

"The Department of Toxic Substances Control is committed to ensuring that all of the state's population, without regard to color, national origin or income, are equally protected from adverse human or environmental effects as a result of the Department's policies, programs or activities."

The Department will:

- o Ensure that, to the extent feasible, its decisions and actions avoid adding to disproportionate environmental and/or health impacts on affected communities and reduce existing, disproportionate environmental and related health impacts on such communities.
- o Promote investigation/cleanup of contaminated sites in areas with minority and low-income populations using voluntary and enforcement tools.
- o Continue regional efforts to recycle brownfields.
- o Ensure that limited Orphan Site State funds are allocated in a fair manner.
- o Ensure that the Department identifies sites and prioritizes its actions so that hazardous substances sites that most impact, or threaten to impact, public health or the environment are characterized and remediated expeditiously.
- o Evaluate the Department's backlog and active projects, and prioritize work to ensure public health and the environment are protected.
- o Allocate its permitting, enforcement and clean-up resources, to the extent feasible, so as to reduce existing, disproportionate environmental and related health impacts on ethnic minority and low-income communities.
- o Consider regional impacts of the Department's decisions and activities, utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS), census and other demographic data whenever possible, to meet its CEQA obligations.
- o Participate in area studies dealing with health, sensitive receptors, facility data, demographics or other pertinent issues to ensure that permitting and site remediation decisions within targeted communities fully incorporate environmental justice concerns.
- o Evaluate the need to initiate permit modifications to address disparate impacts that are identified as part of the area studies.

- o Review rulemaking proposals, and accompanying communication strategies, to ensure that they address environmental justice.
- o Utilize existing and developing data to more fully characterize areas surrounding sites and facilities, specifically indicating sensitive receptors, and other facilities and sites that may have an impact on community health.
- o Ensure that historic site-related public participation documents are made available on the Department's web site.
- o Explore available mitigation measures whenever a DTSC decision has the potential to adversely affect any community already suffering disproportionate environmental and/or health impacts.
- o Work with Cal/EPA and its boards, departments and offices, and within DTSC to promote implementation of policies and procedures that ensure that low-income communities and/or communities with minority populations have access to environmental and health-related information. This will include conducting community assessments to determine language and cultural needs of a specific community, provide information in appropriate languages, and encouraging early and continuous public involvement.
- o Work with Cal/EPA's External Advisory Committee for Environmental Justice to develop cross-media and cross-agency approaches to community concerns.