

## Toxics group gives EPA man low marks

By Mitchel Benson  
Environment Writer

Harry Seraydarian tried to score some points Thursday night with the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition and more than 200 of its friends, but ended up getting low marks during a "grading session" in the gym at San Jose High School.

Seraydarian, regional director of the toxics and waste management division for the federal Environmental Protection Agency, had for the second time in two months been asked to meet four coalition demands tied to its concern about underground tanks leaking toxic chemicals into the Santa Clara Valley's soil and underground water supplies.

## Anti-pollution group gives low marks to EPA official

*SERAYDARIAN, from Page 1B*  
residents of the valley.

As Seraydarian responded to each demand, coalition member Pat Lamborn "graded" it and a man marked a large scorecard on which the demands had been printed in large black letters. Seraydarian ended up with one or two red question marks, a "No" and a lot of scribbled notes.

The EPA division director should have known what kind of night it was going to be when his staff and the coalition each showed up at the high school's gym with their own version of an agenda for the meeting.

can be produced soon after that.

■ The EPA would agree to sample and test the tap water in one community — the coalition chose one near IBM's offices in San Jose — to determine if there is a noticeable difference between those samples and samples taken from wells. Seraydarian said he believes the well samples are sufficient.

■ The EPA will work with other government agencies and the affected businesses to develop a comprehensive, valley-wide plan — complete with deadlines — for cleaning up the spills. As for immediate cleanups, he said, "I've stated before that you

said:

■ He will ask the new South Bay Ground Water Contamination Task Force — a coalition of representatives of local, state and federal agencies — to produce a summary understandable and available to the public of all 140 identified sites in the Bay Area and their effect on water wells. The task force's next meeting is Sept. 13, and he hopes that the summary

In addition, the San Francisco office has proposed to its headquarters in Washington that EPA treat the estimated 13 to 20 sites — whose locations have not been made public — as one large basin or area rather than as individual problems.

The EPA "study area" encompasses Mountain View, Cupertino, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Milpitas, San Jose, Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Livermore.