

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

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 30-31, 2020

Prepared on January 14, 2020

ITEM NUMBER: 16

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

STAFF CONTACTS:

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ACTION: Information / Discussion

KEY INFORMATION

This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any item.

GRANTS PROGRAM -

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This report provides an update on grant funding in the region.

Groundwater Grant Program Awards

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) administers the Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program (GWGP). The GWGP was established to prevent and clean up contaminated groundwater that serves, or has served, as a source of drinking water. Approximately \$60 million dollars in funding was recently awarded to three projects in the Central Coast Region as part of the GWGP Round 2 solicitation (see table below).

Regional Board staff assisted with the technical review of the proposals and will participate on the Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) during the term of each project to provide feedback on project development, ensure regional consistency, and maximize achievement of our water quality goals. State Board staff will provide Grant Management for the projects. For more information, please visit the State Board's website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/groundwater_sustainability.html

Project Title and Grantee	Project Funding	Project Description
<p>City of San Luis Obispo PCE Plume Characterization</p> <p>City of San Luis Obispo</p>	<p>Planning grant award = \$2,000,000 (total project cost = \$2,622,908)</p>	<p>The City's Project consists of conducting a remedial investigation and preparing Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Reports that will provide the information necessary to evaluate and develop cleanup alternatives for groundwater impacted by PCE contamination.</p>
<p>Protection of Domestic Drinking Water Supplies for the Lower Salinas Valley</p> <p>Monterey County Water Resources Agency</p>	<p>Implementation grant award = \$7,348,000 (total project cost = \$9,197,332)</p>	<p>MCWRA will destroy approximately 100 abandoned and dormant wells located in proximity to the City of Salinas, the communities of Castroville and Boronda, and unincorporated areas of Monterey County. The goal of the Project is to prevent chloride- and nitrate-contaminated groundwater from migrating into drinking water aquifers.</p>
<p>Pure Water Soquel: Groundwater Replenishment and Seawater Intrusion Prevention Project</p> <p>Soquel Creek Water District</p>	<p>Implementation grant award = \$50,000,000 (total project cost = \$100,068,000)</p>	<p>The District's Project includes the completion of three injection wells; six monitoring wells; and installation of approximately 70,700 linear feet of conveyance pipeline to deliver recycled water to the injection wells. The purpose of the project is to prevent seawater intrusion into drinking water aquifers.</p>

UPDATE ON BUCKLEY ROAD TRICHLOROETHYLENE GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION

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The *italicized text* is new information relative to the previous EO Report update in May 2019

Background

Trichloroethylene (TCE) is present in private and industrial water supply wells near Buckley Road, near the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport (Airport). *Currently, 12 of 69 wells tested have concentrations above the drinking water standard (maximum contaminant level or MCL). The highest concentration of TCE in a private domestic well is 48 micrograms per liter (µg/L). This concentration is approximately 10 times greater than the MCL of 5 µg/L.* Based on the distribution of TCE concentrations in wells, the primary focus area with TCE concentrations near or above the drinking water standard includes the area surrounded by: Thread Lane (also known as Noll Road), Buckley Road, Davenport Creek Road, and Evans Road, and includes Angie Lou Lane, Mello Lane, and Three Sisters Road. The TCE detections in the Buckley Road area form a 1/2-mile-long by 1/3-mile wide plume extending from approximately Thread Lane to Davenport Creek Road. A map and other information are available on the Buckley Road area TCE Investigation webpage at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/hot_topics/tce_pce_info/tce_pce_index.html

Communication and Outreach

Central Coast Water Board staff provides updates to the public and the Board as newer and more detailed information becomes available on both the source area investigation and changing well water quality conditions. Staff continues outreach efforts to residents and businesses in the Buckley Road area and updates the Buckley Road TCE Investigation-specific webpage as new information becomes available. Ongoing outreach includes email server list notifications when webpage updates occur and answering phone calls from members of the community.

On May 21, 2019, Central Coast Water Board staff held a public meeting to provide information on the status of the TCE investigation and to provide an overview of the draft Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) during the public comment period. At the public meeting, staff addressed questions and received comments on the draft CAO. Staff also addressed comments received by mail before issuing the final CAO on July 31, 2019. The CAO is addressed to former and current owners and operators of the property located at 4665 Thread Lane in San Luis Obispo. The CAO requires the responsible parties to provide or pay for replacement drinking water; submit a replacement water plan; conduct additional investigation of TCE and associated pollutants in soil, soil gas, and groundwater; implement a cleanup plan; and implement a groundwater monitoring program that includes sampling of domestic wells.

Well Sampling

Central Coast Water Board staff last sampled several domestic and industrial wells in June 2019. At that time, TCE concentrations fluctuated slightly up and down in most wells with a general overall decrease in TCE concentrations compared with historic results. *The responsible parties listed in the CAO are planning to sample impacted domestic wells during the first quarter 2020.*

Source Identification

In 2016, the Central Coast Water Board required San Luis Obispo County to conduct soil gas and groundwater investigations on its regional airport property to investigate potential sources of TCE associated with industrial operations and old dump sites at the airport. The County completed their fieldwork investigation in September 2016. The results of the County's soil gas and groundwater investigation indicated there is no evidence of a TCE source present on the airport property contributing to the Buckley Road Area TCE plume. Given the results from the County's soil gas and groundwater investigations, the next step was to conduct additional investigations and delineation of TCE in the industrial area overlying the highest concentrations of TCE along Thread Lane. Investigations at 825 Buckley Road and 795 Buckley Road were completed and investigation reports were submitted by mid-2017. Based on the results reviewed for the two investigations, a TCE source remained undiscovered and an investigation at 4665 Thread Lane was required. The property owner for 4665 Thread Lane conducted the work with a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (Senate Bill 445) to assist with funding the investigation costs. Central Coast Water Board staff worked with the property owner and State Water Board grant personnel to secure funding, which resulted in investigation work being implemented from August through December 2018.

Results from the soil and soil gas investigation at 4665 Thread Lane did not indicate a clear identification of the source of the TCE. However, TCE was detected at elevated concentrations in deep groundwater beneath the property at a concentration of 783 micrograms per liter. This TCE concentration is approximately 157 times greater than the drinking water standard.

The investigation results indicate that the release or source of TCE in the Buckley Road area originated from 4665 Thread Lane. *The responsible parties were issued a CAO on July 31, 2019 to cleanup and abate the TCE.*

Maps showing the distribution of TCE in the vicinity of Buckley Road and Thread Lane were prepared by Central Coast Water Board staff and are available on GeoTracker:

<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=jfi7e>

Next Steps

To date, the responsible parties have met the submittal due dates for plans required by the CAO. The CAO requires responsible parties to provide replacement water (wellhead treatment) for properties served by domestic wells having TCE concentrations that exceed MCL in the Buckley Road area. Staff have reviewed the responsible

parties' replacement water plan (RWP) and intends to issue a letter by the end of January 2020 that concurs with a plan to establish effective wellhead treatment and performance monitoring at accessible affected properties in the Buckley Road area. Staff are currently reviewing remedial investigation and groundwater monitoring plan (for onsite and offsite areas). Once the plans are approved, staff will assist State Water Board staff in the Site Cleanup Subaccount Program in processing the responsible parties' requests for grant funding to conduct the investigation and cleanup work.

Central Coast Water Board staff will continue to provide regular updates to the Board on this project via the EO report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Table 1 - 401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received
2. Table 2 - 401 Water Quality Certifications Issued
3. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
4. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
5. Table 5 - Enrollments In General Orders/Waivers