

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT  
STAFF: Michael Bessette Rochette  
MEETING DATE: May 18, 2005

ITEM: **5E**

SUBJECT: **Stanford University and the United States Department Of Energy for the property located at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, 2575 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, San Mateo County – Adoption of Site Cleanup Requirements**

CHRONOLOGY: July 17, 1985 – Waste Discharge Requirements

DISCUSSION: The Revised Tentative Order establishes Site Cleanup Requirements for the investigation and remediation of impacted soil and groundwater resulting from historical spills and leaks at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC). The Tentative Order also rescinds Board Order 85-88, but incorporates the solvent underground storage tank area addressed in that order.

SLAC is a 426-acre high-energy physics and synchrotron research facility located approximately two miles west of the main Stanford University campus, adjacent to Menlo Park in an unincorporated portion of San Mateo County. SLAC is sited on property owned by Stanford that is leased to the Department of Energy (DOE). Stanford operates SLAC under a contract with the DOE.

The results of previous investigations have identified discharges of petroleum, solvents, and other chemicals into soil and groundwater beneath SLAC. To avoid duplication of work, the Tentative Order stipulates that previously approved and submitted environmental documents related to investigation and remediation of pollutant discharges may be used to fulfill, as appropriate and relevant, the substantive requirements of the Tasks listed in the Tentative Order.

Disagreement exists between Stanford and DOE on the selection of a cleanup standard. Stanford contends that the cleanup standard should be for unrestricted land use as per both San Mateo County's current zoning of the area and per Stanford's understanding of commitments made by the DOE in earlier signed lease agreements. Stanford has requested this Board to incorporate the unrestricted use cleanup standard for the entire facility, despite the land's current use as an industrial facility. Conversely, DOE maintains

that the cleanup standard to be followed should be more realistic, consistent with the current industrial land use. The issue on land use has come to light because Stanford and DOE are in the process of negotiating a new long-term lease agreement. Clearly, it would be beneficial to Stanford if the Board were to make land use (zoning) declarations and establish cleanup levels on those declarations. However, zoning decisions are not a determination made by the Board.

Given this situation, it is staff's position, as specified in the Revised Tentative Order, that Stanford and DOE must establish a consensus on likely future land uses and development before cleanup standards can be appropriately established.

Water Board staff has met separately and jointly on several occasions with Stanford and DOE representatives and has solicited public comments on the Tentative Order. The Order has been revised, as appropriate, to incorporate some of the revisions requested by the Dischargers.

RECOMMEN-  
DATION:

Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order

File No.:

2179.7052 (MBR)

Appendices:

A - Revised Tentative Order  
B - Correspondence  
C - Response to Comments  
D - Site Location Map

**APPENDIX A**

**REVISED TENTATIVE ORDER**

## **APPENDIX B**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Department of Energy Letter Dated April 14, 2005: Richard L. Dailey to Michael Rochette
2. Stanford Letter Dated April 12, 2005: Debra L. Zumwalt to Bruce Wolfe
3. Stanford Letter Dated April 12, 2005: Debra L. Zumwalt to Bruce Wolfe
4. City of Menlo Park Letter Dated April 14, 2005: David S. Boesch to Bruce Wolfe

## **APPENDIX C**

### **RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

**(The Comment Letters that were enclosed with the Response to  
Comments Letter are provided only in Appendix B)**

**APPENDIX D**  
**SITE PLAN**

## **FIGURES**

- 1. SLAC Location Map**
- 2. SLAC Site Boundary Map**
- 3. Map of Major Source Areas**
- 4. Map of Additional Sites**

# **SELF-MONITORING PROGRAM**