



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

Media Advisory

Maziar Movassaghi, Acting Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2009

Contact: Angela Blanchette
(510) 540-3732
(510) 812-6263 cell

California official available for comment on Cousteau oceans documentary highlighting the dangers of toxic chemicals

- Video clips of the new Jean-Michel Cousteau film, “Call of the Killer Whale,” are available to media.
- DTSC Acting Director Maziar Movassaghi will be in Sacramento for media comment on the need to reduce toxins in the ocean, Thursday, April 16, 2-3 p.m.

Sacramento, CA – The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has teamed up with Jean-Michel Cousteau, President of the Ocean Futures Society and son of famed underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau, on a startling, new PBS documentary. “Call of the Killer Whale” highlights how toxins are building up in marine life, namely killer whales. Cousteau documented this collaboration with DTSC in the film that will premier April 22, which follows the Cousteau team as they document and film scientists conducting special tests to measure chemical levels in killer whales around the world, as well as levels of Cousteau’s team.

The film emphasizes the need for California to find safer, less toxic chemicals to be used in products and manufacturing processes that will not harm our bodies, and that will protect our environment and oceans. This is the foundation of a newly launched state endeavor called the California Green Chemistry Initiative.

“This important film underscores the need for an aggressive approach to reducing toxic chemicals in our environment, which is exactly our quest with California’s new Green Chemistry programs,” explained DTSC Acting Director Maziar Movassaghi. “Chemicals can end up in the ocean through a variety of ways, including direct discharge from industrial plants, human activity, and urban and agricultural run off. These toxins could end up causing long term damage to the oceans and the marine life it supports. Just as Californians are becoming increasingly aware of how toxins are affecting the air, we must become aware of how our activities and the products we use affect the oceans.”

WHEN: Thursday, April 16, 2-3 p.m.

WHERE: Cal/EPA headquarters, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA

WHO: Maziar Movassaghi, Acting Director, CA Department of Toxic Substances Control

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to protect public health, safety, and the environment from toxic harm.