

James Chavez

From: Sofia Quinones [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 11:51 AM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request To Enhance Abatement Order To Include AQMD Rule 403 for Unincorporated East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, and Beyond

South Coast Air Management District Hearing Board

Hearing Board

The East Los Angeles Boyle Heights Coalition submits this letter in support of the Petition for Order of Abatement regarding the ongoing clean up of the toxic Lineage chemical fire that started on June 17, 2026. We want to point out that this is the second fire that occurred at this facility. Lineage should be considered a public nuisance.

We are grateful that U.S. EPA Director Lee Michael Zeldon, responded to our S.O.S. call for help, as did CA EPA Secretary Yana Garcia, DTSC Director, Katherine M. Butler, Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman, Attorney General Rob Bonta, and others.

I live 2.7 miles away from the Lineage facility. I suffered respiratory distress. I was coughing up blood, had a lingering cough, built up phlegm in my lungs, had eye irritation, ear inflammation, constant headaches, concentration and cognitive issues, memory problems, balance problems, extreme nose, throat, and mouth irritation. I had difficulty swallowing for weeks. I had stomach problems with diarrhea, and constipation due to the medication prescribed. I also had skin irritation. This entire ordeal has been extremely stressful and has negatively impacted my quality of life and impacted my pre existing health conditions since June 17, 2026 to the present and perceived future.

I also shared with Lineage, AQMD and others representatives to expand the lines dealing with the exposure of the fire. I explained to them that I had testified before the Highway Commission and explained how in the canyons and hills of City Terrace and surrounding areas that the fog and morning dew does not dissipate or evaporate. The topography and terrain, the physical barriers, the freeways, the jet stream at the air traffic turning point and slopes captured the plume of the fire in Unincorporated East LA. I mentioned how we were able to improve the visibility in areas in City Terrace, area. Our concern had to deal with a woman losing her life after being hit by a motor vehicle. That cars had been crashed into and that people had been hit due to the problems with visibility. Lighting, and reflective improved signage was installed. Paint and lines were drawn on the floor and other improvements were also made to improve visibility.

The complaints we have submitted and discussed with your representative Carlos Gonzalez describe our concerns. More specifically, the lack of urgency and attention by all parties as it relates to the Unincorporated areas of East Los Angeles.

We are requesting that this order be expanded to include fines for violation of AQMD Rule 403. Our complaints document these violations 7/15/2026 Case # 443506 and 6/26/26 Case #441679, Case # 441678, etc.

I was assigned to speak with Carlos González, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer, Legislative and Public Affairs Media.

We had an extensive dialogue regarding the issues I flagged regarding the problems with your online complaint system. The problems with the inspectors and their supervisors and the agencies in ability to address the collection of information, evidence, and data as it relates to this unique environmental catastrophe in California.

Our complaints were specific to dust, toxic ash, and other elements that were released or that traveled across our communities way beyond the property lines of the facility.

We do appreciate that representative from Lineage responded to our request of installing a protective barrier around the facility. However, it was erected weeks after the fire started and was contained.

For the record, in the past during the demolition and construction of East Los Angeles High Schools 1, & 2, I submitted suggestions on how to enhance AQMD Rule 403. The failures of AQMD and our local and state representatives to not act on our request has resulted in the contamination of our communities.

The unique circumstances of this type of fully raging cold storage fire in Los Angeles California required an emergency response. Therefore, emergency measures were implemented in order to contain the fire, gasses, and odors being released.

These unique circumstances significantly contributed to the dispersement of dust, particulate matter, and hazardous waste into the atmosphere that went beyond the adjacent property lines of the storage facility.

In addition, the AQMD has failed to install adequate monitors within the classified Green Zones on the Eastside of Los Angeles. These specific geographic areas have preexisting legacy sites of contamination. The U.S. EPA monitoring systems documented that the hazardous threshold of 300 was surpassed and that it reached over 900 in East Los Angeles. It was Channel 7 ABC news station that reported this information to the public not the AQMD. Your representatives publicly lied during the Town Hall held at Stevenson Middle School. I rose up to challenge their lies in order to expose these facts. Your reporting does not provide accurate readings of measurement during the graveyard shifts.

There is countless news footage, social media posts, as well evidence gathered from a variety of experts, and agencies that document the dispersal of elements beyond the property lines surrounding the facility.

East Los Angeles College has offered the use of it's auditorium and other spaces on campus in order to host a Town Hall, in combination with a health and resource distribution. We are requesting that you work in conjunction with all parties to ensure that this town hall is held.

Sincerely

Sofía G Quiñones
East Los Angeles Boyle Heights Coalition

