

MS. CASTAIN: Yes, I am. Thank you. Thank you

20 for allowing us.

21 We didn't think we were going to make it, because
22 we have to get back to Oakland before there's traffic.

23 But we came today because we have created -- at
24 least I have to say the Department of Toxic Substance
25 Control has been good enough to create a partnership with

1 our community. We have had Committee -- our Blight
2 Committee has actually been in operation for 15 years
3 since 1994 trying to clean up all the toxins in our
4 community.

5 And I'm saying we used to have just a single
6 redevelopment area in our neighborhood for about 30
7 blocks. But in 19 -- I think '90 or '92 the city of
8 Oakland came to us and asked us if we would allow them to
9 expand the redevelopment area so that it would go all the
10 way to the port of Oakland and the airport, because we're
11 the closest to the airport. Unfortunately, when that
12 happened and we did that, I cannot tell you the pollution.
13 We found out from the environmental impact report that
14 there were 100 toxic Brownsfield sites in our community,
15 and you can imagine how that impacted us.

16 We learned during that time how many families had
17 cancer and were around toxic sites that needed to be
18 cleaned up. The largest one was a 60-and-a-half acre
19 turban plant. It had been closed in 1985. When we
20 learned that it had been closed that long, it was 1995.
21 Families that live behind the plant honestly had so much
22 cancer, everybody on that block. And I'm saying we found
23 out there were all kinds of cancers.

24 We found out that there wasn't really anything we
25 could do. We went to EPA in San Francisco, and

1 fortunately they did help us. But it took from 1995 to
2 1997 to get that cleanup to start.

3 I'm saying now it is totally revitalized, and it
4 is a green site. Thank God.

5 But I'm saying the other plants that we've had, I
6 cannot tell you how many we're still working on. But at
7 least we've gotten four cleaned up that we have done in
8 the community. And I'm saying we've gotten some EPA help.

9 The city has done some things through public works.

10 But the biggest problems we have are the air
11 quality issues. And that's where you need to come in.

12 And Michelle was there at our meeting in
13 September when we had the 100-day meeting. We need to
14 have more of that. The air quality right now, one of the
15 issues that we're working on is on International
16 Boulevard. We have 30 blocks where there used to be
17 service stations every block. And where there was a
18 service station, there are now two and three auto repair
19 shops. They are there illegally.

20 The fumes -- there are so many people in my block
21 alone -- we have a service station on International
22 Boulevard and 84th. There are three repair shops on that
23 one corner where there was one 76 station. I have had
24 four neighbors in a block-and-a-half on that street die --
25 cancer, heart trouble. It shouldn't be. We shouldn't

1 have to live in that. We're paying taxes to live there.

2 Something needs to be done. And I'm really
3 grateful to the Department of Toxic Substance Control for
4 working and us. And I'll hope you'll do the same thing.
5 We need it. Thank you.

6 MOBILE SOURCE ENFORCEMENT BRANCH CHIEF JACOBS:
7 Thank you, Ms. Castain.

8 Again Paul Jacobs, Chief of Mobile Source
9 Enforcement.

10 Ms. Shulz is on the Air Resources Board staff,
11 and we're partnering with DTSC, Department of Toxic
12 Substances Control, on this issue. So we are very
13 committed to these issues. And Michelle will continue to
14 work diligently with these communities groups statewide to
15 address the concerns.