



Media Release

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
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Los Angeles Regional Water Board Establishes Expert Panel to Review Carousel Neighborhood Cleanup

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Los Angeles -- The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) today announced the creation of an expert panel to review the Board's environmental investigation and cleanup work of the Carousel neighborhood in Carson, CA.

Under direction of the Los Angeles Water Board, the expert panel will be led by renowned site cleanup expert Dr. Arturo Keller of the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Keller will lead a team of four other experts in the fields of cleanup technology, public health impacts, social and economic considerations and community relations who are charged with a comprehensive review of the all aspects of the Water Board's activities. The panel's work will be open and independent, and the public will be involved in the process.

"The cleanup of the Carousel neighborhood is a priority of our regional board," said Maria Mehranian, Chair of the Los Angeles Water Board. "With the continuous efforts by the Regional Board, the responsible party, Shell Oil, will take responsibility for cleanup of the site and funding the expert panel. We believe this panel of experts will assist our board in staying the course and ensuring an effective clean up that fully protects the health of Carousel residents."

The panel will be funded by the responsible party for the site cleanup, Shell Oil. The Los Angeles Water Board has successfully employed expert panels that are funded by responsible parties on other sites in the Los Angeles region to accelerate cleanup, resolve complex technical issues and provide increased public access. The Water Board has similar expectations for the Carousel neighborhood in Carson.

The Carousel tract includes 285 single family homes that were built in the 1960s in an area where Shell Oil had operated oil storage reservoirs had for more than four decades. These reservoirs were not completely emptied and cleaned before the houses were built, and the houses now sit on ground that contains crude oil in shallow soils beneath the neighborhood. The underground oil contamination came to light four years ago as part of the cleanup of an industrial property adjacent to the Carousel tract. As soon as the contamination was

discovered four years ago, the Los Angeles Water Board ordered Shell Oil to investigate the nature and extent of the contamination.

The Los Angeles Water Board first focused on the oil in shallow soils because that contamination has the greatest potential to affect human health from hydrocarbon vapors that might rise from the soil and into the houses. To date, nearly 60 percent of the 285 homes have been tested and test results show that the air quality inside the homes has not been affected by the underground contamination. Additionally, deeper soils and groundwater beneath the neighborhood have been tested to determine the extent of contamination. The testing shows that the oil contamination appears to be limited to the area of the former reservoirs.

The work of the expert committee is expected to last the length of the project.

For more information on the Carousel cleanup, visit:

https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T1000000228

For more information on the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, visit their homepage at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/>

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