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California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region

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January 16, 2003

Ms. Sharon F. Rubalcava
Weston Benshoof Rochefort Rubalcava MacCuish LLP
333 South Hope Street, Sixteenth Floor
Los Angeles, California 90071

AHMANSON RANCH, SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER SAMPLING NO FURTHER REQUIREMENTS – AHMANSON RANCH, VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (SLIC NO. 1112)

Dear Ms. Rubalcava:

In December 2000, the Ahmanson Land Company implemented a surface and shallow groundwater monitoring program to gather hydrogeologic data along a portion of Las Virgenes Creek and East Las Virgenes Creek, in Los Angeles County, to better characterize the local hydrogeologic setting. The sampling locations are provided in the attached figure. One of the major goals of the monitoring program was to provide information on the hydrogeologic conditions supporting the endangered California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytoni*), which inhabits parts of Las Virgenes Creek. The program initially included surface and groundwater monitoring with quarterly water quality testing.

In August 2002, the Ahmanson Land Company and Ventura County collected groundwater samples at 50, 450 and 550 feet below ground surface (bgs) from Ahmanson Well M1 (Well No. 1) as a supplement to the original hydrogeologic monitoring program to determine if groundwater resources were suitable for irrigation uses. All samples collected by the Ahmanson Land Company, and the samples from 50 and 450 feet bgs collected by Ventura County did not contain perchlorate or volatile organic compounds (VOCs). However, the laboratory report for the co-located Ventura County sample collected from 550 feet bgs indicated that perchlorate was detected in that sample at 28 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). Because there was the possibility that the water would be used for surface irrigation and potentially human contact with the perchlorate could occur, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) required that the groundwater from Well No. 1 be resampled and the detection of perchlorate further evaluated.

The original hydrogeologic monitoring program was expanded by the Regional Board to include two additional sampling events at Well No. 1 under Regional Board supervision. A workplan was prepared by Psomas, which incorporated field sampling and laboratory testing protocols to assure that the new results would be directly comparable to the result in which the perchlorate was detected. The workplan underwent public and regulatory agency review, was modified, approved, and implemented.

The additional sampling of Well No. 1 occurred on June 17, and July 16, 2003. The well was sampled and analyzed by several regulatory agencies, including Ventura County, State

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Department of Health Services Radiological Health Branch (SDHSRHB), California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Regional Board, and Ahmanson Land Company. The SDHSRHB focused its testing of water samples for radiological parameters.

All sampling related to the original and supplemental hydrogeologic study has been completed, and all laboratory information, with the exception of radiological analyses results, have been received and reviewed by Regional Board staff. Radiological results are expected to be available within the next few months from the SDHSRHB. We will review the data generated by the SDHSRHB and issue a separate letter summarizing these test results.

Perchlorate was not detected in any of the samples collected in June and July, 2003. In addition, volatile organic compounds were not detected in these samples. Sampling and analytical results for Regional Board supervised sampling of Well No. 1 are summarized in the following table.

Sampling Date	Constituent ¹	EPA Method	DTSC ²	Regional Board ²	Ventura County ²	Ahmanson Land Co. ²
June 17, 2003	Perchlorate	314.0	<3.0µg/L	<3.0µg/L	<3.0µg/L	<2.0µg/L
	Volatile Organic Compounds	8260B	Not Analyzed	Not Analyzed	Not Analyzed	Not Detected ³
July 16, 2003	Perchlorate	314.0	Not Analyzed	<3.0µg/L	<3.0µg/L	<2.0µg/L
	Volatile Organic Compounds	8260B	Not Analyzed	Not Analyzed	Not Analyzed	Not Detected ³

Notes: 1) N-Nitrosodimethylamine detected at 0.0022µg/L in July 16, 2003, 450 feet bgs sample.

2) Groundwater samples obtained for Perchlorate and Volatile Organic Compounds analysis were duplicate split samples.

3) Detection limits range from 2 to 10µg/L for the 57 volatile organic compounds reported for EPA Method 8260B.

In addition to the results presented in the above table, the Ahmanson Land Company has conducted quarterly sampling for their hydrogeologic monitoring program from December 2000 until June 2003, at the six shallow groundwater monitoring wells (P1 - P6) and at the six stream/spring sampling locations (S1 - S6) shown on the attached map. Volatile organic compounds have not been detected during any of the 11 quarterly sampling events conducted from December 2000 to June 2003. Quarterly perchlorate analyses of groundwater samples from P1 through P6 and surface water samples from S1 through S6 began in the 4th quarter of 2002 and continued through the 2nd quarter of 2003. Perchlorate has not been detected in any of these samples.

The Regional Board has reviewed all groundwater and surface water monitoring results for the Ahmanson Land Company property, and other relevant information available regarding the supplemental sampling and analyses of groundwater from Well No. 1, conducted during June and July 2003, and have concluded that there is no conclusive evidence which would require additional hydrogeologic assessment or monitoring at Well No. 1, at this time. The Regional Board has no further requirements for sampling from Well No. 1 or other wells, seeps, or watercourses on the former Ahmanson Land Company property. We understand that the Ahmanson Ranch has been sold by Washington Mutual to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and will be maintained as open space.



We appreciate your cooperation and efforts on this project, and should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. David Bacharowski at (213) 576-6607 or Mr. Peter Rafferty at (213) 576-6724.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Dennis A. Dickerson
Executive Officer

Attachment: Monitoring network map

cc: Congressman Henry A. Waxman
Assemblymember Hannah Beth-Jackson
Assemblymember Fran Pavely
Regional Board Members
The Honorable Steve Bennett, Ventura County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable John Flynn, Ventura County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Kathy Long, Ventura County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Judy Mikels, Ventura County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Linda Parks, Ventura County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Lesley Devine, Mayor City of Calabasas
Kevin Mayer, USEPA Region 9 – Remedial Project Manager Superfund Division
Jim Papas, DTSC, Sacramento
Gerard Abrams, DTSC, Sacramento
Donald Osterle, State Department of Health Services Radiological Health Branch
Wildlife Conservation Board
Rorie Skie, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Lowell Preston, Ventura County Public Works Agency
Steve Lafflam, The Boeing Company
Katherine Stone, Meyers, Widders, Gibson, Jones, & Schneider, LLP
Daniel Hirsch, Committee to Bridge the Gap
Matt Hagemann
Thomas Slosson, Slosson & Associates
Carol Elliot
Mary Weisbrock

