
Independent Review Panel

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL



Gideon Kracov, J.D., *Chair*
Mike Vizzier, *Vice Chair*
Dr. Arezoo Campbell, *Member*

Edmund G. Brown Jr. Governor

Department of Toxic Substances Control Independent Review Panel

Annual Report 2016

Independent Review Panel Members

Chair:

Gideon Kracov, JD, Community representative appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

Vice Chair:

Mike Vizzier, Local government management expert appointed by the Governor's Office

Member:

Arezoo Campbell, Ph.D., Scientist with experience related to toxic materials appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly

Independent Review Panel Staff

Counsel:

Deputy Attorney General Deborah L. Barnes

Associate Governmental Program Analyst:

TBA

Office Technician:

Erik Erreca

Executive Summary

In 2015, Senate Bill 83 established the Independent Review Panel (IRP) within the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The IRP is comprised of three members tasked with reviewing and making recommendations regarding improvements to DTSC's permitting, enforcement, public outreach, and fiscal management, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 57014.

The statute generated two primary reporting requirements for this panel. Subsection 57014 (f) of the Health and Safety Code requires the IRP to report to the Governor and the Legislature, 90 days after the panel is initially appointed and every 90 days thereafter. These reports are to detail DTSC's progress in reducing permitting and enforcement backlogs, improving public outreach, and improving fiscal management. As the last panel member was appointed on October 30, 2015, the initial subsection (f) report is due on January 28, 2016. Subsequent reports are due on April 27, July 26, and October 24 in 2016. Subsection 57014 (h) of the Health and Safety Code requires the IRP to provide recommendations to the Governor and Legislature in conjunction with the Governor's 2016-17 annual budget—released on January 7, 2016.

The IRP has met on November 18, and December 8, 9, and 18 of 2015. The IRP immediately began receiving public comments, numerous status reports, and recommendations from DTSC. Additionally, the IRP has received numerous recommendations from a variety of stakeholders on DTSC's permitting, enforcement, public outreach, and fiscal management.

DTSC has provided excellent support for the panel using existing resources. The IRP and DTSC are coordinating efforts to implement Health and Safety Code section 57104 (g), which requires DTSC to provide two support staff to the IRP, who are independent of DTSC. The IRP has appointed an individual to provide clerical support effective December 21, 2015. Despite undergoing several rounds of interviews, the IRP continues the search for candidates with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to provide analytic support. DTSC, on behalf of the IRP, continues to recruit for this position and will forward the most qualified applicants to the panel for consideration.

The IRP is currently working with DTSC to obtain the necessary support staff, as well as setting into motion a plan to review the department's permitting, enforcement, public outreach, and fiscal management in detail for future monthly meetings. Moreover, the IRP also plans on providing recommendations in its January 28, 2016 report.

Meeting minutes, letters and documents provided to the IRP are available on DTSC's IRP webpage at:

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/GetInvolved/ReviewPanel/Independent-Review-Panel.cfm>.