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DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS

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CALIFORNIA

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August 11, 1987

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Transportation and Community Development Committee  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: SACRAMENTO COUNTY TOXICS TASK FORCE REPORT

The attached report from the City of Sacramento Toxic Substances Commission was discussed by the City Council at its August 4, 1987 meeting. At the request of the Committee Chair, the report was referred to the Transportation and Community Development Committee for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Larson  
Administrative Services Officer

APPROVED FOR COMMITTEE INFORMATION:

David R. Martinez  
Deputy City Manager

August 11, 1987  
All Districts



# CITY OF SACRAMENTO

## TOXIC SUBSTANCES COMMISSION

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August 4, 1987

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: SACRAMENTO COUNTY TOXICS TASK FORCE REPORT**

### SUMMARY

The Toxics Substances Commission reviewed the final report of the Sacramento County Toxics Task Force and examined the key recommendations. The Commission recommends that the City Council give its full support to the Task Force recommendations, including the establishment of an Environmental Protection Department.

### BACKGROUND

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors appointed a Toxics Task Force on August 5, 1986. The Task Force was given three primary responsibilities:

1. To examine the scope of county jurisdiction with regard to toxic substances, with reference to federal and state regulatory responsibility;
2. To examine existing county toxic substances control programs and identify problems or deficiencies; and
3. To recommend modifications, as appropriate, to county toxic substances control programs or organization.

The Task Force conducted a series of meetings and issued its report on June 26, 1987. Certain of its recommendations are scheduled for consideration by the Board of Supervisors on August 4, 1987.

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The County's toxics control programs are very important to the City of Sacramento. For that reason, the Toxic Substances Commission has examined certain key recommendations contained in the Task Force report. The Commission will further review more detailed recommendations prior to issuance of the final Commission report.

One of the most significant recommendations made by the Task Force calls for a reorganization of county government. Specifically, the Environmental Health Branch would be removed from the Sacramento County Health Department and consolidated with the Air Pollution Control District to form a new department, the Environmental Protection Department. This new department, with its Air Pollution Control and Hazardous Materials Advisory Board, would have overall responsibility for air pollution control, toxic substances control and environmental health. The new department would be responsible for coordinating the activities of all county agencies relating to toxic substances.

COMMISSION ACTION

The Toxic Substances Commission resolved, on an eight to zero vote, with one abstention, to support this recommendation. While this is primarily an internal county issue, it is very important for the City of Sacramento for the following reasons:

1. Primary authority and responsibility for toxic substances control at the local government level rests with counties;
2. Toxic substances issues cut across jurisdictional boundaries and in a metropolitan area such as the City and County of Sacramento require a unified response;
3. The City and County of Sacramento are working cooperatively in several areas of toxic substances planning, including emergency response and the A.B. 2948 planning process;
4. The recommendation of the Sacramento County Toxics Task Force to establish an Environmental Protection Department would, if implemented, result in a consolidation and better coordination of county activities and thus better enable cooperative efforts with the City of Sacramento.

CONCLUSION

In short, the Toxics Substances Commission believes that the recommendation to establish an Environmental Protection District will help the city and county to coordinate and to the greatest degree possible unify their efforts at toxic substances control. This should enable greater efficiencies and a more effective service, as well as meeting the needs of the growing metropolitan area.

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RECOMMENDATION

The Toxics Substances Commission recommends that the City Council give its full support to the recommendation of the Sacramento County Toxics Task Force that an Sacramento Environmental Protection Department be established. Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert B. McCray*  
Robert B. McCray, Chair  
Toxics Substances Commission

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

*Walter J. Slipe*

Walter J. Slipe  
City Manager

August 4, 1987