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TWENTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

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February 21, 2013

Debbie Raphael, Director
California Department of Toxic and Substance Control
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2828

RE: Allegations in NBC Report: California's Toxic Secret and Consumer Watchdog Report: Golden Wasteland

Dear Ms. Raphael:

Thank you for your Department's assistance in cleaning up Los Angeles Academy Middle School, formerly known as New Jefferson Middle School. I am certain you have seen the NBC reports and have read the Consumer Watchdog reports alleging mismanagement of hazardous waste and a lack of enforcement on behalf of the Department of Toxic and Substance Control (DTSC). These allegations are extremely alarming and its disturbing to see current employees feel compelled to mask their identity out of fear of retaliation for discussing DTSC enforcement practices.

Both the NBC news report and the Consumer Watchdog Report allegations directly affect the constituencies I represent in the twenty-second Senate District. As you know, my Senate District encompasses a large percentage of poor and marginalized communities that are already disproportionately impacted by poor air quality and environmental hazards. These communities cannot afford inconsistent enforcement of rules designed to protect and preserve the basic health and safety of Californians.

I know you fairly recently took the helm at DTSC and believe in the Department's mission to restore and safeguard communities, and protect future generations from toxic threats. I would like to meet next week to discuss these allegations and review DTSC's enforcement activities. In the meantime, I have asked for a Senate investigation by the Office of Oversight and Outcomes into the allegations in the NBC and Consumer Watchdog reports. Finally, I am considering introducing legislation to serve as a placeholder to ensure that we have a legislative vehicle should any corrective measures be necessary to protect the public health of my constituents.



I appreciate your attention to this matter. Please contact my office to schedule a meeting and if you have any questions regarding this request contact my Chief of Staff, Dan Reeves at 916-651-4022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin de León". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the "n" in "León".

KEVIN DE LEÓN
Senator, 22nd District