DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333

October 10, 2016

John A. Russo
City Manager
City of Riverside
3900 Main Street
Riverside, California 92522

Dear Mr. Russo:

Thank you for your March 25, 2016, letter and attached information regarding the City of Riverside residents' environmental health concerns in the areas surrounding the 62 acre undeveloped site known as Riverside Agricultural Park. You indicated that the City is requesting the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to conduct a public health assessment that will address the residents' concerns regarding possible health effects associated with the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) found at the park. Since our acknowledgement letter of March 25, 2016, ATSDR has collected and reviewed the available site-specific information and worked with the various federal, state, and local governmental agencies to respond to your request. We have determined that there will be sufficient information for ATSDR to provide a meaningful response to your request.

Working collaboratively with ATSDR, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (CDTSC), and the Riverside Agricultural Park Off-Site Community Work Group, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will assist in the development of the CDTSC environmental sampling plan to determine the extent of PCB contamination beyond the Riverside Agricultural Park. Subsequent to the completion of the CDTSC environmental sampling investigations, CDPH will evaluate the public health threat from the PCB contamination.

CDPH evaluates the public health threat at hazardous waste sites and releases of hazardous materials under a cooperative agreement with ATSDR. Under ATSDR guidance and oversight, CDPH will draft a Health Consultation report (a type of public health assessment) that explains what public health concerns might be associated with the Riverside Agricultural Park-related PCB contamination. CDPH will ask for input from the community as to what outreach and education activities should be offered. The Health Consultation report will undergo the full ATSDR clearance process and be certified by ATSDR before it is released for public comment and finalized. Should you have any questions regarding the our involvement on the Riverside Agricultural Park Off-Site Community Work Group or the development of the Health

Consultation, please contact Dr. Gabriele Windgasse, CDPH, at (510) 620-3610 or gabriele.windgasse@cdph.ca.gov.

Thank you for raising your concerns to ATSDR and bringing them to our attention. If you have any questions about how ATSDR is evaluating your petition request, please contact Dr. Sven Rodenbeck at (770) 488-3660 or via email at Srodenbeck@cdc.gov . You can also contact Ms. Libby Vianu in our Region IX Office, San Francisco, California, at (415) 947-4319 or LVianu@cdc.gov.

Sincerely,

Ileana Arias, PhD
Director
Division of Community Health Investigations

Cc:
California Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Investigation Branch
Desert Sierra Cancer Surveillance Program
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

Bcc:
NCEH/ATSDR/OD
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Ileana Arias, DCHI
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ATSDR: DCHI: Sven Rodenbeck
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