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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Denies Concrete Company's Appeal to Operate in Boyle Heights

Councilmember José Huizar led environmental justice fight against concrete-recycling facility operating for years in Boyle Heights without proper permits

LOS ANGELES (Oct. 22, 2008) – The City's Board of Building and Safety Commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday to deny the appeal of a concrete and asphalt crushing recycling plant, which for decades has generated tons of dust and other pollutants while operating in Boyle Heights without proper permits.

Tuesday's decision represented one of several losing City appeals for Shamrock Base Corporation, located on Mission Road. Councilmember Huizar has called on the City to close the company down for illegally doing business in an area that is not zoned for recycling.

"We are serving notice to those who think they can blatantly pollute our Eastside neighborhoods without ramifications," said Los Angeles City Councilmember José Huizar, following Tuesday's decision. "The days of putting profit over the health of residents living in Boyle Heights and surrounding neighborhoods are over."

The Shamrock Base Corporation, which regularly stores large mounds of rubble reaching heights of 40 feet or more, was utilizing an illegal permit to operate in a non-industrial land use zone.

(more)

Commission denies appeal of concrete and asphalt crushing company

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The action against Shamrock, comes on the heels of the City Attorney's office agreeing with Councilmember Huizar's plea to join in a lawsuit against the Industrial Service Oil Company, Inc., a Boyle Heights oil and antifreeze recycling plant seeking to expand and intensify its operations. In that August filing, the City Attorney's office contended along with the Community Redevelopment Agency, Los Angeles, that ISOCI has inadequately addressed environmental concerns for the expansion.

And in late September, the Councilmember joined about 350 residents of Boyle Heights, Huntington Park, the City of Commerce and other areas for a peace vigil against a proposed power plant in the City of Vernon. A study has shown that if opened, the additional pollutants generated by the proposed Vernon Power Plant would lead to three to 11 additional deaths in the surrounding communities each year.

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