

February 26, 2004

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to request your assistance with a statewide strategic planning initiative that is under development to protect natural resources and public health: the California Water Quality and Fish Contamination Project. The project will involve coordination of federal, tribal, state, and local agencies with key private sector, advocacy, community-based, and scientific organizations in California to achieve the following goals: (1) to protect waterbodies in California from contamination, particularly where fish are caught for human consumption; and (2) to promote and protect the health of populations consuming contaminated fish and other aquatic life. The project is being led by the California Policy Research Center of the University of California, the Environmental Health Investigations Branch of the California Department of Health Services, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment of the California Department of Environmental Quality, and the California Bay-Delta Authority..

One of the project's first activities is to identify and compile an inventory of agencies and organizations in California that are addressing, in some capacity, water quality issues related to fish contamination and/or the associated human health risks from exposure to contaminants in fish. The inventory will allow us to identify who is doing what on these issues, and the gaps that remain to be addressed. The inventory also will assist in better coordinating our collective work on these issues.

To further the project's strategic planning process, **please complete** the attached **questionnaire** and **return** it by **Friday, March 12, 2004** to mmack@dhs.ca.gov, via fax to 510-622-4505, or by mail to:

Maura Mack
Environmental Health Investigations Branch
California Department of Health Services
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1700
Oakland, CA 94612

Please call me at (510) 622-4414 if you have any questions or wish to discuss the project.

Thank you in advance for assisting with this effort. We will send you a copy of the inventory once completed.

Sincerely,

Maura D. Mack, PhD, MPH
Chief
Community Participation and Education Section