

**Resolution From the El Paso Independent School District  
Board of Trustees  
Regarding ASARCO's Permit Reactivation  
January 22, 2008**

**Whereas**, ASARCO was historically one of the founding industries of this city and was built in an isolated and sparsely populated section of El Paso; and,

**Whereas**, the growth of El Paso, the increase in population, and the establishment of residences, schools, and families in West El Paso for several decades, has exposed the El Paso Independent School District to the plant and its emissions; and,

**Whereas**, environmental investigations conducted over the past few years have identified lead, zinc, cadmium and arsenic as byproducts of the ASARCO emissions; and,

**Whereas**, the El Paso Independent School District in 1970 closed E.B. Jones Elementary School near ASARCO due to high levels of lead in students; and,

**Whereas**, emissions created by ASARCO over the decades have resulted in many studies in the schools and residences near ASARCO to determine the extent of contamination of the soil; and,

**Whereas**, the El Paso Independent School District has seven schools within several miles of ASARCO, which have a combined population of approximately 5,500 students, and 500 employees; and,

**Whereas**, high levels of lead in children, attending nearby schools and residing in nearby communities, could result in permanent damage to the brain, which could possibly lead to learning disabilities and other physical impairments; and,

**Whereas**, the Environmental Protection Agency has of yet not provided funding that would assist the El Paso Independent School District in addressing the removal of potentially contaminated soil in schools near ASARCO; and,

**Whereas**, ASARCO's permit application to reactivate the plant could result in potential new environmental contamination and serious medical problems that will affect a major portion of the El Paso Independent School District's students, staff, and community; and,

**Now**, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the El Paso Independent School District opposes the renewal of the air permit that would allow the reopening of ASARCO in an area affecting a major portion of the El Paso Independent School District, as the permit renewal would potentially be detrimental to the health and well-being of students, staff, parents, and residents in the adjacent neighborhoods; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

**ADOPTED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2008