



Department of Toxic Substances Control



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Cal/EPA

8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

October 17, 2005

Mr. Michael Mitchener
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Engineer District, Sacramento
Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento, California 95814-2922

Subject: Benicia Arsenal Community Relations Plan

Dear Mr. Mitchener:

Thank you for the copy of the Benicia Arsenal Community Relations Plan (CRP) dated August 2005. Michelle Trotter, Public Participation Specialist, has reviewed the CRP and has raised several concerns to me.

One important aspect of a Community Relations Plan is the community interviews. The interviews are the cornerstone of the CRP and provide an opportunity to hear first hand from key stakeholders about community outreach efforts at federal facilities. Since the interviews are such a key component of the CRP, they require a cooperative effort by the public affairs team to ensure interpretation and consideration of the answers received during the interviews. No CRP is complete without this input and information. Unfortunately, the CRP delivered to us in August not only did not include community interviews but did not include Ms. Trotter in the process. Therefore, the Benicia Arsenal Community Relations Plan is not approved by the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

The CRP, however, is a good start but should be marked "draft" until the interviews are completed with the inclusion of Ms. Trotter. Ms. Trotter understands the importance of the CRP and she is available to discuss the list of stakeholders and her availability for the interviews.

If you have questions or would like to discuss the issue further, please contact me at (916) 255-6682.

Sincerely,

Diane Fowler
Public Participation Supervisor

cc: Mr. Jerry Vincent
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