



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105**

JUN 17 2013

Undersecretary Mike Dayton  
California Emergency Management Agency  
3650 Schriever Avenue  
Mather, CA 95655

Dear Undersecretary Dayton:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9, I am writing you today to applaud the California Emergency Management Agency's reconvening of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). As you know, a critical element of the National Response Framework and National Contingency Plan is the SERC -- which was modeled after California's Chemical Emergency Planning and Response Commission (CEPRC) that was started in the 1980s. As an organization, the SERC can provide leadership and vision for the response community as a whole. It also serves as a focal point and resource for Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), like the six regional LEPCs in California.

As illustrated by incidents such as the West, Texas fertilizer explosion of April 17, 2013, coordinated state and local emergency prevention and preparedness activities are needed to protect communities and responders. Informed emergency planning coordination is an important step in preventing chemical accidents and promoting communication and response success. A functioning and effective SERC can help nurture and guide that success.

The U.S. EPA, as the federal partner agency for the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) program, is pleased to learn that the California SERC will meet again on June 27, 2013 -- after not being convened for over a decade. We applaud California and its six active LEPCs and also appreciate the enormous responsibilities successfully carried out by the numerous Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs) in California that implement EPCRA at the local level.

Thank you for your consideration and current efforts to reactivate the California SERC. We look forward to our future collaborations with the California SERC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Meer".

**Daniel Meer  
Superfund Assistant Director**