plants), and does not consider cancer risks associated with diesel particulate matter from trucks on freeways and streets. According to the South Coast AQMD, diesel particulate matter makes up 80% of the local cancer risk from air pollution.

The City's first action was to demand current and accurate information from the EPA, South Coast AQMD and the California Air Resources Board. EPA representatives responded with information that the purported elevated cancer risk was caused by Hydrazine emissions reported from Heraeus Metal Processing (formerly PGP Industries Inc.) in the City of Santa Fe Springs. Also in response to the City's request, the South Coast AQMD sent field inspectors to the Heraeus Metal Processing facility to conduct current tests for Hydrazine emissions.

The South Coast AQMD has issued an executive office memorandum and a press release which state that results of the recent air monitoring tests from the Heraeus facility show that it does not pose a significant cancer risk to the surrounding community. The documents also report the South Coast AQMD's computer modeling of the tested emissions shows that they would result in a maximum cancer risk of 0.5 in 1 million. That is 20 times

(over)

lower than the threshold for public notification (10 in 1 million) and 50 times lower than the threshold for reducing toxic emissions and health risk (25 in 1 million) which are both required by South Coast AQMD rules.

As part of its active response to this issue, the City has retained an attorney who specializes in environmental issues to pursue all necessary legal actions related to the EPA's report. The attorney's initial investigation has revealed that the data used by the EPA for its report is highly questionable and may be based on data that cannot be supported.

Additionally, the City hired a highly regarded air quality expert to provide a thorough investigation and analysis of the EPA's report as well as current air quality conditions in Cerritos. Her findings show the EPA's pollution report contains very large errors in both the emissions data and the placement of the location of the Heraeus facility.

The City has posted detailed information about the findings related to the investigation of the pollution study issue on the City's website at www.ci.cerritos.ca.us. We will continue to update this information, and will include the full report from the City's air quality expert. Her report will present an in-depth analysis of the EPA's flawed pollution study as well as the results of field testing of current air quality conditions in Cerritos.

The City is working with the news media to disseminate the correct information about local air quality. The "Los Angeles Times" published an article titled "EPA erred in figuring Cerritos' cancer risk" and the "Press-Telegram" printed a story that reports "Cerritos air isn't a toxic hot spot." KTTV FOX 11, KCBS Channel 2 and KABC Channel 7 have broadcast news segments which stated the EPA's report is erroneous. We are contacting additional news channels to further share this information. News clips can be viewed on the City's website.

The City will continue working diligently on addressing the EPA pollution study and other environmental issues. Several years ago, the City was the leader in establishing the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee to address the health and traffic affects of freeways on local communities. We are continuing this effort, as well as participating in the Gateway Cities Council of Governments environmental assessment of the I-710 Corridor Project.

Cerritos residents rightly pride themselves on living in one of the finest communities in the nation. Members of the community and the City have worked together since the founding of Cerritos towards common goals of developing a city with an exceptional level of municipal services in an environment that is beautiful and safe. I would like to assure you the City is working tirelessly on behalf of the community to continue this proud tradition. I would also like to again encourage you to attend the Town Hall Meeting to be held on August 18 at 7 p.m. in the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts Sierra Room so you can receive answers to any questions you have regarding this issue. The meeting will be video taped for presentation on Cerritos TV3 later in the month and on the City's website for the community's convenience.

Sincerely,



Bruce W. Barrows
MAYOR