



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT**

**DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN – PHASE 1
AT FORMER ATHENS TANK FARM, WILLOWBROOK, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES,
CALIFORNIA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles (Regional Board) has prepared a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (and associated Initial Study) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for proposed soil vapor extraction and remedial excavation at the Former Athens Tank Farm, Willowbrook, County of Los Angeles, California. The Regional Board proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project without a public hearing.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Former Athens Tank Farm (Site) is located in Willowbrook, an unincorporated area within the County of Los Angeles, California. The former Athens Tank Farm (Site) area encompasses the Earvin Magic Johnson Regional Park (EMJRP), the Ujima Village Apartment complex (UVA), and the Ujima Housing Corporation (UHC) properties. The Site is bounded by Avalon Boulevard and a single-family residential development on the west, El Segundo Boulevard on the south, 120th Street on the north, and Clovis Avenue and a single-family residential development on the east.

While the Site as a whole consists of approximately 122 acres, the remedial action will be performed only an area approximately the size of 2 acres (or 90,000 square feet). The proposed soil vapor extraction and remedial excavation plan identifies a number of locations for the proposed at the Site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project involves implementation of a Remedial Action Plan – Phase I and Addendum 1 that includes soil vapor extraction and remedial excavation at the Site.

This Site was owned and operated by Exxon Mobil Oil Company (Exxon) from the early-1920s to the mid-1960s as a crude oil storage facility (i.e. tank farm). In the late-1960s, the tank farm operation was closed and Exxon sold the Site. The Site was subsequently developed into the the EMJRP, UVA, and UHC. However, due to the former tank farm activities, the Site is contaminated with both petroleum and non-petroleum chemicals. Under the oversight of the Regional Board, Exxon is investigating and remediating soil and groundwater impacts at the Site. On November 14, 2007, the Regional Board issued California Water Code (CWC) Section 13267 and 13304 Orders requiring Exxon to investigate, cleanup and abate the effects of petroleum hydrocarbon compounds and other contaminants of concern discharged to soil and groundwater at the Site. Among other requirements, pursuant to the CWC Section 13267 and 13304 Orders Exxon is required to develop a remedial action plan to be approved by the



Regional Board's Executive Officer that includes remedial options that can be carried out where site characterization is completed.

Pursuant to the CWC Orders, Exxon has submitted the required remedial action plan to the Regional Board for the Executive Officer's approval. Exxon's Remedial Action Plan – Phase I consists of the following three documents: 1) Remedial Action Plan – Phase I dated June 15, 2012, prepared by Kleinfelder West, Inc. (Kleinfelder) Consultants; 2) Addendum 1 to Remedial Action Plan Phase I, dated July 25, 2012, prepared by Kleinfelder Consultants; 3) Cultural Resources Evaluation, dated August 6, 2012, prepared by Applied Earth Works Consultants; and 4) Sustainable Remediation - Environmental Footprint Summary, prepared by Kleinfelder Consultants. Collectively, these four documents are referred to as the "Remedial Action Plan".

The Remedial Action Plan (RAP) focuses on soil and soil vapor conditions with the specific objective of removing methane and petroleum hydrocarbon volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including benzene, present in shallow soil vapors at the Site. The RAP proposes soil vapor extraction (SVE) as the remedial technology to be implemented in a two phased approach. The Phase I SVE system is proposed to expedite removal of waste constituents in shallow soil vapors at the south and southeast perimeter of the Site, reduce the potential for off-Site migration of subsurface soil vapors, provide valuable field data that will be applied to the second phase of SVE work (Phase II), and to begin to address subsurface soil vapors in adjacent off-Site areas. The Phase II SVE system will be designed based on results observed during SVE Phase I implementation, ongoing off Site investigations, groundwater investigations, and consultation with the Regional Board. The RAP also proposes that a minimum of nine locations of lead-affected shallow soil will be excavated and disposed at an appropriately licensed facility. The CEQA environmental checklist includes activities related to Phase I SVE system implementation and soil removal and backfill at the nine locations described above. The Phase II SVE system implementation activities will be included in a subsequent CEQA environmental checklist submittal that will be developed following 6 months of operation of the Phase I SVE system.

The RAP provides an overview of SVE and remedial excavation locations, as well as measures designed to avoid or reduce potentially significant effects on the environment. These measures include: monitoring and mitigation of dust, vapors, and odors; noise monitoring during SVE and excavation operations.

DETERMINATION:

The Initial Study identified potentially significant impacts regarding noise. The Regional Board identified and will include in the project approval mitigation measures that will reduce those impacts to less than significant and will also require mitigation monitoring. The project as proposed by the Project Sponsor, including an addendum regarding air quality, includes measures designed to avoid or reduce all other potential impacts to the environment. Therefore, a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared.

Based on the analysis and conclusions found in the attached Initial Study, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board finds that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as proposed may have a significant effect on the environment.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:

The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, draft Initial Study, and other supporting documents (including RAP) are available for review at the following locations:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Hours: Monday - Friday: 8 am - 5 pm

AC Bilbrew Library
150 East El Segundo Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90061
Hours: Monday - Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm
Fridays: 10 am - 6 pm
Saturdays: 10 am - 5 pm
Sundays: 1 pm - 5 pm

Electronic copies of the documents are also available on the Regional Board's website at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/under "Announcements"](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/under%20Announcements).

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD:

The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and draft Initial Study are available for a 30-day public review and comment period, from **October 25, 2012 to November 30, 2012**. Comments on the adequacy of these documents will be accepted during this period. All interested agencies and persons are invited to submit written comments on these documents. Written comments must be received by the Regional Board no later than **5:00 p.m. on November 30, 2012**. Written comments may be submitted by email or hard copy.

Written comments may be mailed or hand-delivered to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
ATTN: Dr. Teklewold Ayalew
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For community outreach, please contact Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (714) 484-5354 or via e-mail: slear@dtsc.ca.gov.

Date: October 23, 2012