# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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December 7, 2009

Elaine M. Howle, CPA
State Auditor
Bureau of State Audits
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Howle:

Enclosed is the final of three requested responses by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) and Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to the Bureau of State Audits' Report No. 2008-112 entitled *Electronic Waste: Some State Agencies Have Discarded Electronic Waste Improperly, while State and Local Oversight is Limited.* DTSC and the CIWMB worked cooperatively with the Department of General Services to address the findings and recommendations of the report.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 916-324-9214.

Sincerely,

Linda Adams

Linda Adams
Secretary for Environmental Protection

Enclosure

cc: Margo Reid-Brown
Maziar Movassaghi
Mark Leary

Final Status Report
Implementation of Recommendations of Bureau of State Audits' Report No. 2008-112

The Bureau of State Audit's (BSA) Report No. 2008-112 entitled *Electronic Waste: Some State Agencies Have Discarded Electronic Waste Improperly, while State and Local Oversight is Limited* made recommendations based upon BSA's assessment of State agencies' compliance with laws and regulations governing the recycling and disposal of electronic waste. This report is in response to the BSA's request for periodic follow-up reports on the status of implementation of those BSA recommendations that are within the statutory authority of the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

Fully committed to preserving the environmental integrity of California's resources through proper handling of solid and hazardous wastes, the CIWMB and DTSC have taken appropriate actions to address the issues presented in the BSA's report.

**BSA Recommendation:**
"To help State agencies' efforts to prevent their e-waste from entering landfills, Toxic Substances Control, the Waste Management Board, and General Services should work together to identify and implement methods that will communicate clearly to State agencies their responsibilities for handling and disposing of e-waste properly and that will inform the agencies about the resources available to assist them."

**Response:**
DTSC and the CIWMB, along with the Department of General Services, worked cooperatively to identify and implement means of clearly communicating to State agencies their responsibilities for properly handling and disposing of e-waste and the resources available to assist them. The agencies held several meetings to discuss the BSA's findings and develop strategies to educate State agencies and increase State agencies' compliance with e-waste management mandates. Specifically, DTSC and the CIWMB coordinated with DGS to:

- E-mail all State agency recycling coordinators, directors, and other stakeholders to communicate to them the need to properly manage e-waste, providing web links for additional information and resources, and informing them of the training session.

- Jointly conduct a training session on the recycling and disposal of e-waste, held May 20, 2009, to increase State agencies' knowledge of e-waste handling and disposal requirements and available resources. There were 213 registered participants representing 68 State agencies, 11 colleges and universities, 10 businesses, and 2

local governments. The training session was webcast and recorded and DTSC plans to make an on-demand video stream available on its web site and the CIWMB web site will also link to the video. The PowerPoint presentation from the workshop is available on the DTSC web site (http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/EWaste/upload/Ewaste_Management_Standards_May09.pdf) and the CIWMB is providing a link to the presentation from its State Agency web page.

- E-mail all registered training participants to provide Web links to the presentation materials and to an online survey to evaluate the worth and effectiveness of the training. Of the 17 survey respondents that expressed any opinion, the majority indicated that the training was well organized (92 percent) and met their expectations (93 percent). In addition, two attendees telephoned to say that the training was informative, worthwhile, and well organized. One caller thanked DTSC, CIWMB, and DGS for their "customer focus."

- Develop and print an informational poster on e-waste for mounting by State agencies in locations where e-waste items may be handled and disposed by staff, such as property control offices. Printed copies were made available at the training session. Limited printed copies and a downloadable version are available from DTSC.

- Provide input into the DGS initiative to amend the State Administrative Manual Section 3520.9 to add language that clearly requires the recycling or disposal of e-waste in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

In addition, the CIWMB is:

- Updating its State agency web pages to make information and resources relating to proper management and recycling of e-waste easily accessible.
- Providing direct assistance to State agencies that have demonstrated a need for education and technical guidance in identifying and establishing proper e-waste management practices.

The Integrated Waste Management Board and the Department of Toxic Substances Control will continue to coordinate with the Department of General Services to further efforts to increase State agencies' proper management of e-waste.