

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT – Chuck Headlee
MEETING DATE: February 12, 2014

ITEM: 5D

SUBJECT: Cleanup Programs – Status Report Including Case Closures

DISCUSSION: This is a semi-annual status report on the Board’s three cleanup programs: the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Cleanup Program, the Site Cleanup Program (SCP), and the Military Cleanup Program (also known as the Department of Defense or “DoD” program). These programs oversee the investigation and cleanup of soil and groundwater pollution. This report provides some background information about our cleanup programs and summarizes our mid-fiscal year (FY 13-14) accomplishments in three areas: performance measures, UST Cleanup Program, and Environmental Screening Levels.

Cleanup Programs

Board staff oversee more than 11,000 contaminated sites within our region that have impacted soil, groundwater, or sediment. They range from small to large in terms of their size and significance and fall into three main categories:

- Leaking underground fuel tank (LUFT) sites are generally small but numerous. In partnership with local agencies, we require these dischargers to remove the sources of leaks or spills and clean up contaminated soil and groundwater.
- Solvent-release sites range from small dry cleaners to large industrial facilities. Besides having contaminated soil and groundwater beneath them, these sites may pose risks to occupants of buildings that overlie groundwater plumes when solvent vapors migrate through soil and into buildings. We require these dischargers to remediate soil and groundwater. We also require these dischargers to work with building owners to install vapor mitigation systems as needed. We may also require these dischargers to work with well owners to close or replace private or municipal wells.
- Other sites involve historical metals, PCBs, or pesticide releases to soil or sediment. Some of these sites are located at the Bay margin, and our role is to ensure protection of aquatic receptors and protect beneficial uses for habitat and recreation.

- DoD facilities are like small industrial cities spanning a gamut of pollution sources; many are divided into numerous subareas, parcels, operable units, and investigation areas to better address the facilities' individual sources of pollution. There are 40 DoD facilities in our region that equate to about 330 active "sites" requiring investigation and cleanup.

Performance Measures

The Water Boards have been using performance measures for several years to show the public what our programs accomplish and whether the environment is improving. For the cleanup programs, we have two existing measures and three pending measures. Mid-FY results for the performance measure *Number of Cases Closed* are shown below. This measure indicates the elimination of threats to human health and water quality. We are on track to significantly exceed our targets for the full fiscal year.

Cleanup Program	FY 13-14 Cases Closed		
	Target	Actual*	% of Target
UST	42	34	83%
SCP	25	15	60%
DoD	40**	43	108%
Total	107	92	86%

* as of December 31

** internal target (no statewide target)

Mid-FY results for the performance measure *Number of Cases Starting Active Remediation* are shown below. This measure indicates the transition from site investigation to actual cleanup, which leads to beneficial uses being restored or protected. We are on track to exceed our targets for the full fiscal year, with the exception of SCP cases starting remediation, where we expect to make up ground in the second half of the fiscal year.

Cleanup Program	FY 13-14 Cases Starting Active Remediation		
	Target	Actual*	% of Target
UST	10	12	120%
SCP	17	7	41%
DoD	10	6	60%
Total	37	28	68%

* as of December 31

UST Cleanup Program

As of July 1, 2013, the new certified Local Oversight Program was put into effect pursuant to the State Water Board's Low-Threat UST Case Closure Policy adopted in 2012. As a result of smaller local agencies dropping out of the Local Oversight Program and the Alameda County

Water District's cases coming under our jurisdiction, the number of LUFT cases we oversee grew by approximately 180 cases.

As part of the implementation of the Low-Threat UST Case Closure Policy, we met the State Water Board's August 17, 2013, deadline to complete a Low-Threat Case Closure review for all our open LUFT cases (over 400) and the December 31, 2013, deadline to complete the Path to Closure page in the GeoTracker database for all these cases. We have identified 110 LUFT cases that are eligible for case closure and have closed 34 of them as of December 31, 2013. The remaining "eligible for closure" cases are going through the administrative steps that are required prior to issuance of a case closure letter.

Environmental Screening Levels

As reported at the January Board meeting, Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) were developed by our region as a tool to rapidly assess potential concerns at contaminated sites. After completing a major update in the first half of 2013 that included updating the ESL's data tables, we posted a revised and expanded version of the ESL's User's Guide on our website in December 2013.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:**

This is an information item only and no action is necessary.

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