Hi Everyone,

Checking in to provide a summary of the latest info on air quality, which is a top concern for us, especially the closer we may be to the fire perimeter. Though no structures were damaged or destroyed by fire in District 5, the northern part of our district was just a couple blocks south of homes that burned. I know everyone is anxious about potential short and long term effects on our health, especially of our children. Here are some of the key, recent items on this topic that you should be aware of:

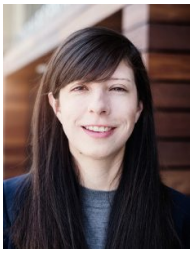
- OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY TESTING – On Friday, January 31 st, South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) announced that it has begun testing outdoor air, including for arsenic, lead, and asbestos, and will continue to do so during cleanup of debris. The first results should be released this week and I believe will be available here.
- INDOOR AIR QUALITY TESTING – After further discussion with our Department of Public Health Director Manuel Carmona, I learned that indoor air testing isn't the best method to understand what contaminants may be inside a building. That is because things like arsenic, lead, and asbestos will settle. Thus, *surface* testing makes more sense. On Monday, February 3rd, the Council directed staff to return with a plan next week for testing to assist residents with assessing the safety inside their homes. I will keep you posted.
- PUSD SCHOOL SITE TESTING – The results of their recent testing of their campuses is available here. They tested for the presence of soot, char, and ash.
- CALTECH WEBINAR – I encourage you to watch this webinar on the Environmental Impacts of Fires at the Wildland-Urban Interface, which aired on Friday, January 31st. Experts discuss data gathered during and after the fire and ways to think about it to help us make decisions for ourselves and families. Overall, I found it very reassuring (especially the discussion of testing ash samples across 10 sites in Pasadena one week after the fire; begins around 28:05) and was grateful for the practical guidance.
- CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST FOR EPA TASK FORCE – On Monday, February 3rd, our local members of Congress called for the EPA to lead a new joint task force to monitor the potential for dangerous pollution across Los Angeles from all of the recent fires. You can read the press release here. I represented the City at the press conference, where I expressed our appreciation for all additional help to better understand and combat pollutants released by the fire.

Overall, I am encouraged by the data we have seen so far and hope that further data will continue to show that we are heading in the right direction. And if it shows otherwise, then

we will know what the issue is and where it is so that we can tackle it head on.

I will continue to keep you posted via e-mail, but also please follow me on Instagram (@PasadenaD5) for even more frequent updates.

-Jess



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