

## TALKING POINTS/ GREEN RIBBON SCIENCE PANEL - 4/8/09

- California wants to advance Green Chemistry by encouraging the redesign of products and manufacturing processes that will use safer chemicals. DTSC has chosen some of the most innovative, scientific and technical minds to give input on policies and practices that will ultimately achieve this. To that end, DTSC has selected 27 members for a Green Ribbon Science Panel, an advisory panel created for the state's Green Chemistry program, which constitutes an innovative approach to removing toxics from products sold across the state.

### How was the Green Ribbon Science Panel Established?

- The panel was established with passage of AB 1879 – Feuer and SB 509 – Simitian, landmark Green Chemistry legislation signed into law in 2008 by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.
  - AB 1879 increases regulatory authority over chemicals in consumer products by, among other things, creating an advisory panel of scientists to guide research in chemical policy, establishing regulation for assessing alternatives, and setting up an internet database of research on toxins.
  - SB 509, often referred to as a “Toxics Information Clearinghouse,” creates an online database to increase consumer knowledge about the toxicity and hazards of chemicals, including technical and “clean up” provisions that affect AB 1879.

### How were panel members selected?

Panel members were selected on the basis of their education, expertise, and practical experience in specific fields related to Green Chemistry. These scientists and academicians were recruited not only from California but from across the nation. They all serve on a voluntary basis.

### What are some areas of expertise and experience of the panel members?

Panel members' expertise and experience cover a range of disciplines, including chemistry, environmental law and health, public health, public policy, and risk analysis.

### What is the role of the panel members?

Panel members will advise DTSC on scientific and policy matters related to DTSC's implementation of AB 1879 and SB 509. The panel will advise DTSC so that the Green Chemistry program will have a strong scientific foundation. Ultimately, this panel will be helping California come up with methods to produce everyday, household products that are made with safer chemicals.

### Why is the Green Chemistry program important?

- The intent of the program is to reduce risks from industrial chemicals and waste while at the same time encouraging innovation in building a more robust economy.
- In 2007, the U.S. EPA estimated that the United States produced or imported 42 billion pounds of chemicals used in the production of toys, pet food, clothing, baby bottles, and other consumer goods, and also forecasted that global chemical production would double every 25. Toxic chemical hazards in these and other consumer goods routinely receive headline news coverage.
- The program's objective is to eliminate toxic chemical hazards at the source, before they reach consumer goods or hazardous waste dumps.

### How does Green Chemistry promote a robust economy?

The implementation of Green Chemistry—designing and producing products that are “benign by design”—can reduce costs associated with handling toxic substances and managing hazardous waste. It will lower health care costs by reducing worker and consumer exposures to toxic substances, and will reduce liabilities associated with exposures to toxic substances. Finally, this program will place California as a leader in advancing Green Chemistry, giving California companies a competitive advantage in the market for green products.

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## TALKING POINTS for Final CA Green Chemistry Initiative Report released in December 2008:

- California reached yet one more environmental milestone with the release of the Final Report to implement a comprehensive green chemistry program that will remove toxics from products and move us away from the piecemeal approach of chemical-by-chemical bans.
- Making products safe at the design and manufacturing phase can significantly reduce toxins in our environment and improve the health of our environment and its citizens.
- The Green Chemistry legislative package authored by Assembly Members Mike Feuer, Sam Blakeslee and Jared Huffman and Senators Joe Simitian and Ron Calderon, signed into law in September 2008, has set the foundation and cornerstone of this landmark program.
- The final green chemistry report provides six key recommendations that will enable California to launch this first-in-the nation program to remove toxics from every-day products and from our environment. Specifically, the recommendations allow us to:
  - **Expand our existing Pollution Prevention Program** by broadening it to include a green chemistry and engineering design perspective when evaluating environmental impacts of chemicals and processes rather than just focus on end-of-pipe hazardous waste.
  - Work with the education community to **incorporate Green Chemistry and Green Engineering curriculum in our schools** so that California can position itself as a global leader for new ideas, green technologies and a well-informed green workforce.
  - Move to close **the information gap on toxic chemicals by creating an Online Product Ingredient Network** for California businesses, retailers and consumers to access non-confidential information about chemicals found in products sold in California.
  - **Create an Online Toxics Information Clearinghouse** as called for by SB 509 which I recently signed. This Clearinghouse will provide public access to information on chemical hazards that will allow business and consumers to make better manufacturing and purchasing choices.
  - **Establish the regulatory framework needed to accelerate our quest for safer products** and creates a Green Ribbon Science Panel to advise us on the implementation of this program as called for in AB 1879 that I signed at the end of this legislative session.
  - And, **move toward a Cradle-to-Cradle economy** to leverage market forces to produce products that are “benign by design.”
- We are excited to be involved in d this new era of green growth with all the research and innovation it will spur within the marketplace – stimulating economic growth and competition, and providing a market for products that are “benign by design.”