



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

News Release

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Maziar Movassaghi, Acting Director

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Contact: Wayne Davis
(916) 322-4985

DTSC Creates New External Panel to Review Performance, Boost Accountability & Transparency

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Toxic Substances Control has created a five-member external advisory board to monitor performance and help guide the department in protecting public health and the environment from toxic harm.

“The Performance Review Panel will help keep us focused on our core values: accountability, transparency and responsibility,” said Acting DTSC Director Maziar Movassaghi. “We want these individuals to use their expertise and help us improve our program effectiveness.”

Movassaghi said the panel’s comments and analysis will sharpen DTSC’s environmental focus and bolster its efforts to make the decision-making process transparent.

The Performance Review Panel includes the Acting DTSC Director as well as individuals from a statewide environmental group, industry, academia and government. Members are volunteering their time and are not paid.

Besides Movassaghi, the members are:

- Richard Callahan, Associate Dean and Director of State Capital and Leadership Programs at the University of Southern California’s School of Policy, Planning and Development
- Bill Magavern, Director of the Environmental Group Sierra Club California
- Tom McHenry, a partner with the law firm of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher LLP and a member of its Environmental Litigation and Mass Tort Practice Group
- Carroll Mortensen, Consultant, Senate Committee on Environmental Quality

USC’s Callahan, a nationally known expert on leadership in the public sector, said the Performance Review Panel will boost DTSC by helping “the department’s leaders – and everyone throughout the department as well – sort through a challenging set of priorities. I think we can have significant impact.”

“I’m pleased about the department’s willingness to embrace accountability,” Callahan added. “There’s an ongoing effort to measure performance in a range of departments in the state. It’s not an easy discussion to have. But it gets at the heart of how to serve the people of California

best. It's a noteworthy effort."

The Sierra Club's Bill Magavern called the Performance Review Panel a "novel idea for a California agency."

"The panel is going to dig in," Magavern said. "We're going to work to make sure that the department is fulfilling its main mission."

DTSC is a forceful advocate of performance measurement. A Little Hoover Commission report last year credited the department for pursuing what it called "a cultural shift" that encouraged employees to challenge the way business was done by analyzing the performance data of a number of programs.

The Performance Review Panel met for the first time August 19 to discuss organizational issues. This first meeting coincided with the launch of a new DTSC web site, EcoTracker <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/ecotracker.cfm>. It is designed to give the public a quick and easy way online method to measure the department's performance in some of our most important arenas.

Viewers can now drill down, for example, to learn how many new school locations DTSC has evaluated for soil contamination over the years or how many tainted groundwater sites its experts have stabilized and restored.

This first phase of *EcoTracker* will be continually updated and expanded as more performance measurement data becomes available. The site also gives viewers the opportunity to comment on what they see.

"With *EcoTracker* and our new Performance Review Panel, everyone can see how we're doing – and how we're striving to be even better," Movassaghi said. "We want to show how we're working to make the best decisions we possibly can to protect the environment."

The five-member Performance Review Panel is expected to meet quarterly. Notices of meetings will be posted on DTSC's web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

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