

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

RESOLUTION NO. R3-2011-0227

**ADOPTION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE WHITTAKER GROUNDWATER
EXTRACTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEM EXPANSION
2751 SAN JUAN ROAD, HOLLISTER, SAN BENITO COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (hereinafter Central Coast Water Board), finds that:

1. On July 31, 2009, the Central Coast Water Board adopted Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R3-2009-0015 (CAO) requiring the responsible party (Whittaker Corporation or Whittaker) to implement hydraulic capture and cleanup of the perchlorate, volatile organic compound (VOC), and hexavalent chromium (Cr VI) groundwater plumes.
2. Pursuant to the CAO, Whittaker constructed a Groundwater Extraction and Treatment System (GETS) three years ago to capture groundwater leaving the site. Whittaker now proposes this new project, which includes upgrading the existing GETS, adding additional extraction wells, and constructing a reinjection well onsite. Whittaker will treat perchlorate, VOCs, and Cr VI to non-detect concentrations (below method detection limits) and will reinject the effluent to the deep aquifer beneath the site, pursuant to Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) Order No. R3-2011-0224. Whittaker will install the injection well after the WDR is issued to a depth of approximately 850 feet below ground surface; it will accommodate up to 140 gallons per minute.
3. The Central Coast Water Board is functioning as the lead agency, which has the principal responsibility for approving the GETS expansion project (Project) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA at Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.) and is responsible for preparation of environmental documents. Central Coast Water Board staff prepared an Initial Environmental Study in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, § 15063 and prepared a *Negative Declaration* in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, §15070 et seq. The Project, as defined for the purposes of this CEQA evaluation, consists of the adoption of the WDR for reinjection, and Whittaker's treatment system upgrade; installation of additional extraction wells and conveyance pipelines along Old San Juan Hollister Road; installation of a new onsite injection well to dispose of the treated water in a deep aquifer unit. The Initial Environmental Study did not identify any potentially significant impacts that would occur as a result of the GETS expansion.
4. On September 13, 2011, the Central Coast Water Board provided a Notice of Intent to adopt the Negative Declaration to the public, responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and interested persons. The Central Coast Water Board also published the Notice of Intent in the local newspaper and posted it at the San Benito County Library. Whittaker also posted the Notice of Intent at the Site. Central Coast Water Board staff also posted the Negative Declaration, supporting Initial Environmental Study, and related Project documents at the Central Coast Water Board's office and on our website.
5. On September 14, 2011, Central Coast Water Board staff submitted the Negative Declaration and supporting Initial Environmental Study to the State Clearinghouse (SCH

No. 2011091052) and copies were independently mailed to all agencies and persons known to be interested, thus initiating a 30-day public review and comment period.

6. The Central Coast Water Board did not receive any comments on the Negative Declaration and Initial Environmental Study.

7. The Central Coast Water Board finds that on the basis of the entire record that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment. The Negative Declaration, all supporting documentation, and the record of proceedings are available at the Central Coast Water Board's offices and Geotracker website.

8. The Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the Central Coast Water Board.

9. The record of proceedings on which the Central Coast Water Board's decision is based, is available at the Central Coast Water Board's office.

10. The GETS will be monitored pursuant to the site-specific Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R3-2009-0022. Whittaker staff will be onsite to monitor the construction activities during well and piping installation.

11. The Central Coast Water Board considered all testimony and evidence at a public hearing held December 1, 2011, and good cause was found to adopt the Negative Declaration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Central Coast Water Board hereby adopts the Negative Declaration for the Project and certifies that the Negative Declaration reflects proper assessment of environmental impacts of the Project, and that the environmental impacts of the project will be less than significant.

I, Roger W. Briggs, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and a correct copy of the resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, on December 1, 2011.



Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer