



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health

Summary of the California Indoor Radon Program SIRG Activities, July 2016

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has conducted an Indoor Radon Program (Program) for over twenty years with matching SIRG funds from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The Indoor Radon Program is within the CDPH Environmental Management Branch, and is staffed by one Environmental Scientist who administers the program on a statewide basis.

The mission of the CDPH Indoor Radon Program is to reduce human exposure to radon in residential and school structures. Program activities include educating California residents about radon and its risks, encouraging residents to have their homes and schools tested and, if necessary, mitigated, and promoting radon resistant construction methods for homes and schools in high radon potential areas. The cornerstone of the Program's activities has been surveying and mapping Radon Potential Zones throughout the state. These regional surveys identify high, moderate, or low radon potential areas, produce a detailed radon potential map and report of the region, and generate test results for the statewide database.

The CDPH Indoor Radon Program and the California Geological Survey (CGS), working together through an interagency agreement, produce maps and reports that describe the radon potential of counties and regions within California. CDPH conducted radon surveys to collect the data used for generating these maps and reports. CGS creates the report using CDPH data. The surveys are executed using SIRG funds. Since 1995, CDPH and CGS have worked cooperatively to generate publications that identify radon potential from residential surveys. To date, this partnership has produced twelve maps and reports *which characterize radon potential for over 50% of California's population. We still have more work to do.*

In response to the recent years' reduction of national SIRG allocations, CDPH has been diversifying its low-cost activities, including participation in county health and science fairs, promotion of federal radon programs, distribution of outreach materials, and development of partnerships with government and public entities. **However, future outreach and survey activities are wholly dependent upon continued SIRG funding.** With continued SIRG funding, the Program estimated Radon Potential Maps covering the entire state of California would be complete by 2020. Without continued SIRG funding, all survey activities will cease and a statewide Radon Zone map will remain incomplete. All travel, outreach, and distribution of test kits will immediately terminate without SIRG funding. The State of California funds one staff position, at 85% time, for the radon program. No state funds are allocated to the radon program for the purchase of test kits or outreach materials, or for any travel or survey activities. The state radon program in California cannot function without continued SIRG funding.