



HYGIENETECH

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May 15, 2009

State of California
Board of Equalization
450 N Street
Sacramento, California 94279

Document No. 20905001.3

Attention: David Gau

Regarding: 11th Floor Reoccupation Concerns

Dear Mr. Gau:

As the repairs and remediation of the State of California Board of Equalization (BOE) building progresses, Hygiene Technologies International, Inc. (HygieneTech) was informed and understands that the State of California Department of General Services (DGS) had expressed the need to expedite the work to be performed on the 11th Floor so that it can be used as a swing space during the proposed floor wide closures that will take place for remediation purposes. HygieneTech also understands that BioMax Environmental, LLC had recently performed an assessment of the 11th Floor and recommendations will be forthcoming. However, until such fungal growth remediation recommendations are available, HygieneTech has concerns regarding fungal growth reservoirs that currently exist on that floor. As LaCroix Davis, LLC (LCD) had indicated in their *Final Report* dated February 25, 2009. Surface fungal growth was confirmed on varying surfaces, including interstitial wall space surrounding the core of the building, namely around the elevator shafts, and in the interstitial ceiling space above the sound attenuation sheetrock ceiling just below the 12th Floor deck. Following the 12th Floor mechanical leak episode that occurred in March of 2008, significant water staining was observed on the sound attenuation sheetrock that was indicative of one or more past major unintentional water release events. Given these circumstances, HygieneTech has the following concerns regarding the reoccupation of the 11th Floor prior to proper remediation of these known fungal growth reservoirs and possibly other yet to be identified reservoirs.

- Although historical air sampling have shown the indoor air quality to be normal when compared to the outdoors in regards to airborne fungal spore levels, odors characteristic of fungal growth have been noticed by BOE and HygieneTech personnel and those odors continued to be a major concern expressed by BOE staff due to the existence of fungal growth reservoirs and continuing sources of water intrusion.
- The presence of the odors characteristic of fungal growth are caused by a complex mixture of microbial volatile organic compounds (MVOCs), which include a variety of aldehydes, alcohols, and ketones. Exposures to these compounds, particularly at more elevated levels, are known to cause, among other non-specific ill effects, headache and irritation to eyes and the upper respiratory tract. Be advised that some persons are more sensitive to exposure than others, and



those more sensitive individuals may have lower irritation thresholds. In any case, humans generally find exposure to such odors disagreeable, even if the chemical exposures are below the thresholds of irritation.

- Under the present day conditions in which fungal growth-contaminated gypsum board materials are enclosed below the 12th Floor deck, HygieneTech expects that if one or more additional uncontrolled water releases occur at that location, then additional fungal growth blooms will undoubtedly occur and that growth will be expected to be of consequence.
- HygieneTech is also concerned about the possibility that the previously water impacted sound attenuation sheetrock below the 12th Floor deck will collapse if another substantial uncontrolled water release occurs.

If you have any comments or questions regarding the information contained in this correspondence, please feel free to contact our offices directly at (310) 370-8370.

Sincerely,

HYGIENE TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Kenny K. Hsi, CIH
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