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California Regional  
Water Quality Control Board  
Attn: Mr. Harold Singer, Executive Officer  
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd  
South Lake Tahoe, Ca 96150

Dear Mr. Singer,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) for PG&E. I applaud the draft CAO as it is an excellent document that helps pave the way for environmental justice for the Hinkley residents. The Hinkley residents are appreciative of the proactive actions of the Water Board members and the Water Board staff since the beginning of 2011. These proactive actions are allowing the Hinkley residents to gain confidence in the Water Board members and staff.

Under the "IT IS HEREBY ORDERED," section (page 9), the actions being required of PG&E in response to their contamination of the ground water supply in the Hinkley Valley is an incredible relief to the impacted residents; however, I have several issues of concern I would like to address:

Paragraph 1 (a) PG&E is being ordered to supply interim uninterrupted replacement water service sufficient for drinking, cooking, and swamp cooler needs within 14 days of the signed Order.

1. Showering/bathing and washing dishes was not included in the use requirement.

2. It should be noted that the caveat that replacement water could be bottled water or equivalent presents a serious problem/burden for the impacted residents. Swamp coolers are typically mounted on the roof of people's homes. Many of the residents cannot physically carry bottles of water onto their rooftop to fill the reservoir of their swamp coolers. Even those that could carry the water to their roof tops should not be required to do so due to serious safety issues. Whereas this initial requirement to supply uninterrupted replacement water is truly welcomed by the Hinkley residents, it must remain to be considered a minimal action and not fully protective of human health. To be truly protective, the uninterrupted replacement water must to be supplied in a manner where it is pressurized and accessible at all faucets, spigots, etc.

Paragraph 2 (a) It is being required that permanent replacement water supply for all indoor domestic uses be supplied within 75 days of the signed Order.

1. This requirement is long overdue and very welcomed as it will truly be protective of health. The impacted residents should not have to use contaminated water any longer than absolutely necessary to get the permanent, uninterrupted system in place.

2. The qualification that the Water Board's Executive Officer or his/her designated representative may extend this schedule with adequate prior notice depending on the method recommended and justification given by the Discharger is cause for concern. Any extension to the 75 days should not be granted for reasons stated above. The initial 14-day requirement is not protective of human health and PG&E should not be allowed to submit elaborate plans for a system that would delay 100% pressurized uninterrupted replacement water. The impacted residents are being exposed to the contamination on a daily basis, and any extension to the 75-day requirement would be granted by Water Board staff with the knowledge that the impacted residents will continue to be exposed to the contaminated water until a pressurized system is installed. This would be unacceptable. In addition, since the installation of a pressurized system in the form of a water supply tank and booster pump is doable, there should be no technical justification for granting a delay. A more elaborate system can be designed and built at a later date when people are no longer being exposed to the contaminated water.

It was very disappointing that PG&E requested an extension on the comment period for the CAO. The grant of the extension delays the signing date and also extends the time that the impacted residents are exposed to the contaminated water. It is hereby requested that any future requests for extensions be denied on behalf of the impacted residents.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft CAO for PG&E. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (760) 954-1674.

Respectfully,  
Carmela Spasojevich  
(Nee Gonzalez)