



Linda S. Adams
Acting Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Leonard E. Robinson
Acting Director
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P.O. Box 806
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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

April 27, 2011

The Honorable Elizabeth Patterson
Mayor of Benicia
250 East L Street
Benicia, California 94510-3285

Dear Mayor Patterson:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) understands the City of Benicia (City), is working very hard on an alternative plan to achieve complete characterization and remediation of the former Benicia Arsenal (Arsenal). We recently met with the City's environmental consultant, Mr. Mark O'Brien, who outlined the a conceptual path forward. This path forward would involve extensive coordination with many entities, including members of Congress, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), DTSC, the Regional Water Quality Control Board and other potentially responsible parties (PRPs).

DTSC believes that the City's proposed path forward has the potential to succeed and we understand it will take some time to put the plan together. A meeting is currently scheduled for May 16, 2011, to discuss the status of the investigation and remediation. At the meeting, DTSC is looking forward to an update on the PRP group's progress and a brief presentation by a City representative outlining your proposed plan. We also look forward to having a candid discussion with the group on the topic of project schedule.

DTSC remains concerned with the pace of investigation and remediation of the Arsenal. However, we are very hopeful that during the meeting on the 16th the PRP group will either agree to support your plan or, bring forward new ideas to resolve the issues that remain. If it appears that significant progress has been made at the meeting and if the PRP group is willing to work together toward a common goal, DTSC will consider holding off on issue of an order until the PRP group has had time to negotiate the plan.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to me at (916) 324-3148 or, contact Mr. Daniel Ward, DTSC's Statewide DOD Cleanup Manager at (916) 255-3676.

Sincerely,



Stewart W. Black, P.G.
Acting Deputy Director

cc: The Honorable Noreen Evans
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