California Environmental Protection Agency

Air Resources Board • Department of Pesticide Regulation • Department of Toxic Substances Control
Integrated Waste Management Board • Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
State Water Resources Control Board • Regional Water Quality Control Boards

Terry Tamminen
Agency Secretary

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

September 28, 2004

Mr. Alex Beehler
Assistant Deputy Undersecretary
of Defense for Environment
Department of Defense
3400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-3400

Dear Mr. Beehler:

I write to express my appreciation for your and your representatives' continued efforts to respond to perchorate contamination and the significant threat that this chemical poses to California's drinking water supplies, and especially your continued support of the California/Department of Defense (DoD) Perchlorate Working Group (Working Group), comprised of staff from the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Boards), and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), as well as all DoD service branches. The Working Group, formed in 2003, has been hard at work in their efforts to develop effective ways to prioritize perchlorate sampling activities at military sites and installations in California. These efforts by DoD's service branches will effectively complement our Regional Water Quality Control Boards' (Regional Boards) and Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) efforts with other current and historic handlers of perchlorate to identify sources of this contaminant.

We recognize and are sensitive to the fact that, except at those sites where perchlorate has already been discovered and is being addressed, DoD has not scheduled activities to investigate perchlorate releases, nor budgeted their costs. To accommodate these concerns, our staffs on the Working Group have negotiated the recently completed "Prioritization Protocol for Perchlorate Impacts to Drinking Water From Department of Defense Facilities in California." Now that this document is finished and is being disseminated to both DoD and State project managers, we look forward to working with you in its implementation. As the protocol is disseminated to our State project managers, they will be initiating contact with their DoD counterparts to implement it. Our cooperative implementation of the protocol, as agreed to in the Working Group's Action Plan, will provide us with much needed information to better understand the

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scope and magnitude of the threat to our drinking water sources, and assist us in planning our next steps.

I appreciate DoD's continued commitment to protecting and preserving California's environmental assets, and also appreciate DoD's commitment to work with California to identify and address this very critical public health, environmental, economic and water supply issue in California. Please feel free to contact me at any time on this important matter. In addition, you may also contact Rick Brausch at (916) 445-3131 (or rbrausch@calepa.ca.gov).

Best regards,

Terry Tamminen
Agency Secretary

cc: Mr. Art Baggett, Chairman
State Water Resources Control Board
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Ms. Celeste Cantu
Executive Director
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