CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
**SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

**ORDER NO. R2-2020-XXXX**

**RESCISSION OF SITE CLEANUP REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R2-2008-0076 for:**

**PACIFIC ATLANTIC TERMINAL, LLC MARTINEZ FACILITY**

for the property located at**:**

**2801 WATERFRONT ROAD**
**MARTINEZ, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Water Board) finds that:

## SITE DESCRIPTION AND DISCHARGERS

1. TransMontaigne Operating Partnership, LLC, (Discharger) presently owns and operates the Martinez Terminal Facility (Facility), a bulk petroleum storage, transfer, and blending facility. The Facility is presently used to store refined and unrefined petroleum products.

2. The 255-acre property is located at 2801 Waterfront Road in the City of Martinez, near the south shore of the Carquinez Strait (Figure 1).

3. On January 1, 2018, TransMontaigne took ownership of the Facility and became a Responsible Party, as defined in California Code of Regulations Title 23, section 2720, for purposes of future cleanup, investigation, or site management. Other Responsible Parties include the following previous owners and operators: Pacific Atlantic Terminals, LLC; Plains Product Terminals, LLC; Shore Terminals; Wickland Oil Company; Martinez Terminals Limited; and Landsea Terminal Incorporated.

## SITE CONTAMINATION

4. Soil and groundwater at the Facility have been impacted by petroleum hydrocarbons and oxygenates as a result of releases of gasoline and diesel to the surface and the subsurface. Surface releases took place during transfer and storage activities, while subsurface releases are primarily the result of leaks from underground fuel pipes associated with the former truck rack operation. The truck rack has not been operated since 2002 and the associated underground piping is no longer used.

## SITE INVESTIGATIONS AND CLEANUP ORDER

5. Site Cleanup Requirements Order No. R2-2008-0076 was adopted on August 13, 2008. The purpose of that Order was to 1) establish a schedule for remedial actions at the site; 2) require remedial action of soil and groundwater; and 3) rescind the previous Site Cleanup Requirements Order. For groundwater, the applicable water quality objectives were established as the more

stringent of primary (toxicity) and secondary (taste and odor) maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) or risk-based level (e.g., equivalent drinking water levels based on toxicity and taste and odor concerns). For soils, the Board's draft Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) document or its equivalent were used to set cleanup goals.

6. Investigations of soil and groundwater contamination at the Facility began in 1988, and the site has been regulated by the Water Board since the early 1990s. Petroleum impacts were identified in two areas referred to as the Southwest Area and the Central Area. Regular groundwater monitoring has been conducted at the Facility since 1994.

7. Groundwater at the Facility is generally shallow (less than 10 feet bgs). A phytoremediation system consisting of 27 poplar trees was installed in 2007 in the Southwest Area to control hydrocarbon migration. A groundwater extraction pump was installed in an existing well to aid in containing groundwater while the roots of the phytoremediation system deepened sufficiently to maintain hydraulic control. Concentrations of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (BTEX); methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE); and tert-butyl alcohol (TBA) in the Southwest Area have been declining since the initial detection of dissolved-phase hydrocarbons in monitoring well P-18 in 2003. Concentrations of petroleum constituents decreased by an order of magnitude from 2006 to 2011 while the phytoremediation root system was in the process of establishing hydraulic control.

   Groundwater monitoring data indicate that natural attenuation is mitigating dissolved-phase hydrocarbon migration; the lateral extent of the constituents is decreasing; and the constituents are not migrating off-site or reaching the marsh area at concentrations of potential concern. In September 2010, the extraction system was shut off. Monitoring conducted since that time has demonstrated that there has not been a rebound effect of site concentrations, which indicates that the phytoremediation system is functioning as designed.

8. An enhanced bioremediation system was installed in the Central Area in December 2004 to address petroleum hydrocarbons and MTBE in the bedrock wells where the highest concentrations of dissolved-phase petroleum constituents had been found. The enhanced bioremediation system included 1) extraction of groundwater at the downgradient portion of the Central Area; 2) removal of hydrocarbon mass from the extracted water via a bioreactor; 3) bioaugmentation of the extracted water with nutrients, microbes, and high concentrations of dissolved oxygen; and 4) reinjection of the augmented water into an infiltration trench installed upgradient of the areas containing separate-phase petroleum hydrocarbons (SPH). By the end of 2005, little to no SPH was observed in the bedrock wells that formerly contained product. The observations suggested that injections and extractions assisted in flushing mobile SPH from the bedrock into the sandy zone in the Central Area, where constituents are more subject to monitored natural attenuation processes. Groundwater extraction was terminated in May 2005 because limited product was being recovered, and removal of SPH using a skimmer pump in wells with product was initiated. More than 900 gallons of SPH were removed during the first six months of the skimmer pump operation. Due to limited volume of recoverable product, only an additional 100 gallons of SPH were removed between 2006 and 2009.

The bioremediation system operated in the Central Area from 2004 to 2010 with upgrades and additional connections. Monitoring data indicated that the enhanced bioremediation and the passive skimmer system successfully removed SPH to the extent practicable. In a letter dated October 7, 2010, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) approved suspension of the bioremediation system operation with ongoing monitoring to demonstrate that SPH levels did not rebound after curtailment of the remediation operations. Ten years of monitoring data do not indicate a rebound effect, but instead that dissolved-phase constituents are consistently decreasing and that natural attenuation will mitigate the remaining residual hydrocarbons. Concentrations of SPH in wells outside the source area are in compliance and below RWQCB established Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs).

## RECENT INVESTIGATIONS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

9. On September 17, 2015, a Conditional Closure Request was submitted to the Water Board that evaluated Facility conditions against each of the General and Media Specific Criteria outlined in the Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy. The Water Board approved the request for conditional closure in a letter dated May 9, 2016 that requires the Discharger to record an approved deed restriction that prohibits residential development on the entire property.

10. In October 2016, a flange on Tank 14 in the northwest portion of the terminal leaked 130 barrels of crude oil within the tank farm's secondary containment system. During emergency response efforts, approximately 100 barrels of crude oil were recovered and visually impacted soil was removed to the extent practicable. Impacted soil remains in areas where removal was not feasible (e.g., in the vicinity of the sheet pile wall and around pipeline footings).

11. In May 2018, TransMontaigne issued a report detailing the Phase I and Phase II remedial actions taken to address the October 2016 release at Tank 14. Removal actions included removal of over 970 tons of impacted soils, confirmation soil sampling, direct-push groundwater sampling, and additional groundwater well monitoring. Confirmation soil sample results showed a reduction in TPH concentrations after excavation in all locations when compared against pre-excavation concentrations. These results indicate that excavation was successful in removing the bulk of the crude oil from the release, even though not all impacted soil could be excavated.

    The groundwater assessment conducted after the crude oil release consisted of three rounds of groundwater monitoring events utilizing the existing monitoring well network at the Facility. In addition, four grab groundwater samples were collected at locations not represented by the monitoring well network. This assessment consisted of sample locations within, upgradient, and downgradient of the crude oil release. The results of this groundwater sampling indicate stable to decreasing constituent concentrations, and that the impacted soil that remains in place is not an ongoing source of dissolved phase hydrocarbons to groundwater. Because the remaining soil does not present a source of petroleum hydrocarbons, leaving the soil in place is consistent with the Water Board's Low Threat Closure Policy.

12. In June 2019, a Soil Management Plan (SMP) was submitted to summarize procedures for appropriate management of soil containing petroleum hydrocarbons at concentrations above

applicable screening levels. The SMP describes how petroleum-impacted soil will be managed, restricts certain activities, and imposes handling requirements at the Facility. The Water Board approved the SMP on June 26, 2019, after which the document was filed with the Facility Terminal Manager and will be followed prior to and during any intrusive work.

13. On April 6, 2020, a deed restriction prohibiting residential development for the entire Facility was recorded with the Contra Costa County Recorder's Office.

14. Water Board staff conclude that the Dischargers have successfully met the cleanup objectives of Order No. R2-2008-0076 and that any residual contamination at the Facility poses a minimal risk to human health. The Facility has met all eight criteria for closure established in the Low Threat Closure PolicyAll soil sources have been removed to the extent practicable, and the remaining soils pose no threat to groundwater quality The Water Board considers Facility remediation complete and the site suitable for restricted use, in accordance the deed restriction. Thus, Order No. R2-2008-0076 is no longer necessary and should be rescinded.

**CEQA, NOTIFICATION, AND PUBLIC HEARING**

15. The rescission of the Site Cleanup Requirements will have no potential for causing a significant effect to the environment and is therefore not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) pursuant to Title 14, Cal. Code Regs., §15061(b)(3).

16. The Water Board has notified the Dischargers and interested agencies and persons of its intent to rescind site cleanup requirements contained in Order No. R2-2008-0076 and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Site Cleanup Requirements Order No. R2-2008-0076 is rescinded.

I, Michael Montgomery do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Region on April XX, 2020.

Michael Montgomery
Executive Officer

Attachments:

Figure 1, Site Location Map