



Spotlight on DTSC

DTSC Hires Criminal Investigator For OCI

DTSC has hired a new criminal investigator to work out of the Cypress office in Orange County.

This is an exciting move for DTSC's Office of Criminal Investigations (OCI), said DTSC Supervising Criminal Investigator Jose Lara, adding that Fel Michael Sarno will be the first investigator working out of Cypress in about five years.

DTSC's OCI employs the only peace officers in Cal/EPA who are specifically trained to perform environmental criminal investigations. OCI consists of 12 criminal investigators, 10 scientists and 3 administrative staff members.

"Criminal investigators and scientists work as a team and are vital to strict enforcement and establishing a level playing field (for businesses)," Lara said. "(They help) to ensure environmental protection and to prevent polluters from achieving unfair competitive advantage."

Sarno has worked for the California Department of Corrections as a Parole Agent and he will participate in a 17-week Specialized Investigator Basic Academy in Huntington Beach this summer.

"We are fortunate that Michael already has peace officer experience," Lara said. "We believe that he will be a great asset to our office."

DTSC's OCI also played a critical role in Walgreens being ordered to pay \$16.57 million in fines in December for mishandling hazardous waste in stores throughout California. This case, which began in the fall of 2009, started with an investigation by the DTSC's OCI.