

March 19, 2012

Mr. Charles R. Hoppin, Chairman
State Water Resources Control Board
Fax :(916) 341 5620



RE: DRAFT LOW-THREAT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CASE CLOSURE POLICY

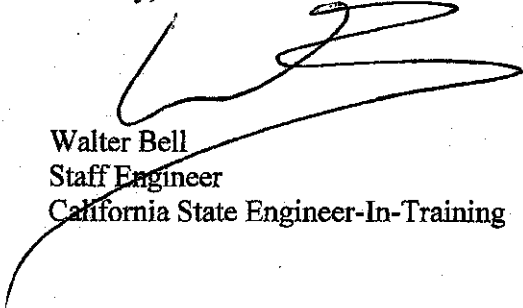
Dear Mr. Hoppin,

After reviewing the Draft Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy (Policy) dated January 31, 2012. This policy creates a one size fits all rule set to a complex area of public health. The policy sets clear precedent for the premature closure of known public health risks. A prematurely closed case will be a liability to not only the Site owner but also the regulatory agencies and consultants who have worked on the case. A few things to be considered from consultant's point of view

- A substantial amount of this policy is already in practice by regulatory agencies and consultants across the board. Creating this policy is redundant.
- The policy does not address Tert-Butyl Ether (TBA). TBA is a know public health risk.
- The high levels of Benzene and MTBE this policy allows to remain in the soil and groundwater deviate significantly from the standards that are currently used by regulatory agencies.
- This policy does not reflect unforeseen increases in population. The state of California is constantly growing; a case considered to be in a low-risk area in 2012 could easily be a high-risk area in 2022. Often times new settlements rely on groundwater for drinking and domestic uses, where no public water systems are available.

Thank you for considering my remarks and the well thought out concerns expressed by many other.

Sincerely,



Walter Bell
Staff Engineer
California State Engineer-In-Training