



**JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Director and Health Officer

**CYNTHIA A. HARDING, M.P.H.**  
Chief Deputy Director

**Emergency Preparedness and Response Program**  
**ALONZO L. PLOUGH, Ph.D., M.P.H.**  
Director

600 S. Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 700  
Los Angeles, California 90005  
TEL (213) 637-3600 • FAX (213) 381-0006

[www.lapublichealth.lacounty.gov](http://www.lapublichealth.lacounty.gov)

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Mark Ridley-Thomas**  
Second District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

January 13, 2014

TO: DMAC Members

FROM: Alonzo L. Plough, Ph.D., M.P.H.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Alonzo L. Plough".

SUBJECT: Regarding reports of radioactivity on California shores and in Los Angeles County from Fukushima

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has been monitoring recent reports regarding radioactivity related to events from the Fukushima Incident. Currently, no harmful levels of radiation have been found in Los Angeles County associated with the Fukushima Incident.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has stated, there is no public health risk at California beaches and they are not aware of any recent activity at Fukushima, or any new data that would cause elevated radioactivity on California shores from the Fukushima incident. Recent tests by the San Mateo County public health department and CDPH show that elevated levels of radiation at Half Moon Bay are due to naturally occurring materials and not radioactivity associated with the Fukushima incident. The radiation associated with Death Valley is suspected to be radon gas due to naturally occurring material displaced during the rainfall. The CDPH Radiological Health Branch (RHB) is continuing to investigate all reports in California. None of the radiation found thus far is from the Fukushima Incident.

CDPH has collected and will be analyzing sand samples from Half Moon Bay. Results of the analysis will be posted on the RHB website (<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/RHB-RadReport.aspx>) as soon as the analysis is completed.