October 16, 2012
Secretary Matthew Rodriq
uez
Secretary for Environmental Protection, Cal/EPA
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: December Local Government Meeting for Cal/EPA California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool

Dear Secretary Rodriquez,

Thank you for the extended time period for local government input regarding the California Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Health Screening Tool. Local Government continues to have ongoing concern about the development and implementation of the tool. We are concerned about the short deadlines for further development and release of the tool. There has been minimal outreach made to get significant local government input despite the extraordinary impact this tool will have on the local government community. Unfortunately, the time period was extended by less than a month and only one meeting was convened in Sacramento late on a Tuesday afternoon (the vast majority of city councils in the state convene on Tuesday nights).

This tool will have an extraordinary impact on local governments land use authority and the permitting process. There is an extremely low awareness level of what is being developed by EPA in this regard and our sincere hope is to assist you, in a true partnership, in seeking local government input in this process. This tool and its impacts are far too important to allow anything less.

We propose a local government organization meeting take place in order to address the significant and real impacts this tool will have. Our organizations will work on convening local government stakeholders and elected officials to share their input into this process. Because of the timing and overall short notice of the previous meetings, we propose holding this meeting in early December, to give attendees and stakeholders adequate time to review this tool and plan to attend this meeting.

We recognize that this unfortunately extends beyond the October 16 public comment period deadline and the proposed meeting of the CIPA Workgroup in November. However, we strongly feel that these comments must be included in the development and implementation of this tool and available for evaluation by the CIPA Workgroup as will all of the other public comments.

We respectfully request that you include sufficient local elected official input into the development of this tool, including this first phase of comments, and allow us to help your agency secure local elected input by holding this meeting in early December and delaying the meeting of the CIPA Workgroup so that they will be able to consider the additional input from local governments.

Sincerely,

Kyra Emanuels Ross, Legislative Representative
League of California Cities

Glen Becerra, President
Southern California Association of Governments
Steven Diels, Council Member, City of Redondo Beach; President
Los Angeles Division of the League of California Cities

Lisa Bartlett, Council Member, City of Dana Point; President
Association of California Cities – Orange County

Sam Olivito, Executive Director
California Contract Cities Association

Karen Keene, Senior Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties

Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Regional Council of Rural Counties

David Snow, AICP, Vice President
Policy and Legislation
American Planning Association, California Chapter

CC: Martha Guzman-Aceves, Governor’s Office, Deputy Legislative Secretary
Arsenio Mataka, Cal/EPA, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs
Miriam Ingenito, Cal/EPA, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Policy and Community Programs
George Alexeiff, PhD, OEHHA, Director
Dr. John Faust, OEHHA, Staff Toxicologist