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## Inventory of the California State Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee Records

**Collection number:** see series description

California State Archives

Office of the Secretary of State

Sacramento, California

Processed by:

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Date Completed:

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Inventory of the California State Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee Records

**Dates:** 1980-2004

**Collection number:** see series description

**Creator:** Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

**Collection Size:** 40 cubic feet

**Repository:** California State Archives

Sacramento, California

**Abstract:** The Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee Records consist of approximately 40 cubic feet of textual records and audio-visual materials. The records cover the years 1980-2004 and are comprised of bill files, hearing files, subject files, and correspondence.

**Physical location:** California State Archives

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

### Access

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], [Committee Name], LP[number]:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

### Acquisition History

The California State Archives acquired the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee records according to state law.

### Committee History

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The California State Assembly first considered bills relating to toxics and the environment during the 1979-1980 legislative session when the Toxic Substances subcommittee was created under the Labor, Employment, and Consumer Affairs Committee. By passage of House Resolution 15 on January 29, 1980, The Assembly Rules Committee officially created an independent committee for toxics legislation called the Assembly Consumer Protection and Toxic Materials Committee.

The eight members of the committee on Consumer Protection and Toxic materials generally considered bills relating to product safety, toxic and chemical hazards, and environmental pollutants. At the start of the 1985-1986 session, House Resolution 9 briefly divided the committee in two, creating both the Assembly Consumer Protection Committee and the Assembly Toxic Materials Committee. By mid January however, the 15-member committee rejoined under the current name of Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee.

Senator Sally Tanner (D) served as the Committee's first Chairwoman from 1981-1992 and was subsequently followed Tom Umberg (D, 1993-1996), Howard Wayne (D, 1997-1998), Hannah-Beth Jackson (D, 1999-2002), and John Laird (D, 2003-2004).

### **Scope and Content**

The Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee Records consist of approximately 40 cubic feet of textual records and audio-visual materials. The records cover the years 1980-2004 and are comprised of bill files, hearing files, subject files, and correspondence. It is anticipated that the Archives will receive further records from the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, as it remains a functional standing committee in the California State Senate. Researchers should inquire with the reference archivist about recently received, unprocessed records of the committee.

The records created by the California State Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee will be of great interest to researchers looking at environmental regulation in the 1980s and 1990s. With environmental failures like the Love Canal, Chernobyl, and the Exxon Valdez oil spill gaining global attention, legislation passed in California reflected new concerns for chemicals and their potential for damage to natural resources.

The majority of records consist of bill files that cover the years 1980-2004. Committee hearing files span from 1980-2000 and comprise approximately five cubic feet of the collection. Furthermore, there are approximately two cubic feet of subject files from the years 1993-2000 that contain records on specific toxic materials like asbestos and polychlorinated biphenyls.

Most frequently bills reviewed by the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee pertain to the regulation of toxic material storage, transportation, and cleanup, and also include issues concerning the designation of Superfund sites. Files also deal with establishing standards for industries, especially those involved in fire protection, pipeline safety, and waste disposal. Numerous files concern issues such as marine pollution, toxic air contaminants, and ground use for hazardous waste storage.

Many of the bills considered by the committee drew substantial public interest. However, two bills in particular were the basis for a significant amount of outside opinion. Assembly Bill 733 from 1995-1996 concerning state mandated drinking water fluoridation and Senate Bill 521 from 1995-1996 concerning Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) fuel additive received a considerable amount of public correspondence.

Along with these bills, the researcher may also be interested in looking at a significant hearing that occurred during the committee's 1985-1986 session. The oversight hearing on the Willco Dump took place in Los Angeles County in the district of Assemblywoman Maxine Waters, and investigated claims that while constructing the Century Freeway (Interstate 5) through a former refuse site known as Willco, the California Department of Transportation may have deliberately understated quantities of toxic materials they found and had removed through questionable contractual agreements. The hearing files consist of over a cubic foot of records, which includes audiotapes and transcribed accounts of the hearing.

### **Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

Waste disposal.

Drinking water

### **Related Collections at the California State Archives**

Sally Tanner Papers

Howard Wayne Papers

Hannah-Beth Jackson Papers

see below for LPSeries 1 **Bill Files 1981-2004**  
numbers

**Physical Description:** 777 file folders

**Arrangement**

Bill files are arranged chronologically by legislative session, then numerically by bill number within legislative house.

**Scope and Content Note**

Most bill files include all or some of the following items: bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, author's statements, testimony, press releases, newspaper clippings, correspondence, roll calls, records of votes, and committee statements. The bill files generally concern bills relating to toxic materials regulation. Of particular interest are those bills related to toxic materials storage, transportation and cleanup, as well as protection against marine, air, and ground pollution. Note: bill files for the 1983-1984 session will found in multiple locations.

Consumer Protection and Toxic Materials Committee, 1981-1984:

1981-1982 AB26-AB3741; ACA7-ACA44; ACR107-ACR146;AJR2-AJR43 (31ff) LP244:61-91

1981-1982 SB95-SB1959 (6ff) LP244:92-97

1983-1984 AB10-AB3901; HR34 (25ff) LP378:1-25

1983-1984 AB17-AB3444 (11ff) LP244:97(b)-97(l)

1983-1984 AB3502-4947; AJR6 (12ff) LP291:1-12

1983-1984 SB956-SB2333; SCA58 (8ff) LP378:26-33

1983-1984 SB91-SB2319; SCR30; SCR64 (17ff) LP291:13-29

Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, 1985-2004:

1985-1986 AB16-AB4398; ACR131; AJR38; HR5-HR285 (44ff) LP378:34-77

1985-1986 SB19-SB2610; SCA34; SCR14-SCR66; SJR5-SJR61 (21ff) LP378:78-98

1987-1988 AB31-AB4641; ACR31-ACR37; AJR14-AJR15 (22ff) LP378:99-120

1987-1988 SB38-SB2587; SCR41; SJR15 (11ff) LP378:121-131

1989-1990 AB12-AB4369; ACR34-ACR166; AJR58-AJR86; HR4 (45ff) LP378:132-176

1989-1990 SB14-SB2858 (15ff) LP378:177-191

1991-1992 AB41-AB3789; AJR4-AJR69; HR34 (38ff) LP378:192-229

1991-1992 SB14-SB2057 (16ff)LP378:230-245

1993-1994 AB131-AB3770; ACR23-ACR52; AJR68-AJR75 (25ff) LP378:246-270

1993-1994 SB27-SB1916; SB47X (14ff) LP378:271-284

1995-1996 AB42-AB3477; AJR10-AJR60; AB1XXX (53ff) LP378:285-337

1995-1996 SB130-SB1979; SCR49 (47ff) LP378:338-384

1997-1998 AB256-AB2698 (47ff) LP378:385-431

1997-1998 SB105-SB2240 (31ff) LP378:432-462

1999-2000 AB46-AB2886; HR8-HR27 (38ff) LP378:463-500

1999-2000 SB25-SB2203; SJR8-SJR26 (31ff) LP378:501-526

2001-2002 AB13-AB3053; AJR22 (43ff) LP378:527-569

2001-2002 SB21-SB2096 (26ff)LP378:570-595

2003-2004 AB28-AB3041 (72ff) LP378:596-667

2003-2004 SB20-SB1909 (33ff) LP378:668-700

See Appendix A ~~for~~ Series 2 Hearing Files 1980-2000

LP numbers

**Physical Description:** 181 file folders

**Arrangement**

Hearing files are arranged chronologically by date of hearing, with the exception of the files regarding the Oversight Hearing of the Willco Dump, which have been placed at the end of the series due their volume. A complete listing of these folders can be found in Appendix A in master finding aid at California State Archives.

**Scope and Content Note**

Hearing files may contain agendas, audiotapes, transcripts, testimony, background, and working files for regular session hearings as well as interim hearings and select joint hearings. Tapes have been separated to a cold-storage vault for preservation purposes and separation sheets are with the hearing files to alert the researcher to the existence of such tapes. In this series, hearing files have been roughly divided into two types, either informational hearings that analyze specific topics related to toxics legislation, or bill hearings that cover a range of assembly bills heard on a specific day.

As mentioned, of particular interest are those files pertaining to the Oversight Hearing of the Willco Dump, which investigated the California Department of Transportation's involvement in toxic materials removal from the Willco Dump site near Lynwood, CA. The oversight hearing on the Willco Dump took place in Los Angeles County in the district of Assemblywoman Maxine Waters, and investigated claims that while constructing the Century Freeway (Interstate 5) through a former refuse site known as Willco, the California Department of Transportation may have deliberately understated quantities of toxic materials they found and had removed through questionable contractual agreements.

Researchers may also be interested in files relating to the Governor's Reorganization Plan Number One of 1985, the Governor's Reorganization Plan Number Two of 1986, and files relating to the administration of the State Superfund program.

For a complete listing of hearings see Appendix A in master finding aid at California State Archives.

LP378:871-909 Series 3 **Subject Files 1983-2000**

**Physical Description:** 39 file folders

**Arrangement**

Subject files are arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

**Scope and Content Note**

Subject files include correspondence, background materials, notes, memoranda, reports, newspaper clippings, and subcommittee information and pertain to such topics as the toxicity of materials including asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls, plastic pipes, and waste tires. Also within this series are hearing agendas that outline committee plans in regards to particular hearings.

For a complete list of subject files see Appendix B in master finding aid at California State Archives.

LP378:910-912 Series 4 **Correspondence 1999-2001**

**Physical Description:** 3 file folders

**Arrangement**

Correspondence files are arranged chronologically.

**Scope and Content Note**

The correspondence files are primarily related to committee and bill issues, and may include letters from committee members, constituents, legislative analysts, lobbyists, and department heads.