Message

From: Chesnutt, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E1CD369E94474C2C8A876FB16943320A-JCHESNUT]
Sent: 5/5/2021 7:54:37 PM
To: Lyons, John [Lyons.John@epa.gov]
CC: Giarmoleo, Julia [Giarmoleo.Julia@epa.gov]; Gill, Sonam [Gill.Sonam@epa.gov]; Judy Huang [Huang.Judy@epa.gov]; Ty, Fatima [Ty.Fatima@epa.gov]
Subject: Draft response for review: Congressman Ted Lieu-Inquiry regarding DDT Dumping off Coast of Catalina
Attachments: Blumenfeld 042621.pdf

John, please review my below draft response to the inquiry from Cong. Lieu's office.

Thanks, John

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Giarmoleo, Julia
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 3:54 PM
To: Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>; Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>
Cc: Ho, Karly <ho.karly@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Congressman Ted Lieu-Inquiry regarding DDT Dumping off Coast of Catalina

Good afternoon!

I received the below inquiry from Rep. Lieu's office regarding the NOAA-sponsored Scripps Institution of Oceanography survey, and what the results of it were. How would you like me to respond to this inquiry?

Thank you!

Julia

From: Apodaca, Joey <Joey.Apodaca@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 2:33 PM
To: Giarmoleo, Julia <Giarmoleo.Julia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressman Ted Lieu-Inquiry regarding DDT Dumping off Coast of Catalina

Hello Again Julia,

Following up on the DDT dumping issue, has the multi-agency meeting mentioned below to discuss the data gathered by the NOAA-sponsored Scripps Institution of Oceanography survey transpired? Or are we still waiting on additional data?

Thanks in advance for any information you can share.

Sincerely,

Joey Apodaca
Congressman Ted Lieu (CA-33)
Los Angeles Office: 323-651-1040

From: Apodaca, Joey
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 2:15 PM
To: Giarmoleo, Julia <Giarmoleo.Julia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressman Ted Lieu-Inquiry regarding DDT Dumping off Coast of Catalina

Hello Julia,

I just realized I never thanked you for providing EPA's update below. As you might guess, Congressman Lieu is very interested in the status of the matter. Appreciate any further updates you can provide regarding the mapping and interagency meeting.

Thanks again!

Joey Apodaca
Congressman Ted Lieu (CA-33)
Los Angeles Office: 323-651-1040

From: Giarmoleo, Julia <Giarmoleo.Julia@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 5:01 PM
To: Apodaca, Joey <Joey.Apodaca@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressman Ted Lieu-Inquiry regarding DDT Dumping off Coast of Catalina

Hi Joey,

Regarding the Congressman's inquiry, we in the Environmental Protection Agency's Pacific Southwest Region (EPA Region 9) share Congressman Lieu's concern about the potential impacts to human health and the environment presented by legacy DDT-related issues.
The deep-water ocean disposal situation constitutes a complex and large-scale challenge. In addition to the disposal site off Santa Catalina Island recently explored by the University of California, Santa Barbara, there are 13 other documented disposal sites off the coast involving DDT and other chemicals. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of the Interior, as federal natural resource trustees, have important roles to play in understanding the effects on the marine environment from this disposal, and EPA is working to convene a meeting with these federal partners and state agencies later in the spring. This multi-agency discussion will be informed by the results of a NOAA-sponsored, Scripps Institution of Oceanography survey to map a portion of the area where the disposal occurred. As this survey and these multi-agency discussions progress, EPA would be happy to set up a virtual meeting to provide your office with an update.
As a separate matter, the EPA Superfund Program's work to clean up the nearby Palos Verdes Shelf portion of the Montrose Chemical Corporation Superfund Site, and to protect the community from seafood potentially contaminated by DDT, is an ongoing priority. EPA continues to engage in education and outreach to protect public health in partnership with community-based organizations, local, state, and federal agencies. This effort includes multilingual public signage and fish market inspection programs, along with proactive educational work, to address public health risks presented by DDT contamination of seafood.

If you have any questions on this matter, or would like to schedule a meeting, please feel free to reach out at any time.

Best,

Julia

Julia Giarmoleo
Press Officer
Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
giarmoleo.julia@epa.gov
213-326-2033

From: Apodaca, Joey <Joey.Apodaca@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:18 PM
To: Giarmoleo, Julia <Giarmoleo.Julia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressman Ted Lieu-Inquiry regarding DDT Dumping off Coast of Catalina

Hello Julia,

Thank you so very much. I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Joey Apodaca
Congressman Ted Lieu (CA-33)
Los Angeles Office: 323-651-1040

From: Giarmoleo, Julia <Giarmoleo.Julia@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:13 PM
To: Apodaca, Joey <Joey.Apodaca@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressman Ted Lieu-Inquiry regarding DDT Dumping off Coast of Catalina

Hello Joey,

Sonam forwarded me your note – I'm Julia, EPA's new(-ish) Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison for the Greater Los Angeles Area, nice to "meet" you!
Regarding your request, I'm checking in with our team, and will get back to you asap. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, or if I can be of any assistance in the meantime.

Best,

Julia

Julia Giarmoleo
Press Officer
Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
giarmoleo.julia@epa.gov
213-326-2033

From: Apodaca, Joey <Joey.Apodaca@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 1:20 PM

To: Gill, Sonam <Gill.Sonam@epa.gov>
Subject: Congressman Ted Lieu-Inquiry regarding DDT Dumping off Coast of Catalina

Hello Sonam,

I am writing regarding the issue of DDT and possibly other chemical pollutants that, per recent discovery and photographic footage, appear to have been dumped off the coast of Catalina Island. As reported in the Los Angeles Times article linked below (Rosanna Xia, "How the Waters Off Catalina became a DDT Dumping Ground," October 25, 2020), soil samples thus far have shown dangerously high DDT levels, and the extent of the damage caused by this pollution is unknown.

https://www.latimes.com/projects/la-coast-ddt-dumping-ground/

As Congressman Lieu's 33rd Congressional district encompasses the entirety of the Santa Monica coastline, which is nearby the dumping sites in question, Congressman Lieu is requesting any updates on this matter that the EPA can share at this point. Thank you for your time and attention to this inquiry. I look forward to your correspondence.

Sincerely,

Joey Apodaca
Senior Field Representative and Casework Supervisor
Congressman Ted W. Lieu (CA-33)
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Los Angeles, CA 90025
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