CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1001 I STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • P.O. BOX 2815, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812-2815
(916) 323-2514 • (916) 324-0908 FAX • WWW.CALEPA.CA.GOV

MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

TO: George V. Alexeeff, Ph.D., D.A.B.T.
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

FROM: Matthew Rodriquez
Secretary for Environmental Protection
California Environmental Protection Agency

DATE: January 10, 2012

SUBJECT: CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The California Environmental Protection Agency's (Cal/EPA) Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is hereby designated as the lead entity within the Agency to coordinate and manage the Children's Environmental Health Program, which was established within Cal/EPA by SB 25 (Escutia, Chapter 731, Statutes of 1999) and codified in Health and Safety Code Sections 900 and 901 attached. I have executed this delegation of authority as part of my initiative to streamline the functions of the Agency.

OEHHA's role as lead entity for the Children's Environmental Health Program will leverage its existing expertise and resources that are already focused on children's health issues. These include mandates to ensure that air standards, toxic air contaminant reference levels, public health goals for drinking water, and school site assessment values are protective of infants and children. OEHHA manages and updates the Proposition 65 list of substances that cause developmental and reproductive toxicity; establishes guidelines to assess chemical risks to children; and develops cumulative impact assessment guidelines for the Agency.

OEHHA also has the opportunity to expand the program's role by providing leadership on children's health issues, performing outreach to the public health community and the general public, and improving coordination with other entities. In operating the program, OEHHA shall consider the unique health needs of all children, including particularly vulnerable populations, when creating and implementing environmental health standards.

Under OEHHA's guidance, the program will serve as a resource to Cal/EPA on children's health and exposure to environmental chemicals. Program activities will include conducting symposia and periodically preparing reports on children's health and environmental chemical issues. OEHHA will also supervise and train environmental medicine and pediatric residents to address environmental chemical issues.

I look forward to working closely with OEHHA to ensure the success of this program.

1 Attachment

Health and Safety Code Sections 900-901

900. There is hereby created the Children's Environmental Health Center within the Environmental Protection Agency. The primary purposes of the center shall include all of the following:

(a) To serve as the chief advisor to the Secretary for Environmental Protection and to the Governor on matters within the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to environmental health and environmental protection as each of those matters relates to children.

(b) To assist the boards, departments, and offices within the Environmental Protection Agency to assess the effectiveness of statutes, regulations, and programs designed to protect children from environmental hazards.

(c) To coordinate within the Environmental Protection Agency and with other state agencies, regulatory efforts, research and data collection, and other programs and services that impact the environmental health of children, and coordinate with appropriate federal agencies conducting related regulatory efforts and research and data collection.

(d) In consultation with the State Air Resources Board and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the Government Code, to report to the Legislature and the Governor no later than December 31, 2001, on the progress of the state board and the office toward implementing the act that added this part during the 1999-2000 Regular Session and to make recommendations for any statutory or regulatory changes that may be necessary to carry out the intent of that act to protect the public health, including infants and children, from air pollutants and toxic air contaminants.

901. (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Center" means the Children's Environmental Health Center established pursuant to Section 900.

(2) "Office" means the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

(b) On or before June 30, 2001, the office shall review cancer risk assessment guidelines for use by the office and the other entities within the California Environmental Protection Agency to establish cancer potency values or numerical health guidance values that adequately address carcinogenic exposures to the fetus, infants, and children.

(c) The review required by subdivision (b) shall include a review of existing state and federal cancer risk guidelines, as well as new information on carcinogenesis, and shall consider the extent to which those guidelines address risks from exposures occurring early in life.

(d) The review required by subdivision (b) shall also include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) The development of criteria for identifying carcinogens likely to have a greater impact if exposures occur early in life.

(2) The assessment of methodologies used in existing guidelines to address early-in-life exposures.

(3) The construction of a database of animal studies to evaluate increases in risks from short-term early-in-life exposures.

(e) On or before June 30, 2004, the office shall finalize and publish children's cancer guidelines that shall be protective of children's health. These guidelines shall be revised and updated as needed by the office.

(f) (1) On or before December 31, 2002, the office shall publish a guidance document, for use by the Department of Toxic Substances Control and other state and local environmental and public health agencies, to assess exposures and health risks at existing and proposed schoolsites. The guidance document shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(A) Appropriate child-specific routes of exposure unique to the school environment, in addition to those in existing exposure assessment models.

(B) Appropriate available child-specific numerical health effects guidance values, and plans for the development of additional child-specific numerical health effects guidance values.

(C) The identification of uncertainties in the risk assessment guidance, and those actions that should be taken to address those uncertainties.

(2) The office shall consult with the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the State Department of Education in the preparation of the guidance document required by paragraph (1) to ensure that it provides the information necessary for these two agencies to meet the requirements of Sections 17210.1 and 17213.1 of the Education Code.

(g) On or before January 1, 2002, the office, in consultation with the appropriate entities within the California Environmental Protection Agency, shall identify those chemical contaminants commonly found at schoolsites and determined by the office to be of greatest concern based on criteria that identify child-specific exposures and child-specific physiological sensitivities. On or before December 31, 2002, and annually thereafter, the office shall publish and make available to the public and to other state and local environmental and public health agencies and school districts, numerical health guidance values for five of those chemical contaminants identified pursuant to this subdivision until the contaminants identified have been exhausted.

(h) On and after January 1, 2002, and biennially thereafter, the

center shall report to the Legislature and the Governor on the implementation of this section as part of the report required by subdivision (d) of Section 900. The report shall include, but not be limited to, information on revisions or modifications made by the office and other entities within the California Environmental Protection Agency to cancer potency values and other numerical health guidance values in order to be protective of children's health. The report shall also describe the use of the revised health guidance values in the programs and activities of the office and the other boards and departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency.

(i) Nothing in this section relieves any entity within the California Environmental Protection Agency of complying with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, to the extent that chapter is applicable to the entity on or before July 19, 2000, or January 1, 1998.