

Dear Director Ortega,

I am an Environmental Scientist working in the Site Mitigation and Restoration Program (SMRP) at the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in Berkeley, California. I am writing you to catch your attention regarding the discrimination against Environmental Scientist and the pay discrepancy.

I have a Master of Science in Environmental and Occupational Health specialized in the subject of Hazardous Substances and Waste in the environment, risk management, and human toxicology/teratology. My education and my work experiences have trained me to build knowledge in geological and engineering subjects matters to the same level as my peers Hazardous Substances Engineers (HSE) and Engineering Geologists (EG). I am very passionate of what I do in SMRP and working at DTSC has been very rewarding experience. As an Environmental Scientist/Project Manager working in the SMRP, my job is very similar to my peers HSE/Project Managers, and to EG/Project Managers.

When a Project Manager (PM) retires or leave the program, the Sites of those PMs need to be redistributed among other Project Managers. For example, SMILO CHEMICAL COMPANY is a site that I inherited from a PM who left DTSC. The previous PM of this Site was a HSE, and now I am the PM overseeing voluntary cleanup activities. Another example, the PM, who was an HSE, for the USS-POSCO INDUSTRIES site left the program on a lateral-transfer. The site needed a PM, and I am the new PM who is overseeing the Corrective Action activities.

I have three young children. Recently, after the pandemic the daycare's fees have gone up. The pre-school for my 3 years old son used to be \$1000 but now it is \$1800. After tax, I only bring home a little over \$3500/month. How can I survive with that money in California? I could easily get a job as an Environmental Engineer or a Safety Engineer in private company or in other State Departments with higher pay. I am writing this letter because I love what I do, and I would like to stay working with DTSC.

If you want a State Licensed Professional, we can give it to you. There are many State Certifications that an Environmental Scientist can apply. The pay discrepancy must be fixed, the systematic inequality should be immediately terminated.

Elizabeth Chung-Huynh, MS.
Environmental Scientist
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control -Berkeley