

From: [Phil Chandler](#)
To: Rohlfes.Larry@DTSC; Singh.Mike@DTSC
Subject: UNFAIR CRITICISM OF DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL (DTSC) STAFF REGARDING THE AUTUMNWOOD DEVELOPMENT, WILDOMAR REPORT
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 12:45:29 PM

I wrote a letter back in April 2014, originally directed to then-Director Ms. Debbie Raphael, and subsequently sent it to then-Acting Director Ms. Miriam Ingenito concerning the lack of support for the technical work performed by professional DTSC staff. I received no response. I then sent it to now Director Barbara Lee in December 2015 and have still received no response. This is quite disappointing.

I had occasion a weekend or two before drafting the original letter in 2014 to read a blog on Wildomar - Autumnwood Development ("Wildomar") at a website that has been previously, and often rightfully, critical of Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) on various issues. It had links to other sites, where what I read was simply an attack on DTSC without any technical or regulatory merit. It seems to me that DTSC has bent over backwards to provide assistance to a small group of vocal concerned citizens and activist spokespeople. The level of technical work that DTSC's professional staff performed was appropriate to address the issues raised. It seems that DTSC is being attacked for a "cover-up" for not having found evidence to support the preconceived notions and assertions of the very folk that it was attempting to aid. This was neither fair nor accurate. Despite the issue of insensitive e-mails, I see no reason for technical staff and management, who carry professional licenses, or DTSC as an agency to engage in such an alleged "cover-up" with regard to Ms. Newman's "Wildomar project". I cannot emphasize the word professional enough---DTSC's staff geologist in this case carries a professional license that commands a degree of respect and technical responsibility beyond simple agency "staff". I am personally familiar with the work done by him over the years and do not believe that he would not participate in any form of "cover-up".

Given Ms. Newman's recent accusatory performance at the Independent Review Panel Meeting in Sacramento, it seems now even more unlikely that DTSC would publicly support the technical expertise of its staff that Ms. Newman has continually attacked. Nevertheless, I would ask the IRP not to continue to appease and "make nice" with this powerful activist regarding her inaccurate and wrongheaded technical criticisms of DTSC staff and former management on her "Wildomar project" and to require DTSC management to openly support the technical work that was performed by its professional staff and separately vetted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

I have not seen any technical merit to the accusations that have been leveled at DTSC staff since DTSC made its findings known to the community. It is my concern that these attacks primarily persist---the previous Director faced them and this Director listened to them at her confirmation hearing---for the primary purpose to discredit the technical findings of DTSC staff with regard to Ms. Newman's "Wildomar project" and the support given by former Deputy Director Stu Black to these staff and their technical work.

I asked Director Lee to please consider making a strong statement that the technical merits of DTSC's work and the related conclusions drawn have NOTHING to do with the recent accusations of racism underlying its work. Please separate the technical work performed by staff, reviewed by management (note Stu was a licensed professional geologist in addition to being a Deputy Director) from the other issues that are flying around. Inappropriate e-mails do not negate good, solid technical work.

As unfair as it may seem, since this mess is not of her making, and even though I am a DTSC employee, I am asking you to assure a response from Director Lee to my original letters which had been submitted electronically to the previous Director and Acting Director.

Thank you for your consideration.

Philip B. Chandler
4501 W. Channel Islands Blvd., # 86
Oxnard, CA 93035

