

April 4, 2016

Lauri Kemper, PE
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, California 96150

RE: IRP Manager's Comments on the Water Board's Amended Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No.R6V-2008-0034A4 (Proposed) to Clean up or Abate the Effects of Contaminants in Groundwater of the Mojave River Hydrologic Unit, Desert View Dairy, Hinkley, CA.

Dear Lauri:

The Independent Review Panel (IRP) Manager appreciates the opportunity to submit formal comments regarding the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, (the Water Board) Amended Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No.R6V-2008-0034A4-(Proposed), "the Proposed CAO¹," regarding groundwater impacts as a result of historical operations at the Desert View Dairy (DVD).

Figure 1 shows the location of the DVD near the intersection of Mountain View Road and Alcludia Road in Hinkley, CA. As the IRP Manager, Project Navigator Ltd. (PNL) continues to advise and provide technical outreach to the Hinkley Community on matters associated with PG&E's ongoing Cr6 remediation activities. PNL also provides feedback and written comments to the Water Board regarding the DVD Proposed CAO and other related matters.

The Proposed CAO encompasses several important components which could potentially be of interest to Hinkley residents that reside in the northern area. Particular with respect to domestic well monitoring and replacement water alternatives for residents affected by historical operations at the DVD. The Affected Area, outlined in the Proposed CAO, is defined as all active domestic and community supply wells in the area bounded by Serra Road to the west, Santa Fe Road to the south, Summerset Road to the east, and expanded to Sonoma Road to the north, including all parcels containing active domestic wells adjacent to Sonoma Road on the north side (as shown on **Figure 1**). Affected

¹ Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. 2016. *Amended Cleanup and Abatement Order No.R6V-2008-0034A4-(Proposed), requiring Paul Ryken, the Estate of Nick van Vliet, Flaming Dairy, Inc., K&H van Vliet Children LLC, and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company to Clean up or Abate the Effects of Contaminations to Groundwater of the Mojave River Hydrologic Unit, Desert View Dairy, Hinkley, WDID No.6B36040900.* March 2.

domestic wells eligible for replacement water are those with water quality concentrations **at or above** the limits shown in Table 3² of the DVD Propose CAO.

The list of responsible parties (the Dischargers) for the DVD includes the following parties:

1. Paul Ryken (Primary Responsible Party³)
2. Estate of Nick Van Vliet (Primary Responsible Party)
3. Flaming Dairy, Inc. (Primary Responsible Party)
4. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (Secondary Responsible Party⁴)
5. K&H Van Vliet Children LLC (Secondary Responsible Party)

As a result of historical operations at the DVD, the following constituents of concern have been identified by the Water Board.

1. Nitrates
2. TDS
3. Sulfate
4. Chloride

The Water Board provided the following reasons why the Proposed CAO was issued to the Dischargers at the DVD.

- *Expand the affected area for the purposes of domestic well sampling and replacement water requirements;*
- *Add sampling for additional constituents of concern related to dairy wastes;*
- *Require replacement drinking and cooking water supply (i.e., bottled water or equivalent) for all domestic wells in the revised affected area with concentrations above the primary or secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels for constituents of concern;*
- *Require a plan and schedule to provide whole house replacement water for all domestic wells in the revised affected area with constituents of concern above primary or secondary MCLs, and*
- *Provide more specific reporting requirements for domestic wells.*

² Bottled Water eligibility criteria concentration are Nitrates as N 10 mg/L (primary MCL), Chloride 250 mg/L (upper SMCL), Sulfate 250 mg/L (upper SMCL), and TDS 500 mg/L (recommended SMCL). Whole House Replacement Water Supply eligibility criteria concentrations are Nitrates as N 10 mg/L (primary MCL), Chloride 500 mg/L (upper SMCL), Sulfate 500 mg/L (upper SMCL), and TDS 500 mg/L (recommended SMCL).

³ The Water Board defines the Primary Responsible Party as the past owners and/or operators that initiated and contributed to the discharge of waste.

⁴ The Water Board defines the Secondary Responsible Party for complying with the Order (CAO No.R6V-2008-0034)

Replacement Water Requirements

The IRP Manager *is in agreement* with the requirements outlined in Section III and IV of the Proposed CAO, which ensures that human health is protected by providing replacement water to affected domestic wells caused by historical operations at the DVD.

However, the IRP Manager has further comments and questions regarding the replacement water requirements by the Water Board:

- Is there a minimum timeframe that the dischargers are required to maintain and operate the systems?
- If the water quality at a specific domestic well improves (concentrations decrease below thresholds limits) will the discharger be permitted to stop monitoring and maintenance of that specific system?
- Are there any criteria for the discharger to terminate supplying replacement water to eligible residents?
- What happens to a system once a domestic well is not defined as an affected domestic well? Does the homeowner keep the replacement water system or does the discharger remove the system from the homeowner's property?
- On Attachment 1, the location of the DVD is shown along Serra Road and it should be located on Mountain View Road on the enclosed map.

Reporting Requirements

The IRP Manager *is in agreement* with the reporting requirements outlined in Section V of the Proposed CAO. The IRP Manager has the following suggestions and recommendations to enhance the reporting program.

- Will each discharger provide a separate semi-annual report or will they all accumulatively submit one semi-annual report to the Water Board?
- Suggest that a map is included showing parcel ownership to illustrate the number of possible replacement water recipients and properties owned by the dischargers.
- Suggest that the report compares information from wells down and up-gradient of the affected area.
- The IRP Manager is in agreement with the requirements for the revised affected area, sampling frequency, analytical methods and reporting limits outlined in the Proposed CAO.

The IRP Manager thanks you for the opportunity to provide comments in our continuing service to the Community. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact either of the undersigned via email or phone as follows:

Dr. Raudel Sanchez: rsanchez@projectnavigator.com, 714-388-1821

Dr. Ian A. Webster: iwebster@projectnavigator.com, 714-863-0483

Sincerely yours,



Raudel Sanchez, Ph.D.
Project Manager



Ian A. Webster, Sc.D.
Hinkley IRP Manager

Attachments

Figure 1: Location of Affected Area and Desert View Diary

Cc:

Annie Marie Cwieka, PNL

Halil I. Kavak, Ph.D., PNL

Margaret DeAngelis, PNL

FIGURES

FIGURE 1

Location of Affected Area and Desert View Dairy

