Inventory of the California Environmental Protection Agency Records

Collection numbers: R396

California State Archives
Office of the Secretary of State
Sacramento, California

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Descriptive Summary
Title: California Environmental Protection Agency Records
Dates: 1991-2002
Collection number: R396
Creator: California Environmental Protection Agency Records
Collection Size: 19 cubic feet
Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California

Abstract: The records of the California Environmental Protection Agency, or CalEPA, comprise 19 cubic feet of textual and audiovisual records reflecting the work of the Secretary of Environmental Protection and the Secretary's role in overseeing the various units within the agency, including the Air Resources Board (ARB), Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB), Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and regional Water Quality Control Boards. The records cover the period from 1991-2002 and are organized into seven record series: Bill Files (1991-2002); Member Files (1997-1998); Chronological Files (1997-1998); Controlled Correspondence (1992-1996); Legislative Files (1997-1998); Proposed Legislation Files (2001-2002); and Federal Legislation Files (1991-1992). Found within the records are legislative analyses, correspondence, reports, member files, federal legislation pertaining to the duties of the CalEPA, CalEPA proposed legislation, memoranda, photographs, newspaper articles, journal articles, and press releases.

Physical location: California State Archives
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
While the majority of the records are open for research, any access restrictions are noted in the record series descriptions.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], California Environmental Protection Agency Records, R396.[series number], Box [number], folder [number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Acquisition History
The California State Archives acquired the California Environmental Protection Agency Records according to state law.

Agency History
During the administrations of Governor Pat Brown (1969-1967), Governor Ronald Reagan (1967-1975) and Governor Jerry Brown (1975-1983), it became increasingly clear that a statewide agency regarding environmental protection was needed
as environmental issues permeated national and local headlines. In 1969, an oil spill in the Santa Barbara Channel prompted President Nixon to create the United States Environmental Protection Agency in 1970 through his Reorganization Plan 3. While most states followed suit, an environmental agency for California followed a different pattern and was first created through a variety of state statutes and implemented through local and regional agencies. Soon it was clear that the haphazard and informal organization of the statutes required direction from a cabinet-level Secretary in order to be efficient.

Governor Jerry Brown's Executive Order B-2-75 in 1975 created the new post of Secretary of Environmental Affairs, who would facilitate communication between the governor and the various boards and departments that oversaw implementation of the various environmental laws. Tom Quinn, then the Chair of the Air Resources Board, was appointed the first Secretary of Environmental Affairs. Under Governor Deukmejian, the Environmental Affairs Agency began to take shape when legislation such as the California Clean Air Act, Integrated Waste Management Act, Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act, Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act, Proposition 65 (1986), and Drinking Water Well Protection Act, among others, added new duties and functions to the Secretary's office. Although this environmental legislation formed the agency informally, the agency lacked statutory authority.

Pete Wilson campaigned for Governor in his 1990 with the promise to formally create a cabinet-level environmental agency as part of his "Big Green" initiative. In 1991, Governor Wilson proposed a reorganization plan that provided for the continuation of the programs formerly under the Environmental Affairs Agency, as well as additional programs, administered by the new Secretary for Environmental Protection. The Governor's Reorganization Plan went into effect in July 1991, and the Environmental Affairs Agency became the California Environmental Protection Agency. This new agency, or CalEPA as it became known, consisted of several departments and boards, including the Air Resources Board, Integrated Waste Management Board, State Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Quality Control Boards, Department of Toxic Substances Control, Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. These seven boards and departments were all previously under the purview of the Environmental Affairs Agency, the Department of Food and Agriculture, the Resources Agency, or the Department of Health Services.

The new CalEPA had several objectives, primarily to address activities, processes, and substances presenting the greatest public health threats and environmental risks. The CalEPA also sought to prevent pollution rather than control it, enforce state laws, hold other environmental programs accountable, reduce the overlapping and redundant agencies that previously had environmental protection under their purview, and mediate between environmental protection and economic progress. The CalEPA would be headed by the Secretary for Environmental Protection, appointed by the Governor along with three deputy secretaries who hold office "at the pleasure of the Secretary." Among other duties, the Secretary served as the principal advisor to the Governor on major policy and program matters regarding environmental protection, oversaw the departments and boards within the CalEPA, and served as the Chair of the Air Resources Board. The Secretary also served as the Governor's Outer Continental Shelf Policy Coordinator, administered the Hazardous Substance Cleanup Arbitration Panel, registered environmental assessors, and managed the Office of Hazardous Materials Data Management.

As of March 2012, CalEPA oversees the Air Resources Board (ARB), the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). CalEPA also oversees the Regional Water Quality Control Boards and the Integrated Waste Management Board.

Scope and Content

The records of the California Environmental Protection Agency, or CalEPA, comprise 19 cubic feet of textual and audiovisual records reflecting the work of the Secretary of Environmental Protection and the Secretary's role in overseeing the various units within the agency, including the Air Resources Board (ARB), Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB), Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and regional Water Quality Control Boards. The records cover the period from 1991-2002 and are organized into seven record series: Bill Files (1991-2002); Member Files (1997-1998); Chronological Files (1997-1998); Controlled Correspondence (1992-1996); Legislative Files (1997-1998); Proposed Legislation Files (2001-2002); and Federal Legislation Files (1991-1992). Found within the records are legislative analyses, correspondence, reports, member files, federal legislation pertaining to the duties of the CalEPA, CalEPA proposed legislation, memoranda, photographs, newspaper articles, journal articles, and press releases.

The Bill Files relate to such topics such as water quality, oil spills, funding, hazardous waste, energy and energy efficiency, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), public beaches, forest protection, petroleum and fuel, air and water pollution, cement kiln dust, permit streamlining, recycling, pesticide regulation, vehicular emissions, and greenhouse gases. The Member Files concern individual legislators from both the Assembly and Senate in the 1997-1998 session and their specific individual contributions to environmental protection legislation. Chronological Files include correspondence, reports, and memoranda from the 1997-1998 session. Controlled Correspondence include correspondence with

Further accruals are expected.

**Indexing Terms**
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

- Environmental protection --California
- Environmental law --California
- California Environmental Protection Agency

**Related Collections at the California State Archives**

- Environmental Affairs Agency Records

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**Series 1 Bill Files 1991-2002**

**Physical Description:** 195 file folders, 1 videotape

**Access Information**

Access to audiovisual material requires the production of use copies.

**Arrangement**

Bill files are arranged chronologically by legislative session, then numerically by bill number.

**Scope and Content Note**

Bill Files were created by the California Environmental Protection's Legislative Affairs Office. The bill files include legislation that pertains to the operation of the CalEPA and its objectives in regulating and enforcing environmental protection legislation. Notable legislation included the following bills from the 1991-1992 session: AB240 related to waste disposal on Indian reservations, AB380 related to beverage container recycling centers, AB1090 regarding renewable energy resources, AB1173 related to airborne lead exposure, and AB2912 related to oil spills. The files may include bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, author's statements, testimony, press releases, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and committee statements. Audiovisual material included in the files has been moved to a cold-storage vault for preservation purposes and separation sheets are included in the file folders to alert the researcher to the existence of the material.

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1991-1992: AB3-AB3798, ACA3, ACR7-ACR62, AJR69-AJR70, AB9X-AB35X (30ff) Box 1, Folder 1-Box 2, Folder 1
1991-1992: SB44-SB2058, SCR17, SB9X-SB12X (12ff) Box 2, Folder 2-Box 2, Folder 13
1997-1998: AB11-AB2814, ACA22-ACA35, Box 2, AB3X-AB11X (33ff) Folder 14-Box 4, Folder 8
2001-2002: AB13-AB3053, AJR1, AB1X-AB97X, AB6XX-AB86XX (45ff) Box 6, Folder 1-Box 8, Folder 5
2001-2002: SB11-SB2088, SCA7, SJR25, SB5X-SB64X, SB24XX-SB87XX (45ff) Box 8, Folder 6-Box 10, Folder 8
Series 2 Member Files 1997-1998

R396.002, Box 10, folders 9-40

Physical Description: 32 file folders
Arrangement
Member files are arranged alphabetically by last name within legislative house.
Scope and Content Note
Member Files were created for individual assembly members and senators and contain meeting memoranda, group action plans, correspondence, short biographies, CalEPA-suggested responses to the legislator's constituent inquiries, member profiles, newspaper clippings, hearing agendas, presentations, and the legislator's correspondence with the CalEPA. Member files typically concern their sponsored legislation pertaining to the CalEPA, as well as specific constituent requests for information or specific documents. Of particular note are the files for Assembly Member Fred Aguiar, which concern the Chino "Dairy Waste Situation" and include correspondence with dairy groups and constituents, board meeting agendas, and other documents related to the issue. Also noteworthy are Assembly Member Gary Miller's files, relating to the Los Angeles Newspaper Group Earth Day in 1998, and Assembly Member Don Perata's files, that pertain to methamphetamine sales and distribution in California's Central Valley.

Series 3 Chronological Files 1997-1998

R396.003, Box 10, folders 41-42

Physical Description: 2 file folders
Arrangement
Chronological files are arranged chronologically by year.
Scope and Content Note
Chronological files were created by the CalEPA and include memoranda, correspondence, meeting minutes, and reports from each year from the various boards and departments within the agency. Records in this series generally feature bill analyses that need the Secretary's signature, and internal communication between officers of the CalEPA regarding bills that could affect the work of the CalEPA, such as AB1089, regarding the Hazardous Waste Source Reduction and Management Review Act of 1989; AB1357, related to the regulation of transportable treatment units; AB1491, regarding the delivery of petroleum; SB445, allowing the Department of Pesticide Regulation; SB179, regarding electronic formatting of public information; and SB592, regarding contaminated municipal water wells and pipelines.
Series 4 Controlled Correspondence 1992-1996

Physical Description: 130 file folders, 1 audiotape, 1 videotape

Access Information
Access to audiovisual material requires the production of use copies.

Arrangement
Controlled Correspondence are arranged chronologically by year and then alphabetically by last name of one of the parties.

Scope and Content Note
Files include correspondence between the CalEPA and other agencies, constituents, and the incoming and outgoing correspondence of the Secretary. Also included are news clippings and reports that pertain to the CalEPA. Topics discussed in the Controlled Correspondence vary, but focus mainly on private citizens' requests for documents, personal inquiries, and correspondence made by attorneys, environmental political action groups, interest groups, businesses and corporations. The correspondence often related to conflicts between private property rights and environmental issues, such as an individual's permit to build a house on wetlands, or specific instructions and implementation of laws regarding waste cleanup and disposal at abandoned gas stations or other commercial or residential property. Some correspondence records include petitions and mass-mailings by interest groups regarding legislation either proposed by the CalEPA or pertaining to its operation; some include photos and audiovisual material.

Audiovisual material included in the files has been moved to a cold-storage vault for preservation purposes and separation sheets are included in the file folders to alert the researcher to the existence of the material.

Series 5 Legislative Files 1997-1998

Physical Description: 8 file folders

Arrangement
Legislative files are arranged chronologically by year.

Scope and Content Note
Legislative Files were created by the CalEPA and include general legislative files regarding the work of the CalEPA. These files also include "hot bills," or the most newsworthy and contentious bills in both the Assembly and Senate regarding the objectives and operation of the CalEPA from the 1997-1998 session, such as AB278, regarding revisiting the health-based standards for contaminants; AB964 regarding tire waste; SB143, related to public inspection of records; SB658, regarding peer reviewed reports; SB1033, related to public water systems and perchlorate; and SB1096, regarding tax credits and exemptions for low-emission heavy-duty vehicles. The records also include legislative updates on the status of CalEPA-proposed bills such as AB2306, regarding underwater storage tanks; AB2424, regarding the regulation of generator hazardous waste treatment activities; and AB228, related to tire waste.
Series 6  **Proposed Legislation Files 2001-2002**

**Physical Description:** 46 file folders

**Arrangement**

Proposed Legislation Files are arranged chronologically by year, then by bill proposal number.

**Scope and Content Note**

Proposed Legislation Files includes records such as proposals, legislative counsel's digests, CalEPA amendments, news clippings, and reports for legislation proposed by the CalEPA and sponsoring legislators during the 2001-2002 session. Proposals include a proposed title to the bill, usually describing the primary subject of the legislation, such as "Hazardous Waste Control Law Cleanup Legislation" or "Loss of Authorization for Non-Payment of Fees" and a bill proposal number, identified by CEPA-01 (year) - 11 (proposal number). Additionally, a sponsoring department or board within the CalEPA, such as the Department of Toxic Substances Control, is identified within the records as a sponsoring unit. Topics proposed by the CalEPA include tow truck driver cleanup of disabled vehicle fluids, pesticides in food and agricultural products, regulating underground storage tanks, and the Environmental Justice Grant Fund.

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Series 7  **Federal Legislation Files 1991-1992**

**Physical Description:** 9 file folders

**Arrangement**

Federal Legislation Files are arranged numerically by bill number within each house.

**Scope and Content Note**

Federal Legislation Files include records created by the CalEPA regarding the CalEPA's implementation of federal environmental laws created by the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. The files include bill analyses, correspondence, memoranda, reports, news clippings, legislative reviews, and other general information. Topics covered by the federal legislation files include the Solid Waste Disposal Act, the Lead Contamination Control Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, and military base closure (including HR4025 and S1960).