

July 10, 2006

To the Residents of Sacramento County, California:

**Re: Asbestos in Eastern Sacramento County**

On July 29, 2002, the California Air Resource Board (CARB) adopted an Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for asbestos, which was updated March 29, 2004. The ATCM governs the construction of projects in areas that contain asbestos. The ATCM also authorizes the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) of an air district to apply the ATCM to any area that it determines contains naturally occurring asbestos (NOA).<sup>1</sup> In August 2005, based on empirical and geologic information, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) APCO made a preliminary determination that the Copper Hills and Gopher Ridge volcanic areas contained NOA and were subject to the ATCM requirements.

To gain a more accurate representation of whether NOA was located in these and other areas of Sacramento County, SMAQMD commissioned the Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey (CGS) to develop a map identifying areas that may contain NOA within the county. CGS produced Special Report 192 that provides information as well as a map detailing the results of its investigation. The report and map are available at CGS's website:

[http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/minerals/hazardous\\_minerals/asbestos/east\\_sacramento.htm](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/minerals/hazardous_minerals/asbestos/east_sacramento.htm)

The shaded areas of the map located on the last page of the Special Report indicate areas that the CGS designated as "Moderately Likely to Contain Asbestos." This classification was based upon CGS's geologic observations, the chemical and physical characteristics of the rocks, and the reported occurrence of amphibole asbestos in these rocks at construction sites in eastern Sacramento County and in similar rocks in nearby counties.

Based on these findings, the SMAQMD APCO has determined that properties located entirely or partially within the "Moderately Likely to Contain NOA" are asbestos areas and property owners must either (1) comply with all dust control requirements of the ATCM when disturbing soil, or (2) have a registered geologist conduct a geologic evaluation demonstrating that the property does not contain asbestos at concentrations greater than 0.25%.

Enforcement of the asbestos regulations will be effective as of the date of this letter. Violations of air quality regulations are subject to criminal or civil penalties under California Health and Safety Code sections 42400 and 42402.5.

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<sup>1</sup> 17 CCR § 93105, subs. (b)(2).

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Additional information regarding NOA, including links to the asbestos ATCM requirements, CGS map and CGS report, can be found on SMAQMD's website at <http://www.airquality.org/compliance/asbestosNaturallyOccurring.shtml>. The California Air Resources Board's website at [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov) also contains useful NOA background information. General questions about NOA can be answered by SMAQMD communication staff at (916) 874-4800.

Sincerely yours,

Larry Greene  
Air Pollution Control Officer

cc: SMAQMD Board of Directors  
John Clinkenbeard, California Geological Survey  
Ron Churchill, California Geological Survey  
Rick Fears, California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Catherine Witherspoon, Executive Director, California Air Resources Board  
Rich Boyd, California Air Resources Board  
Terry Schutten, County Executive, Sacramento County  
Glennah Trochet, Public Health Officer, Sacramento County  
Cheryl Creson, Administrator, Municipal Services Agency, Sacramento Co.  
Robert Sherry, Director of Planning, Sacramento County  
Joyce Horizumi, DERA Director, Sacramento County  
Michael Penrose, Director of Agency, County Engineering, Sacramento County  
Phil Fischbach, Architectural Services Division, Sacramento County  
Marcella McTaggart, APCO of El Dorado County AQMD  
Tom Christofk, APCO of Placer County APCD  
Mat Ehrhardt, APCO of Yolo-Solano AQMD  
David Valler, APCO of Feather River AQMD  
Andy Morin, Mayor of the City of Folsom  
Sam Spiegel, Interim City Manager, City of Folsom  
Gail Furness de Pardo, Interim Assistant Community Development Director, City of Folsom  
Amy Feagans, Director of Neighborhood Services, City of Folsom  
Dean Perry, Chief Building Official, City of Folsom  
David Stiffler, General Manager, Rancho Murieta Association  
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