



**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY**

**Statement by Matt Rodriguez
Secretary for Environmental Protection**

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Safer Consumer Products Priority Product Launch**

Life is tough enough already.

We are confronted with hundreds of decisions every day.

So, we really do not want to have to worry about what is in the consumer products that we use on a daily basis.

When we are putting our children to bed, or fumbling around the house making home repairs, we want to think somebody else has made sure the products we are using are safe.

But, history and experience have demonstrated that this is not always the case; especially today, when advances in technology and international marketing are exposing us to new products, different manufacturers and even new chemicals daily.

Now obviously there are many responsible companies that realize they have an obligation to consumers.

They have programs to ensure that their products are safe, or as safe as they can be while getting the job done.

Many of them have processes for considering whether there are alternatives that will improve the safety of their products.

However, this is not the case with all businesses. And, in other instances there may be products where the risk and exposure possibilities are so significant that the process for considering and deciding on alternatives should be made public.

This is where the Safer Consumer Products program comes in.

It establishes an innovative process where we can identify chemicals of concern in products that are often widely used here in the state and we can consider in a reasoned, science-based proceeding whether there are alternatives that would make these products safer to use.

Indeed, it allows us to explore whether they should be used at all.

Developing the process has not been easy. Although the legislation establishing this program was adopted in 2008, with the backing of industry and consumer groups alike, agreeing on a procedural framework has been challenging.

But this administration is committed to protecting the health and safety of all Californians.

And through Debbie's perseverance and tireless efforts—and I don't use the term "tireless" lightly—and through myriad discussions and workshops with industry, retailers, consumer groups and the public, a process has been developed that we think will improve the way we make decisions on how to minimize chemical risks in our consumer products.

It is a dynamic process that provides for an interactive alternatives review involving government, business and the public to develop an appropriate regulatory response.

We intend to proceed deliberately and carefully at first to make sure this innovative process is credible, comprehensible, effective and successful.

In the end, however, we think we have the right process in place and, as will be demonstrated today We are ready to put it work to safeguard the consumers of the state.

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