

DTSC: P2 E-News

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Office of Pollution Prevention and Green Technology (OPPGT)

September 2008

Welcome to P2 E-News!

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#### **Chemicals of Concern in Consumer Products (AB 1879) and Toxics Information Clearinghouse (SB 509)**

AB 1879 (Feuer) and SB 509(Simitian) passed both the California Assembly and Senate and await the Governor's signature. Chemicals policy is a priority area for California's future, and it is an area that we can provide some national leadership. AB 1879 creates a Health and Safety code article titled Chemicals of Concern in Consumer Products. It grants DTSC authority to adopt regulations to identify and prioritize chemicals of concern in consumer products, evaluate the hazard traits of chemicals and their alternatives, and establish a range of regulatory actions to protect public health and the environment. The bill is

double-joined with SB 509 requiring DTSC to establish a web-based Toxics Information Clearinghouse for the collection, maintenance, and distribution of specific chemical hazard traits and environmental and toxicological end-point data.

California AB 1879 [http://info.sen.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill\\_number=ab\\_1879&sess=CUR&house=B&site=sen](http://info.sen.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=ab_1879&sess=CUR&house=B&site=sen)

California SB 509 [http://info.sen.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill\\_number=sb\\_509&sess=CUR&house=B&site=sen](http://info.sen.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=sb_509&sess=CUR&house=B&site=sen)

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September 19, 2008: The Fire Retardant Dilemma Part VI: Health and Chemicals Policy

Includes a panel on How Can Green Chemistry in California Solve the Fire Retardant Dilemma?

Friday, Sept 19, 2008, 8:30am - 3:30pm

150 University Hall, UC Berkeley

2199 Addison Street, Berkeley (Corner of Oxford & Addison Streets)

RSVP with your contact information to: FRDilemma@gmail.com

Questions: 510-644-3164

\$20 per person to cover lunch, continental breakfast and snacks

http://greensciencepolicy.org/?page_id=9

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### **Name Change and Registration for Western Regional Pollution Prevention Network (WRPPN) Conference**

Recently, the Western Regional Pollution Prevention Network (WRPPN) changed their name to the "Western Sustainability and Pollution Prevention Network" (WSPPN.) Don't forget the upcoming 2008 WSPPN Conference October 22-24, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Monterey, CA. Some new sessions added since our last newsletter includes Pollution Prevention and the Path to Green Chemistry with Ms. Claudia Polsky and The Promise and Peril of Nanomaterials with Jeffrey Wong, Ph.D. Ms. Claudia Polsky, DTSC's Deputy Director for Pollution Prevention and Green Technology, will highlight our program's expansion and transformation from reducing industry hazardous waste generation through voluntary programs and technical assistance to implementing new legal authorities related to toxic chemicals in consumer products, accelerating the search for safer alternatives, and ultimately, overseeing significant components of Cal/EPA's Green Chemistry Initiative. Mr. Wong, Ph.D. will provide interesting insights on the not-so-small world of nanomaterials and what may be in store for businesses, consumers, and regulatory agencies in California, the U.S., and internationally.

Full Conference Registration is \$375.00 and the Lodging Rate is \$129.00/night. WSPPN's Green Team is working with the hotel to implement activities to help

registrants reduce the Conference's environmental impact. The idea is to leave Monterey just as we find it--GREEN. Conference registrants will be encouraged to sign a Green Pledge to carpool, reuse linens, etc. WSPPN is now accepting Conference registration at <http://www.wsppn.org/>. Early registration ends October 2nd. If you have technical difficulties during registration, don't hesitate to call Raul "Ed" Gonzalez, WSPPN Regional Coordinator at 702-866-2390, Fax: 702-866-6800, [raulg@unr.edu](mailto:raulg@unr.edu)

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November 10, 2008: Green Chemistry and Environmental Health Conference

We need the environmental health sciences to help us better understand the mechanisms by which chemicals interact with biological systems and we need green chemistry to help us design products with this knowledge built in to the very molecules. This conference brings together leaders from both of these fields. It is free of charge and open to the public. Reservations are not required, but are encouraged due to seating limitations. Individual session attendance is welcome. <http://www.gcandehs.org/Site/Home.html>

Monday, November 10, 2008
Beckman Center of the National Academies
Irvine, California

All presentations will be digitally recorded and available online at www.advancinggreenchemistry.org

If you are unable to attend, but would like to participate, the conference will be broadcast online. Virtual participants will be able to submit questions for speakers during Q&A sessions. E-mail registrar@advancinggreenchemistry.org for login instructions.

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**September 25, 2008: Comments due on Sampling and Analysis Study on Treated Wood**

The Department of Toxic Substances Control is soliciting comments, questions, and suggestions on their draft Sampling and Analysis Study on Treated Wood. Treated wood waste often contains hazardous chemical levels and generators must make the waste classification determination. If generators use sampling results for classifying their waste, then California regulations require a representative sample collection. This report contains sampling collection and field/laboratory preparation methods that apply to mixed and millable treated wood.

All written comments must be post marked no later than September 25, 2008 or received by electronic mail no later than 5:00 p.m. that same day. The final report will incorporate the comments received and their responses. DTSC will not

prepare a separate written Response to Comments document. See the DTSC website for more information.

[http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/treated\\_wood\\_waste.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/treated_wood_waste.cfm)

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46 Million In U.S. Have Drugs in Drinking Water

Drinking water pharmaceuticals testing revealed trace amounts affecting more Americans than previously thought - at least 46 million. The first Associated Press (AP) stories prompted federal and local legislative hearings, brought about calls for mandatory testing and disclosure, and led officials in at least 27 additional metropolitan areas to analyze their drinking water. To date, positive tests were reported in 17 cases, including Reno, NV, Savannah, GA, Colorado Springs, CO, and Huntsville, AL. The overwhelming majority have not tested drinking water while eight cities - including Boston, Phoenix and Seattle - were relieved that tests showed no detections. The latest tests mirrored those cited earlier. Chicago, for example, found a cholesterol medication and a nicotine derivative. Many cities found the anti-convulsant carbamazepine. Colorado Springs says they detected five pharmaceuticals, including a tranquilizer and a hormone. "This is obviously an emerging issue, and after the AP stories came out, we felt it was the responsible thing for us to do, as a utility, to find out where we stand. We believe that at these levels, based on current science, that the water is completely safe for our customers," said Colorado Springs spokesman Steve Berry. "We don't want to create unnecessary alarm, but at the same time we have a responsibility as a municipal utility to communicate with our customers and let them know."

The drug residues detected are generally flushed into sewers and waterways through human excretion. Many are known to slip through sewage and drinking water treatment plants. While the comprehensive risks are still unclear, researchers are finding evidence that even extremely diluted pharmaceutical residues harm fish, frogs, and other aquatic species in the wild and impair the workings of human cells in the laboratory. And while the new survey expands the known extent of the problem, most communities have yet to test, including the single largest water provider in the country, New York City's Department of Environmental Protection, which delivers water to 9 million people.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26662637/>

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### **October 4-11, 2008: No Drugs Down The Drain! Campaign**

Join local, regional, state and federal agencies in a one-week California-wide educational campaign October 4-11, 2008, to educate the public that disposing leftover medication down the toilet is no longer acceptable. The campaign No Drugs down the Drain will provide the public with information on alternative disposal options throughout the state. Agencies and organizations can participate

in many ways. Visit <http://www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org/StatewideCampaign.html> for ideas and instructions. Download additional tools at <http://www.ororkepr.com/NDDD/NDDD.html>

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November 10, 2008: Comments due on EPA Health Care Facility Pharmaceutical Questionnaire

For many years, health care facilities disposed unused pharmaceuticals down the drain or by flushing them down the toilet. EPA hopes to understand why some health care facilities are still disposing pharmaceuticals in this manner and how to best influence facilities to manage unused pharmaceuticals properly. They are planning to submit an Information Collection Request (ICR) to hospitals, long-term care facilities, and veterinary hospitals to collect current disposal practices and alternative practices for managing unused pharmaceuticals. This data will also give the types and amounts of unused pharmaceuticals being disposed. EPA will use this information to estimate waste generation reductions that Best Management Practices can achieve. EPA is soliciting comments on the ICR. Comments are due on or before November 10, 2008. <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/ppcp/>

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**Starbucks Moves Away from Fair Trade; Sets Own Responsible Purchasing Measure**

Unable to meet demand purchasing Fair Trade certified beans, Starbucks wrote their own coffee standards in consultation with Fair Trade, the Rainforest Alliance, and Conservation International to increase their purchase of responsibly-sourced coffee. Starbucks's C.A.F.E. or "Coffee and Farmer Equity" standards are based on four criteria: quality, economic accountability, social responsibility, and environmental leadership, largely differing from Fair Trade in that it includes quality as a criterion. C.A.F.E. ensures that all payments from the farmer to final purchase are transparent (though they do not publish a bare minimum price to be paid to the farmer as Fair Trade does), supports workers' rights, requires the use of shade-grown coffee and energy conservation practices, and limits the use of agrochemicals. Despite some expected criticism and inconsistencies in the first months, WeBuyItGreen.com considers C.A.F.E. standards a "vast improvement" on the traditional coffee market. Starbucks' C.A.F.E. Practices <http://blog.webuyitgreen.com/2008/08/16/starbucks-cafe-practices.aspx>

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Results of First-Ever Green Restaurant Contest in the U.S.

San Francisco, Calif., August 18, 2008 -Thimmakka, an award winning non-profit organization helping over a hundred Bay Area restaurants become green, conducted the first ever U.S. contest to determine the most environmentally friendly Bay Area restaurants. There were over 40 entries from all over the Bay Area, including Napa and Sonoma counties. The judging was done by: Gil Friend of Natural Logic, Rachel Balsley of StopWaste.org, Andy Katz, an environmental planner and a Director of East Bay Municipal Utility District, Pamela Evans of the Green Business Program, Alison Negrin, Executive Chef of John Muir Hospitals, and Lauren Mills of Food Service Technology Center. Two restaurants tied for top place: Vineyards Inn (Kenwood, unincorporated Sonoma) and Mixt Greens (San Francisco). "We hope that this contest spurs people to seek out these green restaurants," says Suparna Vashisht, Managing Director of Thimmakka, "because by the simple act of dining at a green restaurant, you are supporting their commitment to your health and the environment." For more information on Thimmakka and a list of certified restaurants, go to www.thimmakka.org

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### **Lead Wheel Weights to be Phased Out in California by End of 2009**

A court settlement approved August 20, 2008, ends a May lawsuit filed by the Oakland-based Center for Environmental Health against Chrysler and the three largest manufacturers of lead wheel weights for the U.S. market. Lead wheel weights, used to balance vehicle tires but considered a threat to drinking water, will be phased out in California by the end of next year. In its suit, the Center for Environmental Health contended that fallen wheel weights release 500,000 pounds of lead each year into the environment in California. Chrysler will end factory-installed lead wheel weights in vehicles sold in California by July 31, 2009. Wheel-weight producer Plombco Inc. of Canada will end lead wheel weight shipments to California by the end of this year. Tennessee Based manufacturers, Perfect Equipment Inc. and Hennessey Industries, will stop shipments to California by the end of 2009.

Lead wheel weights have been under attack for several years by environmentalists. They were banned by the European Union in 2005 and are being phased out in Japan and South Korea. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is sponsoring a voluntary initiative to reduce lead wheel weight usage but has not banned them. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and other big tire makers are phasing them out, as are all the major automakers. The California lawsuit was filed under Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act. The law requires posting of public warnings in businesses or on products that could expose people to chemicals that government scientists have found cause cancer or birth defects. <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-wheels21-2008aug21,1,1502658.story>

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Junk Raft Sails to Hawaii to Protest Plastic Pollution of the Sea

Departing from Los Angeles on June 2, 2008 for Hawaii, Algalita Marine Research Foundation staff set sail on "Junk," a raft built on 15,000 plastic bottles to call attention to a major oceanic environmental problem - the plastic trash accumulation in the seas. Their 2,100 mile journey took them through the plastic-plagued Northern Pacific Gyre. Designed by Dr. Marcus Eriksen and Joel Paschal, the raft boasts an airplane fuselage, discarded fishing nets, a solar generator, and a wind turbine. Anna Cummins, Mr. Eriksen's fiancée, took care of land support, blogs, and fundraising. The men said a variety of marine life gathered under the raft throughout the trip. One day they caught a fish after watching it grow for five weeks. They were going to eat it, but when they cut it open they found its stomach was full of plastic confetti.

Algalita's current research includes the prevalence and quantification of plastic debris, biological impact on marine life, and the desorption of plastic toxins into the ambient ocean water. Marine debris weighing approximately 3.5 million tons floats in an area known as the "great Pacific garbage patch." Captain Charles Moore, founder of the Algalita Marine Research Foundation, received a U. S. EPA Region 9 Environmental Award for his efforts to protect and preserve the environment in 2007. They are quantifying and researching the impacts of this body of marine plastics debris -- approximately twice the size of Texas. Capt. Moore documents that the plastics block sunlight and prohibit photosynthesis of plankton, the largest food supply for marine animals in the area. While some debris originates from oceanic vessels, 80 percent originates on land and travels by current to the area. Moore's research is educating oceanographers and leading to increased public awareness about the quantity and severity of marine debris. His established protocols will minimize the amount of future plastic debris. <http://algalita.org/index.html>

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### **University of California a 'Shining Star' for College Campuses in Sustainability**

Sierra magazine has placed the UC's 10 campuses "in a league of their own" in their second annual green college guide. "We really wanted to highlight the great work that schools throughout the [UC] system are doing," said Josie Garthwaite, Sierra lifestyle editor. "It's a real leader when it comes to environmental policies in higher education." The magazine spotlights several of UC's green efforts, such as vegetarian dining options at UC Berkeley, UC Davis harvesting campus olive trees into award-winning olive oils, UC Santa Cruz offsetting 100 percent of its electricity consumption with renewable energy credits, solar-powered water heaters at four UCLA student residence halls, and UC San Diego generating renewable energy. The UC system also earned a spot in Kaplan College Guide 2009's top 10 greenest schools (the top 10 are not assigned a number ranking), calling it "a leader in green initiatives across its ten campuses." Kaplan Publishing, a New York-based educational services provider, focused its 2009

college guide for the first time on environmentally responsible schools and green careers. <http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS135812+05-Aug-2008+PRN20080805> Hearst's TheDailyGreen.com ranked the UC system as No. 7 on its list of 10 of the greenest colleges in America. [10 of the Greenest Colleges in America - Colleges Going Green - thedailygreen.com](http://www.thedailygreen.com)

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From exposure to illness: Community Health Studies and Environmental Contamination Website

For over 17 years, the California Department of Public Health Environmental Health Investigations Branch has received funding from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR, a CDC agency) to study links between environmental exposure to chemicals and health effects in California communities. In this work, community members often conduct health surveys to count the number of people with illnesses in their community. This website presents the challenges of environmental health studies in small communities including the step-by-step process epidemiologists go through when deciding whether it is appropriate to conduct a health study, and real world health study examples. They complement the epidemiology information with sections covering the basics about environmental health, how scientists study the environment, and agencies involved in environmental health. They also provide activities and resources other than health studies that can help communities identify and achieve their goals. <http://www.communityhealthstudies.com>

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### **Retail Industry Leaders Association to Launch EPA Sustainability Web Portal**

Something for us to watch for in the near future

RILA, the Retail Industry Leaders Association, is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to design and launch a sustainability web portal. The website will act as a clearinghouse on pollution prevention, sustainability practices, and environmental compliance for retailers. The industry-specific web portal is the product of RILA's Sustainability Initiative, introduced last year to help leading retailers to pursue better business practices. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2008/08/18/rila-to-launch-epa-sustainability-web-portal/>

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Use of Risk Assessment in Management of Contaminated Sites

The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Agency (ITRC) Risk Assessment Resources Team completed and posted their report Use of Risk Assessment in Management of Contaminated Sites. ITRC is a state-led coalition and consists

of 50 states, the District of Columbia, multiple federal partners, industry participants, and other stakeholders, cooperating to break down barriers and reduce compliance costs, making it easier to use new technologies, and helping states maximize resources. ITRC develops guidance documents and training courses to meet regulator and environmental consultant needs, and works with state representatives to ensure that ITRC products and services have maximum impact among state environmental agencies and technology users. The report is available free online at http://www.itrcweb.org/Documents/Risk_Docs/RISK2.pdf
Contact: Paul Hadley (916) 324-3823

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### **An Assessment of Zero Valence Iron Permeable Reactive Barrier Projects in California**

The development of permeable reactive barriers (PRBs) to treat chlorinated solvents in ground water emerged in the mid -1990's. Granular zero valent iron (ZVI), installed primarily to treat chlorinated solvents such as trichloroethylene, has been the most common material emplaced in PRBs. Before the advent of zero valent iron permeable reactive barrier (ZVI PRB) technology, most sites utilized an expensive system of pumps, air strippers, and carbon absorption systems to extract and treat groundwater contaminated with chlorinated solvents. These systems were capital intensive and required significant expenditures for operation and maintenance. To assess the current status of this technology's deployment in California, ten ZVI PRB installations completed at hazardous waste sites were identified and evaluated. This report provides an in depth review of the remediation performance for each of these projects. DTSC hopes this document can be a guide to present lessons learned from past projects and set realistic expectations in future projects.

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/TechnologyDevelopment/index.cfm> Contact: John Muegge at [jmuegge@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jmuegge@dtsc.ca.gov)

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Greenversations - The Official Blog of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

This blog is written by EPA employees (and occasional guests) about the things they bring to their jobs every day and includes a short biography about each contributor. It was launched after Earth Day this year and has a broad range of topics, including the Blog Question of the Week. Some links exit EPA or have Spanish content. The opinions and comments expressed in Greenversations are those of the authors alone and do not reflect an Agency policy, endorsement, or action, and EPA does not verify the accuracy of the contents of the blog.

<http://blog.epa.gov/blog/> EPA also launched a new design for their web site's home page and several new pages that support it. The National Web Content Manager for EPA states that they are working to create a site for mobile phones and are exploring social media like YouTube. You can comment on how you

think EPA should improve their webpage on the Blog or on their sneak preview page <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/sneak.htm>

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### **Cyanide Permit-by-Rule Regulations**

New California Permit-by-Rule regulations for cyanide became effective on August 6, 2008. The regulations authorize onsite treatment of dilute aqueous cyanide-containing wastewaters generated onsite. This change allows facilities previously operating under a Consent Order from DTSC to obtain authorization for treatment of cyanide-containing wastes from the CUPA. Throughout September, DTSC is conducting training sessions for CUPAs and interested parties throughout California, including Sacramento, Berkeley, Cypress, Chatsworth, San Diego, and Fresno. Contact Ms. Asha Arora at [aarora@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:aarora@dtsc.ca.gov) or 510-540-3874

[http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegsPolicies/Regs/Cyanide\\_final.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegsPolicies/Regs/Cyanide_final.cfm)

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Pollution Prevention (P2) - Changing the way we think and act so we reduce or eliminate waste and pollution.

That's all this month, folks!  
P2 E-News, Volume 3, Number 3  
September 2008