



CALIFORNIA METALS COALITION

Main Office and Mailing Address: 2971 Warren Lane, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
Lobbying Office: 1215 K Street, 17th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95762
P. 916.933.3075 | F. 916.933-3072 | <http://www.metalscoalition.com>

April 24, 2017

Pomona Planning Commission
City of Pomona
505 S. Gary Avenue
Pomona, CA 91766
submitted via email: sandra_elias@ci.pomona.ca.us

RE: OPPOSE BAN ON METAL RECYCLING FACILITIES

To: City of Pomona Planning Commissioners:

California is home to approximately 3,000 metalworking facilities, employing over 100,000 Californians with middle-class manufacturing jobs and health benefits. 8 out of 10 employees in the metalworking sector are considered ethnic minorities or reside in disadvantaged communities.

California metal manufacturers use recycled metal (ex: aluminum, brass, iron and steel) to make parts for clean energy technologies, electric cars, biotech apparatuses, medical devices, aerospace products, national defense items, agriculture, infrastructure, construction machinery, household appliances, food processing and storage, movement of water, and millions of other products demanded by society.

Californians discard enough aluminum *each day* to build 5 commercial aircrafts. In fact, Los Angeles County is arguably the largest generator of metal scrap in the nation. It is critical to our society and environment to recycle metals locally. It is equally important to promote responsible metal manufacturing facilities that continue to invest in best management practices or pollution control equipment.

CMC opposes a ban on local metal recycling. We also express deep concerns with restricting current metal recycling operators. Thank you for your leadership as we find solutions that meet California's environmental goals and allow the most advanced metalworking companies and jobs to prosper.

Sincerely,

James Simonelli
Executive Director



State License # 272762

1374 E. Ninth Street • Pomona, California 91766 • Phone: (909) 622-6400 • Fax: (909) 622-1463

April 20, 2017

PLANNING DIVISION
2017 APR 24 PM 4:02

City of Pomona
505 S. Garey Ave.
Pomona, CA 91766

Dear Chair Hemming and Planning Commissioners:

I have been a businessman in the City of Pomona for 26 years. My business', Commercial Door Company and A/C Folding Gates, are both located at 1374 E. 9th Street, Pomona, CA 91766. **I am writing to urge you to pass the ban on waste and recycling facilities and pallet businesses, including banning the expansion of tonnage at current businesses.**

For nearly 15 years my business was adjacent to several recycling centers; Sunrise Recycling (2002-2007) and Mission Recycling (2007-Aug 2017 when they went out of business). My employees, family members and business were exposed to the health and safety hazards of numerous fires at that facility, and continual dust particles which is unhealthy to breathe. The doors on the facility remained open during operation, because the Pomona City Council allowed the business to remove a condition of its permit (CUP) which required them to install a ventilation system that would have allowed them to operate safely with the door closed. I experienced infestations of rats, which would chew through wires in my trucks, continual odors at my business from the recycling facility not to mention the numerous flies and other insects. It was a terrible environment for me as a business man. As I would leave for the day and observe the sun setting in west, the air was filled with particles. When this facility closed recently, it was a new day. I can now view the sunset as I go home, and the air is not filled with particles. The number of rodents has been reduced. The odors have reduced. I am no longer threatened by fires close to my business; which were very serious with the huge stacks of paper products going from floor to ceiling inside Mission Recycling.

But there are still far too many waste and recycling and pallet facilities in our city. There have been an unusual number of threatening fires at recycling and pallet facilities, many of which have been on the news. These fires have caused people to be hospitalized, to be evacuated from their homes, to lose personal and business property, and they have polluted our air. For example, across the street from my business, a pallet business caught on fire. This business had no business permit, and no insurance. During the fire, a neighboring crane business lost a crane, when it caught on fire. This is very expensive equipment lost and they received no compensation. The City of Pomona still hasn't done anything about this pallet business, so it continues to operate. We can't continue to add businesses, like these waste, recycling and pallet businesses, which are a threat to our health and safety. Since the City is not adequately managing health and safety concerns at the facilities we already have. How can we have more facilities or let current facilities get larger?

Page 1



State License # 272762

1374 E. Ninth Street • Pomona, California 91766 • Phone: (909) 622-6400 • Fax: (909) 622-1463

Across the street from me is a large waste transfer station. When Mission Recycling was open, I thought that all of the dust and odors were coming from them due to its open doors, being an older facility and since they did not operate like a good neighbor. But now that Mission Recycling is closed; there are bad odors coming from the trash transfer station, as well as trash blowing out of the large transfer trucks as they drive away, littering the area. I have seen dirty liquid pour out of these transfer trucks into the street when they turn the corner and increased traffic. It would negatively affect my business for this trash station to get any larger. This is my personal experience as a business man who is across the street from this transfer station. We live with the fine dust that covers our vehicles, odors, litter and increased street traffic on a daily basis.

The City of Pomona has a general plan that has a vision to move the industrial area toward light industrial. Waste, recycling and pallet businesses are the businesses of Pomona's past. We have more than enough of them to process our own waste. It's time to ban this industry and to move toward a friendlier environment for current businesses and for new light industrial businesses, without the health and safety threats of fires and dust, or the nuisances of odors, rodents, flies and litter.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my concerns!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David O. Holmes".

David O. Holmes,
Owner/CEO,
Commercial Door Company Inc.

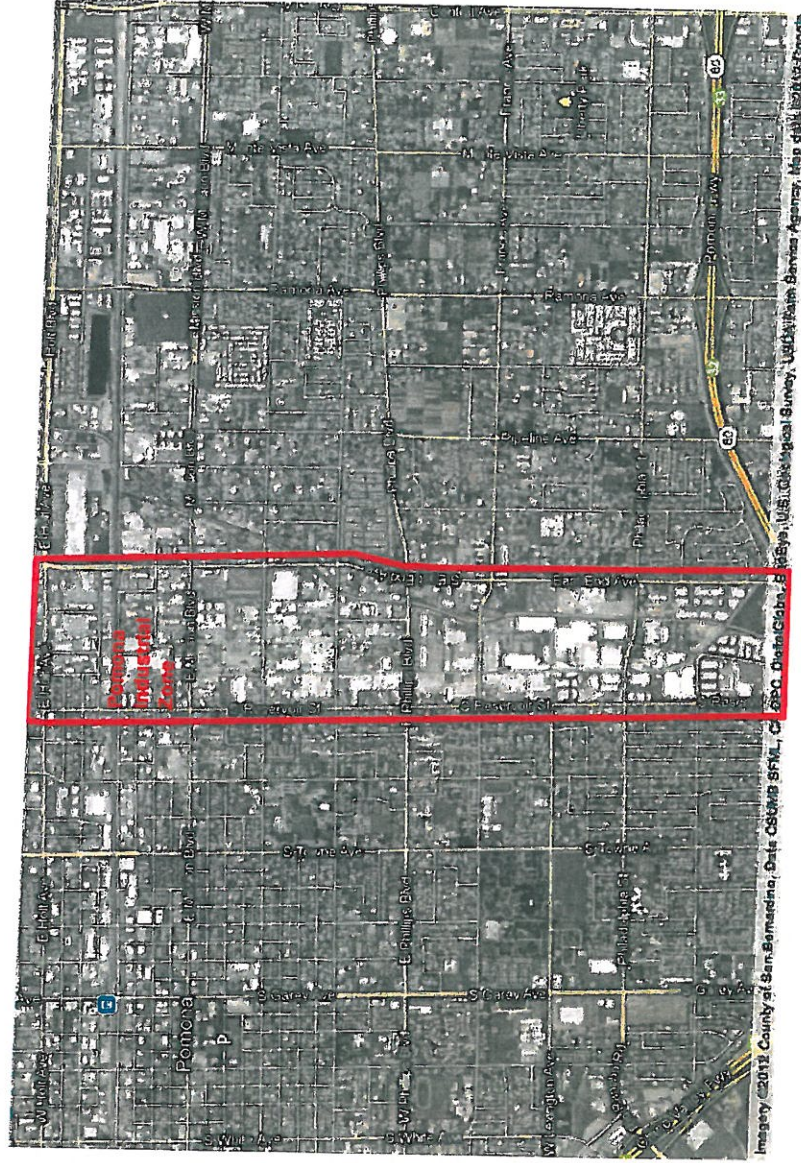


Image 1 City of Pomona industrial zone approximately 2 square miles of manufacturing, recycling, car dismantling, and construction related business.

Many of the businesses operating in this zone appear to violate environmental protection laws and appear to not be properly regulated, resulting in health hazards to the residents in the surrounding areas. The waste transfer station proposed to be located in this zone would negatively contribute to the existing environmental and health hazards. The high concentration of these types of businesses near a primarily low-income Latino community raises environmental justice concerns.



Image 2 Several construction related materials are stored in open containers at In & Out Removal. Building insulation, pictured above, releases toxic materials into the air such as asbestos and fiberglass.

I. In & Out Removal - construction demolition and removal at 1335 S. East End Ave.

It has been found that asbestos can cause cancer when in friable form (when it is likely to release fibers into the air- when broken, jagged, shredded, or scuffed). The World Health Organization has declared fiberglass insulation as potentially carcinogenic (WHO, 1988) particularly when inhaled. At this demolition site on East End Ave., various construction materials are stored in open containers, including but not limited to insulation (pictured above), concrete, chipped paint, wood, and metals.



Image 3 Employee wears mask while cutting marble.

II. Regal Marble at 1239 East Franklin Avenue

The dust leaves the building into the community through the wide open doors. Marble dust inhalation is known to cause silicosis (a respiratory system condition), eye irritation, and scleroderma (Gromisch, 2010).



Image 4 Piles of unsorted recycling products (electronic waste, plastics, linoleum, and metals) pollute the facility's front parking lot

III. Mission Recycling at 1326 E. Ninth St. – Across the street from proposed WTS Site

Carpet and carpet padding are known to emit Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) which, when found in high concentrations, remain in the air for a long time after they are removed. Additionally, older carpets are known to contain asbestos, which is a well-known carcinogen. By maintaining these materials in the open air, this recycling site is contributing to the dispersal of these dangerous substances into the community air and water drainage.



Image 5 Mountains of trash create a landfill within this wood recycling facility.

IV. Mission Recycling at 1326 E. Ninth St. – Across the street from proposed WTS Site

A city waste truck drops off a load of mixed waste at this recycling facility. The city vehicle is clearly polluting the air as it unloads and drives away. The pile of mixed recyclables and trash that is growing on the driveway in the open air has been there for over three weeks and continues to grow.



Image 6 Mountains of trash create a landfill within this wood recycling facility.

V. Recycled Wood Products Transfer Inc. at 1313 E. Phillips Blvd.

Mountains of trash create a landfill within this wood recycling facility. The incorrect separation and disposal of waste results in foul smells and air pollution. The decomposition of various materials into the bare ground can affect the quality of nearby water sources.

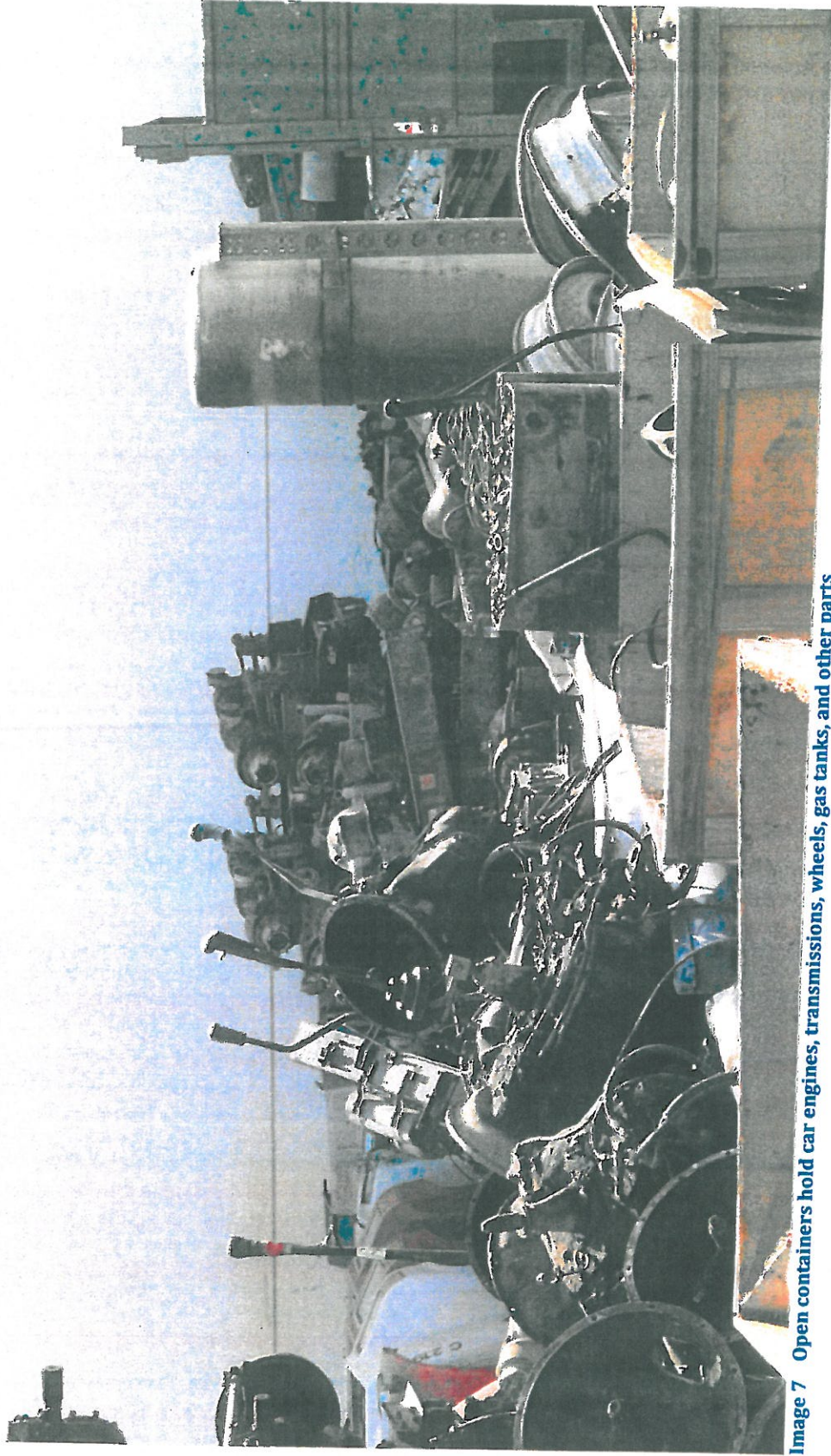


Image 7 Open containers hold car engines, transmissions, wheels, gas tanks, and other parts

VI. U Pick U Save – car dismantling at 1560 East Mission Blvd.

Vehicle dismantling facilities present potential hazards including contaminated storm water, hazardous waste, air emissions, and petroleum spills (“Vehicle Dismantling”). Several of these sites can be found in the Pomona City industrial zone and the immediate surrounding areas.

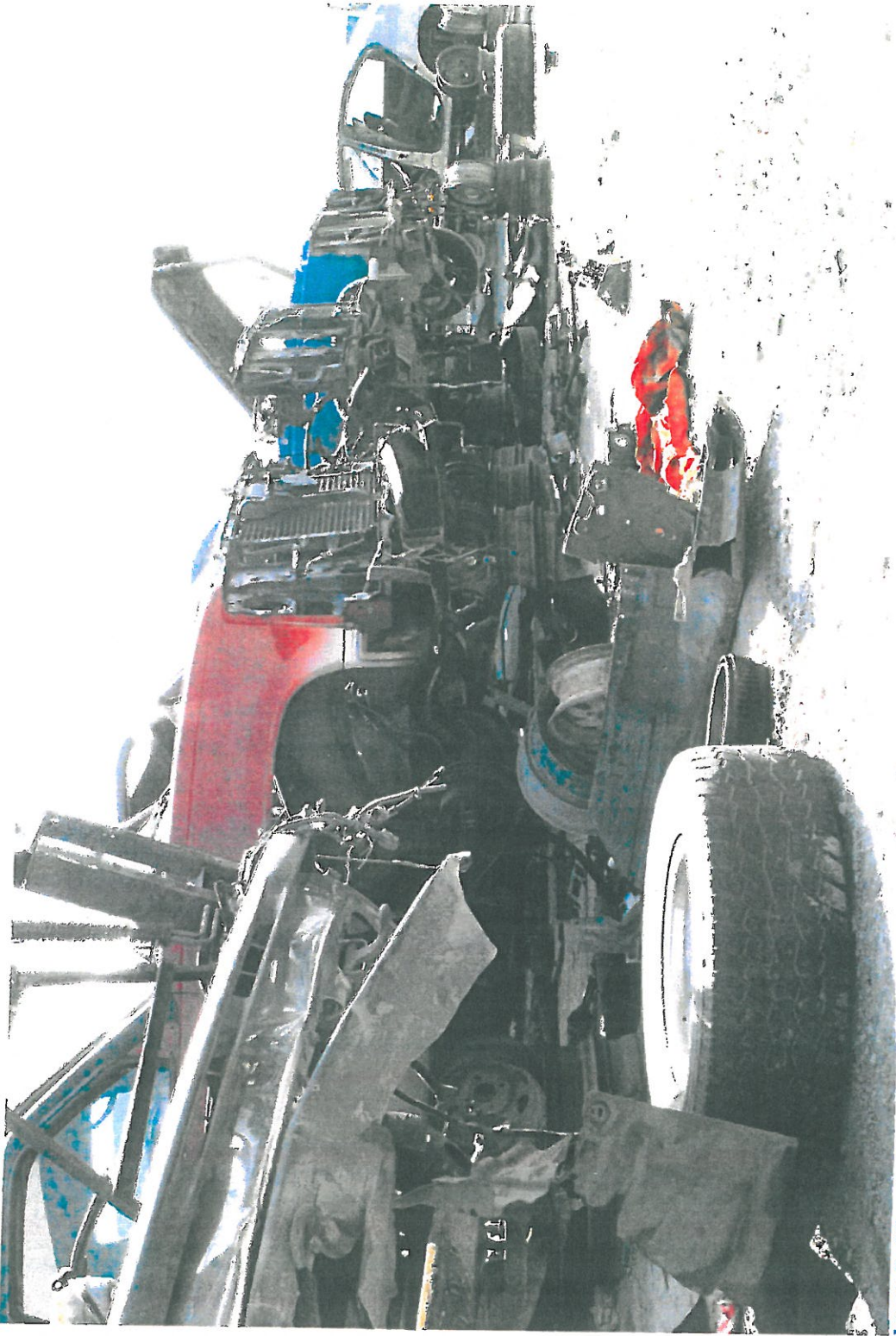


Image 8 Oil and other car fluids fall on bare ground from the hundreds of cars kept at U Pick U Save

U Pick U Save – Car dismantling at 1560 East Mission Blvd. (continued)

All the cars are suspended on old wheels, posing safety concerns. Because the public is allowed to take the cars apart on the lot, no supervision on proper disposal of oil and other fluids is enforced. The proposed WTS site is within 500 yards downgrade of this pictured car-dismantling site. Thus, soil contaminants have been migrating into the proposed WTS site, making it a possible brown field. City of Los Angeles prosecutors charged metal recyclers with environmental crimes (Trutanich) that risked the health and safety of the community including the improper disposal and storage of oil and metals.



Image 9 Scrap metals, including appliances such as refrigerators, are directly dropped off by the public and added to the 40-foot-high pile of mixed metals without proper processing.

VII. Mission Recycling at 1341 E. Mission Blvd.

Lead may be found in older plumbing, pipes and in auto parts such as battery cables and wheel weights. Lead in construction and demolition debris can work its way into the air as dust particles and into the soil ("Dangerous Materials"). This recycling facility maintains heaps of various metals including auto parts, home appliances, and pipes out in the open. People walk and drive in to add to the large pile of metals (pictured above). Little to no safety precautions are taken to prevent injuries. In fact, a sign at the entrance warns folks to enter "at your own risk".



Image 9 Refrigerators, clothes washer, water coolants, and electronic waste mixed with scrap metal without proper processing



Image 10 Electronic waste maintained in open containers for months. This is one of the violations for which the City of Los Angeles Attorney prosecuted metal recycling facilities.



Image 11 Tons of cardboard, plastic, e-waste and other materials sit outside the facility and the pile of trash grows every day as more trucks come in to dump more waste. The trash is kept on the ground and attracts bugs and rodents. This pile pollutes the air quality and produces foul smells.

VIII. Mission Recycling 9th St.



Image 12 Open trash containers found in the back area of Cal Spas, indicate the clean image presented by proponents of the WTS project is not the full picture.

VIII.

Cal Spas 9th St.

Although the appeal packet submitted to City Council by the WTS proponents presents very clean images of the front of several businesses near the proposed WTS site, the images presented here show the true conditions of the Industrial Zone in Pomona. Several environmental and health hazards are not addressed or prioritized in the City of Pomona.

In summary:

The condition of the industrial area poses a threat to the health of this community. Cleaning up the existing industrial area from hazardous conditions should be a priority in the near future. There is no doubt that the proposed Waste Transfer Station would further aggravate the ill conditions of water and air quality for this community. Contrary to popular belief, the EPA recommends avoiding the clustering of waste related facilities due to the adverse effects on the local communities. This is an environmental justice issue because a cluster of polluting facilities has developed in close proximity to a low-income primarily Latino community. Seeing the lack of regulation over the existing industrial area does not give the community hope that any new project within this area will be well regulated. The City of Los Angeles is an example of proactive regulation of environmental hazards as City Attorney Trutanich charges metal facilities with environmental violations. Similar violations may be occurring in the City of Pomona and inspections should be conducted before considering adding a Waste Transfer Station to this overburdened land. See the attached press release from the office of City Attorney Trutanich with highlighted of possible violations that may be occurring in the City of Pomona based upon these photographs.

References:

- "An Introduction to Indoor Air Quality (IAQ): Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)" webpage by United States Environmental Protection Agency. Retrieved from: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html>
- "Dangerous Materials: Manage Construction and Demolition Waste" webpage by State of Washington, Department of Ecology. Retrieved from: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/dangermat/demo_debris_constr_materials.html
- "Environmental Health Criteria 77: Man-Made Mineral Fibres." 1988. International Programme on Chemical Safety. Geneva: World Health Organization.
- Gromisch, Maryann. 2010. Health Risks of Marble Dust. Retrieved from: <http://www.livestrong.com/article/226992-health-risks-of-marble-dust/>
- Trutanich, Carmen A. 2012. South LA Scrap Metal Facilities Charged with Environmental Violations Following Multi-Agency Inspections. Retrieved from: http://atty.lacity.org/stellent/groups/electedofficials/@atty_contributor/documents/contributor_web_content/lacityp_020740.pdf
- "Vehicle Dismantling: Multi-Discipline Approach for Ensuring Environmental Awareness at Automobile Recycling Facilities" webpage by State of New York Department of Environmental Conservation. Retrieved from: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8505.html>