



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

11 February 2020

Ron I. Engelberg, President
25 Hill Properties, Inc.
7026 Darnoch Way
West Hills, CA 91307

CERTIFIED MAIL
7018 1830 0001 0015 4694

ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT R5-2020-0504 FOR 25 HILL PROPERTIES, INC., JAMESON TRUST, VIRGINIA LANDS, AND B-ZONE (SHELL) LEASES, MIDWAY SUNSET OIL FIELD, KERN COUNTY

Enclosed is an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (Complaint) issued pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code) section 13323 for violations of Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R5-2015-0745 (CAO) and Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5 2015-0745 (MRP) for the disposal surface impoundments in the Jameson Trust, Virginia Lands, and B-Zone (Shell) leases in the Midway Sunset Oil Field. Pursuant to Water Code section 13350, the Complaint charges 25 Hill Properties, Inc. (Discharger), with civil liability in the amount **three hundred twenty-five thousand three hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$325,339)**, for failure to submit a work plan, quarterly technical reports by prescribed deadlines, failure to comply with the MRP, and failure to cease discharges by the prescribed deadline.

Pursuant to Water Code section 13323, the Discharger may:

- Pay the assessed civil liability and waive its right to a hearing before the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) by signing the enclosed Hearing Waiver (option 1) and submitting it to this office by **28 February 2020**, along with payment for the full amount;
- Waive the right to a hearing within 90 days and agree to enter into settlement discussions with the Central Valley Water Board and request that any hearing on the matter be delayed by signing the enclosed Hearing Waiver (option 2) and submitting it to this office by **28 February 2020**; or

Waive the right to a hearing within 90 days in order to extend the hearing deadlines (option 3). If the Discharger chooses to sign the Hearing Waiver and pay the assessed civil liability, this will be considered a tentative settlement of the violations in the Complaint. This settlement will be considered final pending a 30-day period of public notice, during which time interested parties may comment on this action by submitting information to this office, attention Ronald E. Holcomb. Should the Central Valley Water Board receive new information or comments during this comment period, the Central Valley Water Board's Assistant Executive Officer may withdraw the Complaint, return payment, and issue a new complaint.

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

If the Central Valley Water Board does not receive a signed Hearing Waiver (enclosed) before **28 February 2020**, then a hearing on this matter will be scheduled for the **16/17 April 2020** regular meeting of the Central Valley Water Board to be held at 1115 Truxtun Avenue, in Bakersfield, California, 93301. If a hearing on this matter is held, the Central Valley Water Board will consider whether to issue, reject, or modify an Administrative Civil Liability Order based on the enclosed Complaint, or whether to refer the matter to the Attorney General for recovery of judicial civil liability. Modification of the proposed Administrative Civil Liability Order may include increasing the dollar amount of the assessed civil liability. Specific notice about this hearing and its procedures are enclosed with this Complaint.

Payment of this assessed civil liability amount (**\$325,339**) does not absolve the Discharger from complying with the CAO, the terms of which remain in effect. Additional civil liability may be assessed in the future if the Discharger fails to comply with the CAO or potential future waste discharge requirements in a timely manner.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Administrative Civil Liability Complaint, please contact Ronald E. Holcomb at (559) 445-6050.

Original Signed by W. Dale Harvey for:

CLAY L. RODGERS

Assistant Executive Officer

Enclosure: Administrative Civil Liability Complaint R5-2020-0504
Attachment A
Attachment B
Exhibits A through E
Hearing Waiver
Proposed Hearing Procedure
Administrative Civil Liability Fact Sheet

cc w/encl: Mr. Patrick E. Pulupa, Executive Officer, Central Valley Water Board,
Rancho Cordova
Mr. Adam Laputz, Assistant Executive Officer, R5 Regional Water Quality
Control Board, Irrigated Lands/PS Permitting/Basin Planning/TMDL
Branch
Mr. Stewart Black, Acting Assistant Executive Officer, Central Valley Water
Board, Rancho Cordova
Ms. Julie Macedo, Office of Enforcement, SWRCB, Sacramento
Ms. Asa Standfeldt, Office of Enforcement, SWRCB, Sacramento
Mr. John Borkovich, Division of Water Quality, SWRCB, Sacramento
Mr. Cameron Campbell, District Deputy, California Geologic Energy
Management Division, Bakersfield
Kern County Public Health Services Department, Environmental Health,
Bakersfield