

James Chavez

From: Yesenia P [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 11:44 AM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lineage Public Testimony

Here is my public testimony regarding the Lineage facility:

Members of the Governing Board,

My name is Yesenia, and I am here today as a resident and community member directly affected by the ongoing conditions surrounding this facility.

I respectfully urge the Board to do more. The measures currently being considered are not sufficient to protect the surrounding community from potential exposure to hazardous air contaminants associated with the fire, the ongoing cleanup, and activities occurring at the facility. Additionally having retroactive payments since Day 1 June 17, 2026 there was no documentation and violations towards the Lineage Facility. Therefore, we need to go back and hold them accountable on the chemical toxic fire, smoke, and ash. Since we all got exposed.

We need enforceable amendments and stronger protective measures that specifically address toxic chemicals, hazardous emissions, and the potential for exposure to nearby residents.

I live approximately one mile from the facility. Since the fire, my family has had to keep our windows closed and our home sealed as much as possible. We have experienced burning eyes, throat irritation, headaches, and other concerning symptoms. The disruption has affected our ability to work, attend school, and carry out our daily lives.

Our concern is not limited to the fire itself. We remain concerned about potential exposure from fumes, plumes, smoke, ash, debris, and emissions associated with the cleanup and remediation process.

There is currently a visible white cloud at the facility, while workers on site appear to be wearing hazardous-material protective equipment. That raises a fundamental question for the community:

If workers require protective equipment, what substances are they being protected from, and what protections are being provided to the residents living nearby?

The public deserves timely, accessible, and understandable information regarding what chemicals are being detected, what monitoring is occurring, what the results show, and what protective measures are being implemented.

I was on the front lines of this emergency. It was not corporate executives or regulatory agencies who were standing there first—it was the community. **Solo el pueblo salva al pueblo. The people protect the people.**

And now the community is being asked to live with the consequences of the fire and cleanup every day.

FIRST DEMAND: CONTINUOUS COMMUNITY AIR MONITORING AND PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

I am asking South Coast AQMD to require **continuous, 24-hour air monitoring**, both at the facility and in the surrounding community, rather than relying primarily on sporadic or complaint-driven monitoring.

The monitoring program should be designed around the contaminants reasonably associated with this incident and cleanup, including, where technically appropriate, **ammonia, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate matter, and other hazardous air contaminants identified through the investigation.**

The monitoring data should be made publicly accessible in a timely manner through an online dashboard, including the location of monitors, pollutants being measured, detection limits, results, instrument downtime, and any exceedances or significant events.

This is not an unreasonable precedent. In its Chiquita Canyon response, South Coast AQMD required expanded community monitoring, including continuous air monitors for gases associated with the landfill and monitoring for benzene and other VOCs, along with increased transparency concerning monitoring data.

Our community deserves that same level of transparency and continuous protection.

And I specifically ask that monitoring extend to **schools and other sensitive receptors near the facility**, because children should not have to attend school while families are uncertain about what may be present in the air.

SECOND DEMAND: VERIFIED CONTAINMENT AND ENFORCEABLE OVERSIGHT

I am also asking the Board to require verified containment and emission-control measures during cleanup activities—not merely temporary barriers or voluntary measures.

South Coast AQMD's own history with the Exide site demonstrates that hazardous cleanup activities can require **negative-pressure containment, air-pollution-control equipment, and real-time particulate monitoring.** South Coast AQMD documents also describe requirements involving containment and control of fugitive emissions during demolition and cleanup activities.

Therefore, I ask the Board to require that containment measures be:

- properly engineered and maintained;
- maintained under appropriate negative pressure where warranted;
- equipped with appropriate air-cleaning or control technology;
- continuously monitored;
- independently verified; and
- subject to immediate corrective action when monitoring demonstrates a failure or potential release.

ENFORCEMENT MUST BE PROACTIVE, NOT REACTIVE

We also need stronger enforcement and verification.

A violation should not simply result in another notice followed by another period of uncertainty for the community. I ask the Board to establish **clear compliance deadlines, independent verification, documented corrective actions, and mandatory escalation procedures when limits or protective requirements are violated.**

I am asking for coordinated oversight among South Coast AQMD, public health authorities, environmental regulators, and other responsible agencies so that the community does not have to determine for itself which agency is responsible for protecting us.

If hazardous conditions are identified, the response must be immediate, coordinated, and transparent.

CLOSING

Members of the Board, we are not asking for special treatment.

We are asking for the basic right to know **what is in our air and whether our families are being protected.**

We are asking for continuous monitoring—not sporadic monitoring.

We are asking for public data—not information that residents have to fight to obtain.

We are asking for verified containment—not assurances.

And we are asking for enforceable requirements—not voluntary promises.

The community should not have to wait until someone becomes seriously ill before stronger protections are put in place.

Please strengthen the proposed measures, require continuous community air monitoring, ensure meaningful public access to monitoring data, require verified containment and emission controls, and establish clear enforcement mechanisms that protect residents throughout the entire cleanup process.

We have already endured the fire.

Please do not make our community endure preventable exposure and uncertainty as well.

Thank you.