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## **PROFILE**

**Local agency service: Mayor/Vice Mayor/Councilmember/Former Mayor, Town of Fairfax (May 2013 & ongoing). Boards – Marin Clean Energy(MCE) & MCE Executive Committee; Marin Telecommunications Agency; Community Media Center of Marin (PEG channels); Countywide Community Development Block Grant; Marin County Assessment of Fair Housing Steering Committee. Fairfax Committees - Affordable Housing; Climate Action (former); Measures A & J; Open Space & Age Friendly. Member: Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers (MCCMC) & MCCMC Legislative Committee. Prior service - Fairfax Planning Commission and Fairfax Open Space Committee. Bay Area Air Quality Management District Hearing Board Public member (alternate).** Thirty plus years of experience at all levels in the creation, development and implementation of environmental programs: California's Superfund, Brownfields (redeveloping contaminated properties for productive reuse) and federal/state hazardous waste and air quality/climate change programs. As Division Chief, directed multidisciplinary staff in the development/implementation of diverse and complex regulatory programs. Extensive experience developing strategic vision(s) for program priorities, effectively communicating objectives, and ensuring that the vision is fully implemented by the management team and staff. Decades of experience in regulatory policy, legislation development, hazardous waste site assessment/remediation, environmental monitoring, air quality enforcement, public outreach and facilitation of meaningful public involvement. Developed extensive contacts among key external stakeholders such as elected officials, legislative staff, regulatory agencies, industry representatives, lending institutions, community groups, environmental attorneys and environmental consultants. Substantial experience coordinating and negotiating with diverse stakeholder interest groups to resolve contentious and complex scientific, technical and policy issues.

## **EXPERIENCE**

### **COLER ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, LLC**

#### **2014 – Current**

The firm is a one-person shop which provides solutions on environmental matters. From 2014 to Dec. 2017, Ms. Coler served as the Administrator of the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Exchange (GHG Rx). Since 2018, she has been working on GHG Rx matters for the BAAQMD. The GHG Rx is a registry and information exchange for GHG offset credits designed specifically to benefit localities within the State of California. It is currently in *maintenance mode* by CAPCOA. Also in 2018/2019, she has been working on an environmental justice regulatory reform for permitting for the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control.

### **BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (BAAQMD)**

#### **Air Quality Program Manager**

#### **Compliance & Enforcement Division**

#### **February 2009 – October 2013**

Manager responsible for enforcement of air quality regulations to meet federal and state air attainment standards for the nine Bay Area counties within the jurisdiction of the Air District. Led strategic initiatives for air quality program development by combining compliance assistance and enforcement approaches. Developed and implemented the first comprehensive mobile source enforcement program for an air district in California. CAPCOA Climate Protection Committee Enforcement Manager representative; served on several AB32 implementation workgroups. Key collaborator for development of CAPCOA – Air Districts' Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Exchange. Primary division lead for the District's Wood Smoke Program to reduce fine particulate emissions. Manager responsible for leading, directing, planning, prioritizing and organizing the activities of multidisciplinary staff working in the Division.

## **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL (DTSC)**

### **Senior Policy Advisor**

#### **Office of Data Evaluation and Environmental Indicators**

**April 2007 – January 2009**

Senior Policy Advisor in DTSC's Office of Data Evaluation and Environmental Indicators. The Office served to identify data gaps and future research needs for performance management, environmental indicators and other emerging issues. As the mission and structure of DTSC evolved from "cradle-to-grave" to "cradle-to-cradle," to use of balanced scorecard/performance measurement, to a focus on green chemistry, among other initiatives, the Office led efforts to transparently communicate scientific information and develop data management tools for both internal and external stakeholders. Ms. Coler managed primary environmental information management contracts, with major objectives to increase transparency and accessibility of DTSC's actions. Ms. Coler led initiatives on climate change and resource strategy matters, in addition to developing grant proposals to fund key initiatives of the Office and the DTSC Director.

### **Career Executive Assignment II - Division Chief**

#### **Permitting and Corrective Action Division**

**May 1, 2003 – April 2007**

Statewide position responsible for the technical, administrative and fiscal management of approximately 130 division staff housed in DTSC's four regional office locations. DTSC is authorized by U.S. EPA to implement the Resource, Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program in California, a primary component of the division's mission. Responsible for leading, directing, planning, prioritizing and organizing the activities of a multidisciplinary staff working within this complex regulatory program. Oversaw managers and staff responsible for permitting facilities to treat, store, dispose and transfer hazardous waste in accordance with federal, state and local laws. Permitting responsibilities included assuring these facilities met requirements for environmental safety, financial assurance, and environmental monitoring. As Division Chief, also responsible for corrective action and closure, including the long-term maintenance for more than 300 closed hazardous waste facilities (and generating revenue of more than \$3 million in cost reimbursement per year to support staff work). Significantly increased productivity (~ 300% increase) and timeliness (reduced from average of about 4.5 years to 2+ years) while ensuring environmentally protective permitting of hazardous waste facilities.

In October 2004, Ms. Coler was awarded a U.S. EPA Leadership Award for Corrective Action Environmental Indicators (EIs). As a result of her leadership, her Division received awards from U.S. EPA for achieving its targets for EIs, permits and corrective action milestones in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Ms. Coler represented Region 9 States on U.S. EPA's RCRA 2020 Corrective Action Initiative national workgroup. As a key member of the group, Ms. Coler was a leader in developing national policy to implement this component of the RCRA 2020 vision. Ms. Coler also represented California and Region 9 States on the Association of State and Territorial Management Officials' (ASTSWMO) Corrective Action and Permitting Task Force.

At request of the then DTSC Director, Ms. Coler acted as the lead negotiator with a responsible party (PRPs) group (of over 25 members) to takeover and assume financial responsibility for operations at a hazardous waste landfill in Southern California. Under Ms. Coler's direction, DTSC was able to affect a voluntary agreement with the parties for monthly payments for operations of the landfill systems resulting in multimillion dollar savings/recovery for DTSC. Under her leadership, a Consent Decree was signed in early 2006, and the PRPs assumed lead on the landfill operations.

**Career Executive Assignment II - Division Chief**  
**Statewide Cleanup Operations Division**  
**July 1994 – April 2003**

Statewide position responsible for the technical, administrative and fiscal management of approximately 120-150 division staff housed throughout California. Responsible for leading, organizing, planning, directing and prioritizing the activities of multidisciplinary staff and multi-layered management team to develop and implement innovative, diverse and complex regulatory programs and initiatives. Oversaw all activities pertaining to site identification and prioritization; revenue generation thorough cost recovery; assessment and remediation of most DTSC and Federal Superfund sites; assuring meaningful public involvement; and allocation and expenditure of orphan site funding. Responsible for staff and monetary resource budgeting for the division including several major federal grants.

- ☐ Established DTSC's overall Brownfields program providing several tools to encourage and facilitate contaminated site reuse. Broad and substantial experience working with representatives from community groups, environmental organizations and private industry in developing and maintaining the program. Effectively communicated program objectives in non-technical terms to diverse stakeholder interest groups.
- ☐ Led and directed staff in formalizing the Voluntary Cleanup Program to foster environmentally sound redevelopment and/or revitalization of Brownfields and other contaminated properties.
- ☐ Led Total Quality Management (TQM) Team to develop DTSC's Prospective Purchaser policies, aimed at fostering Brownfields reuse while protecting human health and the environment.
- ☐ Completed DTSC's "site" database validation project, deleting approximately 24,000 invalid listings which resulted in removing the economic devaluation by the environmental stigma for these properties.
- ☐ Key DTSC representative regarding State Superfund Statute Reauthorization.
- ☐ Developed legislation and infrastructure for DTSC's environmental schools program; the first of its kind in the nation. Involved diverse stakeholder groups to resolve contentious and complex technical and policy issues while developing the program.
- ☐ Represented California and the National Governor's Association (NGA) on key legislative debates regarding Federal Superfund Reform; testified on behalf of Governor Wilson and NGA before the U.S. Senate Environment & Public Works Committee.
- ☐ Chair of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) Brownfields Task Force for eleven years. Leader on national policy regarding voluntary cleanup, Brownfields redevelopment and Superfund cleanup. Also represented California on ASTSWMO's CERCLA Committee which developed national policy in conjunction with U.S. EPA. Chaired and developed five ASTSWMO Voluntary Cleanup/Brownfields Symposia for all States and U.S. EPA.
- ☐ Listed by CA Department of Justice as Expert Witness on the federal National Contingency Plan.

Montrose Site settlements – In partnership with U.S. EPA, with the California Department of Justice, Ms. Coler acted as the lead negotiator for the State of California with the Montrose PRPs (“the DDT dischargers”). Three significant settlements were achieved under her leadership for the Montrose site in Southern California. The first 2002 Consent Decree settled the Natural Resources Damages lawsuit and CERCLA claims against the Montrose entities - the companies paid \$73 million to cleanup DDT contamination and restore the ocean environment off the coast of Palos Verdes. The latter two Consent Decrees settled the liability of the PRPs for the surface water pathway from the Montrose site and the residential neighborhood, resulting in payments of nearly \$2.5 million and a savings of more than \$10 million for the residential cleanup.

**Previous Positions**

In addition to other DTSC management positions, Ms. Coler served as a project manager responsible for cleanup of regional groundwater sites in Southern California. She was an environmental consultant at the Savannah River Nuclear Production facility in South Carolina. She was a research associate conducting environmental research and monitoring for the State of Kansas Biological Survey.

## EDUCATION

- Master of Arts, Entomology  
Emphasis: Environmental Monitoring/Assessment of Water Quality Impacts from Sewage Effluent  
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas
- Bachelor of Science, Systematics and Ecology (Honors)  
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

## PUBLICATIONS

American Bar Association, “Institutional Controls and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control – Uses of Institutional Controls and Challenges” (Book Chapter, “Implementing Institutional Controls at Brownfields and Other Contaminated Sites,” pages 133 – 148, July 2003).

Golden Gate University Law Review, “Brownfields and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control: Key Programs and Challenges” (Volume 31, Number 4, Spring 2001).

Hydrobiologia, “Emergence of Chironomidae (Diptera) from a Delta-Swamp Receiving Thermal Effluent” (Volume 174, No. 1, 1989, pages 67-77). *Assessed impacts of nuclear production activities on key biological receptors.*

*Listed above are peer-reviewed publications; primary author of and collaborator on numerous articles on brownfields and hazardous waste site cleanup, environmental policies, guidances and regulations. Co-author on 2009 BAAQMD Mobile Source Enforcement Compliance Plan.*

*Speaker on air quality matters including the CAPCOA GHG Rx, BAAQMD’s wood smoke program, mobile source enforcement, small business program and other topics. Invited speaker at numerous Superfund, Hazardous Waste and Brownfields redevelopment and land reuse conferences and workshops throughout California and the nation; inception and management of first joint DTSC/U.S. EPA Brownfields Reuse conference, March 1996; credited for bringing diverse stakeholder interests together to discuss and develop land reuse planning strategies at sites throughout California.*

January 2019