

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 17 – 18, 2016

Prepared on March 9, 2016

ITEM NUMBER: 14

SUBJECT: Executive Officer Report Supplemental

**UPDATE ON BUCKLEY ROAD TRICHLOROETHYLENE GROUNDWATER
INVESTIGATION**

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To date, Central Coast Water Board staff has conducted private domestic drinking water well testing of 64 supply wells and we continue to oversee the investigation of trichloroethylene (TCE) in groundwater in the Buckley Road area, adjacent to the San Luis Obispo County airport (this area includes Buckley Road, Thread Lane, Davenport Creek Road, Evans Road, Angie Lou Lane, Mello Lane, Three Sisters Road, Hidden Springs Road, Edna Road, Windmill Road, Rancho Oaks Drive, Sherpa Ranch Road, and Airport Drive). A total of 64 supply wells have been tested in this rural residential area (57 of these wells are private, domestic wells, and 7 are industrial supply wells). TCE has been detected above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) in 12 of 64 wells, which were sampled in the referenced area during late December 2015 and multiple January and February 2016 sampling events. Central Coast Water Board staff have contacted individual well users in the Buckley Road area to discuss their well sampling results, status of the groundwater investigation, and provide answers to questions. Central Coast Water Board staff hosted a public information meeting on February 4, 2016 to provide information on the investigation's progress, a summary of the water sampling results, water treatment options, health information, and to answer questions from the public. Speakers at the public meeting included John Robertson of the Central Coast Water Board who moderated the meeting and Dean Thomas and Thea Tryon provided technical presentations and material to the estimated 200 meeting attendees. Division of Drinking Water staff Kurt Souza, and San Luis Obispo County Public Health Officer Dr. Penny Borenstein also provided technical presentations for the attendees.

Central Coast Water Board staff continues to search for the source of the TCE. To that end, Central Coast Water Board staff required environmental information from several industrial properties on Buckley Road and from the adjacent airport. Based on our review of environmental data provided by the three industrial properties near Buckley Road, we did not find evidence of a source of TCE at these properties. We received a partial response to our request for environmental information from the San Luis Obispo County on January 20, 2016. Based on our review of the information, Central Coast Water Board staff issued a requirement on February 26, 2016 to the San Luis County airport to submit a workplan to delineate TCE in soil gas and groundwater along Buckley Road and at locations on the airport property where TCE may have been discharged to

the ground based on historical information. Central Coast Water Board staff also granted additional time for the San Luis Obispo airport to provide the missing information that was requested in our original request for environmental information. Central Coast Water Board staff met with SLO County and airport staff and their consultant on March 8, 2016 to assist in the development of the workplan and additional submittals. The workplan and additional information is due on April 15, 2016.

Central Coast Water Board staff continue to implement our outreach plan and we have developed a lyrics electronic mailing list that already has over 130 subscribers. We are also currently constructing a webpage specific to this case that will be available soon. We anticipate that we will host another public meeting after we have reviewed the requested airport environmental data. The Central Coast Water Board staff participating on this project includes Dean Thomas, Sarah Treadwell, Thea Tryon, and John Robertson. Additionally, Timothy Moran of the State Water Board's Office of Public Affairs has provided assistance in handling local San Luis Obispo media inquiries.

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GRANTS

[Katie McNeill 805/549-3336]

Avila Beach Water Quality Fund Closure

In June 1998, the Water Board reached a settlement agreement with the Unocal Corporation following the discharge of petroleum from pipelines beneath Front Street in Avila Beach. The Unocal settlement agreement was comprised of \$900,000 for water quality improvement projects and \$100,000 for regional water quality monitoring. The funds were deposited into an endowment account administered by the San Jose State University Foundation as the Avila Beach Water Quality Trust. During the past fifteen years, the Avila Beach Water Quality Trust has funded the implementation of fourteen projects totaling approximately \$1.25 million dollars. The list of projects is included in Table 1 below.

Approximately \$50,000 remains today in accrued interest and in previously allocated funds to three projects, as shown in Table 1. The three projects with remaining funds were completed successfully and under budget. The following discussion describes how staff plans to allocate the remaining funds, consistent with previous Water Board direction, and close out the Avila Beach Water Quality Fund.

The balance of one project that was on the initial list of water quality improvement projects (approx.\$2,500), along with the unallocated balance in accrued interest (approximately \$36,000), will be transferred to The Nature Conservancy for the long term property maintenance of the Andre Ranch, which was acquired as Project #7 in Table 1. This is consistent with the Water Board's direction in May 2007 to allocate any remaining balance to long term maintenance at Andre Ranch. These funds will ensure that the property management is aligned with the goals of the conservation easement, such as providing alternate water for cattle to reduce impacts to streams, installing riparian fencing, and conducting annual rangeland easement compliance monitoring.

The remaining balance of two other projects (Projects #12 and #14) within UC Davis's water quality monitoring contract (approx. \$11,000) will continue to be used by UC Davis researchers for additional water quality project monitoring and assessment beyond the original scope of work until the funds are exhausted. UC Davis researchers will be conducting water and sediment chemistry monitoring, data analysis, load reduction evaluation, and reporting for the purposes of water quality project planning, as part of a feasibility study for agricultural tail water toxicity treatment projects in the Santa Maria watershed. This effort would keep the funds with UC Davis researchers as originally planned, and therefore minimize administrative work. It would also keep the funds allocated to monitoring and assessment efforts, consistent with the Water Board's original intent.

Table 1 – Project List

Project	Project Title	Allocated funding	Remaining balance
Project 1	The City of San Luis Obispo – Ayers (Johnson Ranch) Property Acquisition	\$50,000	
Project 2	Port San Luis Harbor District – Boatyard Upgrade	\$132,500	
Project 3	Tenera - Oil and Grease Filters in Stormwater Drain	\$15,460	
Project 4	Blue Water and Associates Inc. – Oil Spill Response Equipment	\$25,000	
Project 5	California Polytechnic State University - Continuous Real Time Water Quality Monitoring	\$107,500	\$2,646.56
Project 6	Outfall Diffuser Replacement and Extension at Avila Beach CSD Waste Water Treatment Plant	\$233,000	
Project 7	The Nature Conservancy – Andre Ranch Property Acquisition	\$250,000	
Project 8	Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo – Replace Marre Dam and Improve Fish Passage	\$50,000	
Project 9	Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo – South San Luis Obispo Creek Habitat Restoration	\$50,000	
Project 10	Rehabilitation of Primary Clarifier at Avila Beach CSD Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$30,000	
Project 11	Replace Influent Pumps and Restore Wet Well at Avila Beach CSD Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$205,000	
Project 12*	Granite Canyon Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory, Moss Landing Marine Labs, UC Davis – Water and Sediment Pesticide Chemistry	\$20,000	\$10,051.00
Project 13*	State Mussel Watch – Avila Beach Ambient Monitoring	\$50,000	
Project 14*	School of Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis - Sea Otter Tissue Chemistry	\$30,000	\$1,078.60

*projects for water quality monitoring