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**DATE:** November 18, 2003

**FROM:** Thomas Prendergast, MD., San Bernardino County Health Officer

**RE:** SB 702 Comments

It seems to me that one approach which has been insufficiently covered is to create registries of individuals after a known exposure, occupational or otherwise, and to follow those individuals forward to see if possibly related diseases occur more frequently, earlier or with unusual features in those with known previous exposure. For example, the recent wildfires exposed millions of people to ash and fumes. There has been discussion about documenting possible acute affects, i.e. asthma E.R. visits, but there is also the possibility of studying long term effects. This same approach might also be used in neighborhoods with environmental exposures as well as after chemical accidents, like Fiberite in Orange County about 25 years ago.

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