



Winston H. Hickox
Agency Secretary,
Cal/EPA

State of California
California Environmental Protection Agency

Gray Davis
Governor



Air Resources Board | Department of Pesticide Regulation | Department of Toxic Substances Control

Integrated Waste Management Board | Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment | State Water Resources Control Board | Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 6, 2003

**Mr. John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary
of Defense for Environment
Department of Defense**

Washington, D.C. 20301-3400

Dear Mr. Woodley:

We are writing to seek the cooperation of the Department of Defense (DoD) in addressing perchlorate contamination at DoD's active, closed, and historic military and contractor facilities in California on behalf of my office, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and Cal/EPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The potential sources of perchlorate contamination include facilities that manufacture, conduct research on, and use solid propellants for rockets, missiles, military ordnance, and pyrotechnics. Military and defense contractor facilities are among the known and suspected sources of contamination of this type.

We cannot overstate the seriousness of this problem for the State of California. To date, perchlorate has been detected in more than 300 wells, including public water supply wells. The loss of drinking water supply wells to perchlorate contamination may leave parts of California without sufficient water for the summer months. In response to this crisis, the California Legislature is expressing its interest in finding the sources and solutions to these impacts to the State's water by holding hearings on the matter.

Our efforts to address perchlorate contamination in California warrant a collaborative approach to this environmental crisis. Together, we need to identify sources of perchlorate contamination, coordinate research of treatment strategies and technologies, and eventually clean up both impacted drinking water and water used for other beneficial uses.

Cal/EPA and its constituent boards and departments need to extend this coordinated approach to DoD to address perchlorate and other emerging chemicals of concern emanating from military properties. To that end, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards have coordinated with the SWRCB in preparing a letter to military installations in California requesting assistance in identifying, investigating, and cleaning up sources of

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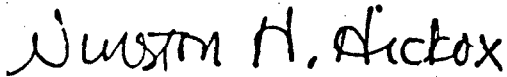
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perchlorate and other chemicals of concern on their properties. We have enclosed a copy of this draft letter for your information.

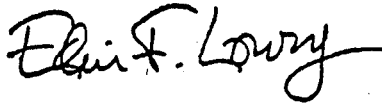
We ask that you direct the installations and appropriate program managers in DoD to assist and cooperate in this effort. In addition, we understand that DoD conducted a national survey of perchlorate contamination on military facilities, and we would request the opportunity to review the results of this survey for installations in California.

Both DTSC and SWQCB representatives are available to meet with you or your staff to further discuss this issue. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Mr. Frederick S. Moss, Chief, Office of Military Facilities, DTSC, at (916) 255-3750 or Ms. Lisa Babcock, Chief, Land Disposal Section, SWRCB, at (916) 341-5687.

Sincerely,



Winston H. Hickox
Agency Secretary



Edwin F. Lowry
Director
Department of Toxic
Substances Control



Celeste Cantú
Executive Officer
State Water Resources
Control Board

Enclosures

cc: See next page.