

July 7, 2011

Regarding: Public Hearing of the Water Board's Tentative Resolution R5-2011, Sierra Valley Almonds and SVA Group

Dear Shelton Gray and Doug Wachtell,

We are property owners directly west of the former Oberti olive processing plant. We are delighted that there will be new owners of the old Oberti warehouses. Hopefully the new owners will keep the warehouses well maintained. However, if the new owners are not going to be responsible for all of the contamination problems, who will be? This is an old and complicated problem. There has to be someone responsible.

The following are our areas of concern:

1. The old pond behind the warehouses had concrete poured over it. The concrete has since been removed exposing the contaminated soil beneath it.
2. The large underground water plume which has been contaminated.
3. The underground pipeline connecting the old olive plant to the remote ponds on Road 25.
4. The remote ponds on Road 25 when dry have a contaminated dust problem and when wet have an odor problem.
5. The contaminated ponds directly across from the old olive plant on Road 26.

We truly hope the California Regional Water Quality Control Board will address our concerns as well as the concerns of our fellow property owners to the above problems. Someone needs to take responsibility for the contamination issues.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Bennett and Alicia Bennett