



Media Release

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD LOS ANGELES REGION

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Regional Board Sets Cleanup Goals, Directs Shell Oil to Submit Remedial Action Plan

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Los Angeles, Jan. 23 -- The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) has revised Shell Oil Co.'s cleanup goal report for the Carousel subdivision in Carson, directing Shell to submit a proposed remedial action plan for the site in the next 45 days.

The Regional Board took action to revise Shell's proposed cleanup goal report after finding that the document did not allow for unrestricted residential land use in the subdivision. Shell's cleanup goals would result in leaving petroleum waste in some areas where residents might come in contact with contaminants through activities such as frequent gardening. Shell's proposed cleanup goals did not fully address potential future health risks.

"The Water Board is keenly aware of the concerns of the Carousel residents, and we want to move the cleanup process forward as quickly as possible," said Board Chair Maria Mehranian. "At the same time, as stewards for the protection of human health, protection of water quality, and residential land use, we want to make sure that the cleanup allows homeowners unrestricted use of their property. Our action today will accomplish that goal."

The 285-home Carousel subdivision was built on the site of a former Shell Oil tank farm, and the soil and groundwater beneath the homes were found by the Regional Board to have unacceptable levels of contaminants such as petroleum hydrocarbons, including benzene and methane. The Regional Board issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) in 2011, requiring Shell to develop a site-specific cleanup goal report for removal of the contaminants found at the site.

Regional Board Executive Officer Samuel Unger commented that the Water Board will require stringent standards to protect human health and water quality. Shell Oil was directed in the CAO to propose cleanup goals based on those standards but failed to adequately take into account all the applicable standards.

In issuing the CAO, the Regional Board required Shell to conduct extensive site investigations and remediation pilot testing, and to submit a cleanup goal report in February 2013. Shell's initial cleanup goal report was released for public comment, and evaluations were received from the California Office



of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and an expert panel convened by the University of California, Los Angeles.

The Carousel subdivision cleanup effort is now entering a new phase which includes securing public input on a remedial action plan, and preparing for clean-up to begin toward the end of the year.

Shell is required to submit the remedial action plan to the Regional Board Executive Officer by March 10, setting forth cleanup alternatives and environmental documents evaluating impacts of the alternatives considered in the action plan. Cleanup will begin after approval of the action plan and completion of the California Environmental Quality Act process.

The University of California Los Angeles has contracted with Nakatomi & Associates to assist with public outreach on this project. If you have any questions concerning the process for submitting comments and participating in the board's consideration of the cleanup plan, contact them at 310-914-5000.

For more information about the Carousel subdivision CAO, visit:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/Kast/index.shtml>

To read the Regional Board's letter to Shell Oil, visit:

https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/regulators/deliverable_documents/5717991709/Rev%20Revised%20SSCG%20Rpt%2001-23-2014.pdf

About the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

The mission of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The mission of the Regional Board's Site Cleanup program is to protect water resources and abate the risks to human health from contaminated sites.