“Fun Facts” About Cal/OSHA Compliance
February 2005

- Cal/OSHA has not had a permanent Chief since July 2002 and has not had a Deputy Chief for Health since November 2000. The last time all three top Cal/OSHA chief/deputy chief positions were filled was October 2000.

- The Cal/OSHA Appeals Board now has a backlog of more than 7,000 appeals and the delay between issuance of citations and the appeal hearing is over two years.

- The Cal/OSHA Medical Unit had seven physicians and three registered nurses in 1975 – 30 years later in 2005 it has one physician and one nurse.

- In February 2005, California had 232 Fish and Game Wardens working in the field, as compared to 181 Cal/OSHA compliance officers making workplace inspections.

Benchmark info

If the 1980 Federal OSHA benchmark ratios were applied in December 2004, Cal/OSHA should have between 1,183 and 1,840 inspectors for ratios of 1 inspector to 15,000 workers and 625 workplaces. To have the same inspector to worker ratio as Fed OSHA had in April 2004, Cal/OSHA should have 303 inspectors. Cal/OSHA had 181 inspectors actually at work in the field in January 2005 covering 17.7 million workers and 1.15 million work sites.

Ratio comparisons with other agencies

- Cal/OSHA: 1 inspector per 98,039 workers (December 2004)
- North Carolina OSHA: 1 inspector per 18,258 workers (December 2004)
- Ontario, Canada, Labour Dept.*: 1 inspector per 29,778 workers (July 2004)
- Federal OSHA: 1 inspector per 58,565 workers (April 2004)
- Health & Safety Executive (UK): 1 inspector per 38,571 workers (September 2003)
- Oregon OSHA: 1 inspector per 22,286 workers (November 2001)
- Washington State OSHA: 1 inspector per 21,655 workers (November 2001)
- British Columbia Labour Dept.: 1 inspector per 9,549 (November 2001)

* = The Ontario Labour Department plans to increase the number of workplace health and safety inspectors from 230 to 400 field inspectors between July 2004 and July 2006. The province had a civilian labor force of 6,849,000 in December 2004.