

Winter 1998

# Environment (Winter 1998) - The Newsletter of the California Environmental Protection Agency

California Environmental Protection Agency

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## Recommended Citation

California Environmental Protection Agency, "Environment (Winter 1998) - The Newsletter of the California Environmental Protection Agency" (1998). *California Agencies*. Paper 454.  
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## Businesses Honored for Cutting Trash

Ten businesses have been honored as the state's top trash cutters by the Cal/EPA's Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB), the state's primary recycling agency. The companies received the awards for saving dollars and landfill space by cutting the amount of trash they produce.

"Winning the top 10 spots in this year's competition sets Anheuser Busch, Baxter Healthcare, the Doubletree Hotel, Gardeners' Guild, HdB Electronics, the Marin Conservation Corps, Printer's Ink, Redwood Landscaping, Smurfit Newsprint and the Gillette Co. apart as the best of the best of California businesses dedicated to protecting the environment by following the three Rs – Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle," IWMB Chairman Daniel G. Pennington said, announcing the statewide winners in the sixth annual Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP) for 1998.

Creating less waste benefits businesses and the cities and counties where they are located. Since 1989, California communities have been mandated to cut the amount of trash they send to landfills. Because the business sector generates about half of the state's trash, companies throughout California can make a significant impact on their communities' waste reduction.

**Anheuser Busch, Inc.** in Van Nuys, a four-time WRAP winner, was recognized as a 1998 "WRAP of the Year" winner for reducing its waste by 61 percent since 1994. The brewer recycles extensively, including paper, cardboard, scrap metal, glass, plastic strapping and wrap, barrels and drums, toner cartridges, and fluorescent lamps. In addition, the company cuts its trash by donating reusable items to schools and charities, recycling its waste beechwood chips as mulch for landscaping, providing waste celite (filter media) to a cement company for filler, and providing waste brewer's grains and hops to farmers for animal feed.

**Baxter Healthcare Corporation** in Oakland was honored for saving \$11,000 in disposal costs and recycling 55 percent of its Novacor Division's waste.

The **Doubletree Hotel at Fisherman's Wharf** in Monterey has saved over \$15,000 in disposal costs since 1990 by recycling or reusing virtually every item, including carpet, furniture, cardboard, paper, glass, aluminum, phone books, sheets, towels, and laser toner cartridges. The hotel also recently recycled 400 toilets, diverting 15 tons of porcelain from a landfill.

The **Gardeners' Guild, Inc.** in San Rafael was honored for reducing its waste by grasscycling, chipping up yard trimmings for mulch, and donating plants to nonprofit organizations.



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# FROM MY CORNER

Peter M. Rooney, Secretary for Environmental Protection

As the Wilson Administration comes to a close, I want to thank all the members of the Cal/EPA family for all that you have accomplished.

While it is bittersweet for me personally, I am not at all reticent about bragging on each and every one of you and each of your accomplishments.

The best view is the long view which, in my opinion, takes into account how things progress or regress over time.

Eight years ago California was in the throes of the worst economic recession since the Depression. Governor Wilson was faced with a severe budget shortfall. Instead of reducing environmental protections, our regulatory system was made more efficient without relaxing environmental standards.

The result has been cleaner air, cleaner water, fewer toxic releases, increased diversion of solid waste from landfills, progress toward less risky pest control strategies, and a definite increase in the public's right to know about chemicals in our daily lives under Prop 65.

In recent years, California's economic and population growth, like a pendulum, has swung to the other end, experiencing record growth. With the experience and strengthened processes developed in the period of budget shortfalls, we have been able to absorb this growth while maintaining environmental integrity.

California has demonstrated the ability to achieve positive environmental values and policies without negative impacts on economic life and growth here. For this each Cal/EPA employee can take personal pride and credit.

In the past eight years we have been able to achieve many things. A few are:

- Creation of Permit Assistance Centers, CalGOLD, and the Permit Consolidation Zones to provide "one-stop shopping" for businesses while retaining the high standards required for environmental compliance;
- Improved air quality resulting from cleaner fuels and engines, consumer products, and industrial processes with the greatest gains being made in the State's most populous areas. Annual exposure to smog in the Los Angeles basin is down 50 percent during the last 10 years;



- Improved water quality through significant reductions in discharges with water quality being the best it has been in the past 20 years in California;
- Toxic chemical releases reduced by over 90% since 1987;
- Environmental Crime task forces created throughout the State;
- Creation and implementation of the Environmental Technology Certification Program resulting in 72 new environmental technologies now certified by Cal/EPA, with 62 companies now under consideration and evaluation. This Program has also resulted in active international partnerships with Canada, Korea, numerous other U.S. states, and Federal agencies. California now has the distinction of again being the lead agency on a cutting edge approach to environmental improvements through technology.
- Creation of Economic Analysis Units to review cost-benefit impacts of proposed regulations within Cal/EPA;
- Circuit Environmental Prosecutor programs to assist rural communities in protecting their environment from known polluters;
- Restoration of Mono Lake;
- Santa Monica Bay has the cleanest water in two decades with polluting discharges from sewage plants decreasing by 99% since 1971;
- Attainment of interim waste diversion goals and significant progress toward a 50% diversion rate by 2000;
- Over 5,000 clandestine drug labs cleaned up in the past eight years;
- Reduction in the release of toxic chemicals statewide;
- Remediations of toxic waste sites in both the private and government sectors;
- Major reductions in waste tire piles;
- Cleanup and replacement of over 40,000 underground fuel tanks statewide in the past ten years;

From My Corner continued (page 7)

## ENVIRONMENT

*Environment* is published quarterly by the California Environmental Protection Agency at 555 Capitol Mall, Suite 525, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Lou Smallwood, Deputy Secretary for External Affairs

Jim Spagnole, Director of Communications

Cal/EPA includes the Air Resources Board, Integrated Waste Management Board, State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Pesticide Regulation, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

Comments, suggestions or address changes can be made via fax at (916) 445-5563 or e-mail at [cepacomm@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:cepacomm@calepa.ca.gov).

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## AIR RESOURCES BOARD

### **New Rules to Cut Smog from SUVs, Watercraft and Motorcycles**

The Air Resources Board (ARB) approved three major emission-control measures at its November and December hearings. The regulations will reduce air pollution from outboard engines and personal watercraft, motorcycles, and light and medium-duty cars and trucks. All will go into effect after 2000.

The Board's actions will greatly reduce smog-forming emissions and water pollution from outboard engines and personal watercraft starting in 2001. Watercraft have previously been unregulated by the ARB, and the new rules will reduce emissions from two-stroke marine engines by 110 tons per day (TPD) by 2010. These engines currently produce about 129 TPD.

On another front, the ARB adopted rules for the on-road motorcycle fleet, aiming to cut emissions by 3.9 TPD—about a 50 percent decrease. Fourteen years after it first set emissions controls for motorcycles, the Board determined cleaner technology will help meet the new standards for 2001. Also, in response to product availability concerns, the Board created seasonal riding rules for noncomplying off-road motorcycles. These bikes will now have unlimited access to public facilities during the low-ozone portion of the year.

In one of the Board's most critical actions ever, it adopted Low-Emission Vehicle II requirements for most mini vans, pickup trucks and SUVs up to 8,500 pounds gross vehicle weight to reduce emissions to passenger car levels by 2007. As more of these vehicles are being used as passenger cars, the more stringent emission standards of LEV II are necessary for California to meet federally-mandated clean air goals. Presently, these vehicles have emission limits twice as high as passenger cars. LEV II also contained provisions for partial Zero Emission Vehicle credits as auto makers develop ultra-clean technologies. For more information on the Board's actions, please visit the ARB's website at [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov).

## INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

### **America Recycles Day Celebrates Communities' Successes**

Cities and counties around the state have done so well meeting mandated waste diversion rates, years ahead of schedule in some areas, that the Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB) celebrated November's Second Annual America Recycles Day by recognizing and honoring those resource-conservation efforts.

This year's America Recycles Day theme, "If you're not buying recycled, you're not really recycling," highlighted purchasing recycled-content items as a way consumers can "close the loop." By reducing and recycling their own waste, then asking stores to stock and purchase goods packaged using recycled-content materials, conscientious shoppers can leverage marketplace changes that offer consumers the kinds of goods and materials that spare our precious natural resources.

Attending approximately 20 America Recycles Day celebrations held around the state November 7-20, IWMB officials and staff recognized local community efforts that have propelled California to a position of national leadership in waste diversion. Those efforts boosted the state's diversion rates last year to 32 percent, keeping 17 million tons of materials of the 52.5 million tons of waste generated out of landfills, and continuing an upward trend over the past seven years.

In 1998, nearly 400 companies won IWMB recognition for cutting their trash. Of those, the top 10 businesses with the most productive or innovative waste recycling or cutting ideas won Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP) of the Year honors. Declining disposal expenses, revenue from the sale of recyclable goods, and expanded patronage by appreciative customers have convinced many businesses around the state that recycling and buying recycled-content products is good for the environment and good for the bottom line.

Around the state, communities have also benefited from a variety of government waste reduction/recycling programs, including curbside and used motor oil recycling, green waste collection, school and office education on recycling, and directives to consider buying recycled products. Many government offices now routinely rely on electronic mail to reduce reliance on white paper, reuse scrap paper, recycle office equipment, and run their fleet vehicles on re-refined motor oil. The use of asphalt paving made partly from recycled waste tires has been experimentally applied on roads around California.

### DPR Aims to Prevent Ground Water Contamination

Cal/EPA's Department of Pesticide Regulation previewed new initiatives to protect California ground water from pesticide contamination at two public workshops held in December. DPR plans to introduce new regulations in 1999 to enhance the prevention of ground water contamination, based in part on a unique statistical model developed by DPR scientists.

After a decade of monitoring — including sampling from more than 20,000 wells statewide — DPR has developed a comprehensive database on ground water contamination. Armed with that data and other information, DPR scientists constructed a computer-created statistical model — called CALVUL for California Vulnerability Model, that identifies areas susceptible to ground water contamination based on climate and soil type.

The CALVUL model is based on data unique to California and its pesticide regulatory program. DPR data standards — which exceed federal standards — require manufacturers of agricultural chemicals to submit detailed studies on chemical interactions with soil and water. DPR's database is further enhanced by the Pesticide Contamination Prevention Act of 1985. That legislation created procedures for identifying and tracking ground water contamination. To mitigate such contamination, DPR created Pesticide Management Zones. DPR's new regulations would increase the emphasis on prevention.

Key DPR data findings include:

- In California, all 11 pesticides found in ground water due to agricultural use are soil-applied. (Three of those pesticides are no longer registered.)
- A few pesticides are detected in many wells. This suggests that identifying the factors that make an area sensitive to ground water pollution is just as important as identifying pesticides with the potential to pollute ground water.
- Analysis of soils data show that most sections of land with wells containing pesticide residues can be grouped into soil clusters that are statistically and geographically related.

In some cases, pesticide leaching may not cause contamination, as previously believed. DPR scientists now suspect runoff water containing pesticide residues may move to ground water via drainage or dry wells dug in areas where soils do not drain properly. Such wells bypass the soil layers that impede water movement. This is significant because the mechanism of contamination may determine the mitigation measure. And the mitigation measure that works in areas subject to leaching may be inappropriate in areas affected by runoff.

DPR's CALVUL model also may assist farmers and other pesticide users in modifying their applications while maintaining good pest control. For example, studies suggest that good irrigation practices decrease pesticide movement to ground water, while improving weed control with lower chemical applications.

## STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

### State Water Board Chair Departs, Notes Accomplishments

John Caffrey, Chairman of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), announced on December 1 that he will leave the Board effective December 31. His resignation brings to a close a state service career spanning almost 32 years. According to Caffrey, future plans include "taking a vacation, spending more time with my family and pursuing other interests and endeavors."

Caffrey, 55, was appointed to the Board by Governor Deukmejian in February, 1990 where he served as a member until appointed Chairman by Governor Wilson in 1993. He was reappointed in 1994 and again in 1998.

Caffrey presided over the Board during a time of notable accomplishments, which included its 1994 order amending the water rights licenses of the City of Los Angeles in order to restore Mono Lake. The lake had been severely impaired from 40 years of diversion to the lake's major tributaries by the City.

In 1995, the Board adopted a water quality control plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the first plan for Delta protection accepted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in more than 17 years. This plan was largely the product of a planning process initiated by Caffrey which sought consensus from California's major water interests on Delta standards that

would both improve aquatic habitat and water supply reliability. The Delta water rights hearing, currently in progress, is using the same consensus building effort, asking representatives of major water interests to prepare their own plans to meet Delta standards before coming before the Board for consideration.

Under Caffrey's leadership, the Board approved water rights for the Los Vaqueros Project in Contra Costa County, the first major dam built in California for a decade. During his tenure the Board also established a watershed management initiative which shifts the focus of water protection efforts from point source pollution to the many non-point pollution sources found throughout every California watershed.

A lifelong state employee, Caffrey came to the SWRCB from the Department of Water Resources where he was Chief Deputy Director. Prior to that, he worked 13 years at the Department of Finance as the Department's representative to the legislative fiscal committees and as the program budget manager for the State's environmental and natural resources programs. Before joining the Department of Finance, Caffrey served several years as budget officer for the State Park system.

## DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

### Looking Back, Looking Ahead

*by Jesse R. Huff, Director*

Transitions – whether end of the year, end of an Administration, or both – are good times for stepping back to look at accomplishments. For the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) our milestones are plentiful. By any measure, our state is cleaner and freer of toxic contamination than just a few years ago.

Since its creation, DTSC has helped solve one of California's most important environmental problems, we have made steady progress, drawing from a variety of tools to get the job done.

First, we have built partnerships with industry and promoted new technologies to halt pollution before it happens in the first place.

Second, we are encouraging companies to not just comply with the law, but to go beyond compliance through a range of business assistance programs, training and regulatory reform initiatives.

Third, we recognize our success also depends on consistent enforcement of environmental laws. This commitment to enforcement sends a clear signal to would-be polluters, and ensures that those who do damage to our natural resources are held accountable for their actions.

DTSC's core functions of managing hazardous waste facilities have been marked by many accomplishments. In recent years, we have brought 200 facilities into full permit status, closed 143 facilities and initiated corrective action at almost 500 facilities. The Unified Program, which marks a fundamental change in how environmental services are delivered at the local level, is in full swing.

Cleanups at many Brownfields projects have been completed, bringing new economic life to communities up and down the state. The same kind of exciting redevelopment is also taking place at former military bases where 40,000 acres of previously contaminated land have been made available for reuse by local governments and the private sector resulting in 16,000 new jobs.

Additionally, we now have our house in order, both fiscally and organizationally. Our stakeholders now regard DTSC as a mature department with a clear purpose and direction.

Our progress is thanks to many dedicated staff who have worked to strengthen the partnerships with local governments, stakeholders and regulated businesses. We are committed to empowering the public by increasing access to information about environmental issues in their communities. And, we have recognized the need to provide flexibility and incentives to encourage innovative solutions to tough problems associated with hazardous waste.

## WRAP Winners (continued)

The Guild works to educate its clients about the importance of diverting greenwaste with resource recovery actions to promote sustainable business practices.

The **Gillette Company/Stationery Products Group** in Santa Monica was recognized for cutting its trash by over 78 percent. The company manufactures pens, pencils, and markers under the Papermate brand and recycles its paper, newspaper, cardboard, computers, cans, glass, plastic, brass, stainless steel, electrical wire, construction materials, steel drums, wood pallets, cutting oil, and hydraulic oil. Usable items such as computers, furniture, aluminum cans, and writing supplies are donated to schools and charities. The Gillette Company is a previous four-time WRAP winner.

**HdB Electronics** in Redwood City was honored this year for redesigning and recycling office forms, which saved the company \$4,188 a year and reduced its paper disposal by 17,934 pounds. The company also cut its trash by reusing and recycling packaging materials. Additionally, 90 percent of its paper products are made from recycled material, and forms and invoices are designed to reduce paper usage.

The **Marin Conservation Corps** in San Rafael was recognized for preserving Marin's natural resources and providing recycling and reuse education to thousands of children. The Corps members also perform conservation activities throughout the county and provide recycling collection services on public lands. In addition, the Corps members have adopted waste reduction and recycling practices in their offices.

**Printer's Ink**, a publications specialist in Woodland, was honored for reducing its paper waste to almost nothing over the past three years. Unless otherwise specified by customers, all house paper, stock, and other products are recycled or are recyclable. The company currently prints 95 percent of its jobs on recycled-content products.

**Redwood Landscaping** in Santa Rosa was recognized for saving \$120,000 in disposal fees by recycling the majority of its office paper and the yardwaste generated by its field operations. The company maintains composting, education, and donation programs and actively promotes reuse. Mulching mowers are used in some of its service areas. In addition, the landscaper provides customer education to ensure that successful ongoing recycling goals are met.

**Smurfit Newsprint Corporation of California**, located in Pomona, is a 100 percent recycled newsprint mill. The company was honored for reducing its internal waste stream by over 80 percent. Smurfit's recycling efforts have helped fund college scholarships for employees' dependents and provided donations to local charities such as the YMCA, YWCA, and the House of Ruth.



### Ask Professor Enviro

#### Is my garbage really garbage?

Chances are there's a lot of stuff in your waste basket that isn't really garbage.

Over *half* of what you put in the trash can be recycled, reused or transformed into new consumer products.

For more information, check out the Integrated Waste Management Board web page at:

[www.ciwmb.ca.gov/mrt/wpw/wpcoord/01.htm#01a](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/mrt/wpw/wpcoord/01.htm#01a)

Each year from among hundreds of WRAP honorees, the IWMB selects 10 outstanding businesses as "WRAP of the Year" winners. The IWMB's WRAP awards recognize companies that develop creative and aggressive programs to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills. Winners receive a certificate of recognition from the IWMB, as well as the right to advertising and promotional use of the WRAP logo to promote their waste reduction accomplishments. Applicants are honored based on a set of criteria developed in cooperation with the business community. Practices evaluated include waste prevention, materials reuse, recycling, recycled-product procurement, and employee education. The top 10 honorees are recognized for going above and beyond traditional recycling and waste reduction practices in their daily operations.

Since its inception – and including today's winners – 1,775 WRAP honors have been awarded, recognizing California businesses that have made significant strides in waste reduction, many of them repeat winners. Previous years' top 10 winners have included the Walt Disney Company, Sea World, and Warner Bros. Studios, to name a few.

For more information, visit the IWMB on the Internet at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov)

## From My Corner (continued)

- Listing of 326 chemicals under the Proposition 65 regulatory program;
- Development of major science-based risk studies of airborne lead, environmental tobacco smoke, and diesel exhaust particulates; and
- Aggressive efforts to implement reduced risk pest control strategies.

While this list may seem exhaustive, these are only a small sample of the efforts made by each of you, yet they are significant because they define a commitment and professionalism that one only hopes for in most institutional entities. For that I am deeply grateful and you all should be rightfully proud.

As I said earlier, it is possible to have strong, vibrant environmental value systems and a healthy economy. Our theory of environmental protection is based on honest science, an open regulatory process which matches regulation with the risk presented, and an expectation of compliance, backed up by a strong commitment to firm, complete enforcement.

We have done it here in California and we are proud of it. And I am proud of each of you.

Finally, I also want to extend my most sincere holiday wishes for good health and fortune to each of you and your families. Remember the spirit of the season, take care of yourself and others, and, again, thank you.



At the downtown Sacramento site of the future Cal/EPA headquarters, the foundation and basement walls are starting to outline the footprint of the 950,000 square foot structure.

## Oops! Who's Who?

On page 7 of the Fall issue, the people in the top photo are (l. to r.) Enrique Farias and Peter Rooney (Cal/EPA), Paul Bentzen (Turner Construction), and Theresa Parsley (ARB). Terry Richards (Turner Construction) is in the lower photo.

## Permit Assistance Centers

Lillian Conroe, Director <b>Business Revitalization Center</b> (213) 290-7100	Matt McCarron, Director <b>North Bay</b> (707) 527-2481
Roberta James, Director <b>Contra Costa Regional</b> (925) 229-5950	Danian Hopp, Director <b>Orange County</b> (714) 834-2840
Pete Ruggerello, Director <b>Fresno Area</b> (559) 498-1343	Leslie Manderscheid, Director <b>San Diego Regional</b> (619) 236-5938
Matt McCarron, Director <b>Greater Oakland</b> (510) 286-6993	Don Johnson, Director <b>San Fernando Valley</b> (818) 756-7572
Shereef Aref, Director <b>Inland Empire</b> Ontario Office (909) 391-0723 Riverside Office (909) 955-1883	Peter Frey, Director <b>Santa Clara Valley</b> (408) 277-1477
Pete Ruggerello, Director <b>Kern County</b> (805) 862-5175	Danian Hopp, Director <b>South Orange County</b> (949) 461-3560
	<b>Business Permits Made Simple</b> CalGOLD: California Government On-Line To Desktops <a href="http://www.calgold.ca.gov">http://www.calgold.ca.gov</a>

## Cal/EPA Ombudsman Directory

<i>Air Resources Board</i> <b>Jim Schoning</b> (916) 323-6791 <b>Nancy Steele</b> (Deputy-South) (626) 459-4868	<i>Regional Water Quality Control Boards</i> <b>Craig Johnson</b> (707) 576-2226 <b>Will Bruhns</b> Region 2 (San Francisco Bay) (510) 286-0838 <b>Paul Jagger</b> Region 3 (Central Coast) (805) 549-3502 <b>Jim Kuykendall</b> Region 4 (Los Angeles) (323) 266-7632 <b>Tom Pinkos</b> Region 5 (Central Valley) (916) 255-3039 <b>Bob Dodds</b> Region 6 (Lahontan) (530) 542-5410 <b>Gary Morris</b> Region 7 (Colorado River) (760) 776-8926 <b>Kurt Berchtold</b> Region 8 (Santa Ana) (909) 782-3286 <b>Mike McCann</b> Region 9 (San Diego) (619) 467-2988
<i>Department of Pesticide Regulation</i> <b>Regina Sarracino</b> (Registration) (916) 324-3939 <b>Kay Cummins</b> (Licensing) (916) 323-6133	
<i>Department of Toxic Substances Control</i> <b>Southern California</b> <b>John Hinton</b> (714) 484-5365 <b>Northern California</b> <b>Carol Northrup</b> (510) 540-3919	
<i>Integrated Waste Management Board</i> <b>Chris Peck</b> (916) 255-2427	
<i>Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment</i> <b>Val Siebal</b> (916) 322-6325 <b>Cynthia Oshita</b> Proposition 65 Implementation (916) 445-6900	
<i>State Water Resources Control Board</i> <b>Jim Bennett</b> (916) 657-1287	



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

### Reporting an Environmental Accident/Incident

Office of Emergency Services	(916) 262-1621
Warning Center	(916) 262-1621
Water Pollution	1-800-952-5400
South Coast AQMD	1-800-CUT-SMOG

### Reporting an Environmental Crime/Violation

Toxics	(916) 324-2448
Illegal Handling of Hazardous Waste	1-800-69-TOXIC
Sacramento	(916) 255-3618
Berkeley	(510) 540-3739
Glendale	(818) 551-2800
Cypress	(714) 484-5400
Air Pollution	(916) 322-6022 (916) 322-6034
Complaint Hot Line	1-800-952-5588
Water Pollution	1-800-952-5400
Landfills	(916) 255-2431
Pesticides	(916) 445-3920
Smoking Vehicles	1-800-END-SMOG
Cellular (statewide)	#SMOG

## CAL/EPA BOARD & DEPARTMENT WEBSITES

### Cal/EPA

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov>

### Air Resources Board

<http://www.arb.ca.gov>

### Integrated Waste Management Board

<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov>

### Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

<http://www.oehha.org>

### Department of Pesticide Regulation

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>

### State Water Resources Control Board

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>

### Department of Toxic Substances Control

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/dtsc.htm>

## CAL/EPA ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE

1-800-CLEANUP (Nationwide)

<http://www.1800cleanup.org>



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