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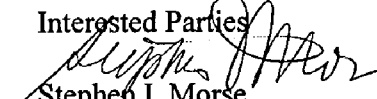
California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

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TO: Interested Parties
FROM: 
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File No. 1210.40 (RDB)

DATE: July 21, 2003

SUBJECT: July 2003 Update to Environmental Screening Levels Technical Document

Staff of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) have prepared the technical document *Screening For Environmental Concerns at Sites With Contaminated Soil and Groundwater* (Interim Final - July 2003). This is an update to the December 2001 edition of this document entitled: *Application of Risk-Based Screening Levels and Decision Making to Sites With Impacted Soil and Groundwater*.

Volume 1 of the document presents lookup tables of conservative Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) for over 100 chemicals commonly found at sites with contaminated soil and groundwater. Volume 2 describes how the ESLs were developed and provides detailed tables and appendices in support of the summary lookup tables.

Highlights of updates to the December 2001 version of the document include the following:

- Document revised to reflect comments received during peer review by University of California in January 2003;
- "Risk-Based Screening Levels (RBSLs)" terminology revised to "Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs)" to better convey the broad scope of the screening levels and clarify that some screening levels are not "risk-based" in a strict toxicological sense of this term.
- "Surface Soils" and "Subsurface Soils" terminology revised to "Shallow Soils" and "Deep Soils"
- Toxaphene and tert Butyl Alcohol added to tables
- Screening levels for surface water added (Volume 1, Table F and Appendix 1, Chapter 2);
- Soil and groundwater screening levels for indoor-air impact concerns revised (Appendix 1, Chapters 2 and 3);
- Screening levels for soil gas and indoor air added (Volume 1, Table E and Appendix 1, Chapter 4);
- Revision of human health screening levels based on updates to California-specific toxicity factors (Appendix 1, Table J);

A more detailed summary of updates is provided in Appendix 8 of the document.

The document is intended to help expedite the preparation of environmental risk assessments at sites where impacted soil and groundwater has been identified. As an alternative to preparing a detailed baseline risk

assessment, soil, groundwater and other data collected at a site can be directly compared to the ESLs and the need for additional work evaluated. It is anticipated that this document will be especially beneficial for use at sites with limited impacts, where the preparation of a more formal risk assessment may not be warranted or feasible due to time and cost constraints.

This document is not intended to establish policy or regulation. Use of this document is intended to be entirely optional on the part of the discharger and is subject to the approval of the overseeing regulatory agency and staff case manager. This document will be periodically updated as needed. Please send comments, edits, etc. in writing to the contact noted below. Board staff overseeing work at a specific site should be contacted prior to use of this document in order to ensure that the document is applicable to the site and that the user has the most up-to-date version available.

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