



DTSC honors Los Angeles school officials for pesticide reduction

Members of DTSC's Enforcement Emergency Response Division in Cypress recently attended an Earth Day Event at Euclid Elementary School in Boyle Heights to celebrate the 14th anniversary of the Los Angeles Unified School District's groundbreaking pesticide policy that has become a national and international model, and to honor the work of outstanding local heroes.

DTSC employees administered 17 Certificates of Appreciation to school district board members and other community leaders in recognition of their efforts to protect health and environment through their support of an Integrated Pest Management program.

Integrated Pest Management, or "IPM," is a program of prevention, monitoring, and control that eliminates or drastically reduces hazardous pesticide use by using non-toxic alternatives.

Only least-hazardous chemicals are introduced as a last resort, if at all. Since implementing its IPM policy, [Los Angeles Unified School District](#) has reduced the number of pesticides it uses from 160 to fewer than 25, and those are only used in the smallest effective quantities.

"The amount of product used can be measured in ounces rather than pounds," said Robina Suwol, Founder and Executive Director of [California Safe Schools](#), an organization that spearheaded the district's IPM policy.

The policy was implemented in 1998. Interestingly, DTSC Director Debbie Raphael helped craft the policy when she was Senior Environmental Program Manager for the city of Santa Monica, and Brian Johnson, Deputy Director of DTSC's Hazardous Waste Management Program, helped implement it when he served on the California Safe Schools' oversight committee during his tenure as Manager of the Office of Sustainability and Environment for the city of Santa Monica.

Using the IPM approach, the school district has implemented a series of common-sense methods to prevent pests before they become a problem. The 17 certificates were presented as part of DTSC Environmental Justice efforts to collaborate with communities and organizations such as California Safe Schools to promote environmental and health protection.

Certificates were issued for the following LAUSD Board members: Marguerite LaMotte; Mónica García; Tamar Galatzan; Steve Zimmer; Bennett Kayser; Nury Martinez; Richard Vladovic; and Superintendent John Deasy.



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In addition, certificates were presented to the following community heroes: Douglas Anderson; Terry Robinson; Ronald Hults; Dr. Cathie Ann Lippman; California Safe Schools; Maryhelen Torres, Euclid Elementary School Principal; Roger Finstad; Jennifer Flores; and Bob Baker.

