

## **February 2013 Executive Officer's Report**

### **Former Santa Ysabel Chevron Gas Station – Status Report**

*Staff Contact: Sue Pease*

The State of California continues to maintain the groundwater treatment systems on three private and one public well in Santa Ysabel affected by the petroleum pollution in groundwater from the release at the former Santa Ysabel Chevron. Santa Ysabel is a small community east of Ramona that depends on groundwater as its source of drinking water. The four wells have been impacted by petroleum pollution, primarily methyl tertiary butyl ether. The four wells have carbon treatment systems which are maintained by Tetra Tech, the State Water Board's contractor, to ensure the continued effectiveness of the systems.

The site has been managed by the San Diego Water Board with funding from the State Water Board's Emergency, Abandoned, and Recalcitrant (EAR) Account since July 2009. The EAR Account has funded the assessment and mitigation activities at the site since the previous responsible party, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Moretti, stopped all remedial activities at the site and declared bankruptcy.

Staff has directed Tetra Tech to prepare a detailed proposal for an active air sparge/soil vapor extraction (AS/SVE) remediation system for the site. Staff's direction is based on Tetra Tech's November 2012 report titled *Review of Remedial Options* that compared the cost of active remediation and passive remediation by monitored natural attenuation (MNA). The cost of seven years of AS/SVE is comparable to 45 years of MNA. In consideration of the significantly shorter time period for active versus passive remediation, it is prudent to consider an AS/SVE system for the site.

In another development, the former Santa Ysabel Chevron property was acquired by Donan Environmental Services, Inc. in a sheriff's auction in November 2012. California law makes property owners responsible for cleanup even if they did not cause the initial release. The San Diego Water Board contacted Donan Environmental Services, Inc. in December 2012 to inform the company of its responsibility as the property owner to continue the cleanup of the pollution and maintain the groundwater treatment systems.

To ensure continued funding from the EAR account, the San Diego Water Board must re-nominate the site every year to the EAR Account Annual Site List, and the State Water Board must approve the nomination. The nomination of the site to the Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Annual Site List will be brought to the San Diego Water Board for consideration at either the March or April 2013 meeting.