



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

T - 48 - 05
September 22, 2005
For Immediate Release

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DTSC Acknowledges Successful Pollution Prevention in Sacramento

SACRAMENTO- - As part of Pollution Prevention Week, (September 19-23) Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Acting Director Leonard Robinson today commended the efforts of the Sacramento Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC) for working with local business who, during the past year, incorporated pollution prevention policies and techniques into their workplace. Pollution Prevention, also known as “source reduction,” consists of actions taken to reduce the creation of pollution—thereby reducing waste and releases of pollution to the environment. Pollution Prevention can help businesses reduce operating costs by improving the efficiency of their operations and reducing waste management and pollution control costs.

Robinson commended BERC for its role with businesses that implement pollution prevention programs and reduce the production of hazardous waste, air emissions, and releases to the state’s waterways. “Encouraging and assisting business to adopt pollution prevention is good for the environment, good for worker safety, and is good for business. Your efforts demonstrate that reducing pollution at the source protects the environment and benefits the bottom line. It’s appropriate that your accomplishments are recognized during this week,” said Robinson.

Pollution Prevention Week originated in California in 1993, and was a product of a coalition of local government agencies in partnership with the DTSC. The week provides an opportunity for government, industry, and environmental groups to focus on the economic and environmental benefits associated with pollution prevention policies and programs. This year, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger authored a proclamation which read in part: “...Pollution Prevention Week is an opportunity for the government to work together with economic and community groups, as well as the citizenry at large to maintain and improve the natural wonders and beautiful landmarks in our Golden State.”

Pollution Prevention Week is now a national event used to promote achievable, measurable reductions in the pollution generation and increase distribution of pollution prevention information. The focus is on practical and economical measures that may be implemented as source reduction for small to large businesses as well as public agencies.

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Pollution prevention resources are available through DTSC and many local agencies and provide voluntary, pollution prevention practices in areas such as:

- Vehicle service and repair
- Jewelry manufacturing
- Mercury reduction in hospitals
- Auto body & paint (soon to be released)
- Lithography & Screen Printing
- Laminated surface manufacturing
- Safe janitorial products; and,
- A variety of light manufacturing industries

The recognition of BERC's efforts follows a series of pollution prevention acknowledgements this year. Several of the honorees at this week's BERC event have been leaders in their industries and have participated in DTSC's voluntary pollution prevention programs, including:

- Gamboa's Body and Frame which was recognized for implementing several significant pollution prevention measures at their three shops in Sacramento. In addition, Gamboa's has contributed to the development of the DTSC's Auto Body and Paint Pollution Prevention project this year by filming training videos at their facilities and by participating as a member of the Project Advisory Team.
- Kaiser Permanente was recognized in April 2005 for its participation in DTSC's Mercury (Hg) Elimination Leadership Program. Under the program, Kaiser Permanente reduced the amount of mercury at its California medical facilities by an average 87%. Kaiser Permanente also built three mercury free facilities in Roseville, Fresno and Fremont, and is working on its fourth in Santa Clara.

"The impact of pollution prevention is greatly enhanced by the involvement of local agency programs like BERC, all around the state," said Robinson. "Local pollution prevention committees, Green Business Programs and local governments have become our greatest assets in the effort to make source reduction the first choice for business as opposed to waste generation and disposal."

For further information regarding DTSC Pollution Prevention programs, local programs and industry specific source reduction resources please visit the DTSC website www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention.

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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.