



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

T - 01 - 07

Release Date : January 3, 2007

Contact: Sandra Friedman
714.484.5383
Ron Baker
916.324.3142

\$910,000 Settlement Reached with CalEnergy Operating Corporation \$310,000 to Be Used To Fund Supplemental Environmental Programs

San Diego – Under a stipulation approved by the San Diego Superior Court, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reached a \$910,000 settlement with CalEnergy Operating Corporation of Imperial County. CalEnergy Operating Corporation produces energy using geothermal resources, and generates hazardous waste in the process. The company currently operates seven facilities in Imperial County.

Under the terms of the settlement, \$310,000 will be used by DTSC to fund Supplemental Environmental Program (SEPS); including, equipment and trainings for a “How to Handle an Emergency Response, (Classroom Earth Environmental Awareness Training for the Brawley Boys and Girls Club); equipment to support the maintenance and help sustain the viability of the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, and the Earth Day fund for Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program.

“This settlement sends an important message,” said DTSC Director Maureen Gorsen. “Facilities should obtain the proper permits for hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal, ensure worker safety through training, and strive to be compliant with hazardous waste management laws.” The settlement is consistent with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s environmental goals to use environmental enforcement settlement to provide a strong deterrent and to provide direct environmental improvement to those communities where the violation occurred,” Gorsen added.

Under the terms of the settlement CalEnergy Corporation is required to pay a total of \$910,000. Of that amount, \$120,000 is to reimburse DTSC for its administrative costs; \$480,000 is a civil penalty; and \$310,000 is designated to fund Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPS) approved by DTSC.

The stipulation settles a civil lawsuit brought by the Office of the Attorney General on behalf of DTSC, which alleged violations of California hazardous waste control laws. Violations alleged included:

- Illegal treatment, storage and disposal of waste that contained hazardous concentrations of arsenic, antimony and lead
- Failure to provide adequate training to staff
- Failure to properly close and secure hazardous waste containers
- Failure to properly label hazardous waste containers.

A copy of the Final Judgment and Injunction Pursuant to Stipulation is available on the DTSC website, www.dtsc.ca.gov .

###

The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC’s mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.