

NANETTE BARRAGÁN
44TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
WWW.BARRAGAN.HOUSE.GOV
FACEBOOK.COM/CONGRESSWOMANBARRAGAN
TWITTER: @REPBARRAGAN
INSTAGRAM: @REPBARRAGAN
BLUESKY: @REPBARRAGAN.BSKY.SOCIAL

STEERING & POLICY COMMITTEE
CO-CHAIR

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY
ENVIRONMENT
HEALTH



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2312 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-8220

DISTRICT OFFICES:
MAIN OFFICE
4201 LONG BEACH BLVD
SUITE 422
LONG BEACH, CA 90807
(310) 831-1799

638 S. BEACON STREET
SUITE 551
SAN PEDRO, CA 90731

701 E. CARSON STREET
CARSON, CA 90745

8650 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
SOUTH GATE, CA 90280

May 22, 2025

Jeffrey W. Jones
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc.
1765 Ringling Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34236

RE: Safety at JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc. Facility at 1401 W Del Amo Blvd, Torrance, CA

Dear Chairman Jones:

I am deeply concerned with the operations of JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc.'s (JCI) facility at 1401 W Del Amo Blvd, Torrance, CA 90501. This facility is located in my congressional district. This chemical plant has violated the Clean Air Act multiple times, repeatedly failed to properly maintain their equipment, has not adequately addressed other unsafe conditions, and has no community notification system in place to inform the public of a potential chemical release. My constituents and I are alarmed that JCI has not made greater efforts to improve the safety of this facility where hazardous materials are stored and moved through for transit to other locations.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has oversight of this chemical facility through the Risk Management Program (RMP), which was established through the Clean Air Act to set regulations to prevent accidental chemical releases and improve the safety of nearly 12,000 chemical plants nationwide. In 2015 and 2017, EPA inspectors visited the Torrance JCI facility and found several Clean Air Act violations, including a failure to fix corroded pipes, replace chlorine hoses prior to replacement date, translate operating procedures for the company's Spanish-speaking employees, and provide an adequate hazard analysis of a derailment of a railcar carrying sulfur dioxide.ⁱ A settlement was reached in 2021 and JCI agreed to bring the facility into compliance; however, the most recent EPA inspection found the company failed to maintain their responsibilities as required by federal law.

Last year, EPA returned to the site for an inspection and found unsafe conditions throughout the facility. EPA staff reported several more concerns, including corroded pipes and valves, loose and shaking piping without adequate support, improperly stored chlorine and sulfur dioxide tanks, a non-operational sensor which would fail to detect a chemical release, a deteriorated staircase to the railcar platform, and a dilapidated roof structure that was inadequately repaired with unsecured roof panels.ⁱⁱ These conditions are unsafe and unacceptable.

I understand JCI has since taken corrective actions to address most of these issues; however, it should not require an EPA inspection for the company to fulfill their legal responsibility to ensure the facility remains in compliance with federal law. Furthermore, if this facility were enclosed, like several of JCI's facilities in other states, it would mitigate equipment weatherization, improve site security, and reduce the risk of chemical release.

Additionally, EPA updated the RMP in 2024 to include additional safeguards and rules to better protect communities from a potential chemical release accident. One of the new requirements is for all RMP facilities nationwide to install community notification systems. It is very disappointing that JCI has made no progress toward meeting this requirement.

To address these concerns, I request JCI to complete the following:

- Commit to the RMP regulations by adequately maintaining all equipment on site and completing repairs, retrofits, and replacements as soon as necessary,
- Fully enclose the facility with the proper equipment to prevent accidental chemical release and improve site security,
- Provide an update to my office in sixty days on JCI's plans to install a community notification system, and
- Engage with the community and update them on the company's actions to improve the safety of the site.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent public safety matter.

Sincerely,



Nanette Barragán

Member of Congress

ⁱ United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2021, December 7). U.S. EPA fines Torrance chemical company for safety violations. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-fines-torrance-chemical-company-safety-violations>

ⁱⁱ United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2024). Inspection Report: JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc. (Date: May 31, 2024).