

# U.S. EPA's Role with the Vernon Environmental Response Trust (VERT or The Trust)

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# U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



- EPA's involvement resulted from the Exide bankruptcy settlement, which established the Vernon Environmental Response Trust (or VERT or the Trust)
- EPA, DTSC, and the Trustee are working cooperatively
- The Trust and DTSC's financial assurance established a limited amount of money available for cleanup
- EPA is committed to work with DTSC to keep the community protected from the facility



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

# Closure Overview

Pete Ruttan, P.G.  
DTSC, Unit Chief  
Closure & Corrective Action



# Brief Overview

## CLOSURE PLAN

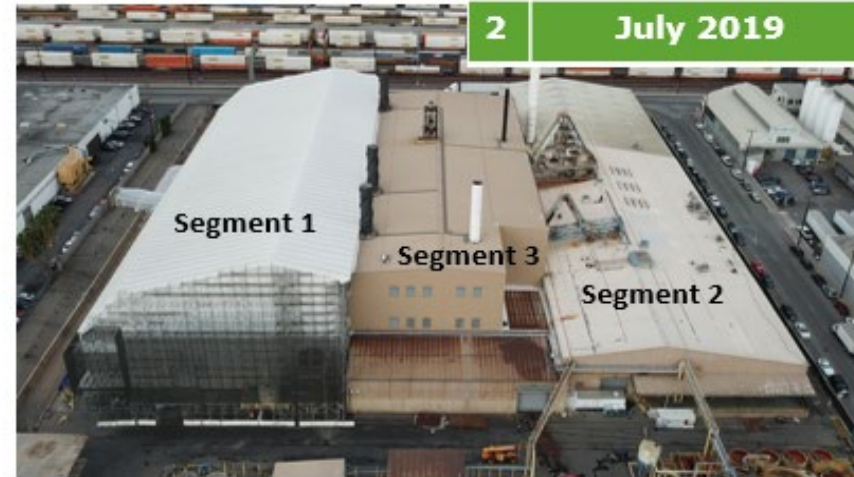
- The Closure Plan was finalized by DTSC in December 2016.
  - Phase 1 Closure - Decontamination, deconstruction, and removal/disposal of equipment used in hazardous waste management.
  - Phase 2 Closure - Addresses contaminated soils from the former hazardous waste unit operations.
  - Post-Closure Activities – If Phase 2 remediation does not meet residential standards, this may include deed restrictions on the property, long term inspections and reporting, and maintaining a stabilized and secure Facility.

# Brief Overview Continued

## CLOSURE IMPLEMENTATION

- Phase 1 Closure Implementation Plan approved by DTSC in October 2017.
- Phase 1 Closure began in November 2017.
- Anticipate completing Phase 1 Closure by December 2021.

# Timeline of Phase 1 Closure



# DTSC Oversight

DTSC will continue providing oversight at the Facility ensuring that the Trust complies with:

- Closure Plan
- Environmental Impact Report
- Closure Implementation Plan
- Health and Safety Plan
- COVID-19 Protocols

# DTSC Contact Information

- Pete Ruttan, PG - Unit Chief, Closure and Corrective Action  
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- Poonam Acharya - Project Manager, Closure  
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(323) 803-2498
- Dionne Faulk - Public Participation Specialist  
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- DTSC Exide Cleanup Project Information Hotline: (844) 225-3887





# Vernon Environmental Response Trust

## Purpose and Objectives

January 14, 2021

*Prepared for*  
**Public Meeting – Facility Closure Status**

*Presenter*  
**Roberto Puga, P.G.**

# Presentation Agenda

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1. Trust purpose and objectives
2. Facility transition to Trust
3. Resumption of decontamination and demolition activities
4. Beneficial reuse of property

# Trust Purpose and Objectives

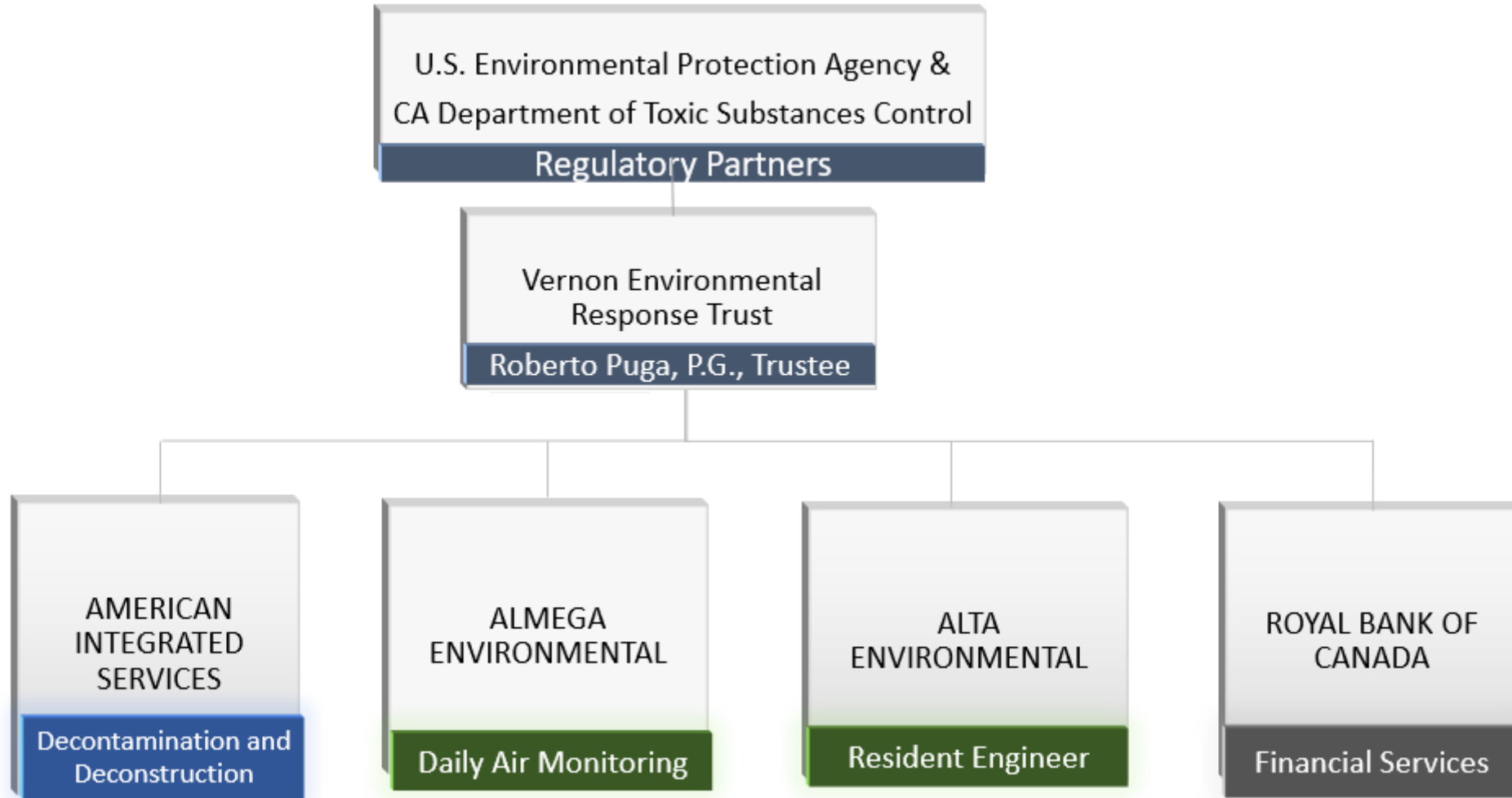
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The Vernon Environmental Response Trust (Trust) took over the site operations on October 26, 2020.

The primary objectives and purpose of the Trust are:

- Administration of Trust and property management
- Implementation approved environmental actions
- Find a beneficial reuse of the property

# Trust Organization



# Facility Transition to Trust

- The Trust has transitioned the facility to its control from the former owners.
  - This included continuing all daily monitoring and maintenance activities.
  - Also includes assuming responsibility for facility permits.
- The Trust has resumed decontamination and deconstruction of the main production building/smelter complex at the facility.
- The Trust is also working on scheduling the decontamination of the remaining structures at the facility in 2021.

## NOTICE REMEDIATION WORK RESTART

The Vernon Environmental Response Trust (VERT), under the oversight and approval of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), as of November 2020 has restarted remediation work at this former Exide facility.

This phase of remediation work consists of decontamination and demolition of the on-site structures. Work hours for remediation activities are Monday through Saturday 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM. These activities are anticipated to be completed by 2022.

For more information please click:

[www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide-home/](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/exide-home/)



VERNON  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESPONSE TRUST

# Resumption of Decontamination and Demolition Activities



# Resumption of Decontamination and Demolition Activities



# Beneficial Reuse of the Property

The Trust is working with US EPA and CA DTSC to find a reuse of for the property. Factors to be considered:

- A reuse that is consistent with the surrounding areas and consistent with City of Vernon zoning
- A reuse that yields additional funds to the Trust so that additional facility work can be completed
- A reuse that creates jobs





# 2021 Calendar of Engagement

## Key Meetings

<u>Month</u>	<u>Meeting Type</u>
January	Community Meeting
February 18/March 22	Parkways Public Comment on Sampling and Health Risk Assessment
March	Advisory Group Meeting
May	Community Meeting
July	Advisory Group Meeting
September	Community Meeting
November	Advisory Group Meeting