

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**

**LOS ANGELES REGION**

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**ORDER NO. R4-2022-0229**

TERMINATION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
SENTINEL PEAK RESOURCES  
Montebello Oil Field Land Treatment Unit  
File No. 00-118

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Water Board), finds:

1. The Regional Water Board adopted waste discharge requirements (WDRs) Order No. 01-055 on April 26, 2001, for Stocker Resources Incorporated for the operation of a bioremediation land treatment unit (LTU) for non-hazardous oil-impacted soils at the Montebello Oil Field (Site) at 1400 North Montebello Boulevard, Montebello, California. On September 5, 2002, ownership of the Site was transferred to Plains Exploration and Production Company (also known as PXP), which merged with and into Freeport-McMoRan Oil and Gas on May 31, 2013. On December 31, 2016, ownership of the Site was transferred to Sentinel Peak Resources (Sentinel).
2. The LTU is located on approximately one acre of land at the 450-acre Site, underlain with a clay liner, and is surrounded by a 2- to 3-foot-high soil berm. The oil-impacted soils that have been treated at the LTU were from routine oil field operations and well abandonment activities.
3. The LTU received the last batch of waste soil for treatment on April 15, 2012. Between September 28 to October 1, 2012, all waste soil was removed from the LTU. The treated soil was evaluated to ensure it met appropriate concentrations for disposal. In a letter dated January 21, 2022, Sentinel requested termination of Order No. 01-055, as the permitted land-treatment of oil-impacted soils had ceased.
4. Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, section 21420 contains closure requirements for an LTU and cross-refers to section 20380, which contains monitoring requirements. As discussed in more detail below, the Unit has been in compliance with the water quality protection standard for a period of three consecutive years and the treated soils have been removed, resulting in a clean closure. The site requires no additional monitoring.
  - A. Groundwater monitoring as required in the WDRs has been conducted at two wells (MW-1 and MW-2) downgradient of the LTU until the fourth quarter of 2020. No impact to groundwater quality by the LTU was detected. On January 22, 2021, the

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- two groundwater monitoring wells were abandoned per the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health requirements.
- B. Because all wastes and waste treatment equipment have been removed, the current conditions of the LTU meets the requirements of clean closure for waste management facilities of the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (LEA Advisory 16).
  - C. Confirmation samples of treated waste soil were taken at the end of each treatment cycle to ensure that concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons meet the treatment criteria.
  - D. Since no liquid waste was ever treated over the pad, there should not be a significant amount of contaminants (petroleum hydrocarbons) infiltrated into the clay liner or soil beneath it.
  - E. Since it has been nearly 10 years since the last cycle of waste treatment at the LTU, any trace amount of hydrocarbon that may have been left in the clay pad should have been reduced to background by natural degradation by now.
  - F. During an inspection conducted on April 4, 2022, Regional Water Board staff observed no evidence of recent waste soil treatment operations, indicating that the LTU was inactive.
5. Requirements contained in Order No. 01-055 are no longer necessary because the permitted treatment of wastes has ceased and all treated wastes have been removed from the unit. Based upon these facts, there is no ongoing discharge or threat of discharge that would require waste discharge requirements.
  6. Termination of the WDRs is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061, subdivision (b)(3) (common sense exemption) because there is no possibility that a termination of waste discharge requirements may have a significant effect on the environment.
  7. The Regional Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to terminate WDRs for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
  8. The Regional Water Board in a public meeting heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge and to the tentative termination of waste discharge requirements.
  9. Pursuant to CWC section 13320, any aggrieved party may seek review of this Order by filing a petition with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). The petition must be received by the State Water Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812, within 30 days of the date this Order is adopted.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Order No. 01-055 be terminated, except for enforcement purposes.

The Executive Officer of the Regional Water Board is authorized, and is hereby directed, to certify and submit a copy of this Order to the Discharger, and to such individuals and governmental agencies that request it.

I, Renee Purdy, Executive Officer, do certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, on July 14, 2022.

Renee Purdy  
Executive Officer