Lahontan Regional Water Quality
Control Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

August 2001

NORTH BASIN

1. ***Meyers Beacon Gas Station, El Dorado County*** - *Lisa Dernbach*

   An investigation conducted in July by the Regional Board's consultant, Secor, discovered a previously unknown area of soil contamination at the Meyers Beacon Station. High levels of gasoline, up to 11,000 ppm as Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH), were found in soil adjacent to the underground storage tank basin. The extent of soil contamination is 70 ft long and 9 ft thick, and extends to the water table at 18 ft below ground surface.

   A groundwater investigation was conducted the following week in the area of soil contamination and downgradient where no monitoring wells currently exist. Laboratory results show hydrocarbons as TPH in water samples collected on site; MTBE and other constituents were not detected. Secor will be submitting a site investigation report in September and will include recommendations for soil remediation and additional monitoring wells.

   Following the groundwater investigation, the pump and treat system was turned on again. Board staff directed Secor to turn the system off during June and July after influent MTBE levels were less than 1 µg/l.

   Staff is considering installing an extraction well near the UST basin for containing additional groundwater contamination.

2. ***Caltrans Regional Work Plan Development, Statewide*** - *Bud Amorfini*

   State and Regional Board staff are working with Caltrans to develop an acceptable format for the Regional Work Plans required to be submitted annually in accordance with Caltrans' statewide NPDES storm water permit. The purpose of the Regional Work Plans is to describe how Caltrans Districts will specifically implement the Statewide Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) within each Regional Board jurisdiction. As required by the approved Caltrans Storm Water Management Plan, the Regional Work Plan format must be developed by September 1, 2001.

   The Regional Work Plans will be much more streamlined from the previous years' submittals and will describe specific implementation activities in a tabular format. The Regional Work Plans will include specific information on project development/construction, significant road maintenance, monitoring, maintenance BMP modifications, slope stabilization review and remediation, and training/educational outreach. This information will help staff

keep track of and provide better oversight of Caltrans' activities.

3. ***Twin Lakes Subdivision Individual Waste Disposal Systems, Mono County*** - *Bud Amorfini*

   Regional Board staff are working with the Mono County Health Department to resolve septic system siting concerns in the Twin Lakes Subdivision. The subdivision is located at the east end of Upper Twin Lake where there are approximately 275 residential lots available if full build-out was to occur. In 1991 the Regional Board adopted a variance to the 15,000 square-foot lot size requirement in the Basin Plan, providing that the County Health Department issue no more than a total of 200 conventional septic system permits (maximum of 2 equivalent dwelling units per acre) for the subdivision. Based on existing development pressure, the Mono County Health Department has requested that the Regional Board review options for allowing the County to issue additional permits to cover the remainder of the subdivision lots. Board staff examined the site and met with County staff to help evaluate potential options that will meet Basin Plan requirements, including the use of alternative systems for the remaining lots. Board staff requested that Mono County begin developing an appropriate maintenance and reporting program that would be implemented in conjunction with any variance issued for the use of alternative systems.

4. ***Stratton/Osburn pay Agreed Settlement but Likely Will Miss Investigation Due Date, Nevada County*** - *James Brathovde*

   The specific terms to settle a proposed administrative civil liability complaint included payment of $4,000 dollars and submittal of a soil and groundwater investigation workplan. Partial payment was received on June 6, 2001, and final payment was received on July 13, 2001. The workplan for additional soil and groundwater sampling at 10262 West River Street, Truckee was approved on July 10, 2001. The soil and groundwater sampling results and report of findings were to be submitted by September 1, 2001. By letter of August 15, 2001, Mr. Stratton's attorney informed staff that no soil/groundwater investigation field work has occurred at the site. In addition, Nevada County Environmental Health has not received permit applications for either drilling or soil excavation. Therefore it appears that Mr. Stratton and Mr. Osburn will miss the required September 1, 2001 due date to submit the soil and groundwater investigation technical report.

5. ***Big Tree Dry Cleaners, Placer County*** - *Lisa Dernbach*

   In July 2001 the responsible parties for the Big Tree Cleaners submitted several documents proposing expanding remediation at the site. A pilot study was proposed for cleaning up solvent contamination using soil vapor extraction, air sparging, and hydraulic fracturing in clay soils. The pilot study is scheduled for implementation in September of this year. Additionally, the Regional Board received a letter stating that Mr. Pomin would take over all remedial actions at the site from Mr. McClintock. The letter described the parties' financial commitment for future remedial costs and a tentative schedule for implementing remedial actions.

I responded by sending a letter that informed the responsible parties they were now in compliance with deadlines for document submittals to the Regional Board. As these documents were submitted seven months after the original December 11, 2000 due date, I stated the public hearing for the civil liability complaint would be continued at the October 2001 Regional Board meeting, unless the matter was settled before then.

6. ***Results of the Water Quality Sampling in Lake Tahoe Conducted on July 4, 2001*** – *Mary Fiore-Wagner*

   On the evening of July 4, 2001, Regional Board staff collected samples within 600 feet of the fireworks barge before, during, and after the fireworks display. Samples were analyzed for various constituents found in fireworks including oxidizers (ammonium perchlorate and potassium perchlorate) metals (antimony, barium, copper, strontium) and salts (magnesium, sodium, etc.).

   The only constituent that appeared elevated over background levels after the fireworks display was perchlorate, a nonvolatile and highly soluble chemical. The background levels taken before the fireworks display contained non-detectable levels of perchlorate. Samples taken immediately following the pyrotechnic show contained concentrations of perchlorate as high as 63 ug/L. Separate but similar sampling conducted on the evening of Independence Day by Dr. Glenn C. Miller, however, did show elevated levels of nitrate (< 0.001 mg/L pre-fireworks versus 0.061mg/L post-fireworks) as well as perchlorate. Dr. Miller's samples were collected within 20 feet of the fireworks barge.

   Though no drinking water standard or maximum contaminant level exists yet for perchlorate, the State of California Department of Health Services has developed an action level for perchlorate of 18 ug/L, based mainly on health effects. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has published a Drinking Water Health Advisory of 20-40 ug/L. At this time, water quality limits have not been developed for the protection of aquatic life from exposure to perchlorate.

7. ***Pioneer Trail Erosion Control Project*** – *Mary Fiore-Wagner*

   The South Shore of the Lake Tahoe Basin experienced a late afternoon flash thunderstorm on August 14, 2001. During the rain event, Regional Board staff inspected various permitted project sites under construction including the El Dorado County-Pioneer Trail Erosion Control Project. At the south east end of Golden Bear Trail, Board staff witnessed a construction employee washing concrete from curb and gutter equipment directly into a nearby storm water drainage. Concrete laden water flowed from the drop inlet through a sediment can and discharged into Trout Creek where a visible plume was present.

   I plan to issue an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint for this violation.

8. ***Update on Squaw Valley Public Service District, Water Supply Well No. 3 and the Opera House UST Diesel Contamination, Placer County*** – *Tammy Lundquist*

   Squaw Valley Ski Corporation (Ski Corp.) installed a mid-level groundwater monitoring

well, MW-9, in March 2001 to check potential migration of diesel contamination into a deeper zone. Plume migration into the deeper zone concerns Board Staff because the Squaw Valley Public Services District (SVPSD) Supply Well No. 3 is screened in the deeper zone.

On June 25, 2001 Ski Corp sampled and analyzed all the monitoring wells for the Opera House site. Ski Corp first analyzed the water samples for total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel (TPHd) and, secondly, reanalyzed for TPHd after removing naturally-occurring organics with a silica gel wash method. The silica gel wash removed a small fraction of organics from only one sample. Those results suggest the dissolved hydrocarbon contamination is from degraded diesel fuel.

Because the TPHd concentration in MW-9 was measured at 110 parts per billion (ppb) in June 2001, SVPSD Supply Well No. 3 remains threatened. The taste and odor threshold for TPHd is 100 ppb. In July, staff initiated discussions between SVPSD and Ski Corp. about the residual hydrocarbon contamination threatening Supply Well No. 3 and both parties agreed on continued cooperation in protecting the municipal supply well.

9. ***Truckee River Watershed Council – Lisa Wallace, New Executive Director/Watershed Coordinator*** – *Scott Ferguson*

The Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) is a watershed group interested in the Truckee River watershed and made up of approximately 30 public and private stakeholders. The TRWC has been in existence for approximately two to three years and has recently been able to secure funding for a full-time Executive Director position through grants from various sources. The TRWC hired Lisa Wallace to fill that position. Currently, Kathleen Eagan who was the Interim Executive Director is assisting Lisa with the transition into her new position. Lisa is currently meeting with many of the members of the TRWC to become familiar with their interest, expertise, and to learn what they would like to have the TRWC provide and what they can provide the TRWC.

On August 23, 2001 Cindy Wise, Chuck Curtis, Scott Ferguson and I met with Lisa and Kathleen to introduce ourselves and discuss some of the Regional Board's responsibilities, philosophies, expertise, and how the Regional Board and the TRWC can work together. Several issues were discussed at the meeting including the challenges of addressing non-point source pollution, the TMDL process, and the ability of the TRWC to act as a forum to get information regarding these issues out to the public. Another very interesting point of the conversation included a discussion of the funding sources the Regional Board has available to fund water quality studies and improvement projects and how these sources could be applied to the water quality improvement/habitat restoration projects the TRWC is in the process of assessing and developing.

The meeting was very positive and there is very good potential to continue to improve upon the cooperative relationship that Regional Board staff and the TRWC has developed over the past couple of years. Lisa Wallace is very enthusiastic and appears

to have the skills and personality to foster productive working relationships among parties that have not and will not always agree upon the issues at hand. Hiring a full-time executive director is a major step for the TRWC in establishing itself as a permanent and effective watershed group and Regional Board staff consider this a very positive development within the Truckee River watershed.

10. ***Martis Peak Fire Rehabilitation Effort*** – *Scott Ferguson*

The Martis Peak fire started on June 17, 2001 and burned 14,419 acres, 12, 000 of which burned within a six-hour period. The majority of the fire burned within the Tahoe and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests (10,252 acres U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands; 3,522 acres private lands; 645 acres California state lands), primarily within the Gray and Bronco Creek watersheds. Both of these creeks were already on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List as being water-quality impaired due to excessive sediment.

The USFS quickly activated a Burned Area Emergency Research (BARE) team to evaluate the burn area and identify the actions necessary to protect the land and address other potential emergencies such as flooding, soil loss and threats to water quality and other resources. The BARE team identified that only approximately 230 acres burned with the intensity that destroyed the seed supply and now requires treatment. Treatment will consist of contour felling, straw waddles, loose rock structures on small side drainages, and seeding. Recent discussions with USFS staff indicate that they anticipate beginning the above-referenced treatments no later than September 1, 2001.

The BARE team has coordinated with the California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) who are responsible for addressing restoration activities on private lands. Activity has already begun on the private lands under the guidance of CDF and NRCS. Some timber has been removed and it is anticipated that there will be very little active restoration effort on private lands, which CDF and NRCS anticipate will recover on their own, as is the case with the majority of USFS lands. Two other factors that have also limited the scope of the recovery effort are the steep terrain and geology of the Gray Creek and Bronco Creek watersheds.

Regional Board staff has observed one significant runoff event that has already impacted the area following the fire. There was an intense thunderstorm that produced an estimated two inches of rain/hail in less than an hour (per Caltrans staff). Both Gray and Bronco Creek discharged a significant amount of sediment and ash into the Truckee River, turning it black in color. The Truckee Meadows (Reno/Sparks) water treatment facilities were forced to temporarily shut down their Truckee River intakes due to the high levels of sediment and ash in the river. Approximately 24 hours later, Gray Creek and Bronco Creek were still discharging sediment and ash, but at much lower flow rates. The Truckee River was still dark gray in color below Bronco Creek; however, the Truckee Meadows water treatment facilities had already returned to service. Regional

Board staff have since observed vegetation returning to some of the slopes since the thunderstorm occurred.

Regional Board staff will continue to monitor the impact of the fire on the Truckee River. The Dept. of Water Resources with partial funding from the Regional Board has installed a continuous monitoring station within the Truckee River downstream of Gray and Bronco Creeks. The monitoring station has the ability to measure turbidity among other water quality parameters. Regional Board staff will also continue to monitor the recovery process by periodically contacting the staff of the USFS, CDF, and NRCS.

11. ***Placer County Environmental Health Services, Session on "Environmental Health at Lake Tahoe: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow, Lake Tahoe, California" –*** *Richard Booth*

Placer County Environmental Health Services Division Director Brad Banner invited a representative from Lahontan Regional Board staff to join them for a day-long session of training and team building on July 25, 2001.

The session was attended by Regional Board staff member Richard Booth and approximately 40 Placer County staff members from their Tahoe City and Auburn offices. Robert Matthews, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Geology at U.C. Davis lectured on the geology of the Tahoe Basin. Dr. Matthews discussed the geological aspects of various environmental issues that he has studied in the Placer County portion of the Tahoe Basin. Jim Scribner, the former Placer County Environmental Health Specialist based in Tahoe City discussed regulatory issues such as the siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of a county landfill in the Tahoe Basin from 1971 through 1978. One of the major environmental concerns of the landfill was the potential threat to groundwater quality posed by the refuse. Dr. Matthews discussed the geological aspects of monitoring groundwater quality in the vicinity of the landfill.

This exchange of information will continue the improved coordination between County personnel and Regional Board staff and will enhance communication for the various programs shared by Placer County and Regional Board staff, such as underground storage tanks, surface spills, and marina fueling facilities.

12. ***South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) B-Line Phase III Export Replacement Project*** *– Erika Lovejoy*

Staff conducted a field visit with representatives from STPUD, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) to review the plans for the B-Line Phase III Export Replacement Project. The proposed project will begin at the Luther Pass Pump Station, follow the hillside along the south, cross Grass Lake Creek, cross South Upper Truckee Road twice, continue on SR 89, and end at the United States Forest Service (USFS) campground and connect with the B-Line Phase I replacement project that was constructed in 1996.

The project would consist of installing a pressurized 24-inch diameter pipeline in a trench seven feet deep and approximately four to six feet wide. The pipeline will replace the existing 20-inch pipeline that was installed in 1966. The existing pipeline is no longer reliable, however it would be left in place for emergency use. Due to the risk of wildfire from welding activity, all ground vegetation will be removed within the trench corridor. A 50 foot temporary construction easement is also delineated in the plans. As part of the easement, a 25 foot construction corridor will be established. Within the construction corridor, trees, surface vegetation, and top soil will either be removed or significantly disturbed. There are two proposed crossings across Grass Lake Creek and through several wet areas. Significant channel disturbance will occur in the creek.

The project is proposed for construction next summer. STPUD is in the process of preparing environmental documentation. Regional Board staff is working with all of the agencies involved to determine ways to reduce the impacts of the project, as well as the extent of environmental documentation and mitigation that will be required.

SOUTH BASIN

13. ***Edwards Air Force Base Pilot Projects for Treatment of Perchlorate at Two Locations*** *– Liz Lafferty*

Operable Unit No. 5, Occupied North Base, Perchlorate Removal in Soil

An anaerobic composting pilot study for perchlorate-contaminated soil cuttings is planned. The pilot study will consist of pile construction, anaerobic composting, monitoring and maintenance, and a pilot study report. The work is being performed to gather data about anaerobic composting of perchlorate soils now containerized in 55-gallon drums at Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB). Recent composting and related soil pile technologies have shown, through multiple laboratory and field demonstrations, that perchlorate can be rapidly and completely biodegraded in a cost-effective manner through anaerobic methods. The objectives of the study are to reduce the perchlorate concentrations in soil below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Preliminary Remediation Goal of 39 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) and to ultimately reduce the perchlorate concentrations to less than 1 mg/kg; minimizing any potential future threats to surface or ground water. (The State of California currently has no soil or drinking water maximum concentration limit for perchlorate.)

At another site on the base a pilot scale test is also being conducted to evaluate the field performance and efficiency of a bifunctional ion exchange technology developed by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) specifically for perchlorate-contaminated ground water remediation. The bifunctional operation involves splitting the flow into two streams through separate resin columns, to evaluate different residence times for optimal treatment of perchlorate.

The method uses tetrachloroferrate displacement technology, also developed at ORNL, for regeneration of the bifunctional resin treatment column. The three-month pilot study will involve installation and operation of a one-gallon-per-minute ground

water extraction and treatment system. Information gained from the pilot scale test will be used in a treatability study to develop a larger-scale system.

14. ***Stormwater Alternate Sampling and Reporting Program –*** *Gene Rondash*

    The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)Water Quality Order No. 97-03-DWQ General Permit allows facility operators to submit alternative monitoring programs for approval by the Regional Board. For individual facilities, these proposals must be facility specific and demonstrate how the alternative monitoring program will result in an equivalent or more accurate indicator of pollutants and/or Best Management Practices (BMPs) effectiveness. Board staff is coordinating a pilot program with two dischargers for assessing use of their monitoring wells near their storm water discharge points to evaluate site effectiveness of BMPs data. The facilities participating are, National Cement, and Briggs Mine. Board staff will evaluate the reports generated in July 2002 and prepare a recommendation for Regional Board consideration.

15. ***Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14, Lancaster - Revised Facilities Plan - Meeting With Potential Additional Users of Recycled Water -*** *Ted Saari*

    On June 26, 2001 representatives of the Los Angeles County Sanitation District (District) planning department conducted a public meeting in Lancaster. The meeting was part of the Districts' efforts to assess local farmers' interest in using recycled water from the Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant (WRP). The District is revising their Facilities Plan for the District No.14 Lancaster WRP to achieve compliance with Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). The District is investigating several effluent management alternatives including the increased use of recycled water for irrigated agricultural. At the meeting, some local residents reportedly opposed the current and potential increased use of recycled water for irrigated agriculture. Historically, Nebeker Ranch has successfully used and continues to use recycled water for irrigated agriculture. Several additional local farmers attending the meeting reportedly expressed interest in obtaining recycled water from the District for irrigated agriculture use.

16. ***Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14, Lancaster - Nebeker Ranch Ground Water Quality Investigation Plan -*** *Ted Saari*

    On July 24, 2001 Board staff met with representatives of the Los Angeles County Sanitation District to discuss elements of a draft work plan for investigation and other actions concerning the ground water monitoring system the District operates at Nebeker Ranch. Nebeker Ranch uses recycled water, produced by the Districts' No. 14 Lancaster WRP, for irrigation of fodder crops. The District prepared the draft work plan to address observed increased concentrations of nitrate and total dissolved solids in two of the five ground water monitoring wells at the site. The values have not exceeded regulatory standards, and the District suspects that deteriorating well structure materials may be the primary contributor to the increasing concentrations. One of the objectives of the proposed work is to determine if the wells in question are providing a conduit for contaminants to

reach ground water. The District has made revisions to its draft work plan based on discussions with Board staff during the meeting and are to submit a final work plan by August 31, 2001.

17. ***Closure of Bishop Laundry and Linen, Bishop, Inyo County*** *- Joe Kenny*

Back in August 1998, two underground storage tanks (USTs) formerly containing fuel oil were removed from the Bishop Laundry Linen site. A third fuel oil UST was abandoned in place. Approximately 140 cubic yards of contaminated soil was removed. Recent ground water monitoring data for the site showed "non-detects" for BTEX, MtBE, and TPHg. Low concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons remain in soil in the southwest corner of the facility that is inaccessible due to infrastructure. Contaminant concentrations are not detected in the downgradient monitoring well (No. 3), and other data indicate that soil contamination is stable, localized, and has not migrated. A case closure letter was issued for this site on May 25, 2001.

18. ***Closure of Chevron Service Station No. 9-8853, Bishop, Inyo County*** *- Joe Kenny*

In November 1989, a 500-gallon UST containing heating oil was removed. Six other USTs containing gasoline, (and one had waste oil) were removed in January 1992. Approximately 3,000 cubic yards of petroleum-hydrocarbon-impacted soil were excavated around the two gasoline UST clusters located in the northern and southern areas of the site. An additional 4,590 cubic yards of soil were excavated from the remaining area including the dispenser islands, product piping runs, heating oil and waste oil USTs. Recent ground water monitoring data showed non-detects for TPH-g, TPH-d, BTEX, and MtBE in ground water. A case closure letter was issued for the site on July 9, 2001.

19. ***IMC Chemicals (IMCC), Trona –*** *Kai Dunn*

Compliance with Board Orders – Results from daily sampling of effluent show that the interim effluent limits set forth in the WDRs were exceeded once during the month of July. Twenty-seven bird deaths were reported during this time period. Bird fatalities increased during the month of July. The possible reason is due to increased seasonal migration. IMCC has agreed to conduct further investigation. IMCC completed the interim lakebed characterization and submitted a report to the Regional Board. The project is designed to complete a survey of the entire Searles Lakebed for evidence of contaminants and to support future remedial action decisions. Board staff is in the process of reviewing the interim report and will provide comments for further investigation. A final report is scheduled for later this year.

Improving Technology - The current TRPH testing method (EPA Method 418.1) extracting with trichlorotrifluoroethane (CFC-113 or Feron-113), a known atmospheric ozone-degrading substance, is being phased out under the Montreal Protocol Agreement of 1987 and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. On June 14, 1999, EPA approved the use of Method 1664 to replace other EPA methods using Feron-113 (such as EPA Method 418.1). IMCC is conducting a study to evaluate potential differences between results obtained using Method 1664 and 418.1. The preliminary results show a poor recovery rate

using Method 1664. The Laboratory Technical Peer Review Group will discuss the results during its biweekly conference calls. Board staff will continue to participate in the Peer Review Group to review the results and give comments to the data evaluation.

The Wemco unit of the Trona Facility has conducted a process step change by heating the spent brine to decrease the hydrocarbon content in the Wemco discharge since April 2001. It appears that the modification may be successful in reducing the hydrocarbon content in the plant effluent and will be pursued further.

Basin Plan Beneficial Uses – Board staff will propose amended WDRs for the facility at the Board's September 2001. Interim effluent limits would be proposed to be in effect until site-specific beneficial use designations are determined and effluent limits can be developed that would be protective of the site specific beneficial uses.

20. ***Meeting with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) about Erosion Control Measures –*** *Kai Dunn*

Board staff have been periodically inspecting the MMSA site to monitor compliance with the WDRs and noticed some problems with the implementation of erosion control measures. Regional Board staff held a meeting with the MMSA on July 27, 2001, to discuss compliance issues. MMSA has committed to step-up efforts to utilize appropriate BMPs to control sediment discharges from its construction projects. MMSA will also be focussing its efforts to maintain the already installed erosion-control measures.

Another concern discussed at their meeting was possible encroachment by MMSA in wetland areas. MMSA will be providing the Regional Board with the copy of the Forest Service permit and wetlands delineation. Staff will review that information to determine whether wetlands are being encroached upon. Board staff will be conducting a follow-up inspection prior to winterization to ensure that problem areas have been addressed.

21. ***Ducommun Aerostructures (formerly Aerochem) Chromium Investigations -*** *Jehiel Cass*

Ground water investigation and cleanup operations at the Ducommun Aerostructures (formerly Aerochem) facility in El Mirage proceeds under regulatory oversight of both the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Regional Board. While DTSC is the lead State agency under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program, the Regional Board maintains Post-Closure Waste Discharge Requirements for a former waste percolation pond. Additionally, a CAO issued in the late 1980's requires that the facility investigate caustic and acid wastes released to ground water. A pilot-scale test to evaluate containment of a volatile organic (VOC) plume by pump and treat methods was concluded in 1999. Pumping discontinued in August 2000 after hexavalent chromium (CrVI) was discovered in monitoring wells during the pilot–scale test.

In late November 2000 Ducommun confirmed CrVI in one well (EM-13) at 0.330 mg/L and began implementing a series

of work plans to delineate the vertical and lateral extent of this release. From October through November 2000, Ducommun sampled approximately 20 local domestic wells in the El Mirage area. Board staff participated in this effort with the number of wells overlapping those sampled by Ducommun's consultant and found comparable results. Ducommun reported total chromium ranging from non-detectable (< 0.005 mg/L) to 0.57 mg/L. The CrVI values ranges from non-detectable (<0.002 mg/L) to 0.49 mg/L.

In June 2001 the DTSC requested Ducommun to evaluate all potential source areas for chromium, VOCs and all other constituents of concern. A work plan is expected in the fall 2001. In August 2001 Ducommun began installing 12 monitoring wells to establish CrVI plume contour boundaries. The final report documenting this investigation is expected in November 2001 and should contain an Interim Corrective Action Measures work plan to address both CrVI and VOCs. At this time, the main plant building is suspected to be the source of CrVI.

The current objectives are: 1) install a sufficient number of monitoring wells to define the plumes, 2) implement interim corrective action measures, 3) gain hydraulic plume control, 4) evaluate CrVI sources in the main plant areas, 5) establish background CrVI values.

22. ***Update of Dieldrin Investigation in Ground Water Beneath the Former George Air Force Base –*** *Patrice Copeland*

Dieldrin has been detected in ground water at the former George Air Force Base (GAFB) at concentrations that exceed the California State Action Level for toxicity (0.002 micrograms per liter) since 1994. Dieldrin continues to be detected at trace concentrations in at least 4 monitoring wells. The Air Force conducted a small-scale soil investigation to locate the dieldrin source during March 2001 in the housing area and at the golf course. While dieldrin was detected at a low-level concentration in one soil sample, the results were inconclusive.

The Air Force intends to relinquish all of the former GAFB property to the local reuse agency (LRA) by July 2002. To accomplish this, the Air Force must demonstrate that all remediation systems are operating properly and successfully and that the last remedy is in place prior to July 2002. In light of this objective, the Air Force has been reluctant to initiate a ground water investigation to identify the source of dieldrin.

Funding for remedial actions and site investigations is approved annually by the Air Force's Peer Review committee. Typical committee members are representatives from the Air Force, academia, and the environmental industry. During the February 2001 Peer Review meeting, committee members decided to hold all projects "in abeyance" to include the dieldrin ground water investigation. A second Peer Review meeting was held in June 2001, at which time the GAFB Air Force Base Conversion Agency presented a stronger summary of the remediation requirements for the base. The Peer Review committee decided to fund a Phase II dieldrin investigation at GAFB. During the August GAFB Base Conversion Team meeting, the Air Force stated that funds for the Phase II dieldrin investigation have been approved, but have not yet been encumbered. Regional Board staff is expecting that the funds will be encumbered

and the project will be started prior to the end of this calendar year.