



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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Business and Local Governments Participate in ISO 14000 Project

SACRAMENTO --Eight businesses and three government public agencies have volunteered to help the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) test whether an international management system known as ISO 14000 could lead to improved approaches to environmental protection. ISO 14000 challenges organizations to consider all impacts their operations have on the environment, not just those covered by government rules and regulations.

Peter Rooney, Secretary for Environmental Protection announced today the nine facilities that will participate in a demonstration project. The demonstration project was based on the idea that environmental protection and compliance can be best achieved if environmental factors are integrated into industrial operations in a systematic way.

Secretary Rooney commended the partners for their “public spiritedness and determination to find approaches that provide better environmental protection in an efficient and cost-effective manner. If the demonstrations are successful, the implications for governmental regulators are significant.” The nine are:

Anheuser-Busch Companies
Artistic Plating, Anaheim
Central Marin Sanitation Agency, San Rafael
City of San Diego, Metropolitan Wastewater Department, San Diego
Gene’s Plating, Los Angeles
IBM Corporation, San Jose
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley
Lockheed Martin Skunkworks, Palmdale
Quantum Corporation, Milpitas

Participants in this statewide project met in Oakland on Friday, June 26, 1998 to discuss the development of partnerships between Cal/EPA, business, local government, and community representatives to oversee these demonstration projects.

The demonstration project is enabled by a new law known as the California Permit Consolidation Zone (SB 1299 Peace), enacted in 1996. The program makes it easier and more cost-effective to control pollution by integrating currently separate approaches to address air, water, waste, and other environmental problems.

“Both the new state law and ISO 14000 are on the cutting edge of innovative ways to protect the environment,” Rooney said. “We know that the existing system of laws and rules has produced progress, but we also know that the system has limits and flaws. I am encouraged that regulators, businesses, and other interested parties are willing to openly test new ideas.”

The nine pilot projects will collect and evaluate information before and after the new approaches are implemented. The data will be analyzed by state officials, but also will be fed into a national data base at the university of North Carolina (UNC), Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This database has been established to collect the results of pilot projects in at least 14 other states.

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