

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONTAMINANT BIOMONITORING PROGRAM

**Appendix G of  
Report to the California Legislature**

California Department of Public Health  
in collaboration with  
California Environmental Protection Agency's  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and  
Department of Toxic Substances Control

January 2010



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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor  
State of California

Kimberly Belshé  
Secretary  
California Health and Human  
Services Agency

Mark Horton  
Director  
California Department of Public Health



## Appendix G: Letter to Dr. Horton, Director, California Department of Public Health from Dr. Edward Moreno, Chair, Scientific Guidance Panel



**County of Fresno**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**EDWARD L. MORENO, M.D., M.P.H.**  
**DIRECTOR-HEALTH OFFICER**

October 19, 2009

Mark B Horton, MD, MSPH  
Director, California Department of Public Health  
PO Box 997377, MS 0500  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

Dear Dr. Horton:

I am writing on behalf of the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program Scientific Guidance Panel (CECBP SGP) with our recommendations regarding the ongoing and future efforts of the Program. As you may know, the SGP met for the seventh time on October 6, 2009 to review progress and advise the program. The staff of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the California Department of Public Health, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control have done a truly outstanding job developing the program and ensuring transparency and high quality participation across stakeholders and the general public.

The SGP strongly endorses the efforts of the CECBP staff to obtain external funding to supplement State funding. We are extremely pleased that the CECBP was awarded \$2.6 million in competitive funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for this fiscal year. This five year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control is intended to augment State funding to expand laboratory capability and capacity, apply biomonitoring methods to assess and track exposure trends, assess exposures of a representative group of Californians, and collaborate with stakeholders and communities. Together with the \$1.9 million in State funding for the CECBP, this cooperative agreement will enable the Program to undertake targeted biomonitoring studies. The SGP commends the CECBP for their outreach efforts to form partnerships with other State programs and with academic researchers to conduct these targeted studies. For example, the SGP is very pleased with the collaborations in which the CECBP is engaged with the Environmental Health Tracking Program to conduct bio-monitoring for organophosphate insecticides in Tulare County and for perchlorate and metals in Imperial County, and with researchers at the University of California San Francisco and University of California Berkeley to conduct a pilot biomonitoring study to measure and compare levels of chemicals in pregnant women and their infants (Maternal and Infant Environmental Exposure Project).

The SGP fully concurs with the CECBP staff that the priorities for the coming fiscal year should be to continue to pursue opportunities and collaborations to leverage existing resources, to conduct activities specified in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cooperative agreement to increase laboratory capability and capacity, to conduct outreach efforts to identify and engage additional stakeholders, to maintain and expand electronic resources, to meet with the SGP three times a year, to support the SGP in the process of selecting designated and

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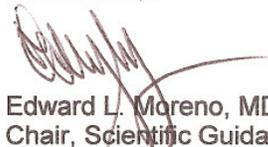
priority chemicals, to develop results communication methods and materials, and to begin developing biomonitoring reference levels. The SGP also encourages the Program to initiate a pilot biomonitoring study in an occupationally exposed population.

While the SGP strongly commends the outstanding progress the CECBP has made with limited resources, this program will need additional resources to fully accomplish the objectives of the law. Specifically, this law, which is a high priority for your administration and the legislature, directs the State to establish a biomonitoring program that, *"will assist in the evaluation of the presence of toxic chemicals in a representative sample of Californians, establish trends in the levels of these chemicals in Californians..., and assess effectiveness of public health efforts and regulatory programs to decrease exposures..."* As scientists who have budgeted, conducted and reviewed biomonitoring and health studies, we are concerned that the current level of funding will not allow biomonitoring in a representative sample of California's 36,000,000 residents. Full funding for such a program would require an estimated \$10 million annually. Even with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cooperative agreement, which is limited to five years, the current Program budget provides less than half the estimated funding required to conduct a statewide biomonitoring program.

Members of the SGP are well aware of the financial challenges facing the State and the need to reduce expenditures. Many hard decisions will need to be made to balance our budget. The California Biomonitoring Program will provide scientifically credible data on environmental exposures and provide insight on the public health impacts of these exposures. Increasingly, scientific studies, including projects in California, are finding that environmental exposures impact human health, especially the health of very young children and fetuses. A fully funded California Biomonitoring Program will provide information on exposures that can ultimately support money-saving public health initiatives. Additionally, a fully developed laboratory infrastructure would be able to support studies funded by federal and private grants and contracts and potentially capture millions of dollars in revenue. Finally, fully funded California laboratories will also improve the ability of our State to respond to terrorist attacks, industrial accidents, or other disasters involving human exposures and health effects.

Thank you for considering this information. We look forward to continuing our assistance to the State agencies charged with implementing this challenging and extremely important public health program.

Respectfully,



Edward L. Moreno, MD, MPH  
Chair, Scientific Guidance Panel  
California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program