
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Order No. R1-2024-0055 Rescinding Waste Discharge Requirements and Associated Monitoring and Reporting Programs for

Willits Environmental Remediation Trust Former Abex Corporation - Remco Hydraulics Facility Order No. R1-2009-0001 Mendocino County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board) finds that:

1. The former Abex Corporation – Remco Hydraulics facility (Facility) is located at 934 South Main Street in Willits, Mendocino County. The Willits Environmental Remediation Trust (WERT) was established by the Federal District Court for the Northern District of California and is responsible for remediating contamination at the Facility. The current owner of the property is Archway Properties. The property is approximately 9.2 acres and located on the west side of South Main Street and south of Franklin Street.
2. On January 29, 2009, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R1-2009-0001, Waste Discharge Requirements for In-situ Groundwater Treatment for Willits Environmental Trust (Discharger) and Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. R1-2009-0001 for the former Facility. The WDRs authorized discharges of reducing agents into the groundwater to breakdown contamination by volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and to reduce hexavalent chromium to trivalent chromium, a non-toxic form of chromium.
3. On February 23, 2024, Regional Water Board staff notified the Discharger that staff concurs with a request for no further action and that a public notice of the proposed decision expired, and no public comments were received. Groundwater remediation at the Facility is complete, discharges or active remediation regulated under this order has ceased, and the Discharger requested rescission of its waste discharge permit and monitoring and reporting program.

4. Regional Water Board staff reviewed data collected from the monitoring well network confirming that the overall contamination at the Facility was reduced because of these injections of reducing agents into the groundwater and determined that WDR Order No. R1-2009-0001 and MRP No. R1-2009-0001 (updated and revised to MRP R1-2021-0049) are no longer applicable, relevant, or necessary and should be rescinded.
5. The Regional Water Board has notified the Discharger and all known interested parties of its intent to rescind the Discharger's waste discharge requirements and monitoring and reporting program and provided them with an opportunity to submit written comments and recommendations.
6. The Regional Water Board heard and considered all comments pertaining to the proposed rescission Order in a public hearing on December 5, 2024.
7. The Regional Water Board action to rescind WDR Order Number R1-2009-0001 and MRP No. R1-2009-0001 are exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15301.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following Order is hereby rescinded, except for enforcement purposes:

Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2009-0001 and Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R1-2009-0001 (as updated and revised by current MRP R1-2021-0049) for the Willits Environmental Remediation Trust former Abex Corporation – Remco Hydraulics Facility

I, Valerie Quinto, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that this Order is a full, true, and correct copy of the Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on December 5, 2024.

Valerie Quinto
Executive Officer