

# OEHHA's Role in Environmental Health Issues

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# OEHHA Overview

- Health hazard evaluation/risk assessment
- Guideline development
- Technical support to local and state programs, legislature
- Education and outreach
  - Media, Public, Health community



**Governor**

**California Environmental Protection Agency**

**Air Resources Board  
(ARB)**

**Department of Pesticide  
Regulation  
(DPR)**

**Department of Toxic  
Substances Control  
(DTSC)**

**Office of Environmental  
Health Hazard Assessment  
(OEHHA)**

**State Water Resources  
Control Board  
(SWRCB/RWQCB)**

**Integrated Waste  
Management Board  
(CIWMB)**



# OEHHA Activities: Pesticides

- Peer review of DPR pesticide documents
- Physician training on recognition, management, and reporting of pesticide exposure
- Pesticide application emergencies with Office of Emergency Services (SB 391)



# Pesticides, *cont*

## Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)

- Working closely with CDPH and CDPR
- Surveillance system in conjunction with CA Poison Control Center
- Physician outreach, training on potential symptoms
- Reviewing toxicology on LBAM pesticide
- Analysis of reported symptoms  
*Report available at [www.oehha.ca.gov](http://www.oehha.ca.gov)*
- Public outreach and workshops



# Public Health Goals for Drinking Water



- Public Health Goals (PHG):  
Concentration in water not anticipated to result in adverse health effects after long-term exposure
- PHGs are advisory in nature
- Provided to CDPH's Drinking Water Branch to assist in setting Maximum Contaminant Levels

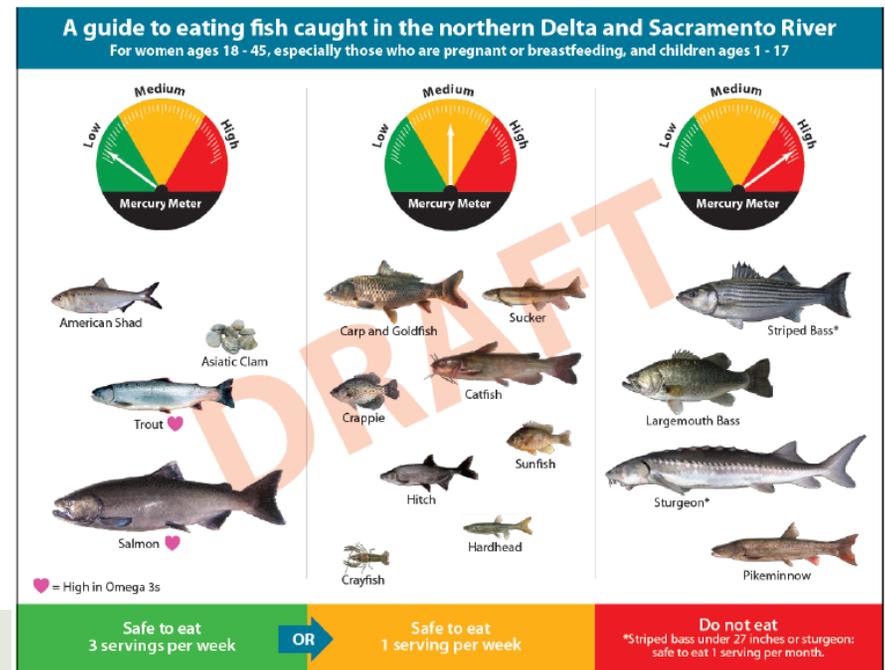
## Examples:

perchlorate, hexavalent chromium



# Fish Advisories

- Provide information to fish consumers to help them choose the safest fish to eat
- Most advisories stem from accumulation of chemicals in fish (mercury, PCBs, DDT, etc)
- Example: Evaluated contaminants in crab, herring and other fish in Cosco Busan oil spill



# Air Contaminant Issues

- Propose CA Ambient Air Quality Standards
- Epidemiological investigations of air pollutants
- Indoor air chemical evaluation
- Emergency Response:
  - ✓ 2007 SoCal Fires: public health advisories, re-entry guidance, fire ash analysis
  - ✓ FEMA trailer issues for displaced fire victims
  - ✓ Beach closure guidance during Cosco Busan oil spill
  - ✓ Acid spill – Mecca, CA



# Biomonitoring

- CDPH (lead agency), OEHHA, and DTSC
- Purpose:
  - ✓ Evaluate the presence of toxic chemicals in a sample of CA residents over time
  - ✓ Assess effectiveness of environmental regulations
  - ✓ OEHHA responsible for Scientific Guidance Panel, chemical toxicity information, public outreach (shared), identifying environmental sources.

Take the **Chemical Selection Survey** by May 6<sup>th</sup>  
[www.oehha.ca.gov/multimedia/biomon/index.html](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/multimedia/biomon/index.html)



# Green Chemistry

- Participation in statewide California Green Chemistry Initiative
- Prioritizing chemicals of concern
- Researching safer alternatives to existing chemicals
  - Alternatives to PBDE flame retardants
  - Substitutes for ozone-depleting VOCs
  - Substitutes for perchloroethylene in dry cleaning
- Developing green building guidelines, with a focus on indoor air quality

