CalEPA
California Environmental
Protection Agency

Gavin Newsom
Governor

Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for Environmental Protection

March 8, 2022

Honorable Tribal Chairwoman Mary Norris
Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria
PO Box 1239
Laytonville, CA 95454-1329

RE: Laytonville Landfill Assessment Effort

Dear Chairwoman Norris:

I have attached an update on actions and activities I have directed my staff to assist the Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria (Tribe) in addressing public health concerns identified by the Tribe from living adjacent to the closed Laytonville landfills. This is a follow up from our previous consultation meeting in May 2020.

The Office of the Secretary is leading the effort to bring consistency across our boards, departments, and offices, and to make sure that our efforts are coordinated to support the Tribe's monitoring efforts and public health concerns. I will also be working with our federal partner agencies to expand out coordination and collaboration.

I anticipate inviting you to meet and discuss the outcomes on this effort at the next phase of the assessment in later this year.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. Please feel free to contact Bidtah Becker, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs, and Border Relations at (916) 835-8279 or bidtah.becker@calepa.ca.gov should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for Environmental Protection

CalEPA Laytonville Landfill Assessment Effort Update

- Tasked two Office of the Secretary Deputies and 2 staff with coordinating & leading efforts within the Agency to support Cahto Tribe
  - Bidtah Becker, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs, and Border Relations
  - Caroline Godkin, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Policy and Emergency Response
  - Malinda Dumisani, Climate Policy and Intergovernmental Relations Manager
  - Vanessa Galaviz, Environmental Justice Public Health Scientist
- Acquired data on Laytonville from the US Environmental Protection Agency Region 9, United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), State Water Resources Control Board, North Coast Regional Water Board – R1, California Air Resources Board (CARB), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, and Laytonville residents. To assist in understanding data gaps the following opportunities were provided to CalEPA and Cahto Tribe:
  - DTSC presented on the 2018 Laytonville screening-level field sampling results of soil and groundwater at the Laytonville landfill site.
  - CDPH presented on the CA Cancer Registry and 2017 Cancer Concern Assessment.
- Granted and extended the Cahto Tribes CalEPA EJ Small grant award ($30K) due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Established a Technical Work Group with Cahto Tribe to ensure coordinated efforts. Group members include, CalEPA staff and Tribal representatives Emily Luscombe and Dietrick McGinnis.
  - Phase 1 Year 2021: Review existing data and develop plan to characterize exposures using a cumulative and culturally appropriate framework.
  - Phase 2 Year 2022: Continue to review data, collect new data, characterize exposures, and recommendations for data gaps and controls.

CalEPA's Next Steps To Continue Supporting Cahto Tribe

- Monthly Executive meetings with Council, and Tribal Consultant, Mr. McGinnis to ensure consistent communication regarding high-level coordinated efforts.
- Weekly Technical Work Group meetings to continue efforts in addressing exposure and health concerns.
- Continue working with local, state, and federal government partners to address surface, groundwater, and air quality concerns. For example, the Technical Work Group worked with the air district and CARB to support air monitoring in Laytonville.