

2014 California Environmental Protection Agency Emergency Response Management Committee 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 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 environmental health 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 preparedness, 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 planning-specific addendum to the California State Emergency Plan (SEP) that establishes CalEPA as the lead for the organization, scope, and coordination of 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 incident response and recovery actions performed by CalEPA BDOs in 2014.

Incident Name: Pfeiffer Wildfire (January 2014)

Monterey County Environmental Health requested assistance from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Emergency Response with the removal of household hazardous waste (HHW) and asbestos from 34 homes and 4 outbuildings destroyed as a result of the Pfeiffer Fire. These residences were located in the Pfeiffer Ridge area of Big Sur. DTSC staff, in conjunction with Monterey County Environmental Health, began the assessment and removal activities in early January and finished the response action in one week.



<u>Incident Name:</u> Long Beach Removal Action (January 2014)

In December 2013, DTSC was notified by Long Beach Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) staff of the discovery of numerous abandoned drums in the rear property of a single family home located at 5670 Walnut Avenue, Long Beach. The rear property line of the



home adjoins the property of an elementary school (to the south), and the west property line adjoins the property of a home used as a day care facility for children. DTSC Emergency Response responded jointly with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Emergency Response and agreed to immediately initiate steps necessary to undertake the removal of the waste and the safeguarding of the area. The property owner was cooperative but unable to undertake the removal action himself. Working under the authority of the Long Beach CUPA, DTSC and

U.S. EPA spent the next week sampling the drums to characterize the waste at the site. Using that data, DTSC then tasked their emergency removal zone contractor to initiate the removal action. It was conducted during a Sunday and Monday (state holiday) in January 2014 to minimize impacts to the adjacent school. The waste, which was mostly acids, bases, and organics, was consolidated into 250 gallon totes. Totaling over 1,400 gallons, the waste was handled, manifested, transported, and disposed using DTSC Emergency Response resources at a cost of \$51,756.

<u>Incident Name:</u> Oil Spill Response and Seafood Safety (January-December, 2014)

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard (OEHHA) and the partner agency California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) 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 or more barrels, DFW must close surrounding waterways to prevent all fish and shellfish access to such waterways, 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 conducted by OEHHA before the fishery can be re-opened.

In 2014, OEHHA was notified of 24 oil spills or potential spills. OEHHA worked with DFW to compile and evaluate information on these spills. No action was required for 19 spills reported to OEHHA in 2014. One reason for no action was if the spill did not exceed one barrel of product (oil). However, after July 1, 2014, the one barrel minimum limit for response was no longer in place. Therefore, no action may have been due to the spilled product being contained, or if the spill took place in areas where fishing or aquaculture does not take place.

For the remaining five spills, OEHHA found that there was not likely to be a public health threat. Thus, DFW did not close the fisheries in those cases.

Incident Name: Butte Creek Canyon Emergency Cleanup (February 2014)

The Butte Creek Canyon emergency response removal was conducted in support of Butte County Environmental Health. The site had been used as an illegal dump site for e-wastes illegally collected with some of them broken in order to salvage copper wiring. A wildfire had burned some of the e-waste which necessitated a multi-day assessment of the site. Butte County and DTSC developed a work plan after the scope of work was agreed to and work began on February 9, 2014. Over two weeks 160 cubic yards of e-wastes were collected and disposed of at authorized disposal locations. DTSC spent over \$54,000 to conduct the removal action with the qualification that the remaining wastes (ash, burned debris, etc.) would be overseen by the county.



In addition to the dump site cleanup above, DTSC's Emergency Response conducted 177 drug lab removals in 2014 costing an estimated \$544,492. There were also 63 off-highway removals totaling \$511,110.

Incident Name: Redding Ammunition House (February 2014)



The Shasta County Environmental Health Division and Sheriff's Office contacted the Air Resources Board (ARB) Office of Emergency Response (OER) on February 10, 2014 to request community air monitoring support for a prescribed explosives burn. The site had been examined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and was determined to contain approximately sixty pounds of unstable explosives and bombs. The decision had been made to incinerate this material in situ as the safest option.

ARB was asked to provide real-time community air monitoring measurements for smoke and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) around the incident site during and after the event. ARB deployed remote automated weather stations (RAWS) before and during the event to enhance event weather forecasting and modeling capability, optimizing the ability to plan for burn conditions and initiation. Forecasting and modeling were performed onsite by the California National Guard 95th Civil Support Team (CST).

ARB deployed monitoring teams to Redding on February 14, 2014, two days in advance of the planned burn. The teams set up three RAWS units to support plume modeling before the event, four Environmental Beta Attenuation (E-BAM) monitors for community PM_{2.5} monitoring (hourly readings of particulate matter measuring 2.5 nanometers or less), and two MicroDust nephelometers for real-time community PM_{2.5} monitoring. The burn was initiated February 16th at mid-day and continued as planned for approximately one hour without significant risk or hazard to public safety.



After destruction of the mobile home, Shasta County Environmental Management requested DTSC assistance with assessing and removing HHW and asbestos from the debris pile. DTSC also tasked their emergency response contractor to dispose of the debris at an appropriate landfill. DTSC is in the process pursuing cost recovery against the property owner for its costs.

Incident Name: Arvin Oil Well Production Gas Leak (March 2014)

After a buried pipe with an oil well production gas leak forced an evacuation of residents, Kern County Environmental Health requested assistance from OEHHA Emergency Response to interpret the air and soil vapor monitoring results for several homes in Arvin, CA. OEHHA also provided cleanup recommendations, toxicological information on chemicals of concern, and residential screening levels.

Incident Name: Orange County Mercury Poisoning (April 2014)

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control (DEODC) Emergency Preparedness Team (EPT) coordinated with DTSC to provide assistance to Orange County in responding to mercury poisoning in six households. The poisonings resulted from the use of imported mercury-containing skin creams that can also result in widespread contamination of the household and secondary contamination of family members. EPT and DTSC's experience working together on this incident and other skin cream related poisonings has increased the state's capacity for responding to the multi-pathway exposures that contaminated skin creams present.

Incident Name: Avian Influenza Virus in Stanislaus County (May 2014)

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) assisted the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) with an Avian Influenza virus outbreak (H5N8) on a poultry farm in Stanislaus County. The farm was required to dispose of over 100,000 birds and clean and disinfect the facility before returning to normal operations. Staff advised on products registered in California for disinfecting porous and non-porous surfaces.

<u>Incident Name:</u> The Happy Camp Complex and the King Fires (July-October, 2014)



ARB provided community air monitoring for two very large fires this season. The Happy Camp Complex Fire consisted of four smaller fires (Klamath, Beaver, Little Deer, and July) that eventually grew into the Happy Camp Complex under a single unified management command. The fires were located in the Klamath River Canyon and surrounding mountains in Siskiyou County. The fire began July 30, 2014 and eventually burned over 228,000 acres before its containment October 31, 2014. ARB deployed

eight PM_{2.5} E-BAM monitors, providing hourly data to health officials and smoke forecasters for the duration of the fire.

The King Fire began on September 13th on the Sierra Nevada slopes west of Lake Tahoe. Due to drought and hot, dry weather, this spectacular fire raged unabated to the Tahoe Basin crest, generating walls of fire and a massive smoke plume that spread as far as Boise, ID. ARB deployed E-BAM monitors in ten communities affected by the King Fire. It was contained October 9, 2014 after burning over 97,700 acres.



During the 2014 fire season, ARB provided real-time air monitoring data in 38 communities over a span of nearly six months, deploying smoke monitors to thirteen different wildfires listed in Table 1 below. ARB provided 188 days of actual monitoring and a total of 20,880 monitoring hours of data for all E-BAMS deployed. The data provided enabled critical public health decisions relating to air quality including evacuations, shelter-in-place orders, and the cancellation of a national sporting event near Lake Tahoe.

Table 1. Support and Air Contamination Modeling for 2014 Fire Season

Incident	Start Date	Control Date	Jurisdiction
Hunters Fire	May 26 th	June 2 nd	Mariposa County Air Pollution Control District (APCD)
El Portal Fire	July 26 th	August 4 th	Mariposa County APCD & National Park Service
Sand Fire	July 25 th	September 2 nd	El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD)
French Fire	July 28 th	August 18 th	Tuolumne County APCD & National Park Service
Eiler Fire	July 31 st	August 24 th	Shasta APCD,
Day Fire	July 30 th	August 13 th	Modoc APCD & Siskiyou APCD
Lodge Lightning Complex Fire	July 30 th	September 9 th	Mendocino AQMD & U.S Forest Service
Happy Camp / Klamath Complex	August 14 th	October 31 st	Siskiyou County APCD, North Coast Unified AQMD, U.S. Forest Service
Meadow Fire	August 15 th	September 29 th	National Park Service & Mariposa County APCD
King Fire	September 13 th	October 9 th	El Dorado County AQMD, Placer County AQMD, Northern Sierra AQMD, U.S. Forest Service, Lassen County APCD
Dog Rock Fire	October 7 th	October 12 th	Mariposa County APCD & National Park Service
Apple Gate Fire	October 8 th	October 16 th	Placer County APCD
Boles Fire	September 15 th	November 8 th	Siskiyou County APCD

<u>Incident Name:</u> Collinsville Wildfire Response (July 2014)

On July 29, 2014, DTSC staff met with representatives from Solano County to assess the volume and nature of HHW left at the nine residences which had burned in Collinsville in July 2014. Solano County had obtained signed consent forms from the property owners allowing DTSC and Solano County access to conduct the assessment and removal. DTSC and Solano County returned to begin the removal action on July 30, 2014. A staging area was established at 1065 Collinsville Road as it contained the most HHW and a large driveway that could be used for staging the waste. The removal action took several days to complete.



<u>Incident Name:</u> **South Napa Earthquake Response** (August-November, 2014)

On August 24, 2014, the South Napa Earthquake occurred at 3:20 a.m. with a magnitude of 6.0 on the moment magnitude scale, followed by numerous aftershocks. Several critical infrastructures in South Napa County were severely impacted, including the drinking water

systems. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW) staff became involved shortly after the event, meeting periodically with representatives from Napa County, City, associated local entities, water systems, and CalOES at their emergency operations centers (EOCs) to assess the situation and issue Boil Water Notices (BWNs) as needed. Other representatives of CalEPA's ERMaC also reported to CalOES's State Operations Center (SOC) to represent CalEPA and EF-10 on the response.



SWRCB DDW staff reviewed the progress as water system resources were deployed to repair and secure distribution and transmission system leaks and breaks. The California Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (CalWARN) was very instrumental in helping coordinate water system resources from neighboring water systems who stepped up to volunteer assistance. SWRCB DDW provided updates during the periodic meetings with the CalOES SOC and Regional EOC. SWRCB helped in identifying emergency funding assistance. Once distribution and transmission systems were secured and restored to operating order and satisfactory laboratory results were obtained, cancellation of BWNs was implemented.

Incident Name: Residential Chlorpyrifos Contamination (August 2014)

Yolo County Environmental Health requested assistance from OEHHA Emergency Response with the removal of chlorpyrifos from a residence in Yolo County. Twenty gallons of a pesticide product containing chlorpyrifos was sprayed by the owner under the crawlspace of the home. This product is not approved for residential use in California. Renters were living in the home at the time and were evacuated. OEHHA assisted Yolo County with toxicological information on the pesticide, recommendations for cleanup, and residential screening levels.

<u>Incident Name:</u> **Boles Fire in Weed** (September 2014)



On September 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency in Siskiyou County and in the City of Weed due to the Boles Fire and its subsequent effects. The Executive Order stated the disaster debris from the Boles Fire was threatening public health and safety and must be removed and disposed of quickly and properly to ensure that the affected areas can be safely reoccupied as soon as practicable. The Executive Order also directed the Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery (CalRecycle) to work with local and state officials to

develop and implement a comprehensive structural debris management plan to remove the

150 destroyed structures.

In September 2014, CalRecycle mobilized its incident management team and contractors. Working in conjunction with DTSC and the U.S. EPA Emergency Response Unit, CalRecycle removed over 22,034 tons of ash, debris, and soil and recycled 8,211 tons of concrete and 4 tons of metal from the City of Weed over the course of 45 days. The project was completed on December 5, 2014.

Incident Name: Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak (October-December, 2014)

The CDPH Environmental Management Branch (EMB) activated and coordinated the California Public Health and Medical Emergency Function Annex 8 (EF-8) with CalEPA as part of the response to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. The EMB Medical Waste Management Program collaborated with SWRCB and associated sanitation member organizations to provide a recommended approach for the discharge of EVD contaminated sewage from healthcare facilities to local sanitation districts. The Medical Waste Management Program created the "Ebola Virus Disease Medical Waste Management – Interim Guidelines" in collaboration with stakeholders, the healthcare community, and consistent with the federal Department of Transportation (DOT) guidelines. The Interim Guidelines assist healthcare facilities and services in the proper handling and management of EVD medical waste. The waste suspected of being contaminated with Ebola Virus is classified as a Category A infectious substance by the DOT Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR).

III. DRINKING WATER

Drought Update

It has been frequently mentioned in the news and media that California is experiencing a severe drought expected to continue through 2015. In January 2014, Governor Brown issued a state of emergency in regards to the drought in California and created a drought task force that is coordinated by CalOES. Significant measures continue to be implemented on numerous fronts to help meet and address concerns due to the drought. These measures include messaging and education for customers and stakeholders, funding assistance from SWRCB and partner agencies (federal and state), and efforts at communication, coordination, cooperation, and collaboration among partners. The SWRCB continues to meet with affected parties to discuss and determine what additional actions are necessary to increase efforts as California looks to a forecasted dry 2015.

Drinking Water Program Moves into CalEPA

Effective July 2014, the Drinking Water Program (DWP) of the Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management made a transition from CDPH to SWRCB as the Division of Drinking Water. This consolidation was implemented in efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness; most programs, processes, and field personnel remained the same. DWP staff conducts site visits, coordination, meetings, oversight, and technical support to resolve the issue at hand. The organizations continue to learn from each other and enhance the strengths and address any gaps.

EF-10/EF-8 Interaction

The California State Emergency Plan identifies the California Emergency Functions which consist of 18 disciplines deemed essential to the emergency management community in California. Led by a State agency, each Emergency Function is designed to bring together discipline-specific stakeholders to collaborate and function within the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. At the state level, the Emergency Functions consist of an alliance of state agencies, departments, and other stakeholders with similar discipline-specific responsibilities. With the transfer of the DWP from the CDPH to the SWRCB as DDW within CalEPA, it is more acutely necessary to have closer interactions between EF-10 and EF-8. DDW jurisdiction is over public water systems that, although is organizationally now with SWRCB and CalEPA, is still very much involved with public health. CalEPA and CDPH developed a Concept of Operations that identifies how the two agencies interact with respect to drinking water events. Entities from both EFs continue to meet and work on improving necessary processes, policies, and procedures.

IV. REFINERY TASK FORCE

The California Interagency Refinery Task Force (IRTF) was created in 2013 in response to the Chevron Richmond Fire. The Governor's Working Group on Refinery Safety issued its final report "Improving Public and Worker Safety at Oil Refineries" in February 2014 which contained a series of recommendations that has served as the basis of the IRTF's work. The emphasis has been on the three Work Groups: Safety and Prevention, Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Enforcement Coordination and on education and outreach.

The Safety and Prevention Work Group focused on strengthening and aligning the Process Safety Management (PSM) Program, worker safety (inside the fence), and community safety (outside the fence). The elements of the PSM/Risk Management Prevention Program (RMP) revisions included the implementation of inherently safer systems and hierarchy of hazard control, performance of periodic safety culture assessments, conduction of damage mechanism hazard reviews, conduction of a root cause analysis after significant accidents or releases, expansion where human factors are to be accounted, requirement of structured methods to ensure effectiveness of safeguards, description of Management Systems and Process Safety Performance Indicators, and management of organizational change.

The Emergency Preparedness and Response Work Group worked with CUPAs to create refinery-specific elements in Hazardous Material Area Plans. The improved Area Plans and the California Accidental Release Prevention Program (CalARP) Emergency Response Plans incorporated several factors such as the alignment of communications, Unified Command and Joint Operations/Information Centers, plans and protocols to protect persons outside of a refinery, drills and exercises, and preparation for airborne releases. The Work Group also focused on the assessment and monitoring of toxic air contaminants and the clarification of reporting thresholds during hazardous material release or threatened release.

The Enforcement Coordination Work Group was involved in facilitating the coordination of enforcement activities including cross-referrals, cross-training, and joint or coordinated inspections and auditing, as appropriate.

Education and outreach to communities focused on improving existing alert systems and creating a more comprehensive system to notify local residents. This involved increasing public involvement in emergency planning processes and air monitoring. Refinery Safety Forums were conducted in northern, central, and southern California for ongoing dialogue among industry, labor, community, environmental groups, and regulators. The focus was on joint learning, sharing of good process safety practices among California refineries, examination of performance metrics, root cause analysis of incidents, and other issues. The first Northern Safety Forum was held in Richmond in December of 2014. Topics of discussion included emergency warning and notification systems, air monitoring systems, and transportation of petroleum by rail and other means. The first Central Safety Forum was also in December of 2014 in Bakersfield. The focus was on real-time air monitoring, detection, notification, operating status, and public awareness, as well as the strengthening and alignment of Process Safety Management and Risk Management Prevention Programs.

V. TRAINING & EXERCISES

ERMaC representatives and their agency colleagues presented a number of emergency preparedness and response training session and participated in emergency exercises in 2014. These included the following:

A. Training

- February 5, 2014. Introduction to Toxicology and Risk Assessment, Presentation, Karen Riveles (OEHHA) and John Faust (OEHHA), Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPA) Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.
- March 19, 2014 Emergency Pharmaceutical Use for Pesticide Exposures/ChemPack Project, Presentation, Louis Lallo (CDPH-EPO), CalEPA, Sacramento, CA.
- April 2, 2014 Crude by Rail, Presentation, Julie Yamamoto (OSPR), CalEPA, Sacramento, CA.
- April 2, 2014 CalEOC Training, Presentation, Curry Mayer (CalOES), CalOES, Sacramento, CA.
- June 18, 2014 West Virginia Spill, Presentation, Bruce LaBelle (DTSC), CalEPA, Sacramento, CA.
- July 7, 2014 *Drinking Water Program*, Presentation, Larry Morgan (Waterboard), CalEPA, Sacramento, CA.
- September 3, 2014 It's an Emergency: What can CalEPA do for you? Continuing Challenge Hazmat Training, Presentation. Paul Penn (CalEPA), Karen Riveles (OEHHA), Michael Pixton (DTSC), Joe Crisologo (Waterboard), and Todd Thalhamer (CalRecycle), Woodlake-Red Lion Hotel. Sacramento, CA.
- September 17, 2014 *Cantara Loop*, Presentation, Michael DiBartolomeis (CDPH), CalEPA, Sacramento, CA.
- September 17, 2014 CASPER in Napa, Presentation, Lori Copan (CDPH), CalEPA Sacramento, CA.
- December 7, 2014 CalEOC Training, Presentation, Camille Valencia (CalOES), CalEPA, Sacramento, CA.

B. Exercises

- January 29, 2014 Bay Area Earthquake Plan, Exercise, Shelley DuTeaux (CDPH), CalEPA, Sacramento, CA.
- May 15, 2014 Golden Guardian 2014: Cascadia Subduction Plan, Exercise, Cascadia, CA.
- October 10, 2014 *The Great California ShakeOut Earthquake Drill*, Exercise, CalEPA, Sacramento, CA.

VI. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: ACRONYM GUIDE

APCD Air Pollution Control District

AQMD Air Quality Management District

ARB Air Resources Board

BDO Board, Department, or Office

BWN Boil Water Notice

CA California

CalARP California Accidental Release Prevention Program

CalEPA California Environmental Protection Agency

CalOES California Office of Emergency Services

CalRecycle Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery

CalWARN California Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network

CARPA California Air Response Planning Alliance

CDFA California Department of Food and Agriculture

CDPH California Department of Public Health

CEH Center for Environmental Health

CESA California Emergency Services Act of 2006

CST Civil Support Team

CUPA Certified Unified Program Agency

DDW Division of Drinking Water

DEODC Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control

DFW Department of Fish and Wildlife

DOT Department of Transportation

DPR Department of Pesticide Regulation

DTSC Department of Toxic Substances Control

DWP Drinking Water Program

E-BAM Environmental Beta Attenuation Monitor

EF-8 Public Health and Medical Emergency Function Annex 8

EF-10 Hazardous Materials and Oil Emergency Function Annex 10

EMB Environmental Management Branch

EOC Emergency Operations Center

EPT Emergency Preparedness Team

ERMaC Emergency Response Management Committee

ERP Emergency Response Program

EVD Ebola Virus Disease

FBI Federal Bureau of Investigations

HazMat Hazardous Materials

HHW Household Hazardous Waste

HMR Hazardous Materials Regulations

ID Idaho

IRTF Interagency Refinery Task Force

IX Nine

LEA Local Enforcement Agency

NIMS National Incident Management System

NV Nevada

OEHHA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

OER Office of Emergency Response

OSC On-Scene Coordinators

OSPR Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response

PM_{2.5} Particulate Matter 2.5 nanometers or smaller

PSM Process Safety Management

RAPID Railroad Accident Prevention and Immediate Deployment

RAWS Remote Automated Weather Stations

RMP Risk Management Prevention Program

SEMS Standardized Emergency Management System

SEP State Emergency Plan

SOC State Operations Center

SWRCB State Water Resources Control Board

U.S. EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

VOC Volatile Organic Compound

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 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 (LEAs) 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 as well as cleanup and clearance levels.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

The mission of SWRCB 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 diary, 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.

California 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 relative to oil and/or 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 statutes, 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 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 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. ERMaC is currently run by Assistant Secretary Jim Bohon, and Emergency Management & Refinery Safety Program Manager Paul Penn.

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 Standardized Emergency Management System 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.