
DATE: November 14, 2003

FROM: Bill Magavern, Senior Legislative Representative, Sierra Club California

RE: SB 702 Draft Report

Sierra Club comments on the Draft Report of the SB702 Expert Working Group on Environmental Health Surveillance

Sierra Club California supports the findings and recommendations of the SB702 Expert Working Group on Environmental Health Surveillance. Most importantly, the actions recommended by the draft report would provide much-needed information to allow those people working in environmental protection to focus our resources on the pollutants that are most important for public health. Establishing an Environmental Health Surveillance System in California would allow us to see pollutant trends (like recent increases in PolyBrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs), for example) so we could start to respond early, before new pollutants reach the crisis level.

Sierra Club California supported SB 702, and we will continue to advocate establishment of an Environmental Health Surveillance System in California. The biggest obstacle will be the costs of such a system. We believe that the appropriate way to fund an EHSS is through the collection of fees on pollution.

Respectfully Submitted,

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