

# Environmental Report

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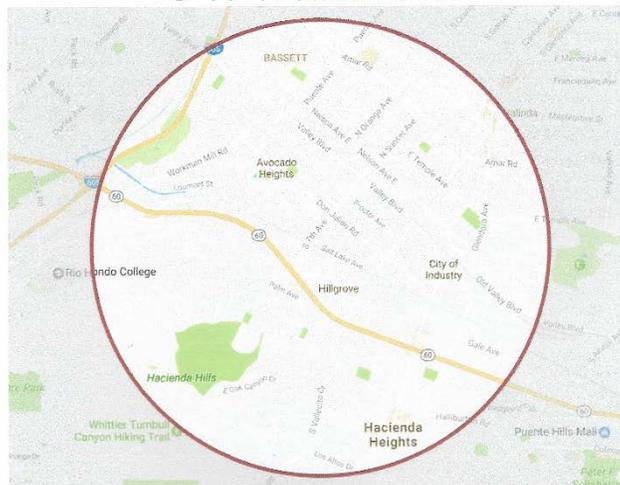
## Quemetco:

We are still waiting for results of the soil testing conducted by the California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control in the area around Quemetco the lead/acid recycling plant on the border of Hacienda Height but in the City of Industry. Release has been delayed for another month.

The U.S.C. metals testing of children who have lived near Quemetco in the last two years continues. Information on this testing is included below.

**You will be compensated for your help.**

**ARE YOU THE PARENT OF A CHILD WHO IS  
5-17 YEARS OLD?**



**HAVE YOU LIVED IN THIS AREA FOR THE  
PAST 2 YEARS?**

You and your child may qualify to participate in a study to learn about protecting children from pollution in your neighborhood

**Learn more about participating!**  
**Call 323-442-1099 or email [jillj@usc.edu](mailto:jillj@usc.edu)**  
**for more information**

We will ask you to fill out a short health survey and ask your child to provide a sample of urine and of toenail clippings.

**\*\*\*Participants will be compensated\*\*\***

This study is sponsored by the University of Southern California, in partnership with the Clean Air Coalition



The U.S.C. study group is hoping to have at least 100 individuals to include within the sample. If you have children that live within the area, you can contact the representative from the study to sign up for this free service.

## Why Is Lead Harmful?

If you have young kids, it's important to find out whether there's any risk that they might be exposed to lead. Many toys and other products from outside the United States have also been found to contain lead. **Quemetco is a lead/acid battery recycling plant. In the past, reports of high levels of lead have been reported from the areas around the plant. Results of the soils tests conducted by DTSC are not yet available so we do not know what levels might be in the areas around the plant.**

Long-term exposure to lead, a naturally occurring metal used in everything from construction materials to batteries, can cause serious health problems, particularly in young children. Lead is toxic to everyone, but unborn babies and young children are at greatest risk for health problems from lead poisoning — their smaller, growing bodies make them more susceptible to absorbing and retaining lead.

Whether it's inhaled, swallowed, or, more rarely, absorbed through the skin (just by touching a product that contains lead), lead can act as a poison. Exposure to high lead levels in a short period of time is called acute toxicity. Exposure to small amounts of lead over a long period of time is called chronic toxicity.

Lead is particularly dangerous because once it gets into a person's system, it is distributed throughout the body just like helpful minerals such as iron, calcium, and zinc. And lead can cause harm wherever it lands in the body. In the bloodstream, for example, it can damage red blood cells and limit their ability to carry oxygen to the organs and tissues that need it, thus causing anemia.

Most lead ends up in the bone, where it causes even more problems. Lead can interfere with the production of blood cells and the absorption of calcium that bones need to grow healthy and strong. Calcium is essential for strong bones and teeth, muscle contraction, and nerve and blood vessel function.

