

August 27, 2013

Secretary Matt Rodriguez
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

Dear Secretary Rodriguez,

I am writing for assistance with the investigation of several hazardous conditions at the San Joaquin County Mosquito & Vector Control District (District). These conditions affect the safety and health of employees, and potentially the surrounding environment, including water resources.

Having sustained work injuries myself and enduring the death of a co-worker, it is my hope that your office will compel the District to follow applicable state laws and CalOSHA standards, that District employees are properly trained and advised of potential exposure to hazardous materials, and that the District is held accountable for their misconduct.

More than a year ago, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health conducted an initial investigation with no citations issued. However, my documentation, personal experience, and that of others, is in conflict with the investigator's findings. Because the investigator was unable to witness field operations alongside employees and/or visit other facilities, the results are incomplete.

For example, after an exposure at the District's White Slough facility in Lodi, I was interviewed by the San Joaquin County District Attorney's office regarding the District's undisclosed use of Formalin. District employees were NEVER informed of the use of this pesticide or provided the MSDS sheet for it. However, the OSHA investigator was not made aware of this facility or the chemicals used there, did not visit the facility, and of course, did not complete environmental studies.

In addition, the ponds at the White Slough facility are not lined, and are located below the water table. It seems this is not safe.

I am asking that Cal-EPA:

- 1) Investigate the District for:
 - a. Failure to comply with applicable hazardous material guidelines and California law;
 - b. Failure to provide for the appropriate safety of their employees; and

- c. Failure to disclose the exposure to certain chemicals to their employees
- 2) Visit the White Slough facility and determine what chemicals/treatments have been applied in the area, whether documented in writing or not
- 3) Test the bodies of water and surrounding environment for undocumented use of hazardous chemicals, including general microbiological testing, bacterial pathogens, parasites and human viruses
- 4) Test the bodies of water and surrounding environment for undocumented and/or inappropriate use of Formalin specifically
- 5) Ensure the District educates and trains employees on the chemicals used, including their exposure risk and appropriate stabilizing medical treatment upon exposure, and that these actions are documented as required by law
- 6) Ensure the District reports all chemical treatments to the appropriate governmental agencies
- 7) Provide me with information regarding the handling of this complaint

Please note I have documentation available to support my complaints, including information regarding the use of Formalin at the White Slough facility. I tried to complete the online form and was unable to do so. Therefore, I respectfully request that an investigator from your office contact me and pursue this investigation as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Tiffany Anderson
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Lodi, CA 95240
(209) 625-8587

cc: Karen Ross, Secretary, Department of Food and Agriculture
Marty Morgenstern, Secretary, Labor and Workforce Developmental Agency
Christine Baker, Director, Department of Industrial Relations