

LATE REVISION

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION
MEETING OF JUNE 8-9, 2016
BISHOP**

ITEM 1
PUBLIC FORUM (GUEST SPEAKER DARON BANKS)

*****Please insert the following two enclosures to Item 1

ENCLOSURES		Bate Number
1	Request to be Added to the June 8-9, 2016, Lahontan Water Board Meeting in Bishop – Daron Banks dated April 29, 2016	1-5
2	Water Board's Request for Work Plan and Response to First Quarter 2016 Former Waste Pit Groundwater Monitoring Report, to Pacific Gas and Electric Company – Request Dated May 6, 2016	1-9

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ENCLOSURE 1

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Daron Banks
37825 Dixie Rd
Hinkley, CA 92347

April 29, 2016

Patty Kouyoumjian
Executive Officer
Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

REQUEST TO BE ADDED TO AGENDA FOR THE JUNE 8-9, 2016 LAHONTAN WATER BOARD MEETING IN BISHOP

I am writing this letter to formally request that you add me to the agenda for the June 8-9, 2016 Lahontan Water Board meeting in Bishop. I plan to address the significant deficiency of Board staff's regulatory oversight for the PG&E Waste Pit case in Hinkley. The length of my talk can only be accommodated in an agenda item and not in the limited time of the public forum.

As you know, the Hinkley community has great interest in contaminants detected in MW-163 which is downgradient of PG&E's illegal waste pit, south of Community Blvd/Hinkley Rd. According to Geotracker, petroleum hydrocarbons have dangerously increased in groundwater over six quarters from 2014 to 2015. Diesel has gone from 58 ppb to 1,600 ppb and motor oil has gone from non-detect to 6,800 ppb. All the while, Geotracker shows no action by Victorville staff on the case since July 10, 2014. This is outrageous and inexcusable!

As I'm sure you also know, at the January 28, 2016 community meeting in Hinkley, I made a request for the PG&E waste pit case to be re-assigned to the Board's South Lake Tahoe office, where oversight is more diligent. I stated then the Hinkley community's concern of increasing petroleum hydrocarbon levels in groundwater and the imminent threat to many nearby domestic wells, as many as 12. Lauri Kemper, the Board's Assistant Executive Officer, assured me and the Hinkley community that she would look into this matter and see that appropriate directives were issued to PG&E to protect the domestic wells. In the Tahoe office, that would mean a written order to PG&E.

Then at yesterday's April 28, 2016 community meeting, we learned that no action has been taken to date by the Water Board to issue orders to PG&E over the past three months! And worse that no actions are planned!! Lisa Dernbach said she understood that the Victorville office is waiting for PG&E to submit a document on monitoring at MW-163 and to say where they want to collect other samples. Are you kidding?? Letting the discharger decide what actions to take, if any, is ludicrous!! And how does PG&E know what to send to the Water Board? Again there has been no Board staff entry on Geotracker since July 2014, so where is the transparency?? How does the public know what is being negotiated behind closed doors??

In the meantime, PG&E is now completing its second quarter sampling of domestic wells in Hinkley but without any orders to include petroleum analysis. We have lost another opportunity to see if the migrating plume has reached domestic wells. PG&E's sampling of its own one domestic well on Community Blvd does not count for protecting the public.

My intent in addressing the Water Board at the June 8-9 meeting is to inform them of the information of this case and how Board staff is not doing what they are supposed to do as regulators or keeping their promises to the public to protect our drinking water wells. Who can believe there are regulators who don't want to regulate?? In the meantime, we are fearful that children, elderly, and the sick are already consuming well water containing petroleum products. Would you want that for your family? And we are fearful that we will continue in the future to get nothing but lip service by Board staff without any action. I hope in my talking to the Water Board in June they will direct Board staff to immediately issue transparent and written orders to PG&E to monitor all domestic wells within 30 days that are in the path of the migrating petroleum plume in groundwater from the waste pit and to conduct an extensive investigation to identify the plume's location in groundwater so it can be cleaned up.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you will be granting my request to speak to the Board as an agenda item at the June 8-9, 2016 meeting. I prefer to speak in the evening to accommodate my work schedule.

Sincerely,

Daron Banks
daronbanks@aol.com

ENCLOSURE 2

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Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

May 6, 2016

WDID No. 6B361403001

Iain Baker
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street, B28P
San Francisco, CA 94105
Email: ixBi@pge.com

Request for Work Plan and Response to First Quarter 2016 Former Waste Pit Groundwater Monitoring Report, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Bernardino County

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) staff received the above-referenced groundwater monitoring report (Report), which was uploaded to GeoTracker on April 29, 2016. The Report provided the results of the groundwater monitoring activities at groundwater monitoring wells MW-163S and MW-163D, and former domestic well 34-25 from the January (First Quarter) 2016 sampling effort. Total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel and as motor oil (TPHd and TPHmo, respectively) were only detected in groundwater monitoring well MW-163D and were not detected in groundwater monitoring well MW-163S or former domestic well 34-25. To further investigate the detections of TPHd and TPHmo in groundwater monitoring well MW-163D, you have proposed to install a new groundwater monitoring well or collect Geoprobe grab groundwater samples in the vicinity of well MW-163D. This investigation should aid in determining whether the concentrations of TPHd and TPHmo are reflective of well conditions and/or of the surrounding water quality. Water Board staff accept the proposal to conduct further investigations. Further, we request Geoprobe or similar (via cone penetrometer) methods be used in order to collect multiple samples spatially, rather than a single point in a groundwater monitoring well. Please provide a work plan with proposed sampling locations to the Water Board **no later than May 31, 2016.**

Summary of Report Results – January 2016

Since third quarter 2015, sampling results from former domestic well 34-25 indicate that TPHd and TPHmo were not detected above the laboratory reporting limit of approximately 50 micrograms per liter (ug/L). With the exception of fourth quarter 2014, concentrations of TPHd and TPHmo have not been detected above the laboratory reporting limit (approximately 50 ug/L) in groundwater monitoring well MW-163S.

However, sampling results at groundwater monitoring well MW-163D show a range of concentrations from not detected above the laboratory reporting limit (approximately 50 ug/L) to as high as 3,900 ug/L TPHd and 13,000 ug/L TPHmo. In addition, you sampled each well using low-flow and high-purge techniques, obtaining dissimilar results using these technologies. The proposed Geoprobe sampling investigation should provide additional data to further evaluate what is happening in the subsurface surrounding groundwater monitoring well MW-163D.

We look forward to working with you in a manner that protects water quality and the environment. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (760) 241-7305 (brianna.st.pierre@waterboards.ca.gov) or Patrice Copeland, Senior Engineering Geologist, at (760) 241-7404 (patrice.copeland@waterboards.ca.gov).



Brianna St. Pierre
Engineering Geologist

cc: Mailing List – Domestic Well Owners in Western Hinkley
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