NEWS FOR RELEASE

March 16, 2011

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Public Health Department

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NUCLEAR RADIATION FROM JAPAN PRESENTS NO DANGER TO PASADENA

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There has been concern about radiation exposure from Japan's power plant possibly

reaching the mainland U.S., including the greater Pasadena area. According to the U.S. Nuclear

Regulatory Commission (NRC), Japan's nuclear emergency currently presents no danger to

California.

The Pasadena Public Health Department is advising against taking potassium iodide (KI)

as a precaution against possible radiation exposure. Taking potassium Iodide tablets is not an

effective precautionary measure.

"We are taking this matter seriously. Taking Potassium Iodide tablets can present a

danger to people with allergies to iodine or shellfish or who have thyroid problems," said Dr.

Eric Walsh, Pasadena's public health officer. "California has a plan for responding to

radiological emergencies, and this plan is coordinated locally with all public health departments

for rapid response."

Walsh added that the Pasadena Public Health Department expresses condolences to the

victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

The department, along with its state and federal partners, is monitoring the situation

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closely and will implement any necessary steps to protect the public's health if the situation changes. State and federal agencies include the California Department of Public Health, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX and the California Emergency Management Agency.

For more information about emergency preparedness, visit

www.cityofpasadena.net/disaster or www.cdc.gov. For more information about public health

concerns related to the nuclear emergency in Japan, call the California Department of Public

Health information line at (916) 341-3947 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For nearly 120 years, the Pasadena Public Health Department has worked to promote and protect the health of the Pasadena community.