

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R6V-2008-0013

**APPROVING THE INITIAL STUDY/CHECKLIST
AND ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE GENERAL SITE-WIDE GROUNDWATER
REMEDIATION PROJECT**

FOR

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY
COMPRESSOR STATION
35863 Fairview Road
Hinkley, California

_____ San Bernardino County _____

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

1. California Water Code (CWC) Section 13260(a)(1) requires that any person discharging wastes, or proposing to discharge wastes other than into a community wastewater collection system, that could affect the quality of waters of the State shall file a report of waste discharge (ROWD) with the Regional Water Quality Control Board exercising jurisdiction in the area, and that Water Board shall then prescribe requirements for the discharge or proposed discharge of wastes.
2. Pacific Gas & Electric Company (hereinafter Discharger) has filed a ROWD and applied for General Waste Discharge Requirements to implement various remediation projects to reduce contamination in the groundwater and contain plume migration. The proposed remediation projects will consist of 1) extraction and management of groundwater and 2) in-situ (below ground) treatment.
3. The Discharger owns the Compressor Station located at 35863 Fairview Road in Hinkley, California (site). The facility is used to transport natural gas along pipelines to further destinations. The Discharger also owns land north of the compressor station to Alcurdia Road and overlying the groundwater plume containing chromium. The project will take place between these two locations and from west of Mountain View Road to Somerset Road, a distance of 1.6 miles. Of the 143 parcels located within the project area, 36 are owned by PG&E and 107 are owned by other parties.

4. Soil and groundwater beneath the site is contaminated with hexavalent chromium from untreated cooling tower water discharged to unlined ponds from 1952 to 1964. This contamination has created a plume of chromium in groundwater extending about two miles to the north of the compressor station and about 1.3 miles wide. Detectable chromium concentrations in the plume exceed the California Maximum Contaminant Level for drinking water of 50 micrograms per liter.
5. The site is subject to various Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board orders, including the Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. 6-01-50. The Discharger is required to conduct cleanup of chromium in groundwater in a manner that does not threaten to create nuisance conditions.
6. Under the ROWD described in finding number 2 above and in order to partially comply with the orders described in finding number 5 above, the Discharger proposes to implement various remediation projects to reduce contamination in the groundwater and contain plume migration. The remedial actions are: 1) extraction and management of groundwater and 2) in-situ (below ground) treatment.
7. Groundwater quality within the project area will be monitored through a Monitoring and Reporting Program to be issued by the Lahontan Water Board Executive Officer for each specific remedial action. In addition, groundwater quality across the site and off-site areas will continue to be monitored by a comprehensive groundwater monitoring well network on a bi-monthly, quarterly, and semi-annual basis depending on well locations.
8. The direction of groundwater flow is to the north-northwest in the project area. The Discharger shall monitor the presence and concentration of chemical and biological reduction compounds, tracers, nutrients, well rehabilitation compounds, process chemicals, potential byproducts, evaluate flow conditions, and any potential for movement of contaminants outside the remediation area. As specified in the Waste Discharge Requirements and the Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Discharger will initiate mitigation measures and a contingency plan, if necessary, if contaminants or injected solutions or byproducts migrate outside the project boundaries or migrate in concentrations adversely affecting beneficial uses of receptors within the project area.
9. The injection of chemical and biological reduction compounds, tracers, nutrients, well rehabilitation compounds, and process chemicals in the soil and groundwater is a discharge of waste subject to Section 13260 of the CWC. However, the discharges are intended to enhance remediation of hexavalent chromium-contaminated groundwater and contain plume migration. This approach is anticipated to reduce cleanup time and costs compared to traditional cleanup remedies without affecting public health and safety.

10. The Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Lahontan Region designates the beneficial uses of the groundwater of the Middle Mojave River Valley Groundwater Basin as municipal and domestic supply, industrial service supply, agricultural supply, freshwater replenishment, and aquaculture.
11. The permitted discharges are consistent with the anti-degradation provisions of State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 68-16 (Anti-degradation Policy). The discharges may result in some localized mobilization of reduced metals that will be monitored to verify natural attenuation within the project area. Re-injection of extracted groundwater may result in increased concentrations of total dissolved solids, nitrates, and sulfates. All discharges and potential byproducts will dilute and degrade with distance and time and should have no long-term affect upon beneficial uses. The discharges are intended, and are anticipated, to produce an improvement to groundwater quality by reducing hexavalent chromium and, thereby, total chromium concentrations.
12. The Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe Waste Discharge Requirements for these discharges and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations. The Water Board, in a public meeting on April 9, 2008, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharges and to the proposed requirements.
13. The Water Board has assumed lead agency role for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and has prepared an Initial Study/Checklist in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15063, titled Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act. Based on the Initial Study/Checklist, Water Board staff prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration indicating that the project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.
14. Copies of the Initial Study/Checklist and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration were transmitted to the State Clearinghouse, all agencies and interested parties. A February 25, 2008 letter from the State Clearinghouse states that no state agencies provided comments concerning the project during the comment period.
15. The Water Board has reviewed the Initial Study/Checklist and Mitigated Negative Declaration concerning this Resolution prepared by staff, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.). The Water Board concurs with the staff findings that a Mitigated Negative Declaration should be adopted. The Initial Study/Checklist and Negative Declaration were circulated for public review

and comment. No public comments concerning the project were received by the Water Board.

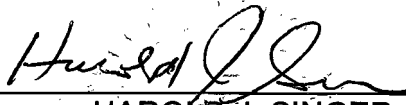
16. The Water Board considered all testimony and evidence at a public hearing held on April 9, 2008, at Barstow, California, and good cause was found to approve the Initial Study/Checklist and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. After consideration of oral comments and staff's professional review and advice, the Water Board finds that there is no evidence in the record to support a fair argument that there may be adverse environmental impacts resulting from the proposed discharge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Water Board:

1. Adopts the Initial Study/Checklist and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, and directs the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse and submit the required Department of Fish and Game filing fee.
2. Directs that a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the State Water Resources Control Board and all interested parties.
3. Directs that discharges of chemical and biological reduction compounds, tracers, nutrients, well rehabilitation compounds, and process chemicals into soil and groundwater shall conform with all requirements, conditions, and provisions set forth in Order No. R6V-2008-0014.

Certification

I, Harold J. Singer, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, on April 9, 2008.



HAROLD J. SINGER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER