



December 20, 2004

Dear Administrator and/or School Principal:

Mercury continues to be a significant contributor to the pollution entering our region's sewer and waterways. These sources of mercury pollution include wastewater from homes, dental facilities, hospitals, and even schools.

The State of California has passed legislation, California's Mercury Reduction Act of 2001 (SB633), to encourage the safe reduction and/or removal of mercury and mercury-containing items found in local schools. This law prohibits any school from purchasing devices and material containing mercury for use in classrooms and labs (with some exceptions) and became effective January 1, 2002.

Not only are the environmental and health effects caused by mercury pollution good reasons to reduce the use of mercury, but the potential cost related to mercury contamination and spills can be significant. Nationwide, the media has reported stories of mercury spills at schools, sometimes resulting in as much as \$300,000 in clean-up costs. These spills are not only expensive to clean up, but they also pose a threat to student and teacher safety as well as to the environment.

To address the need to prevent mercury from entering the sewer system and the Sacramento watershed as well as removing mercury and mercury-containing items from schools in the Sacramento region, the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) is planning to conduct a School Mercury Reduction/Removal Pilot Study early next year. The purpose of the study is to remove free mercury and mercury-containing items from selected middle school and high school facilities in the Sacramento region. Schools participating in the study will receive mercury free laboratory replacement thermometers at no charge. SRCSD will assist in the mercury removal costs by supplying a hazardous waste contractor to pick up the mercury you have collected and/or will work with the school or district if they already have a hazardous waste disposal service on contract.

If you would like to be considered for participation in the Pilot Study, please complete the enclosed Mercury Inventory Worksheet and Interest to Participate Notification form and return them no later than January 13, 2005 to:

Lindsay Hall
SRCSD Pilot Study Coordinator
2495 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 650
Sacramento, CA 95833
Phone: (916) 418-1500
Fax: (916) 418-1515
Email: lindsay.hall@ogilvypr.com

We will review all submissions and select three to five sites for participation in the Pilot Study in mid-February 2005. All schools that submit the Mercury Inventory Worksheet and Interest to Participate Notification will be informed of the selections. Additional sites may be contacted for an expanded clean-out program during the summer of 2005, pending results of the Pilot Study.

Should you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Hall at lindsay.hall@ogilvypr.com or (916) 418-1500.

Sincerely,

Terry D. Musil
Supervisor, Technical Services
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD)