



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**Department of Toxic Substances Control**

# NEWS RELEASE

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Maureen F. Gorsen, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **STATE ANNOUNCES \$1,400,000 SETTLEMENT WITH KYOCERA AMERICA, INC.**

**SACRAMENTO** – The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reached a \$1,400,000 settlement with Kyocera America Inc., approved by the San Diego County Superior Court on Dec. 12 for violations at a Kyocera facility located in San Diego. The facility, which manufactures ceramic semiconductor packages, routinely generates and treats hazardous wastes in its operations. The settlement resolves a civil complaint filed on behalf of DTSC by the State Attorney General on September 13, 2007 that alleges numerous hazardous waste violations were found during DTSC inspections in 2003 and 2005.

“Compliance with the Hazardous Waste Control Law is critical to protecting our environment and averting health risks to workers and the community,” said DTSC Director Maureen F. Gorsen. “This settlement exemplifies the department’s continuing efforts to sustain environmental safety and compliance with existing law.”

Negotiations have been ongoing since August 2005, after DTSC referred the civil enforcement case to the Attorney General’s Office. Among the facility’s alleged violations were treatment and storage without authorization, tank storage of incompatible hazardous wastes, and failure to train employees and maintain emergency response equipment.

The judgment requires Kyocera to pay \$1,038,000 in civil penalties, \$200,000 as a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) payable to the San Diego River Conservancy, and \$162,000 in reimbursement of DTSC’s investigatory and enforcement costs. The SEP will fund the purchase, installation, and maintenance of four wireless environmental sensors and associated equipment to assess, monitor, and address the long-term impacts of pollutants to public health and water quality in the San Diego River Watershed.

Kyocera America, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Kyocera International, Inc. and the regional management headquarters for Kyocera companies in North America. The Kyocera facility where the violations were identified is located at 8611 Balboa Ave., San Diego. A copy of the judgment is available on the DTSC Web site, [http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/Kyocera\\_America.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/Kyocera_America.cfm)

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://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 provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.***