



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

July 18, 2014

Elaine M. Howle, CPA
California State Auditor
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Howle:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft report on cost recovery issues at the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC). My staff and I have reviewed the report and concur in the Department's attached comments.

DTSC recognizes that timely cost recovery is a central part of its mission to protect human health and the environment. Over the course of the last year, DTSC has demonstrated its commitment to restore the public trust by aggressively working to strengthen its cost recovery process and pursue cost recovery from potentially responsible parties. I am pleased that your office has concluded that progress has been made in resolving these issues and agrees that DTSC's new procedures are adequate if consistently implemented.

Both CalEPA and DTSC, however, recognize that this work is not complete, and the draft report includes important findings and recommendations that DTSC will work to address.

I greatly appreciate your audit team's thoroughness and professionalism during this audit.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for Environmental Protection

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