

# OEHHA

## Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

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### OEHHA Department Description

#### Organizational Chart

While OEHHA does not promulgate environmental regulations directly, it is responsible for developing and providing risk managers in state and local government agencies with toxicological and medical information relevant to decisions involving public health. State agency users of such information include all boards and departments within Cal/EPA, as well as the Department of Health Services, the Department of Food and Agriculture, the Office of Emergency Services, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Justice. OEHHA also works with Federal agencies, the scientific community, industry and the general public on issues of environmental as well as public health. Examples of current OEHHA functions and responsibilities include:

- Developing health-protective exposure standards for different media (air, water, land) to recommend to regulatory agencies, including ambient air quality standards for the Air Resources Board and drinking water chemical contaminant standards for the Department of Health Services.
- Carrying out special investigations of potential environmental causes of illness, diseases and deaths. Current and recent activities include investigation of the health effects of air pollutants, pesticides, and other chemical exposures.
- Continuing public health oversight of environmental regulatory programs within Cal/EPA.
- Making recommendations to the Department of Fish and Game and the State Water Resources Control Board with respect to sport and commercial fishing in areas where fish may be contaminated.
- Assessing health risks to the public from air pollution, pesticide and other chemical contamination of food, seafood, drinking water, and consumer products.
- Providing guidance to local health departments, environmental departments, and other agencies with specific public health problems, including appropriate actions to take in emergencies that may involve chemicals.
- Implementing the provisions of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65).
- These responsibilities are fulfilled by a highly trained professional staff of about 110 individuals. Of these staff, 64 hold doctoral degrees, seven are physicians, and 21 hold masters degrees in public health or science. OEHHA is budgeted in fiscal year 2001-2002 for approximately \$17 million. OEHHA is headquartered in Sacramento and has a second office in Oakland.

OEHHA's strategic plan charts the direction we will take to accomplish our governing mission.

#### Flex Your Power Website



Energy efficiency and conservation information. Find incentives/rebates, technical assistance, retailers, product guides, case studies and more.

#### AMBER ALERT: Save a Child



AMBER ALERT empowers law enforcement, the media and the public to combat abduction by sending out immediate information.

OEHHA is one of six agencies under the umbrella of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA).

Air Resources Board | California Integrated Waste Management Board | Department of Pesticide Regulation | Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment | State Water Resources Control Board

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