



New Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs

September 2016

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is pleased to announce the creation of a new program focused on promoting principles of environmental justice throughout DTSC’s work, and engaging tribal governments and communities. The Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs (EJ and Tribal Affairs) is a diverse and growing team, led by assistant director Ana Mascareñas, who was appointed in May 2015. The team has been working on a variety of projects, which include DTSC’s first Draft Tribal Consultation Policy; the Workforce for Environmental Restoration in Communities (WERC) program; and a landmark civil rights agreement to benefit environmental justice communities and resolve a complaint on a Kettleman Hills hazardous waste landfill permitting decision. Read more about the team and projects in this newsletter and at DTSC’s website: www.dtsc.ca.gov/EJ-Tribal.



DTSC’s Cesar Campos (Public Participation, Chatsworth) and Richard Hume (Cleanup, Cal Center) sign up community residents for lead soil sampling in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles as part of the Exide Cleanup.

DTSC is committed to:

Environmental Justice through the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Tribal Affairs through respectful coordination and consultation between California Indian Tribes, communities, and citizens on projects, policies, and regulations with respect to tribal cultural resources, heritage and sovereignty.

Contents

Pg. 2
Draft Tribal Consultation Policy and Executive Tribal Liaison

Landmark Agreement Reached to Benefit Environmental Justice Communities and Resolve a Civil Rights Complaint

Pg. 3
Workforce for Environmental Restoration in Communities (WERC)

Pg. 4
U.S. EPA Grant for Lead-Based Paint Abatement in Exide Cleanup

Haz-Waste Reduction Initiative: Protecting Families and Communities

Pg. 5
Cal EPA Environmental Justice Program Update, 2013-2015

General Contacts and Resources

Pg. 6
Meet the Staff

Pg. 10
Staff Contacts



Draft Tribal Consultation Policy and Executive Tribal Liaison



K'iwinya'n-ya:n singers (Hupa, Yurok, and Karuk) –Native American Day 2015 at the State Capitol.

There are 109 federally-recognized tribes and approximately 80 non-federally recognized tribes in California. Each tribe is unique in government structure, culture, and background. While federally-recognized tribes are considered sovereign nations, all tribal communities deserve respect and cultural sensitivity from representatives of DTSC.

Director Lee has designated the Assistant Director for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs as the DTSC Tribal Liaison (Liaison). The EJ and Tribal Affairs team is leading the development of a department-wide Tribal Consultation Policy and protocol document for guidance. This policy will promote tribal cultural sensitivity, trust, and consultation with tribal communities on matters that affect them within DTSC. The Liaison will designate staff to assist with sensitive and confidential matters related to tribes to further support and respect tribal sovereignty, heritage, and dignity.

Landmark Agreement Reached to Benefit Environmental Justice Communities and Resolve a Civil Rights Complaint

On August 16, 2016, DTSC and CalEPA reached a historic [agreement](#) with Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice (Greenaction) and El Pueblo/People for Clean Air & Water of Kettleman City (El Pueblo) to resolve Greenaction and El Pueblo's civil rights complaint over DTSC's 2014 decision to approve a permit to expand the Kettleman Hills hazardous waste landfill. The agreement is the first voluntary resolution jointly developed by state agencies and community groups under Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in any programs or activities receiving federal funding.



Healthy Kings County Initiative, March 2016.

The agreement aims to improve public health and environmental quality for people in Kettleman City and enhances the transparency and rigor of DTSC's compliance with civil rights laws. Additionally, the agreement describes factors related to environmental justice that DTSC will consider when reviewing Chemical Waste Management Inc.'s pending application to renew its operating permit for the Kettleman Hills landfill and any expansion application if submitted within 3 years. DTSC has agreed to help facilitate Greenaction and El Pueblo's efforts to conduct a community-based public health assessment, improve third-party and community-based environmental monitoring, and establish an asthma intervention program for residents of Kettleman City. The Department will also adopt policies to create a framework for more fully incorporating civil rights considerations, meaningful public participation and language access in its decision-making process.

"This is an important step towards better partnership with environmental justice communities across the state."
–Barbara A. Lee, DTSC Director



Workforce for Environmental Restoration in Communities (WERC)

DTSC's [Workforce for Environmental Restoration in Communities \(WERC\) Program](#) is supporting local residents to gain skills – such as soil sampling and remediation – that could help them get jobs in environmental-related industries. The program was created to train residents who live in the communities impacted by the former Exide Technologies facility in Vernon.

“We are proud to be developing this program as part of Governor Brown’s \$176.6 million plan to sample and clean up the communities surrounding the former Exide facility,” said DTSC Director Barbara A. Lee. “The WERC program is training students to help revitalize communities impacted by multiple sources of pollution, and is part of DTSC’s commitment to advancing environmental justice.”



Community residents receive training to become CDPH-certified Lead Sampling Technicians.



August 15, 2016, graduation ceremony at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC). Left to right: Roger Kintz, DTSC Environmental Justice Coordinator and WERC Program Manager; Carlos Jimenez, WERC Graduate; Ana Mascareñas, DTSC Assistant Director for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs; Barbara A. Lee, DTSC Director.

graduates are also certified in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (HAZWOPER), and received health and safety training through this program. DTSC is working with lead sampling contractors, Arcadis Environmental and EFI Global, Inc., who are hiring for field assessment work.

DTSC is collaborating with workforce development experts at the Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC) and others to enroll students in college and to continue developing the program with community partners. As part of the program, at least 40 percent of the total hours worked on the Exide project will be performed by residents who live in the surrounding area.

The first WERC [graduation ceremony](#) was held at LATTC in the City of Los Angeles on August 15, 2016, where the thirty-one graduates were presented with their certificates. The student cohort received training from the UCLA Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program (UCLA-LOSH), the National Association of Training and Environmental Consulting International, Inc. (NATEC), ThermoFisher Scientific, and Employment Readiness Training.

Graduates are certified as Lead Sampling Technicians by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to safely perform lead sampling in their communities. The



U.S. EPA Grant for Lead-Based Paint Abatement in Exide Cleanup

DTSC was recently awarded a Multipurpose Grant from the U.S. EPA to address lead-based paint (LBP) abatement in coordination with the lead-contaminated soil cleanup in communities impacted by the former Exide Technologies facility in Vernon. The grant provides funding of \$130,782 between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2018. A California Department of Public Health (CDPH) study found blood lead levels in children near the former Exide Technologies battery recycling facility in Vernon are higher than those who live farther from the facility, but that the age of housing in the area appears to play a significant role. Many of the homes in this area were built prior to 1950 and are likely to contain lead-based paint. This grant will contribute to a joint effort between DTSC's soil remediation activities and the Department of Community Services Development's (CSD) Lead Hazard Control Program to more comprehensively address lead contamination.



The Multipurpose Grant augments the Department's efforts to provide timely cleanup of the area surrounding Exide for the health and well-being of the area's impacted communities.

Haz-Waste Reduction Initiative: Protecting Families and Communities

Hazardous waste has a long history of disproportionately impacting environmental justice communities. The Community Protection and Hazardous Waste Reduction Initiative ([Haz-Waste Reduction Initiative](#)) is a project designed to evaluate methods that have the potential to significantly reduce the generation and disposal of hazardous wastes that are managed in communities disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution. A key element of the Haz-Waste Reduction Initiative is the formation of an Advisory Committee (Committee) representing diverse stakeholder groups. DTSC will be moving forward with four pilot project proposals (proposals) focusing on the following topics: lead-acid batteries, contaminated soil, petroleum refineries, and organic solvent waste.



DTSC and members of the Advisory Committee visit General Atomics, Super Critical Water Oxidation (iSCWO) system in San Diego, May 2016.

In collaboration with the Committee, DTSC will begin researching information regarding the identified category and waste reduction processes, best management practices, and innovative technologies or approaches.

DTSC will be facilitating a community meeting in the fall of 2016 for DTSC to report the status of the projects and receive input from members of the public. The Haz-Waste Reduction Initiative is a major step in protecting California's families and communities.



CalEPA Environmental Justice Program Update 2013-2015



This report details the progress that the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and its boards, departments, and offices (BDOs) have made from summer 2013 to the end of 2015. The first section of this report provides updates on significant environmental justice legislation passed in California since 2013.

The second section of the report provides updates on CalEnviroScreen, the Environmental Justice Compliance and Enforcement Working Group, and the Environmental Justice Small Grant Program. The third section describes the BDOs' community partnership with the Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhood (IVAN) tool. Finally, the fourth section provides an account of the environmental justice accomplishments and goals of the Agency's BDOs.

The report highlights DTSC on pages 44-52. Read the full report [here](#).

General Contacts and Resources

General questions to EJ and Tribal Affairs:

EJTribal@dtsc.ca.gov

or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov/EJ-Tribal

Questions relating to tribal issues and requests for project specific tribal consultations (AB 52) contact:

TribalAffairs@dtsc.ca.gov

Questions relating to Supplemental Enforcement Projects:

SEP-comment@dtsc.ca.gov

U.S. EPA EJ - www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice

U.S. EPA Tribal - www.epa.gov/tribal

California EPA EJ - www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/

California Tribal Resources

www.calepa.ca.gov/Tribal/Resources.htm



IVAN Networks presentation, EJ Coalition for Clean Water EJ Tour, March 2016.



Meet the Staff: Office of EJ and Tribal Affairs

Headquarters, Sacramento



Ana Mascareñas, MPH

Assistant Director for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs

Prior to joining DTSC, Ana was a membership coordinator, then policy and communications director at Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles, where she promoted environmental health protections and fought for social and environmental justice in local, state, and national policy efforts. From 2006-2008, Ana served in the Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. offices of Congressman Xavier Becerra, directly assisting constituents in their claims and applications with federal agencies.

Ana graduated from Brown University with bachelor degrees in Human Biology and Sociology, and received a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health Sciences from the Fielding School of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles. She was born in northern California, raised in New Mexico, and proudly comes from a three-generation California farmworker family.

In her free time, Ana enjoys running, photography, and playing guitar.



Sandy Karinen, Senior Environmental Scientist

Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Coordinator

Sandy is involved in both Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs issues as well as coordinating with various state and local agencies to address lead-based paint abatement in the neighborhoods surrounding Exide. Sandy graduated from the University of California at Davis majoring in Geography and Environmental Planning and Management. Sandy began her state service with the State Water Resources Control Board in the Division of Planning and Research followed by assignments in the Executive Office, Program Analysis Office and Division of Water Quality before transferring to DTSC.

While at DTSC, Sandy has experience in the Hazardous Waste Management Program, Technical Assistance, and Site Mitigation Programs. Prior to transferring to the EJ and Tribal Affairs Office, Sandy was a Senior Environmental Scientist reporting to the Deputy Director for the Hazardous Waste Management Program.

Away from work, Sandy has been very involved in sports, especially youth soccer. Sandy also enjoys reading, being outdoors, camping, traveling, and spending time with her granddaughter.



Brittani R. Orona, MA
Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Specialist

Brittani currently supports EJ and Tribal Affairs by serving as lead on the implementation of the Department's Tribal Consultation Policy. Brittani also helps support the development of AB 52 implementation and supports the Permitting Enhancement Work Plan Team.

Brittani is an enrolled member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe. She graduated with her B.A in History from Humboldt State University, her M.A. in Public History from CSU Sacramento, and is currently a doctoral student at UC Davis in Native American Studies with a focus on Environmental Justice and Community Development. Her research focuses on indigenous memory and meaning in land use and environmental justice initiatives in California. She has also worked at Government Operations Agency, California State Indian Museum, the California State Office of Historic Preservation, California State Archives, and the Maidu Museum and Historic Site.

In her spare time, Brittani enjoys thrift store shopping, reading classic literature and history, weekend trips to new (and old) places, and walking around Sacramento.



Abraham Zhan, Environmental Scientist
Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Specialist

Abraham is the EJ and Tribal Affairs lead for DTSC's [Supplemental Environmental Project \(SEP\) Policy](#) implementation team. He also coordinates with all DTSC EJ and IVAN Network meetings staff.

Abraham graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a B.A. degree in Environmental Earth Science. He has experience in community service organizations for over 12 years spanning national and international subjects, been a founder and advisor for environmental awareness organizations at public local high schools in both Imperial County and Sacramento County, and is involved with leadership development in youth (PreK-12). Abraham is planning to pursue a Masters in Environmental Engineering and Public Health.



Mariah Hernandez, Project Assistant

Mariah supports various EJ and Tribal Affairs projects, including research on how to improve mitigation measures at facilities. Mariah is currently attending California State University, Sacramento and is working to obtain a B.S in Biological Sciences. Mariah has worked as a student assistant with the State of California for over a year, starting in the Office of Environmental Information Management. She joined the Office of EJ and Tribal Affairs in May 2016. In her spare time, Mariah enjoys going to concerts, listening to music and singing, playing sports, and spending time with friends and family.



Lazaro Cardenas
Outreach Coordinator, Haz-Waste Reduction Initiative

Lazaro provides public outreach and communications support for the [Community Protection and Hazardous Waste Reduction \(Haz-Waste Reduction\) Initiative](#). Additionally, he serves as the primary liaison between DTSC and the Initiative Advisory Committee, a diverse stakeholder group, also acting as the logistical lead for all meetings between DTSC, the Committee, and the public.

Lazaro graduated from the University of California, Riverside with degrees in Psychology and Ethnic Studies. There he worked as a student advocate with the University of California Student Association and the United Students Against Sweatshops, Local 19. Lazaro has also served as an organizing intern for the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770 in Los Angeles in the ongoing fight for a fair contract for grocery workers. Prior to joining the Office of EJ and Tribal Affairs, Lazaro served as a Jesse M. Unruh Fellow and Legislative Aide for a member of the California State Assembly where he staffed diverse policy issues such as labor, education, health care, economic development, and public safety.

In his spare time, Lazaro enjoys watching independent and foreign films, hiking and camping, and attending live concerts.

Regional Office, Chatsworth



Hernan Gallo-Cornejo, Project Assistant

Hernan assists in multiple projects related to Exide, including the Workforce for Environmental Restoration in Communities (WERC) program, lead-based paint abatement, and tenant rights. Hernan is currently finishing a BA in Environmental Policy and French at Pitzer College in Claremont, CA. He has taught ESL courses to day laborers on environmental protection in the workplace, organized toxic tours, and led a series of workshops on water and air quality for a community garden in Southern California.

Hernan serves as a fellow for the Robert Redford Conservancy at Pitzer, where he strives to include the lived experiences of communities of color and low-income communities in the establishment of this environmental institution.

In his spare time, Hernan enjoys spending time in coffee shops, watching films, and attending guest speaker events.



**Roger Kintz, Senior Environmental Scientist
Environmental Justice Coordinator**

Roger is DTSC's Environmental Justice Coordinator and [Workforce for Environmental Restoration in Communities \(WERC\) Program](#) Manager. Roger provides statewide support to community task forces, IVAN's, and disadvantaged communities. Roger has expertise in workforce development, IVAN's, Supplemental Environmental Projects, DTSC's Enforcement Program, CalEPA and DTSC EJ Initiatives, and CalEnviroScreen.

Roger has a B.S. in Environmental and Occupational Health, and a M.S. in Environmental Management and Health Sciences from California State University Northridge. After graduating from College, Roger worked for the Los Angeles County Fire Department- CUPA, and the City of Glendale CUPA Program.

After joining DTSC in 2001, Roger worked for the Enforcement Program performing investigations of community complaints. He has served as the former EJ Initiative manager for Enforcement and Emergency Response Division since 2012, and as the EERD Environmental Program Manager (Branch Chief) for the Cypress and San Diego Offices.

In his free time, Roger enjoys kundalini yoga, scuba diving, whitewater rafting, international travel, food, music, and art, and playing guitar.



**Stephanie Lewis, Environmental Scientist
EJ and Tribal Affairs Specialist**

Stephanie will assist with the implementation and compliance of AB 52 requirements and provide outreach to the various environmental justice community organizations. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from California State University, Los Angeles. Upon graduation, she worked as an environmental chemist utilizing instrumentation analyzing drinking water, wastewater, soil and sludge samples for a private environmental laboratory.

Stephanie has been employed by DTSC since 2005 working with the Schools program that specialized in cleanups for new school construction efforts. Stephanie comes to the Office of EJ and Tribal Affairs team from the DTSC Cleanup Program where she served as a Project Manager. Stephanie is currently a director with the California Association of Professional Scientists, an organization that represents approximately 2,500 scientists working for the State of California.

An avid sports enthusiast, Stephanie loves all sports, preferably basketball. While she prefers to play, she will watch most sporting events on television or attend live games. Always the teacher, Stephanie has coached both boys and girls basketball and track and field teams for six years and two years; respectively, at the YMCA and St. Anthony Elementary School. When away from work, Stephanie loves to read. She prefers to settle in with a biography or sports history novel.



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