



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Cal/EPA releases its annual enforcement report

Report serves as a first step in documenting and improving the coordination and consistency across California's various environmental enforcement programs

SACRAMENTO – Today, the California Environmental Protection Agency released its annual 2007 enforcement report that documents the breadth and depth of California's various enforcement programs.

The report details all of the various enforcement programs established within Cal/EPA's various boards, department and offices (BDOs), as well as those in local, regional and federal government. The report explains current enforcement programs and how the program is being enhanced under Cal/EPA's Enforcement Initiative.

After Governor Schwarzenegger took office, he launched an Environmental Enforcement Initiative to assure environmental protection and prevent non-complying businesses from achieving an unfair competitive advantage against complying competitors.

Since then, Cal/EPA has launched a thorough examination of its enforcement program. In doing so, Cal/EPA created nine different teams with its BDOs to carry out enforcement improvements through the local, regional and state levels.

Cal/EPA also launched an online environmental complaint system – successfully partnering with Californians to provide an easy way for them to submit environmental complaints.

Cal/EPA partnered with local prosecutors and hired high-level enforcement chiefs across its BDOs. They also increased training across the state for the Agency's enforcement teams. Cal/EPA is also developing an environmental enforcement information data system that can be shared across all jurisdictions.

"We are committed to strong environmental enforcement," said Cal/EPA Undersecretary Cindy Tuck. "We are proud of what we have accomplished, and we are looking forward to making additional improvements to how we enforce the environmental laws in a fair and effective manner."

For a copy of Cal/EPA's 2007 enforcement report, please visit us online at, <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Enforcement/Publications/2007/EnvLawReport.pdf> and for more information on Cal/EPA's Environmental Enforcement Initiative please visit <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Enforcement/>.

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