



# 2013 California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Emergency Response Management Committee (ERMaC) Accomplishments Report

## MEMBER AGENCIES

California Environmental Protection Agency

Air Resources Board

Department of Pesticide Regulation

Department of Resources Recycling & Recovery

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

State Water Resources Control Board



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## I. INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Emergency Response Management Committee (ERMaC) coordinates preparedness for and responses to environmental emergencies in California under assigned statutory authorities. ERMaC is comprised of appointed representatives and alternates from each board, department and office (BDO) and is chaired by the Assistant Secretary for Emergency Response appointed by the Agency Secretary. ERMaC members have fully delegated authority, within respective BDOs to activate and direct resources and personnel to affect timely and appropriate response to disasters and large-scale emergencies.

CalEPA complies with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for emergency preparedness and operates as a state agency with specific jurisdiction under the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), as coordinated by the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES).

ERMaC's mission is to manage public health and environmental consequences of emergency events through effective, coordinated agency-wide preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities. ERMaC is responsible for emergency planning and training, and coordinates all CalEPA entities in emergency response and recovery actions. It serves as the forum for developing and maintaining the CalEPA collective Administrative Orders and emergency response plans.

ERMaC is also responsible for the California Hazardous Materials and Oil Emergency Function Annex 10 (EF-10). The EF-10 Annex is a response-specific addendum to the State of California Emergency Plan that establishes CalEPA as the lead for the organization, scope, and coordination of response and emergency management activities of the stakeholders and partners in an environmental disaster involving a large scale oil and/or hazardous materials incident.

The EF-10 Annex provides for a coordinated response from agencies and governmental entities with jurisdictional and regulatory authority to conduct all phases of emergency management in the response to and recovery from a release of oil or hazardous materials. The primary and supporting agencies named in the EF-10 Annex work together within their respective authorities to effectively and efficiently mitigate, as well as prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies involving the release of oil and/or hazardous materials.

## II. INCIDENT RESPONSE & RECOVERY ACTIONS\*

This section contains several highlighted incident response and recovery actions performed by the California Environmental Protection Agency's (CalEPA) Emergency Response Management Committee (ERMaC) and its Boards, Offices, and Department (BDO's) in 2013.

### A. Fire Response and Recovery



#### Highlighted Incident: The Rim Fire

The Rim Fire was a devastating wildfire in the central Sierra Nevada's, specifically in Tuolumne and Mariposa counties. The fire began on August 17, 2013 and before its final containment on Thursday, October 24, 2013 it burned 257,314 acres, making it the biggest wildfire on record in the Sierra Nevada and the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest wildfire in California's history.

CalEPA's ERMaC came together to work on both the response and recovery. The team held weekly conference calls for briefings, updates, and coordination. Some of the individual departments carried out additional activities that

are elaborated upon below.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) Emergency Response Program (ERP) was contacted by Tuolumne County Environmental Health (County) requesting assistance with removing household hazardous waste and asbestos from homes and outbuildings destroyed as a result of the Rim Fire. ERP staff, in conjunction with the County, began assessment and removal activities in August and finished the response action in one week.

The Air Resources Board (ARB) Office of Emergency Response (OER) deployed ten PM2.5 Environmental Beta Attenuation (E-BAM) monitors to the following areas in response to the fire: Tuolumne City, Greeley Hill, LaGrange, Bear Valley, Markleeville, South Lake Tahoe, Yosemite National Park, Tuolumne Meadows, and Mariposa.



The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Emergency Response Coordinator participated in a series of meetings from September 3, 2013 through October 21, 2013 to coordinate water quality monitoring at locations where gauges were damaged by the fire and to help Tuolumne County with a debris management plan. The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Department of Water Resources, and National Park Service coordinated Geographic Information System (GIS) efforts to identify areas of primary turbidity concern for future water quality monitoring.

## 2013 California Fire Season

During the 2013 fire season, the ARB OER provided real-time air monitoring by deploying PM2.5 E-BAM monitors to support six different wildfires, over a period of 134 days. Those



fires included: the Carstens Fire, Aspen Fire, American Fire, Orleans Complex, Rim Fire, and Winters Hay Fire. The data provided was needed to make critical decisions relating to air quality including evacuations and shelter in place orders. OER received a total of ten California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) mission tasks from local air districts.

In addition to the above fires, OER reached out to local air districts and Federal agencies to help with support and modeling to the following fires:

**Table 1. Support and Modeling for 2013 Fire Season**

Incident	Start Date	Control Date	Jurisdiction
Power House Fire	May 30 <sup>th</sup>	June 10 <sup>th</sup>	South Coast AQMD
Forbidden Fire	June 4 <sup>th</sup>	July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Mariposa County APCD
Hathaway Fire	June 9 <sup>th</sup>	June 26 <sup>th</sup>	South Coast AQMD
Carstens Fire	June 17 <sup>th</sup>	June 25 <sup>th</sup>	Mariposa County APCD
Chariot Fire	July 6 <sup>th</sup>	July 15 <sup>th</sup>	San Diego APCD
Kybruz Fire	July 8 <sup>th</sup>	July 13 <sup>th</sup>	El Dorado County AQMD
Mountain Fire	July 15 <sup>th</sup>	July 30 <sup>th</sup>	South Coast AQMD & Mojave Desert AQMD
Aspen Fire	July 26 <sup>th</sup>	August 13 <sup>th</sup>	Mariposa County APCD
Salmon River Complex	July 31 <sup>st</sup>	September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	North Coast AQMD & U.S. Forest Service
Forks-Butler Fire Complex	July 31 <sup>st</sup>	October 1 <sup>st</sup>	North Coast AQMD & U.S. Forest Service
Power Fire	August 5 <sup>th</sup>	August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mariposa County APCD, National Park Service, Tuolumne County APCD, & Calaveras County APCD
Corral Complex	August 10 <sup>th</sup>	August 27 <sup>th</sup>	North Coast AQMD
American Fire	August 16 <sup>th</sup>	September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Placer County APCD
Orleans Complex	August 20 <sup>th</sup>	September 30 <sup>th</sup>	North Coast AQMD
Rim Fire	August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tuolumne County APCD, Mariposa County APCD
Winters Hay Fire	September 30 <sup>th</sup>	October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Yolo-Solano AQMD

## B. Hazardous Waste and Debris Removal

ERMaC member agencies also responded to a variety of hazardous waste removal incidents. The Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) Emergency Response Program (ERP) was the primary department within CalEPA responding to these types of events. DTSC provided assistance to local agencies by removing and disposing of hazardous materials at 119 illegal drug lab incidents and 78 emergency response hazardous materials incidents. Below are highlighted occurrences of hazardous waste removal. In the case of the Port of West Sacramento Cleanup, debris removal actions were also taken by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

Incident Name: **Yreka Mercury Cleanup** (January 2013)

DTSC ERP staff responded to a mercury release at a residential property in Yreka, CA. One of the residents was exposed to high levels of mercury and as a result was hospitalized. ERP staff assessed the home and removed all items that had mercury levels exceeding the safe level for residential use.

Incident Name: **University of California Davis (UCD) Explosives Removal** (January 2013)

DTSC ERP staff provided technical assistance to Yolo County Environmental Health and UCD staff for assessment and sampling of chemicals associated with bomb-manufacturing materials.

Incident Name: **Fontana Plating Shop Cleanup** (May 2013)

DTSC ERP staff, in conjunction with United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), assessed, sampled, and removed wastes associated with a plating shop operation from a facility in Fontana. The defunct facility had been abandoned by the property owner and the remaining waste had been left unattended. The volume of chemical waste removed was estimated at 10,000 gallons.

Incident Name: **Stockton Mercury Cleanup** (July 2013)

A child was admitted to Kaiser in May with hypertension, hallucinations, and extreme pain in the legs and back, that was caused by use of a face cream from Mexico. The acne cream from Jalisco contained 210,000 parts per million (ppm), 110,000 ppm, and 96,000 ppm of total Mercury (Hg) measured. The regulatory limit for mercury in cosmetics is less than one ppm. Levels of mercury measured in the child were as high as 250 ppm creatinine, the national average for creatine in Mexican Americans is less than 0.5 ppm. The use of these



creams also caused the contamination of the child's residence. Seven young children lived at the home and had to be evaluated for mercury exposure. The California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control (DEODC) worked closely with DTSC and the San Joaquin County Health Department to provide health-related guidance. DTSC performed the cleanup of the residence.

**Incident Name: Yuba City Plating Shop Cleanup (August 2013)**

DTSC ERP staff had initially conducted a removal action at the Yuba City plating shop in December 2012 and January 2013 removing large quantities of liquid waste, before securing it to prevent potential exposure to public health and the environment. After obtaining an Inspection Warrant from Sutter County, DTSC conducted an additional removal action in November and December 2013 resulting in the removal of large quantities of solid waste and several miscellaneous containers of hazardous waste.



**Incident Name: Magazine Canyon Fireworks Removal (August 2013)**

The Office of the State Fire Marshal entered into an interagency agreement with DTSC for the purpose of removing 25,000 lbs. of illegal fireworks from Magazine Canyon in Los Angeles County. DTSC initiated the removal action in mid-August and it was completed within two days. The fireworks were transported by a contractor, Clean Harbors Inc., to a disposal facility in Louisiana.



## Debris Removal

Incident Name: **Port of Sacramento Abandoned Barges Cleanup** (June 2013)



CalRecycle's Cleanup Program, with assistance from DTSC ERP, performed a large-scale removal of hazardous waste in Port of West Sacramento. The waste included solvents, paints, solar panels, polychlorinated biphenyl containing transformers, and different types of hazardous polymers. In addition small quantities of radioactive waste had to be removed.

At the request of the Port of Sacramento, CalRecycle undertook the project as part of a pilot program to address illegal dumping in California's watercourses and was responsible for removing the solid waste generated from the cleanup of abandoned barges, vessels, and illegal disposal sites.

DTSC ERP assisted with the proper removal and disposal of hazardous waste discovered as part of the cleanup. The United States Coast Guard also assisted with the removal additional hazardous waste that threatened to pollute the Sacramento River and Port of Sacramento.





## C. Oil Spill Response

ERMaC member and partner agencies, primarily the Office of Environmental Health Hazard (OEHHA) and the partner agency California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) serve a unique role in oil spill response for the State of California. Following marine oil spills of one barrel or more, CDFW must close surrounding waterways to the taking of all fish and shellfish, unless OEHHA determines that there is not likely to be a public health threat resulting from consumption of marine life impacted by the spill. Fisheries closed for more than 48 hours require expedited testing of seafood and a risk assessment by OEHHA before the fishery can be re-opened.

In 2013, OEHHA was notified of 18 oil spills or potential oil spills in marine waters. OEHHA worked with CDFW to compile and evaluate information on these spills. No action was required for 14 spills because it was determined that they did not exceed one barrel or more of product, were contained, or took place in areas where fishing or aquaculture did not take place. Of the remaining four spills, OEHHA found there was not likely to be a public health threat for three of them. Thus, CDFW did not close the fisheries in those cases. Following the Royal Pacific diesel spill in Ventura Harbor, however, OEHHA did recommend to CDFW that the fishery be closed while a risk assessment was conducted

### Incident Name: **Royal Pacific Diesel Spill, Ventura Harbor**

On November 18, an incident involving the fishing vessel *Royal Pacific* resulted in a spill of as much as 300 gallons of red dye diesel into Ventura Harbor. OEHHA found that adequate information to determine the potential threat to public health from



Photo courtesy of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2013

consuming fish or shellfish from the area was not yet available and, therefore recommended to CDFW that the fishery be closed until additional information could be collected. Mussel sampling was conducted on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, and again on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Based on the results of a seafood risk assessment, OEHHA recommended to CDFW that the fishery be re-opened on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.

\*All uncredited photographs were contributed by ERMaC member agencies.

## **D. Animal Disease Preparedness**

CalEPA's Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the partner agency California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) staff worked out a basic preparedness plan for a potential disease outbreak that would impact the livestock industry in California. Possible diseases include Equine Herpes, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) virus, Influenza A (Swine Flu), and Newcastle Disease. The success of this plan is dependent on the registration of products to disinfect both porous and non-porous hard surfaces during an outbreak.

Currently, CDFA is preparing an Emergency Exemption from Registration application for use of citric acid in California, based on United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Emergency Exemption from Registration with citric acid, issued by U.S. EPA. DPR and CDFA staffs are coordinating efforts to determine the data requirements and directions for use on the Emergency Exemption Label. CDFA, with support from DPR, is also working with both State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards to determine water run-off containment and disposal issues when using some of these products.

## **III. EMERGENCY FUNCTION FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND OIL SPILLS (EF-10)**

The California Hazardous Materials and Oil Emergency Function (EF-10) is an annex to the State Emergency Plan. EF-10 is a framework for agencies with jurisdictional or regulatory authority to conduct all phases of emergency management for threatened or actual releases of oil or hazardous materials. The lead, primary, and supporting agencies named in the EF-10 Annex work together within their respective authorities to, among other actions:

- Minimize, contain, and monitor a release or spill.
- Coordinate or oversee the removal of hazardous materials, oil, or debris.
- Set or recommend evacuation, re-entry, clearance and remediation levels.
- Develop guidance and recommendations for response activities.

### **A. EF-10 Annex Interim Draft**

The ERMaC EF-10 Workgroup, a subcommittee under ERMAC, including members representing DFG-OSPR, CalOES, CalRecycle, DTSC, ARB, DPR, and OEHHA finalized the 2012 Interim Draft and submitted it to CalOES at the end of 2012.

In 2012 the EF-10 Workgroup reconvened to review and respond to comments received from CalOES on the 2012 Interim Draft, as well as from stakeholders who attended a series of CalOES workshops in 2012. The workgroup has identified and are addressing issues with how EF-10 assigned roles and responsibilities compared to the authorities of the respective member agencies.

In October 2013, the Executive Summary and Resource matrix were updated.

#### **IV. TRAINING, EXERCISES, and PLANS**

ERMaC representatives and their agency colleagues presented a number of emergency preparedness and response training session and participated in emergency exercises in 2013. These included the following

##### **A. Training**

- *Introduction to Toxicology and Risk Assessment*, Presentation, February 6, 2013. Karen Riveles (OEHHA) and John Faust (OEHHA), Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPA) Annual Meeting. Garden Grove, CA.
- *Incident Command System (ICS) 300 and 400*, Training, April 15, 2013. John Kennedy (U.S. EPA), U.S. EPA. Sacramento, CA.
- *CalEnviroScreen: A New Tool for Evaluating Communities in California*, Presentation, June 5, 2013. John Faust (OEHHA), Sacramento, CA.
- *Investigation of Geothermal Venting and Emergency Preparedness, Lake County, CA*, Presentation, July 24, 2013. Lori Copan (CDPH). Sacramento CA.
- *You have CalEPA in your Incident Command System (ICS)*, Presentation, September 2013. Michael Pixton (DTSC), Karen Riveles (OEHHA), Eileen Mahoney (DPR), Charles Pearson (ARB), Becky Wagoner (CalEPA).
- *Cellular Telemetry System for Interoperability and Collaboration in Emergency Air Monitoring*, Presentation, November 21, 2013. Charles Pearson (CARB), Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA) Conference. Sacramento, CA
- *Airborne Impacts of the Richmond, California Refinery Fire and an Assessment of Preparedness for Future Emergencies*, Presentation, November 21, 2013. Gregory Vlasek (CARB), Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA) Conference. Sacramento, CA

##### **B. Exercises**

- *Golden Guardian 2013*, May 15, 2013. Exercise-All of CalEPA's ERMaC BDOs participated in the annual State-wide CalOES exercise. The objectives of the exercise were to test emergency plans, policies and procedures for a catastrophic San Francisco Bay Area earthquake. CalEPA activated its secondary Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and sent representatives to the State Operations Center (SOC).
- *SeaRiver Maritime Oil Spill Exercise*, June 12-13, 2013. San Fransisco CA. SeaRiver Maritime – the ocean vessel transportation affiliate of ExxonMobil - conducted its annual command post exercise in San Francisco. CDFW OSPR identified ARB as an agency that would benefit from and/or provide a benefit to the exercise, and ARB OER staff attended as an agency representative.

- *The Great California ShakeOut Earthquake Drill*, October 17, 2013. CalEPA, Sacramento, CA. CalEPA's Boards, Departments and Offices participated in a state-wide earthquake drill.

### **C. Plans**

- *Air Monitoring For Accidental Refinery Releases: Assessment of Existing Capabilities and Potential Improvements Project Plan*, July 2013. ARB and the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) jointly issued the refinery air monitoring project plan.

## V. APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A: ACRONYM GUIDE

ARB	Air Resources Board
BDO	Board, Department, or Office
CalOES	California Office of Emergency Services
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CalRecycle	Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery
CDFA	California Department of Food and Agriculture
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CESA	California Emergency Services Act of 2006
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agencies
DFW	Department of Fish and Wildlife
DPR	Department of Pesticide Regulation
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EF-10	Hazardous Materials and Oil Emergency Function Annex 10
ERMaC	Emergency Response Management Committee
HazMat	Hazardous Materials
NIMS	National Incident Management System
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
OER	Office of Emergency Response
OSPR	Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response
RAPID	Railroad Accident Prevention and Immediate Deployment
SEMS	Standardized Emergency Management System
SEP	State Emergency Plan
State Water Board	State Water Resources Control Board
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

## **APPENDIX B: ERMaC Member and Supporting/Collaborating Agencies:**

### ***Member Agencies:***

#### **The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)**

CalEPA, the Office of the Secretary coordinates and administers CalEPA's Emergency Response Management Committee (ERMaC), which requires the coordination between CalEPA's six (6) Boards, Departments, and Offices (BDOs) emergency preparedness and response activities, the preparation of Agency and BDO emergency plans and coordination between other state, federal and local agencies to effectively mitigate, prepare for, and cohesively respond and rapidly recover from major disasters involving hazardous materials emergencies throughout State. The Office provides a Chairperson to ERMaC, and acts as the Lead Agency coordinator for oil and hazardous materials response and recovery actions under the Emergency Function 10 (EF-10) Hazardous Materials and Oil Emergencies Annex to the State Emergency Plan (SEP). The ERMaC was established to ensure that CalEPA's BDOs carry out emergency response planning, preparation, and incident response functions in a coordinated and effective manner.

#### **Air Resources Board (ARB)**

ARB's Office of Emergency Response (OER) is focused on protecting downwind communities in the event of an unanticipated airborne chemical release or other emergency that impacts air quality. OER provides technical assistance to federal, state, and local response partners including the collection and analysis of air monitoring and sampling data and providing meteorological and plume modeling forecasts. ARB is also a founding member of the California Air Response Planning Alliance (CARPA), an ad hoc governmental alliance with the mission of increasing California's capacity to respond effectively to toxic airborne release events.

#### **Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)**

The mission of DPR is to protect human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use, and by fostering reduced risk pest management. DPR is responsible, with the assistance of County Agricultural Commissioners, to investigate any complaint or incident concerning pesticide exposure and may take regulatory and enforcement action. DPR can also provide information regarding pesticide exposure assessment, exposure monitoring, evaluation, industrial hygiene and safety, and medical management and illness investigation; and sampling and analytical techniques for pesticides in different media (air, water, soil).

#### **Department of Resources Recycling & Recovery (CalRecycle)**

CalRecycle is responsible for the regulation of solid waste facilities in California to include landfills, closed disposal sites, transfer stations and other solid waste processing facilities. CalRecycle's regulations are enforced by Local Enforcement Agencies which are generally County & City Environmental Health Programs. CalRecycle provides technical expertise to LEAs and other government agencies on the management of disaster debris including characterization, reduction/recycling processes, transportation and disposal. In

some special cases (Governor's Office Direction), CalRecycle has managed debris removal operations (Angora, San Bruno) through its Solid Waste Clean-up Program contracts.

### **Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)**

The mission of DTSC's Emergency Response Program (ERP) is to provide statewide response to actual and potential releases of hazardous substances that pose an acute threat to public health and/or the environment, including clandestine drug labs. The ERP interacts with a number of other state, federal and local agencies in carrying out these emergency response activities. The Emergency Response Program responds statewide to calls requesting DTSC assistance for emergency removals from illegal/clandestine drug labs and other Hazardous Materials (HazMat) emergencies. Requests for assistance are handled by the ERP's Emergency Response Duty Officers.

### **Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)**

OEHHA provides toxicological expertise and public health recommendations during all phases of emergency management. OEHHA aids in emergency situations by providing emergency personnel with information on the health effects of chemical agents and characterizing the risk to the public and environment from chemical releases. OEHHA also identifies different exposure scenarios and potential health effects and provides information about exposure levels and assistance with decisions about sheltering-in-place, evacuation, and re-entry.

### **State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)**

The mission of the State Water Board is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. The State Water Board works in coordination with the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards to preserve, protect, enhance and restore water quality.

## ***ERMaC Supporting and Collaborating Agencies:***

### **California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)**

CalOES promotes collaboration between CalEPA and other State agencies by offering insight to State-wide emergency response and emergency management perspectives in relation to planning, operations, training, reporting and financial assistance.

### **California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA)**

CDFA emergency preparedness and response functions address health-related incidents potentially effecting the state's food supply and commercial agricultural interests, including incidents effecting dairy, livestock, poultry, feed and crop production. Agricultural emergencies involve disposal of livestock carcasses and food during natural disasters, livestock specific disasters, and other incidents involving disease or contamination. CDFA monitors these incidents, provides updated information to the involved agencies, and coordinates activities as necessary.

### **Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) Office of Oil Spill Prevention & Response (OSPR)**

Protecting fisheries and wildlife habitats, DFW wardens act as incident commanders and investigators on numerous oil spills and hazardous material incidents throughout California.

### **California Department of Public Health (CDPH)**

Representatives of the CDPH Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control (DEODC) Emergency Preparedness Team (EPT) and the CDPH Center for Environmental Health (CEH) Environmental Management Branch (EMB) serve as liaisons between CalEPA and CDPH by providing insight into public health perspectives in relationship to hazardous materials incidents.

### **U.S. EPA Region IX**

U.S. EPA Region IX's Emergency Response Program - with federal on scene coordinators (OSCs) based in San Francisco, Signal Hill and Carson City, NV - responds to environmental disasters, hazardous materials releases, time-critical removals, and inland oil spills that threaten human health or the environment. OSCs bring considerable federal authority and resources, as authorized under their governing statues (CERCLA, OPA, and CWA), to assist state and local agencies in emergency response, removal, and recovery incidents.



## **APPENDIX C: ERMaC HISTORY & AUTHORITIES**

### ***History***

In its relatively brief history CalEPA has risen to the challenge of major environmental emergency events. The beginnings of its interdisciplinary approach to emergency response can be traced back to the year of the Agency's formation in 1991. That year, the Cantara Loop, five miles north of Dunsmuir was the site of a tragic train derailment and toxic chemical spill into the upper Sacramento River. The public outcry for improved response from emergency responders to such incidents gave rise to the Railroad Accident Prevention and Immediate Deployment (RAPID) program. ERMaC owes its origin to RAPID. Though the RAPID program was eventually disbanded, ERMaC has evolved in its place as the interdisciplinary forum of choice for coordinating CalEPA's emergency response and recovery efforts.

In 1998, Gerald G. Johnston, CalEPA's then-Deputy Secretary for Law Enforcement and Counsel, called for Agency BDOs to designate representatives to the CalEPA Emergency Response Multi-Agency Coordinating (ERMaC) Group. His memorandum provided the initial mission statement and objectives for ERMaC. Subsequent to Governor Davis's issuance of Executive Order D-3-99, the ERMaC focused on preparation for the Y2K calendar change.

With the Westley Tire Fire disaster in 1999, Undersecretary Brian Haddix refocused the working group on traditional disaster response scenarios. This iteration of ERMaC was known as the Emergency Response Management Advisory Committee. Later, under the leadership of current Assistant Secretary Don Johnson, ERMaC focused on developing administrative orders and emergency plans for the BDOs with the assistance of CalOES. After several years of effective service and realizing a role that was far more than advisory, ERMaC was renamed as the Emergency Response Management Committee (ERMaC). It adopted its first operating charter in 2004.

### ***Statutory & Administrative Authorities***

The California Emergency Services Act of 2006 (CESA) enacted a major update and consolidation of the State's pre-existing emergency preparedness and response laws and executive orders. It required that all State agencies carry out activities assigned by the Governor and CalOES. State agencies must cooperate with one another, CalOES and other political subdivisions to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the effects of regional and statewide emergencies, as declared by the Governor. The statutory duties of ERMaC members under CESA are aligned with their routine functional responsibilities for environmental protection.

## **APPENDIX D: Administrative Orders**

The primary tools for defining CESA responsibilities are BDO-specific Administrative Orders. Administrative Orders refer to documents approved by CalEPA and CalOES describing the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of the respective agencies during State emergencies. Administrative Orders, prepared under the authority of the Governor's Executive Order W-9-91 and subsequent law, expand upon and consolidate emergency assignments of State agencies. CalEPA and its BDOs first developed collective Administrative Orders in 2002.

Each agency and BDO also develops an Emergency Response Plan that must be consistent with the provisions of the applicable Administrative Orders and the statutory authorities of the individual agency. CalOES also reviews and approves these plans, in accordance with California's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Response Framework, to accomplish assigned emergency management tasks. Agency plans may delegate authority and assign responsibilities to divisions, bureaus, field offices, or other elements of the agency. State agencies must ensure that all personnel assigned specific responsibilities in support of this plan are adequately trained and prepared to assume those responsibilities.

CalEPA and the BDOs chartered ERMaC in 2004 as the forum for developing and maintaining the CalEPA collective Administrative Orders and Emergency Response Plans. ERMaC's mission is to effectively manage the public health and environmental consequences of emergency events through coordinated, agency-wide preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. ERMaC is responsible for emergency planning and training, and coordinates all CalEPA entities responding to and recovering from emergencies.

In 2013, all of CalEPA's BDOs updated their Administrative Orders. These orders were submitted to CalOES in 2013.