



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Francisco Bay Region



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SUBJECT: May 2008 Revision to Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) Technical Document

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Staff of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) has revised the November 2007 technical document, *Screening for Environmental Concerns at Sites with Contaminated Soil and Groundwater*.

The ESLs are intended to help expedite the identification of potential environmental concerns at sites where contamination has been identified, and expedite the evaluation regarding the need for possible cleanup of these properties. Data collected at a site can be directly compared to the ESLs and the need for additional actions quickly determined. This approach has been shown to be most cost-effective and efficient at sites with limited or relatively straightforward types of contamination.

This revision primarily addresses the screening levels for protection of aquatic habitats. As noted in the November 2007 update, an error in the Excel spreadsheets was causing incorrect values to be selected for some chemicals. Consequently, Table F-4a – Summary of Selected Aquatic Habitat Goals was left blank. The errors have been corrected and the aquatic habitat goals are once again incorporated into the Tier 1 screening levels. Chemical-specific changes have also been incorporated into this update as follows:

- ESLs for PCBs in soil are now calculated using the oral cancer slope factor of 2 (mg/kg-day)⁻¹ listed in IRIS instead of the values of 5 (mg/kg-day)⁻¹ listed in the OEHHA Toxicity Criteria Database.
- OEHHA listed ethylbenzene as a human carcinogen in November 2007. ESLs for ethylbenzene in soil, air, and drinking water are now calculated using the oral cancer slope factor of 0.011 (mg/kg-day)⁻¹ and the unit risk factor of 0.0088 (µg/m³)⁻¹ listed in the OEHHA Toxicity Criteria Database.
- 1,1-Dichloroethene was incorrectly listed as a carcinogen in the November 2007 update. That has been corrected in this revision.

The updated ESL document is not intended to establish policy or regulation. Use of this document is entirely optional and is subject to the approval of the overseeing regulatory agency and staff. This document will be periodically updated as needed. Please send comments and edits in writing to the contacts noted below. Water Board staff overseeing work at a specific site should be contacted prior to use of this document in order to ensure that the document is applicable to the site and that the user has the most up-to-date version available.

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