

Cal/EPA Screening Tool Working Group

September 12, 2012

Secretary Matthew Rodriguez

Secretary for Environmental Protection, Cal/EPA

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Cal/EPA California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool

Dear Secretary Rodriguez,

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) recently released a draft of their California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool. Unfortunately, local elected officials were not made aware of the activities related to this effort in a timely manner. Since this tool will be used to score our cities' level of "environmental vulnerability" and as such threatens to **redline** our communities, which could have pernicious and damaging effects on our local economies, I request additional time in order to review and comment on the proposal.

Local mayors, council members, and county supervisors must be included on any state-level discussion of how our local land use authority and local business permitting process will be affected if subjected to a scoring or ranking system devised by your agency.

I am concerned about the effect our impact score could have on our local businesses. I agree with Governor Brown and want to attract new investment to California, not scare it away by creating ever increasing regulatory hurdles. If businesses and other vital community investors view our community as "environmentally burdened," it could cause our property values to drop and push key investors out of our communities, making it difficult to stimulate economic growth. By assigning communities cumulative impact scores, the tool can also be used to compare areas of the state against others, creating a relative ranking of the most environmentally depressed regions in the state, and thus driving business out of one region and into another.

I support targeted investment to improve communities throughout the state and want to have a voice in the process to ensure we are encouraging that investment and not creating additional barriers.

As a local elected official, I urge the Cal/EPA to:

- **Grant additional time for comment on the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool until cities and local governments have the opportunity to participate and the full screening tool is made available for evaluation. We are elected to protect our communities, and we must be given the chance to do so.**
- **Hold specific stakeholder meetings with local elected representatives in regions throughout the state where the Cal/EPA has identified that discussions should take place. Cal/EPA must bring local elected voices to this extremely important discussion.**

Sincerely,

- **Bart Patel, Council Member**
City of El Monte
- **Brent Tercero, Council Member**
City of Pico Rivera
- **Brian Sturtevant, Council Member**
City of Atascadero
- **Chuck Page, Mayor**
City of Saratoga
- **Cliff Lentz, Mayor**
City of Brisbane
- **Daniel Parra, Mayor Pro Tem**
City of Fowler
- **Daniel Romero, Council Member**
City of Calexico
- **David King, Mayor Pro Tem**
City of Buellton
- **David Pendergrass, Mayor**
City of Sand City
- **Don Biddle, Council Member**
City of Dublin
- **Fred Gaines, Council Member**
City of Calabasas
- **Glen Becerra, Council Member**
City of Simi Valley
- **Glenn Duncan, Council Member**
City of Chino
- **Jack Gingles, Mayor**
City of Calistoga
- **James Bozajian, Council Member**
City of Calabasas
- **Jesse Molina, Council Member**
City of Moreno Valley
- **Jim Clarke, Council Member**
City of Culver City
- **Joe Pirzynski, Council Member**
City of Los Gatos
- **Joel Price, Council Member**
City of Thousand Oaks
- **John Dutrey, Council Member**
City of Montclair
- **John Shoals, Mayor**
City of Grover Beach
- **Juliana Inman, Council Member**
City of Napa
- **Kay Hosmer, Council Member**
City of Colusa
- **Lance Madsen, Council Member**
City of Eureka
- **Liz Morris, Council Member**
City of Delano
- **Lorie Bragg, Council Member**
City of Imperial Beach

- **Luis Aguinaga, Mayor**
City of South El Monte
- **Lynn Schultz, Council Member**
City of Gustine
- **Marcelo Co, Council Member**
City of Moreno Valley
- **Marlen Garcia, Council Member**
City of Baldwin Park
- **Mary Ann Kline-Carbone, Vice Mayor**
Sand City
- **Marshall Holloway, Council Member**
City of Ridgecrest
- **Michael Kotowski, Mayor**
City of Campbell
- **Michael Ponce, Mayor Pro Tem**
City of Avalon
- **Mike Gipson, Council Member**
City of Carson
- **Mike Kasperzak, Mayor**
City of Mountain View
- **Nancy Johnson, Council Member**
Morro Bay
- **Pamela Morgan, Council Member**
City of Shasta Lake
- **Pedro Mota, Council Member**
City of Gridley
- **Pete McCracken, Vice Mayor**
City of Porterville
- **Polly Low, Mayor Pro Tem**
City of Rosemead
- **Robert McGarvey, Council Member**
City of Rancho Cordova
- **Robert Pullen, Council Member**
City of Lawndale
- **Sam Patel, Council Member**
City of Blythe
- **Sandra Armenta, Mayor**
City of Rosemead
- **Spencer Short, Mayor**
City of Lincoln
- **Stephany Aguilar, Council Member**
City of Scotts Valley
- **Steve Culleton, Mayor**
City of Paradise
- **Teresa Barth, Council Member**
City of Encinitas
- **Tim Walker, Mayor Pro Tem**
City of Wildomar
- **Tony Cartagena, Council Member**
City of Walnut

CC: *Martha Guzman-Aceves, Governor's Office, Deputy Legislative Secretary*

Arsenio Mataka, Cal/EPA, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs

Miriam Ingenito, Cal/EPA, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Policy and Community Programs

George Alexeeff, PhD, OEHHA, Director

Dr. John Faust, OEHHA, Staff Toxicologist