



February 21, 2013

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 558-3160

Ms. Debbie Raphael
Director, Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 "I" Street
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806
Fax: (916) 324-3158

Dear Governor Brown and Director Raphael,

On behalf of our advocacy group Consumer Watchdog I direct you to a copy of my report, *Golden Wasteland*, at this link: <http://www.consumerwatchdog.org/golden-wasteland-report>. Separately you will be receiving a hard copy in the mail.

This important study documents the abject failure of the Department of Toxic Substances Control to live up to its mission of protecting Californians and their environment from toxic harm. We have some of the toughest environmental laws in the nation, and some of the weakest enforcement. The DTSC epitomizes this problem.

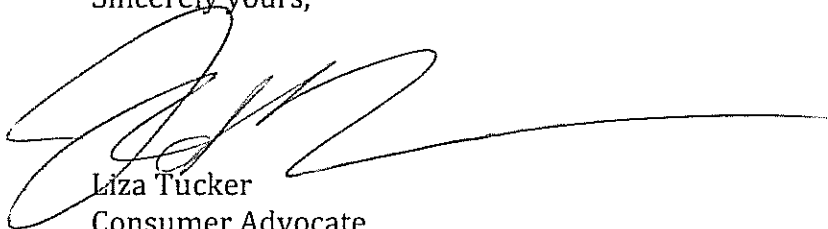
This six-month report involved interviews with many DTSC staff, present and past, and a host of environmental prosecutors, attorneys, environmental advocates, legislative experts, and victims of toxic harm. The results show a pattern and practice at the DTSC of not punishing serial toxic polluters to the fullest extent of the law, declining to revoke the permits of serial polluters for the past 15 years, allowing polluters to operate on expired permits for up to 17 years, and routinely negotiating down the size of applicable fines in out-of-court consent orders. The DTSC sits on its hands while hazardous waste management companies and large-scale generators of hazardous waste poison communities. Families are threatened and people are dying. But there's no cop on the beat to turn to.

I know that you both care deeply about the environment. For that reason, I ask that you shake up the DTSC, replacing top managers, many of which began work at the department during the days of Governor Pete Wilson. It is time to stop DTSC managers from interfering with the jobs that lower level personnel are trying to do to clean up the environment and protect people from toxic harm.

Regular people who are being harmed across California—from the industrial heartland of Los Angeles to the East Bay—have had enough. These are hard-working and honest people who do not make campaign contributions, and do not have the funds to hire the lawyers and lobbyists that the hazardous waste industry does to press their interests at the DTSC. We speak for them.

Californians understand the connection between their health and poisons in the environment. The DTSC has the job of protecting people against toxic harm. It is high time that the DTSC reformed and became a regulator of toxics instead of the toxic regulator that many in the environmental community believe that it has become. I am happy to discuss this report, and any legislation that may be required, to help the DTSC live up to its name.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liza Tucker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Liza Tucker
Consumer Advocate
Consumer Watchdog