



December 20, 2018

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P. O. Box 100  
Sacramento, California, 95812

[Via email at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

Subject: Comment Letter - Proposed Order SOMA Environmental Engineering, Inc.

Dear Ms. Townsend:

I am the Trustee for Gloria Bell Fontes Trust Claim#017149, site located at 2001 Rollingwood Drive, San Bruno, California. I am writing this comment letter to express my concerns about the Proposed Order against my consultant, SOMA Environmental Engineering, Inc. (SOMA). During the last several years, SOMA has performed timely groundwater investigation, monitoring and remediation at my property. Per SOMA's groundwater and remediation report I was hoping that the San Mateo County Environmental Health will adopt no further action (NFA) status for my site by the end of 2018. However, due to the Enforcement Department's Proposed Order, the remediation of my property has been stopped and I have not been able to hire a new consultant to take over the remediation activity at this time.

For the following reasons I request the State Water Resources Control Board to allow SOMA to conclude the site remediation at this time:

1. SOMA is very familiar with the operation and maintenance of the multiphase extraction (MPE) system that they installed and so far it has been very effective in removing free product and mass of petroleum hydrocarbons at the site;
2. Today, \$1,294,352 has been spent at this site and with the remaining available fund, it appears no consultant firm is willing to take this

project. I believe there approximately \$205,648 is remaining and there is a reimbursement pending.

3. SOMA has a moral and contractual obligation to remediate this property using the available funding upon State Water Resources Control Board approval;
4. As of today, I have contacted Weiss Associates to take over this project, but they have refused, just merely, they do not have SOMA's expertise and knowledge to use the MPE equipment and operate it as effectively as SOMA has operated. They also are afraid that the remaining funding may not be enough to pay for the remaining cleanup and monitoring wells decommissioning costs;
5. I feel strongly, if the project runs out of available funding, I will not be able to afford the remediation costs and as a result the closure process will be delayed indefinitely;
6. In addition, over the past several years, SOMA has always waited for the USTCF's reimbursement checks arrival before receiving their payments. I am afraid that a new consultant would not wait several months for receiving payment from me. This would cause another hardship for me to pay the new consultant's invoices in advance.

For the above reasons, I request to allow SOMA to conclude the remediation of my site and fulfill their contractual and moral obligation that I have expected from SOMA since their involvement in this project.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 415-584-5703, if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Marsha Fontes, Trustee  
Claimant: Gloria Bell Fontes Trust