**Inland Empire Paper Company**

**PCB FACT SHEET**

* IEP was a PCB free mill prior to 1991 as confirmed by EPA
* It was only after IEP began to recycle in 1991 that PCBs were discovered in its effluent
* These PCBs have been traced to the inks used in the newsprint etc that IEP recycles
* Federal regulations through the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) allow consumer products to contain inadvertent PCBs with concentrations up to 50 parts per million (ppm)
* Inks and pigments used in the publishing of newspapers and magazines contain trace amounts of PCBs as a byproduct of their manufacturing processes
* Many of these same pigments are used in other products such as paints, caulking, and insecticides
* The Federal allowance (50 ppm) is 20,000,000 times higher than the concentration of PCBs in IEP’s effluent
* PCBs make up approximately 0.000000000003 percent of IEP’s discharge annually, and would fill only about a third of a shot glass if collected in one place
* Federal water quality standards regulate PCBs to 0.000000064 ppm, a full 781,250,000 times more stringent than the 50 ppm allowance
* There are no current technologies available to remove PCBs down to the EPA’s water quality standards
* Elimination of paper recycling may be the only viable option for IEP to meet forthcoming stringent water quality standards
* Elimination of paper recycling in the U.S. does not solve the problem, as the PCBs will just be moved to landfills and be dispersed to the environment from the stacks of incinerators
* IEP is part of the solution, as our processes result in significant removal of PCBs from the recycled paper – roughly 90% of PCBs that come into IEP’s system are taken out
* There is a more obvious and logical solution that eliminates the creation of new PCBs into the environment: enact regulatory change
* Incentivize manufacturers to find safe alternative chemical processes by changing Federal regulations to ban chemical processes which result in inadvertent PCBs
* Experts – including members of the Washington State Department of Ecology – state that there are viable alternative manufacturing processes which produce inks without creating PCBs
* IEP, in collaboration with the Riverkeepers and the Lands Council, submitted a letter to EPA requesting a change to the TSCA regulations
* IEP is also working with legislators, labor representatives, Native American tribes, government agencies, and others to work towards changing this regulation
* Eliminating the source of PCBs entering the environment provides a common-sense alternative against the elimination of paper recycling