



Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

Centro de Acción Comunitaria y Justicia Ambiental

San Bernardino Office:

255 North D Street, Suite 402
San Bernardino, CA 92401
(909) 381-8883

March 5, 2007

Ms. Tam Doduc, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1011 I Street, 25th Floor [95814]
P.O. BOX 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

Ms. Karen O'Haire, Senior Staff Counsel
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 22nd Floor [95814]
P.O. BOX 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: CCAIEJ Pre-Hearing Motion, Perchlorate Contamination at a 160-Acre Site In The Rialto Area (SWRCB/OCC File A-1824)

Ms. Tam Doduc and Ms. O'Haire:

The Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCAIEJ) has several objections to the proposed schedule and format as outlined in the NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, in the Matter of, PERCHLORATE CONTAMINATION AT A 160-ACRE SITE IN THE RIALTO AREA (SWRCB/OCC File A-1824).

HEARING SCHEDULE

As stated in our letter to Mr. Howard, dated February 13, 2007, it is imperative that the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) create a procedure that will not create any future delays to the cleanup of perchlorate. Rialto Area residents have waited 10 years to see the polluters brought to justice, and for another setback to occur because of a procedural technicality would be another injustice to the residents. CCAIEJ recommends that the hearing be scheduled for the week of April 16, 2007. **We want to balance our desire to expedite the process quickly with our absolute requirement that it be done right.**

In addition, pushing the hearing dates back will honor both religious and secular holidays. Cesar Chavez day is celebrated on March 30. To schedule the hearing on this day is inconsiderate to the Latino Community in Rialto, most of whom celebrate this holiday. Jewish Passover begins at nightfall on April 2 and extends through April 9. Furthermore, Christian Holy Week, in celebration of Easter, begins April 2. We believe that it is unfortunate that hearing dates have been schedule during both Jewish and Christian Holy Weeks and it is a major inconvenience to the extremely large population of Christian and Jewish residents in the Rialto Area.

HEARING FORMAT

CCAIEJ respectfully requests that all handouts for interested parties at the hearing be translated into Spanish and that an English-to-Spanish translator, along with equipment for simultaneous translation, is provided during the hearing to accommodate the large Latino population in the Rialto Area.

In addition to the translation, time for oral statements made by Interested Parties should be set aside at the beginning and close of the eight hour hearing days, *and* at the beginning of the hearing and after the second break on the eleven hour hearing days. Making these changes to the hearing format will provide Rialto Area working class families with the opportunity to participate in the proceedings that will ultimately affect their drinking water.

CONCLUSION

To adequately serve the best interests of the Rialto community, the hearing must be rescheduled for the latter part of April, Spanish translation must be provided, and oral statement opportunities must be scheduled twice during each hearing day.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 909-381-8883.

Sincerely,



Davin Diaz
San Bernardino Campaign Director
CCA EJ

cc: Jorge Leon, Esq. (via regular mail and email)
Peter R. Duchesneau, Esq. (via regular mail and email)
Philip C. Hunsucker, Esq. (via regular mail and email)
Robert D. Wyatt, Esq. (via regular mail and email)
Scott A. Sommer, Esq. (via regular mail and email)
All persons on Perchlorate Email List (via email only)