

**INVITATION TO COMMUNITY MEETING ON DECEMBER 5TH (7:30-8:30 P.M.)
LA CANADA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
TO LEARN ABOUT POTENTIAL, NEGATIVE HEALTH IMPACTS POSED BY
THE DEVIL'S GATE SEDIMENT REMOVAL PROJECT**

November 28, 2018

Dear La Canada Community:

As a group of concerned La Canada High School parents, we invite you to attend a community meeting on **December 5, 2018 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the La Canada High School Auditorium** to inform families, nearby schools and the community at-large of potential negative health impacts as a result of the imminent Devil's Gate Sediment Removal Project, which will affect students attending schools adjacent to the Project. Our objective is not to stop this Project; rather, our expressed purpose is to reduce the daily hazards posed to children by the current implementation plan.

This week the County began work on the "Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project" in preparation for the removal of 1.7 million cubic yards (MCY) of sediment. The County has planned and received approval for an aggressive hauling schedule for 8 months annually over the next four years (eight hours per weekday). Beginning in April 2019, the Project hauling will involve up to **425 daily diesel truck round-trips** that will pass by the intersection at Berkshire Place and Oak Grove Avenue and up onto the 210 freeway entrances in both directions, i.e., within less than a 0.5 mile radius of several schools.

Recent environmental health science reports and diesel truck performance data show that the aggressive truck hauling schedule for the Project will have a much more severe impact on the air quality and on the health of our children than the County claims it will have in the Environmental Impact Report accepted in late 2017.¹ All heavy-duty diesel trucks emit toxic particulate matter (PM) and gases that are known to cause cancer, raise asthma rates, and exacerbate allergies, pre-existing asthma, lung illness and heart conditions.² Recent academic publications³ and regulatory notices⁴ from the EPA **document the failures of the trucks' emissions control systems** that are expressly designed to keep carcinogenic exhaust at levels dictated by the 2010 EPA standards.⁵ In addition, we discovered that the Project's Health Risk Assessment submitted as part of the Environmental Impact Report relied on an outdated equation for treating relative cancer risks that does not reflect the well-documented health effects of diesel exhaust on children.⁶

This Project presents serious health concerns for students and staff at LCHS (including LCHS and Spartan All-Stars summer camps taking place at the LCHS site), LCHS 7/8, Hillside Learning Center, Child Education Center, Crestview Prep, Tom Sawyer Camp, St. Francis, St. Bede, and Flintridge Prep. Further, all sports teams that use the fields at LCHS, Flintridge Prep and St. Francis will be exposed to increased levels of carcinogenic diesel emissions, as will track and field athletes who usually run along Oak Grove and other areas close to the project. Patrons of the Flint Canyon Tennis Club will also be impacted due to the proximity of the tennis courts to the eastbound 210 on-ramp.

Please attend the December 5th meeting to hear the important *new findings* that we obtained during the past several weeks as a result of our research and conversations with researchers and health experts who study the effects of roadway pollution. We wish to engage you on mutual efforts to ensure that this Project's implementation plan will not harm our children.

Meeting

LCHS Auditorium

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Speakers will address health hazards to children posed by diesel exhaust; new data on truck emissions and compliance; air quality concerns; and proposed community monitoring efforts.

We look forward to collaborating on this important community issue. If you need additional information, please contact Kelly Davis at (310) 600-9552 or casadedaviskelly@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Kelly and Chris Davis, parents of one child at LCHS 7/8

Esther Kornfeld, parent of two children at LCHS 9-12

Elizabeth Krider, Ph.D, parent of three children in LCUSD schools

Tamar Tujan, PTSA President, parent of two children at LCHS 7-12

¹http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Projects/DevilGate/Recirculated_Portions_of_the_Final_Environmental_Impact_Report.pdf

^{2a}<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/diesel-exhaust-and-cancer.html>; ^{2b}Gauderman, W. James, et al. "The effect of air pollution on lung development from 10 to 18 years of age." *New England Journal of Medicine* 351.11 (2004): 1057-1067;

^{2c}McConnell, Rob, et al. "Childhood incident asthma and traffic-related air pollution at home and school." *Environmental health perspectives* 118.7 (2010): 1021-1026.

^{3a}Jiang, Yu, et al. "Characterizing emission rates of regulated pollutants from model year 2012+ heavy-duty diesel vehicles equipped with DPF and SCR systems." *Science of the Total Environment* 619 (2018): 765-771; ^{3b}Boriboonsomsin, Kanok, et al. "Real-world exhaust temperature profiles of on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles equipped with selective catalytic reduction." *Science of The Total Environment* 634 (2018): 909-921.

⁴<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-largest-voluntary-recall-medium-and-heavy-duty-trucks>

⁵<https://www.epa.gov/emission-standards-reference-guide/epa-emission-standards-heavy-duty-highway-engines-and-vehicles>

^{6a}http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Projects/DevilGate/FEIR/Appendix_C_-_Health_Risk_Assessment.pdf;

^{6b}<https://oehha.ca.gov/risk-assessment/childrens-health>