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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 29, 2024

Mary Polson  
PO Box 392  
Laytonville, California 95454

Dear Mary Polson:

Site: Larson Property  
45101 North Highway 101, Laytonville, California  
Case No. 1NMC604

Subject: Directive for Investigation Pursuant to Water Code Sections 13267 and 13304

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency and has oversight responsibility for the investigation and cleanup of soil and groundwater contamination in the north coast region, that includes the property located at 45101 North Highway 101 in Laytonville, California (Larson Property). During a groundwater investigation at the Aragon's Muffler Shop (Case No. 1TMC543), located on the adjoining property at 45021 North Highway 101, petroleum hydrocarbon contamination was found that is migrating westward from a source located north of the Aragon's Muffler Shop property. This contamination is coming from the direction of the Larson property and is separate from the former investigation associated with the Aragon's Muffler Shop property. Due to contamination discovered through the investigation, we are requiring an investigation and submission of reports to address the suspected discharge of waste. The Regional Water Board has the authority to require the submission of technical and monitoring reports from any person suspected of discharging waste within the region (Wat. Code § 13267 (b).)

As owner of the property, Mary Polson, is a responsible party for conducting an investigation and submitting the technical reports as required by the Regional Water Board to determine the extent of contamination in soil and groundwater, and to determine potential impacts to human health and the environment.

An investigation to determine the extent of contamination in soil and groundwater is now required. Accordingly, please submit by **March 25, 2024**, a workplan specifying a scope of work to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of petroleum hydrocarbon contamination associated with the Larson Property site. A sensitive receptor survey that identifies water wells, surface water bodies, and buildings that may be impacted by the release to the subsurface should be included in the workplan. Also, all work plans and

site fieldwork reports must be prepared by, or under the supervision, of a California Professional Geologist or Civil Engineer familiar with this type of work.

Water Code section 13304, allows the Regional Water Board to recover reasonable expenses from a responsible party for overseeing cleanup of unpermitted discharges, contaminated properties, and other unregulated releases adversely affecting waters of the State. Oversight of the investigation and cleanup of this property by Regional Water Board staff will require you to enter into a cost recovery agreement with the Regional Water Board. Attached to this letter is a Request for Cost Reimbursement. Please sign the acknowledgement receipt form and return it to this office by **March 25, 2024**. The Regional Water Board estimates that the cost of the investigation and reporting required under this directive to be \$20,000. This estimate includes preparation of a workplan, implementation of an investigation, and supplemental reporting by a professional geologist and/or civil engineer. The cost of the required work is a reasonable burden given the threat to water quality and public health from the discharge of waste to the subsurface.

Previous requests and information regarding this case are available on [GeoTracker](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000000389) at ([https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=T10000000389](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000000389)). If you have any questions please contact your caseworker, Kelsey McLaughlin, at [Kelsey.McLaughlin@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Kelsey.McLaughlin@waterboards.ca.gov) or (707) 576-2466.

Sincerely,

Claudia Villacorta, P.E.  
Assistant Executive Officer

240129\_KRM\_Larsen Property\_Directive for Investigation

Attachment 1: Request for Cost Reimbursement