April 4, 2003

Mr. Jeff Dhont
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
Mail Stop SFD 7-1
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Dhont:

The California Department of Health Services (CDHS), Environmental Health Investigations Branch (EHIB), is releasing for public comment a Public Health Assessment (PHA) on the Del Amo Superfund site.

The Del Amo Superfund site is located between the cities of Torrance and Carson and involved a company that made synthetic rubber from 1942 to 1972 that had released harmful chemicals into the environment. Now, the site is mostly an industrial park, and a community is located South of the site.

Enclosed you will find a fact sheet summarizing the findings and conclusions of the public health assessment, as well as a flyer that was used to communicate the availability of the PHA at the public library. The public comment period for the PHA runs from April 7 through May 16, 2003.

The main findings of the PHA are the following:

- There is a concern that soil gas (gases in the spaces between the particles of soil) could be a concern for the building on the former Del Amo site. A recommendation was made for testing to occur at the buildings on the former site (some tests have been done and more are underway).
- Chemicals in the groundwater under the Del Amo Site are not in any wells used by and of the residents of businesses. There are no drinking water wells that get the water from the contaminated groundwater.
- The results from the surface soil testing in the area where the homes were bought out found very small amounts of chemicals, which would not be harmful to people’s health.
- Prior to waste material in the pits at the former site being covered with dirt from the 1950s on, residents stated that as children they played with waste near the pits. If children played with the waste material often, then they could have had a slightly higher chance of getting cancer and other health problems.
We encourage you to read the document and provide written comments. These comments will be addressed and will become part of an appendix in the final document. If you have any questions, or would like an additional copy of any of the information enclosed sent to you or to someone else, you may call Mr. Tivo Rojas at (510) 622-4492.

Please submit written comments to the following address:

Mr. Tivo Rojas  
California Department of Health Services  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1700  
Oakland, California 94607  
Email: Trojas@dhs.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Marilyn C. Underwood, Ph.D., Chief  
Site Assessment Section  
Environmental Health Investigations Branch

Tivo Rojas, M.P.H.  
Health Educator  
Environmental Health Investigations Branch

Enclosure
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD for
a PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT on the

Del Amo Superfund Site

The California Department of Health Services, Environmental Health Investigations Branch (CDHS-EHIB) has released a copy of its Public Health Assessment (PHA) on the Del Amo Superfund Site for public comment. The PHA evaluates potential exposure to chemicals from the former rubber company at the Del Amo site.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDS
May 16, 2003

Interested individuals can review the PHA at the following repository:

Torrance Civic Center Library
3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503
Phone: (310) 618-5959

For more information, please contact Mr. Tivo Rojas, Community Health Educator, CDHS-EHIB, at (510) 622-4492 or via email at trojas@dhs.ca.gov

Do your part to help California save energy. To learn more about saving energy, visit the following web site:
www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html