



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

MEDIA ADVISORY

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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For Immediate Release
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Contact: Jeanne Garcia
818.551.2176
Ron Baker
916.324.3142

Statewide Exchange Program Kicks Off in San Diego

SAN DIEGO -- Residents who frequent community health clinics located in the San Diego areas of Escondido, Encinitas, National City and La Mesa will have the opportunity to exchange their mercury-containing thermometers for safe, non-mercury thermometers under a project sponsored by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles (PSR-LA). The project will also provide participating health clinics with non-mercury blood pressure gauges in exchange for their existing mercury-containing devices.

The “Partnerships for Mercury Pollution Prevention Project” kick off event will be held at Operation Samahan Community Clinic in National City on Tuesday, June 17, 2003. The project will be implemented statewide in the coming months.

The thermometer and blood pressure exchange project is a unique collaboration between DTSC, U.S. EPA, PSR-LA and community clinics serving low income clients. The exchange is funded by DTSC and U.S. EPA and helps prevent mercury contamination in households, community clinics and the environment.

The kick off event will be held:

Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2003
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Operation Samahan Community Clinic
2743 Highland Avenue
National City, CA

The following dignitaries will be attending the event: Ed Lowry, Director of the Department of Toxic Substances Control; Dave Fege with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Gary Erbeck, Director of the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health, Johanna Congleton with Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles; Dr. Christine Wood; and Mohammad Rahman with Operation Samahan.

Directions to event: From the North: Take I-5 South, continue on CA-54 East, take the 4th Ave. /Highland Ave exit, turn left on Highland Ave.

From the South: Take I5 North, continue on CA-54 East, take the 4th Ave. /Highland Ave. exit, turn left on Highland Ave.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control’s mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

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“The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.”