

Environmental Protection 2015 SLAA REPORT

December 30, 2015

Michael Cohen, Director
California Department of Finance
915 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Cohen,

In accordance with the State Leadership Accountability Act (SLAA), the Environmental Protection submits this report on the review of our systems of internal control and monitoring processes for the biennial period ended December 31, 2015.

Should you have any questions please contact Eric Jarvis, Assistant Secretary, at (916) 323-2658, eric.jarvis@calepa.ca.gov.

BACKGROUND

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) oversees policy and coordinates operations of the Air Resources Board, Department of Pesticide Regulation, CalRecycle, Department of Toxic Substance Control, and Water Resources Control Board, reporting directly to the Governor's Office in the Executive Branch of California State Government.

The Mission of the California Environmental Protection Agency:

- To restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality.

The Major Goals of CalEPA are to:

- Provide Safe, Clean Air to All Californians
- Protect the People and Environment from Toxic Substance
- CalRecycle protects the environment and preserves resources by empowering Californians to reduce, reuse, and recycle
- Insure Clean Water and Protect the Water Rights of All Californians
- Protect Public Health and the Environment by Scientific Evaluation of Risk
- Regulate Pesticides for the beneficial use of Californians and the environment
- Provide Quality Customer Service to All CalEPA Clients

RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Assistant Secretary of Fiscal and Administration and Agency Chief Information Officer of CalEPA met with the Chief Information Officers of all CalEPA Boards, Departments, and Offices have identified the most significant risks to meeting their objectives, prioritized the risks and identified potential solutions.

EVALUATION OF RISKS AND CONTROLS

Operations- External- Technology—Data Security

CalEPA remains proactive in implementing security technologies and management practices to protect information assets. However, there is no way to completely eliminate all vulnerabilities, especially in legacy systems. The following security practices are in place with a goal of increasing data security for all CalEPA systems.

- Perform ongoing reviews to determine high priority systems for remediation, and test CalEPA systems with security scanning software to identify and mitigate vulnerabilities
- Deploy security technology to further protect CalEPA systems from attacks
- Require ongoing security training for all staff, with more intensive training for system developers and support staff
- Perform responsive investigations of security threats and perform prompt remediation

ONGOING MONITORING

Through our ongoing monitoring processes, the Environmental Protection reviews, evaluates, and improves our systems of internal controls and monitoring processes. The Environmental Protection is in the process of formalizing and documenting our ongoing monitoring and as such, we have determined we partially comply with California Government Code sections 13400-13407.

Roles and Responsibilities

As the head of Environmental Protection, Matthew Rodriguez, Secretary, is responsible for the overall establishment and maintenance of the internal control system. We have identified Eric Jarvis, Assistant Secretary, Yogeeta Sharma, Accounting Administrator, as our designated agency monitor(s).

Frequency of Monitoring Activities

The Assistant Secretary of Fiscal and Administration and Agency Chief Information Officer, meets weekly to discuss emerging issues and identify solutions. In addition, the Assistant Secretary of Fiscal and Administration, Agency Chief Information Officer, and Executive Officers meet weekly with their respective counter parts in the Boards, Departments and Offices to engage in issue spotting. The Assistant Secretary of Fiscal and Administration meets on a monthly basis with the budget/accounting team.

Reporting and Documenting Monitoring Activities

The Assistant Secretary of Fiscal and Administration and Agency Chief Information Officer have assigned the risk using the regular meetings to update the Agency Secretary.

Procedure for Addressing Identified Internal Control Deficiencies

Deficiencies with information technology are addressed by the Agency Chief Information Officer and the Chief Information Officers in each Board, Department and Offices.

CONCLUSION

The Environmental Protection strives to reduce the risks inherent in our work through ongoing monitoring. The Environmental Protection accepts the responsibility to continuously improve by addressing newly recognized risks and revising risk mitigation strategies. I certify our systems of internal control and monitoring processes are adequate to identify and address material inadequacies or material weaknesses facing the organization.

Matthew Rodriguez, Secretary

cc: Department of Finance
Legislature
State Auditor
State Library
State Controller
Secretary of Government Operations