

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Derek Whitworth)
MEETING DATE: February 18, 2004

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: **Sobrato Development Companies, 1271 Reamwood Avenue, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara County** - Hearing to Consider Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Discharge of Partially Treated Wastewater to Waters of the State

CHRONOLOGY: October 1999 – Former Western Microwave authorized to discharge under VOC General NPDES Permit

DISCUSSION: Sobrato Development Companies (Sobrato) operated a groundwater extraction and treatment system at the former Western Microwave solvent cleanup site in Sunnyvale. On September 29, 2003, Sobrato reported two effluent limit violations, one for trichloroethylene (TCE) at a concentration of 10.0 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$) and one for vinyl chloride (VC) at 2.5 $\mu\text{g/l}$. The violations exceed the TCE effluent limit of 5.0 $\mu\text{g/l}$ by 100% and the VC effluent limit of 0.5 $\mu\text{g/l}$ by 400%, and require a mandatory minimum penalty (MMP) of \$6,000.

We issued an MMP Complaint to Sobrato in January 2004 (Appendix A). Sobrato waived its right to a hearing and submitted a \$6,000 supplemental environmental project (SEP) proposal. The SEP proposal (Appendix B) would support the Discovery Voyage Program at Marine Science Institute. The Program takes students on a four-hour boat exploration of the San Francisco Bay Estuary and also supports shoreside and outreach programs. The \$6,000 funding will help support 735 K-12 students participate in these programs. \$4,800 will be used to cover the cost of 280 students for 8 voyages, \$300 will be used for 105 students in 3 shoreside programs and \$900 will be used for 350 students in 10 outreach programs. All these programs are ongoing with a total of 360 voyages, 125 shoreside and 320 outreach programs planned for the 2003-2004 school year. We conclude that the proposed SEP is acceptable.

RECOMMEN-
DATION: No action required

File No. 43S0174 (DW)

Appendices:

- A - MMP Complaint and signed waiver
- B - SEP proposal

Appendix A - MMP Complaint and signed waiver

Appendix B - SEP proposal