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January 13, 2014

TO: DMAC Members

FROM: Alonzo L. Plough, Ph.D., M.P.H.

SUBJECT: Regarding reports of radioactivity on California shores and in Los Angeles County from Fukushima

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has been monitoring recent reports regarding radioactivity related to events from the Fukushima Incident. Currently, no harmful levels of radiation have been found in Los Angeles County associated with the Fukushima Incident.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has stated, there is no public health risk at California beaches and they are not aware of any recent activity at Fukushima, or any new data that would cause elevated radioactivity on California shores from the Fukushima incident. Recent tests by the San Mateo County public health department and CDPH show that elevated levels of radiation at Half Moon Bay are due to naturally occurring materials and not radioactivity associated with the Fukushima incident. The radiation associated with Death Valley is suspected to be radon gas due to naturally occurring material displaced during the rainfall. The CDPH Radiological Health Branch (RHB) is continuing to investigate all reports in California. None of the radiation found thus far is from the Fukushima Incident.

CDPH has collected and will be analyzing sand samples from Half Moon Bay. Results of the analysis will be posted on the RHB website (<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/RHB-RadReport.aspx>) as soon as the analysis is completed.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health will continue to monitor the Fukushima Incident and will take appropriate actions to notify the public in the event that harmful levels of radiation are found in Los Angeles County.

Additional information:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is monitoring the situation with the nuclear reactors in Japan. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as well as the private entity Woods- Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) have monitored fish from the Pacific and while minute levels of cesium were found in blue fin tuna most recent tests show even those small levels are declining. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the coordinating Agency for response to international emergencies involving radioactive materials and the FDA is responsible for food safety. FDA's hotline number is 888-723-3366. The EPA, via their RadNet system, monitors the nation's air, drinking water, precipitation, and pasteurized milk to determine levels of radiation in the environment. RadNet sample analyses and monitoring results provide baseline data on background levels of radiation in the environment and can detect increased radiation from radiological incidents, such as the Fukushima incident. You may visit the EPA RadNet website at <http://www.epa.gov/radnet/> and this site has a link regarding public questions. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) addresses threats to coastal areas. You can see information about their tracking of debris from Japan at: <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/tsunamidebris/>

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provides publically available reports on leakage and seawater radioactivity near the Fukushima Daiichi plant. The last report can be found at: <http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/2013/japan-basic-policy6.html>

The state of Oregon continues to test drinking water, rainwater and sea water for radionuclides that could be associated with Fukushima.
<https://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/RadiationProtection/RadiationMonitoring/watermonitoring/Pages/waterdata.aspx>