

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA) works to restore, protect, and enhance environmental quality. The Agency coordinates state environmental regulatory programs and promotes fair and consistent enforcement of environmental law.

The May Revision includes total funding of \$4.3 billion (\$87.8 million General Fund) for all programs included in the Agency.

REDUCING LEAD EXPOSURE

Public health experts increasingly recognize that lead poisoning can occur at lower levels of exposure than previously understood. Children under age six are at the greatest risk—even low levels of exposure can cause irreparable damage to a child’s central nervous system and result in other developmental and behavioral problems. Children of low-income families are disproportionately exposed to lead poisoning.

Created in 1991, the Department of Public Health’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program receives and analyzes children’s blood lead tests, provides public health nurse services related to lead exposure, works with health care providers to assure appropriate follow-up and medical services, and performs environmental investigations to assure remediation.

The Governor’s Budget includes \$8.2 million Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund for the Department of Public Health to extend services to children who have been

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exposed to lead, consistent with the guidance for treatment from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and to upgrade an information technology system to handle these additional cases. Specifically, the proposal aligns the blood lead levels triggering treatment with the most recent federal recommendations for monitoring, education, and basic services to children.

Additionally, the Governor recently signed legislation, Chapters 9 and 10, Statutes of 2016 (SB 93 and AB 118) which provide a \$176.6 million General Fund loan to expedite the cleanup of residential properties contaminated with lead around the former Exide Technologies facility in Vernon. The first \$46.9 million of this funding will be spent by the end of 2016-17.

The May Revision builds on these proposals by supporting additional lead-related programs administered by the Department of Public Health, State Water Resources Control Board, and Department of Toxic Substances Control.

Significant Adjustments:

- Childhood Lead Mapping—An increase of \$180,000 Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund for the Department of Public Health to upgrade the information technology system to include geographic information system functionality, thereby providing more timely and accurate data on sources of lead exposure and contamination throughout the state. The geographic information system functionality also helps the state respond to instances of lead contamination.
- Improved Monitoring and Reporting of Drinking Water—An increase of \$480,000 Safe Drinking Water Account and two positions for the State Water Resources Control Board to: (1) prepare guidance documents and engage in outreach to schools to assist local efforts for water quality testing, and (2) support public water systems in improving compliance with federal reporting requirements.
- Lead Acid Batteries—An increase of \$255,000 Toxic Substances Control Account and two positions for the Department of Toxic Substances Control to evaluate listing lead acid batteries as “priority products” subject to the Department’s Safer Consumer Products regulations. As part of the Hazardous Waste Reduction Initiative, the Department will conduct research, engage with stakeholders, evaluate options, and implement recommended actions to better protect the people and environment of California from adverse impacts related to the manufacture, use, recycling, and disposal of lead acid batteries.

ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

In 2013, Cal-EPA created the Environmental Justice Compliance and Enforcement Working Group (Working Group) to more fully integrate environmental justice into enforcement of environmental laws across state departments. Through the Working Group, Cal-EPA and its boards and departments led pilot enforcement and compliance initiatives in two of the most environmentally burdened areas of the state, one in Fresno and another in the Boyle Heights and Pacoima neighborhoods in Los Angeles. The Working Group conducted community outreach, engaged local agency enforcement partners, conducted compliance assistance and inspections, and took actions to return regulated entities to compliance when violations were observed. In addition to correcting violations discovered through inspections, the pilot programs created conditions that will lead to greater environmental compliance in the future and improved working relationships between the community and local, state, and federal regulatory agencies. These pilot projects demonstrate a need for permanent resources to continue and enhance enforcement and compliance activities in disadvantaged communities statewide.

Additionally, the May Revision includes a proposal of \$2.3 million Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Administrative Fund and four positions for the Air Resources Board to support neighborhood air quality monitoring near oil and gas facilities and enhance the Board's emergency response capabilities.

The May Revision builds on these efforts by supporting additional enforcement and monitoring in disadvantaged communities.

Significant Adjustments:

- **Expanded Enforcement in Environmental Justice Communities**—An increase of \$904,000 various special funds and six positions to make the Working Group pilot permanent. The Working Group will continue reducing adverse environmental impacts in the most vulnerable communities and expand its work to other disadvantaged communities. This effort will allow for more frequent and efficient enforcement and compliance initiatives in more areas identified as the most disadvantaged in the state.
- **Pesticide Air Monitoring**—An increase of \$2.3 million other funds and five positions for the Department of Pesticide Regulation and the Air Resources Board to strengthen California's existing pesticide air monitoring network program. This proposal expands the current network of year-round pesticide air monitoring

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stations, enhances pesticide laboratory analysis capabilities, and resumes seasonal ambient pesticide monitoring to better evaluate the impact of pesticides on children's health and in disadvantaged communities.