

---

## Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 17, 2016

### **Buckley Road Area TCE Investigation Status Update San Luis Obispo County Airport Field Investigation**

In accordance with a Water Board approved workplan and schedule, San Luis Obispo County began their field investigation to determine if TCE is present in soil and groundwater along Buckley Road on the airport property on July 25, 2016. The first exploratory boring that was drilled encountered several unexpected “hard pan (cemented)” layers of soil that were very difficult to drill through and these cemented layers were present at shallower depths than the water table and bedrock. The drilling method used for the first exploratory boring (sonic) was capable of penetrating the hard pan layers and bedrock (to a total depth of 115 feet below ground surface). In accordance with the workplan the subsequent borings and collection of groundwater samples were supposed to be conducted using a commonly used cone penetrometer drilling technology but this drilling method could not drill through the cemented layers that were present at depths shallower than 45 feet below ground surface to reach the zone where groundwater is present. Therefore, San Luis Obispo County consultants could not get any groundwater samples and there are currently no preliminary results for TCE in groundwater (they were originally due August 10). The County is in the process of rescheduling the sonic rig to return to the site and collect the groundwater samples but the earliest availability of the sonic drilling rig is August 20. Central Coast Water Board staff is working with the County’s consultant to determine the best procedure for collecting groundwater samples from borings using the sonic drilling technology as this is more complicated than using the cone penetrometer drilling technology. We will provide an update once groundwater samples are available from the sonic drilling investigation along Buckley Road. Also in accordance with a Water Board approved workplan and schedule, the passive shallow soil gas sampling is proceeding according to schedule and preliminary results from over 100 sampling locations are due August 23. Passive soil gas samples are being used to identify potential areas where TCE may have impacted soil and groundwater at various locations on the airport property. If you have any questions regarding the TCE investigation, please don’t hesitate to send an email to [dean.thomas@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dean.thomas@waterboards.ca.gov) or call Dean Thomas at (805) 549-3690 or any of the staff listed under “Contacts” at the bottom of the website.