

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R5-2005-0109

REQUEST FOR CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT FUNDS
FOR
INVESTIGATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS FROM PCE IN GROUNDWATER,
SONORA, TOULOMNE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Board) is responsible for ensuring protection of the beneficial uses of water, and protection against pollution and nuisance conditions resulting from the discharge of wastes and pollutants.

WHEREAS, dry cleaning solvents tetrachloroethene (PCE), perchloroethene (TCE) and their decay products cis 1,2-dichloroethene (cis 1,2-DCE) and vinyl chloride are mobile in groundwater, volatilize and migrate through soil pore spaces, and threaten human health at low concentrations in water supply and in indoor air.

WHEREAS, groundwater monitoring wells at Sierra Launderers and Cleaners contain up to 12,000 ug/L of PCE, 1,700 ug/L of TCE, 4,500 ug/L of cis 1,2-DCE and 300 ug/L of vinyl chloride, discovered in the course of an underground fuel tank investigation.

WHEREAS, the source area is immediately adjacent to Woods Creek and about 600 feet from Sonora Union High School.

WHEREAS, the extent of pollution is undefined.

WHEREAS, PCE vapors migrating to the indoor air of buildings, may adversely affect the health of residents known to live above the plume and students attending Sonora Union High School that may overlie the plume.

WHEREAS, the owner of Sierra Launderers and Dry Cleaners submitted financial records claiming insufficient funds to conduct investigation. To date, owner has not submitted insurance information.

WHEREAS, a Cleanup and Abatement Order is being prepared naming Ms. Charlotte Jacobsen of Sierra Launderers and Cleaners.

WHEREAS, the local water purveyor, Tuolumne Utility District, has expressed an interest in conducting the investigation and remediation provided funds are made available.

WHEREAS, the serious pollution problem was unforeseen, is significant and the Regional Board has no resources budgeted to conduct an investigation and cleanup.

WHEREAS, the California Water Code, Section 13443, allows the Regional Board to apply to the State Water Resources Control Board for funds from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account to assist in responding to a significant unforeseen water quality problem that poses an actual or potential public health threat for which the Regional Board does not have adequate budgeted resources.

RESOLVED, that the Regional Water Quality Control Board requests the State Water Resources Control Board consider a possible *Request for Cleanup and Abatement Account Funds for Investigation of Public Health Risks from PCE in Groundwater* and in the event that Tuolumne Utility District or other eligible applicant applies for funding, authorize payment up to \$200,000 from the Account to the Tuolumne Utility District or other eligible applicant to conduct an investigation into the extent of dry cleaning solvents threatening Woods Creek and Sonora Union High School and initiating remediation.

I, THOMAS R. PINKOS, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 5 August 2005.

THOMAS R. PINKOS, Executive Officer