



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

December 21, 2011

Sent via FedEx

Professor Pedro J.J. Alvarez, Chair
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Rice University
6100 Main Street, MS 519
Houston, Texas 77251-1892

Dear Professor Alvarez,

**PEER REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF THE TECHNICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR
THE PROPOSED LOW-THREAT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) POLICY**

I have been asked to continue managing the external scientific peer review of the subject noted above. Staff will not communicate with the approved reviewers, such as yourself, nor know their identities, until I formally transmit the reviews to them.

My letter today is intended to initiate the next phase of the external review – the actual reviews themselves.

Included with this letter are the following key documents:

- a) The request for external reviewers to me, signed by Kevin Graves, DWQ, including eight attachments; and,
- b) January 7, 2009 Supplement to the Cal/EPA Peer Review Guidelines.

Comments on the foregoing (a-b):

1. You have been sent the request letter during the solicitation process for reviewer candidates conducted by the University of California. The letter was dated November 29, 2011, and did not include Attachments 5-8. The attached letter is identical, dated December 8, 2011, and is the final request with all attachments included. Attachment 8 is a CD containing all references.
2. Attachment 2 to the request letter provides focus for the review. I ask that you address all topics, as expertise allows, in the order listed.

CHARLES R. HOPPIN, CHAIRMAN | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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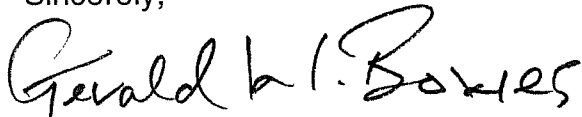
3. The January 7, 2009 Supplement – you received this earlier when I approved you as a reviewer. I am sending it again to make certain that you have it. In part, it provides guidance to ensure the review is kept confidential through its course. The Supplement notes reviewers are under no obligation to discuss their comments with third-parties after reviews have been submitted. We recommend they do not. All outside parties are provided opportunities to address a proposed regulatory action through a well-defined regulatory process. Direct third parties to Kevin Graves, UST Program Manager.

Please return your review directly to me. Questions about the review, or review material, should be for clarification, in writing – email is fine, and addressed to me. My responses will be in writing also. The State Water Board should not be contacted. I will subsequently forward all reviews together with reviewers' CVs. All this information will be posted at the UST program web site, and the State Water Board's Scientific Peer Review website.

I would appreciate your review being completed by **January 31, 2012**.

Your acceptance of this review assignment is most appreciated.

Sincerely,



Gerald W. Bowes, Ph.D.
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