



KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

June 18, 2018

Marilyn C. Underwood, Ph.D., REHS
Environmental Health Director
Contra Costa Environmental Health
2120 Diamond Boulevard, Suite 200
Concord, California 94520

Dear Dr. Underwood,

Thank you for your letter of May 18, 2018 expressing appreciation for the assistance that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has provided regarding materials at the Keller Canyon landfill and requesting additional assistance on behalf of Contra Costa County Environmental Health. My staff and I can commit now to assisting with some of your requests, and we look forward to discussing how we might assist further with this matter.

I was pleased to hear that CDPH staff attendance at the agency/stakeholder workgroup meeting was helpful for the process underway to address the public concerns regarding waste material from Hunters Point Naval Shipyard that had been placed at the Keller Canyon landfill near Pittsburg. Regarding your request for similar assistance at an upcoming community meeting where CDPH staff could share information on radiation generally, the Hunters Point cleanup process, the Keller Canyon landfill monitoring, and the indications and process for undertaking an environmental radiation survey, we share your view that accurate information is vital to providing well-managed public environmental health. Therefore, Mr. John Fassell and Ms. Sheetal Singh of CDPH's Radiologic Health Branch and Environmental Management Branch, respectively, will attend the community meeting on June 21st and share information about these topics.

In advance of the availability of a consultant that the County is hiring, you also requested CDPH assistance with an environmental survey of the landfill or neighborhood areas. In order to evaluate this request, it would be helpful to first discuss the necessity, aims, and scope of such survey. For example, CDPH would likely need to visit the Keller Canyon landfill site and surrounding area, review historical and/or typical operations of the landfill, and discuss other factors which would inform us regarding what kind of survey, if any, would be indicated or possible. A meeting in person or by teleconference would be appropriate to start the evaluation of this request – my staff would be happy to arrange such a meeting.



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CDPH understands the health and safety concerns regarding this matter, and we appreciate your efforts to ensure close coordination to address it. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Starr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mark Starr, DVM, MPVM, DACVPM
Deputy Director for Environmental Health
California Department of Public Health

Cc: The Honorable Federal Glover, CCC Board of Supervisors
Anthony Chu, Division of Radiation Safety and Environmental Management
John Fassell, Radiologic Health Branch