



CALDO OIL COMPANY

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DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

August 21, 2014

Vivian Gomez-Latino

State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street, PO Box 2231

Sacramento, CA 95812

[USTClosuresComments@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:USTClosuresComments@waterboards.ca.gov)

[RE: Caldo Site, 2266 Senter Road, San Jose, CA, Santa Clara County](#)

Dear Ms. Gomez-Latino

For over 75 years starting in 1934, Caldo Oil Company operated as a small family owned company in the distribution of petroleum products, servicing the once rich agricultural community of the Santa Clara Valley. When this fertile soil, that made the Valley a fruit and vegetable "bowl" feeding the world, became covered with asphalt, homes, and industry, so too did Caldo make changes to accommodate the "new customer" that was created. Our total proud existence as a third and fourth generation family of this Valley was to develop friendships and provide service to business and individuals in need of our products. "Change" became the standard operating procedure as we adjusted to business, geographical, technological, and regulatory conditions that brought us into the era within our industry of addressing "hazardous materials" and "remediation". Our whole business and personal existence was comprised of living and operating honestly, ethically, and morally with those whom we dealt as well as in our own personal lives. I believe that our business and personal lives are exemplary as we strived to "live by the rules" and we enjoyed the good reputation of both business and family members who were very active within the community.

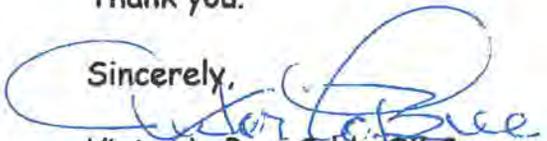
As with ALL family run businesses, hard work and unlimited hours were one of the main reasons for our longevity. I never dreamed that during those 75 plus years, my "elder years" would produce the most devastating experience of my life in dealing with attorneys, insurance companies, and ego-centric individuals who fail to recognize the tremendous damage that is brought on human beings because of their over zealous misinterpretation of the facts, or of the law, or of the regulations. Is it the intent of the law to destroy a human being mentally, physically, and economically? I am reminded of the often used expression when remediation was in process - - - "How clean is clean?" How extreme is it necessary in order to make conditions safe without destruction to the individuals who are doing their best by using the knowledge and expertise of professionals to restore safety to the environment? Is "Mother Nature" disregarded as possibly one of the very best solutions to a problem?

With my utmost regard to comply with the "Regs", I have chosen qualified people to address a problem and to perform a task to both comply and focus on remediation that will result in a safe condition for all concerned. I am astounded by the reckless disregard and apparent defiance within the Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health for turning its back on the gigantic amount of work and expense that has been incurred in order to comply with Regulations and to bring the Caldo site to a safe condition. They continue to be in erroneous and stubborn disagreement with my professionals in concluding that the site qualifies for a Low Threat Closure Policy. I don't believe that there is any professional merit to continue to be unreasonable and to continue to damage the lives of the MANY parties that have a viable stake in receiving a deserving Closure to this site.

I greatly appreciate your support in the Closure of this site and ask for your intervention to accomplish cooperation and Closure with the SCCDEH.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Victor LoBue, Caldo Oil Company