

APPENDIX G

Environmental Checklist Form

1. Project title: **In-Situ Volatile Organic Compound Groundwater Treatment, Former Remco Hydraulics Facility**
2. Lead agency name and address:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
3. Contact person and phone number: Janice M. Goebel, (707) 576-2676
4. Project location: 934 South Main Street, Willits, California, Mendocino County
5. Project sponsor's name and address:
Willits Environmental Remediation Trust (WERT)
6016 Princeton Reach Way
Granite Bay, CA 95746
6. General plan designation: M-G Industrial General
7. Zoning: MH Heavy Industrial
8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

The Willits Environmental Remediation Trust (WERT) is proposing to conduct interim remediation activities, specifically to treat groundwater in-place (in-situ) that is contaminated primarily with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) using a carbohydrate solution of organic molasses or emulsified oil with a vitamin supplement and pH buffer (collectively referred to as "reducing agents"). The project, called an interim remedial action (IRA), is detailed in documents titled: Addendum No. 2 to the Interim Remedial Action Work Plan for In-Situ Treatment of VOCs in Shallow Groundwater dated August 25, 2008 which was submitted for the Regional Water Board's consideration of Waste Discharge Requirements under applicant's Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD). The IRA has identified five initial areas for injections (identified on Figure 2), which may expand to other areas of the site. This document analyzes impacts from similar injections within the entire Site area in contemplation of the need for additional injections that may be authorized under the Waste Discharge Requirements. The Site includes Assessor Parcel Nos. APN 006-170-X32, APN 006-170-01, APN 006-170-02, APN 006-170-03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 30.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings: The Site, approximately 9.2 acres, is bordered on the east by South Main Street (Highway 101), on the south by railroad lines, with residential homes and Baechtel Grove School to the south of the railroad line, on the west by horse corrals, residential homes and commercial structures, and on the north by Franklin Street and residential homes.
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

Mendocino County Environmental Health Department will issue permits for borings and/or groundwater monitoring wells.

Mendocino County Air Pollution Control District may issue a permit if the contractor brings a potable generator to the site exceeding 50 h.p. and it is separate from the drilling rig.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

- X I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

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Signature

December 3, 2008

Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).

- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

Issues:

INITIAL STUDY/CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
<p>The project site does not currently provide views over a large area and the proposed project will not establish those types of views. The viewshed of the project area as seen from afar will not substantially change as a result of the project. (1)</p>				
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
<p>The project is not within sight of any state scenic highway, and the project would not result in the damaging of scenic resources, as there are no trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. (1)</p>				
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
<p>The project site will not change the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. (1)</p>				
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
<p>The project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare. No lights are proposed to be installed as part of the project. (1)</p>				
2. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES: In	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:

The project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural uses. The project site is zoned heavy industrial for the Remco Hydraulics Facility, and commercial with public occupancy on the former Luna Market property. (1, 5)

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural uses. The project site is zoned heavy industrial for the Remco Hydraulics Facility, and commercial with public occupancy on the former Luna Market property. (1, 5)

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The project site is not zoned for agricultural use and is not protected under an existing Williamson Act contract. (1, 5)

c) Involve other changes in the	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?

Agricultural uses do not exist at the project site. (1)

3. AIR QUALITY -- Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The proposed project is within the jurisdiction of the Mendocino County Air Pollution Control District (MCAPCD). The MCAPCD has currently drafted an air quality plan, but the plan has not yet been adopted. The draft plan focuses on particulate matter, as the air quality in the County is out of compliance with particulate levels. The project will not conflict or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. (1, 3)

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	_____	_____	_____X_____	_____
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The air quality in Mendocino County exceeds the State requirements for particulate matter as discussed in 3(a) above. Mobilization of a drilling rig to inject the reducing agents may need to acquire a State Portable Equipment Permit if: 1) the drilling rig has a portable diesel engine over 50 h.p., and 2) the diesel engine is not the same engine that drives the truck. (21)

The project to inject reducing agents has the potential to cause odors. One of the reducing agents, molasses, is a sweet smelling product that could potentially become a nuisance to an individual after prolonged exposure. However, the majority of the molasses injections will be conducted inside the building. The injection process is in sealed containers and closed piping, and beneath the surface of the ground. The molasses odors from the injection process will be minimal.

No air exposures to VOCs will occur as long as the contaminated groundwater remains

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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controlled to the Site. During previous pilot studies to dechlorinate VOCS, and the Chromium Interim Remedial Action, members of the public raised the potential issue of generating hydrogen sulfide. An extensive air monitoring program was conducted which did not detect hydrogen sulfide in ambient air. Because hydrogen sulfide has not been generated during two previous pilot studies, and one major interim remedial action, it is highly unlikely that hydrogen sulfide will be generated during this injection process. During the breakdown process of VOCs, parent compounds [tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE)] breakdown to more toxic intermediary VOCs (i.e. vinyl chloride). Therefore, it is expected that vinyl chloride concentrations will increase in groundwater due to the dechlorination process. However, this is temporary and the dechlorination of vinyl chloride continues to occur to benign products (carbon dioxide and water). The VOC breakdown process is identified on Figure 3. Extensive past air monitoring for VOCs did not detect these compounds in ambient air related to the injection of molasses on the Site. These past injections and air monitoring programs were conducted in compliance with previous Waste Discharge Requirements issued by the Regional Water Board.

The other constituents that may be temporarily mobilized in groundwater are iron, manganese, arsenic, and/or antimony. These constituents are not volatile and therefore would not be present in ambient air. A groundwater monitoring program is proposed, and sampling data will be collected to evaluate the breakdown process of VOCs and the mobilization of metals. Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. R1-2009-0001 requires sampling of monitoring wells in the injection areas, in intermediate wells downgradient of the injection areas, and in contingency wells located on the property boundary. If increased concentrations of byproducts (i.e. metals and/or vinyl chloride) are detected that threaten to migrate off the Site, the contingency plan to extract groundwater will be implemented.

No existing or projected air quality violations have been identified in the area. (1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 13, 15, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27)

Mitigation Measure 3.1: The discharger shall keep the building doors closed during the injection process to prevent any molasses odors from leaving the building.

Mitigation Measure 3.2: The discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. R1-2009-0001 that contains requirements for groundwater monitoring, and a contingency plan for on-site groundwater containment (hydraulic control) if byproducts such as metals and/or and vinyl chloride threatens to migrate off of the Site. (4)

c) Result in a cumulatively
considerable net increase of any

_____ _____ _____ X

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

Refer to 3(a) and 3(b) above. The proposed project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant. There will be a temporary increase in emissions from the drill rig that will be used to inject the reducing agents, but that will cease upon project completion. (1, 3)

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	_____	_____	_____X_____	_____
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See 3b) (1, 3, 4, 10)

See Mitigation Measure 3.1 and 3.2 above. (4).

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	_____	_____	_____X_____	_____
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See 3b) above. Check the formatting here. The X is above and not across from 3e. (1, 3, 4, 10)

See Mitigation Measure 3.1 above. (4)

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES --
Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The project site has been previously disturbed by demolition of the buildings on the north lot, and the rest of the site is completely paved or concreted and/or rocked. There are no natural drainage features at the site. The nearest drainage is to the south of the site and across the California Western Railroad rail tracks, and the project will not disturb this area. (1, 6)

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The site is mostly paved with a few areas that are rocked. No riparian habitat exists at the project site. (1, 6)

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The site is mostly paved or covered with concrete with a few areas that are rocked. The project site does not contain federally protected wetlands, thus, no wetlands would be directly affected by construction of this project. (1, 6)

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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As stated above in item 4(a) and 4(b), the project site has been fully and continuously disturbed, and no fish or wildlife habitat exists at the site. (1, 6)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____

The project would not conflict with any adopted policies/regulations regarding biological resources. There are several large trees on the former Luna property. The proposed project does not include removal of any trees. The City of Willits and Mendocino County does not have a tree preservation policy or ordinance. (1, 5, 6)

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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There are no adopted Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans that apply to the project site, and no other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan is applicable to the project site. (1)

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES --
Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The Remco facility is not considered a historical resource. Therefore, the project will not result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. (21)

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? See Item 5(a) above.	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____

There is no digging associated with this project. The injections will be conducted by drilling a small diameter hole, approximately 2 inches in size. Groundwater monitoring wells drilled as part of the project have a bore hole diameter of eight or ten inches. The potential for finding paleontological resources during this project is extremely small. (1, 6)

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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No burial sites are known in the vicinity of the project, and most of the project site has already been disturbed by past operations of a machine shop and chrome plating facility. No excavations are planned as part of this project. In the unlikely event that any human remains are unearthed during the project, state law requires that the County Coroner be notified to investigate the nature and circumstances of the discovery. At the time of discovery, work in the immediate vicinity would cease until the coroner permitted work to proceed. If the remains were determined to be prehistoric, the find would be treated as an archaeological site. (1, 5, 6)

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The project is located on the eastern edge of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. The purpose of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act is to "...prohibit the location of most structures for human occupancy across the traces of active faults and to thereby mitigate the hazard of fault rupture". The project does not include plans to build any structures in the project area. (1, 6, 8)

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? _____ X

The project site is within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, and strong seismic ground shaking can occur throughout the County. However, the drilling of a small diameter hole and injecting reducing agents will not result in seismic ground shaking. (1, 6, 8)

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? _____ X

The project will not result in seismic-related ground failure including liquefaction (1, 8)

iv) Landslides? _____ X

The site is relatively flat and landslides are not likely to occur. (1, 6, 8)

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? _____ X

There will be no disturbance of soil other than vehicles driving over very small unpaved rocky areas on the northwest side of the property, where two homes were previously located. No injections are proposed in this area, but one groundwater monitoring well will be located in this area. The drilling of one groundwater monitoring well would not result in soil erosion or the loss of any top soil. (1, 6)

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? _____ X

No construction of buildings or digging will occur as part of this project. The project will not result or potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. (1, 6)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code is an index of the relative expansive characteristics of soil as determined through laboratory testing. Soils have not been tested for this project as no construction of any building is proposed. (1, 6)

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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Soil suitability testing for wastewater disposal systems has not been conducted. Wastewater disposal at the City of Willits Sewage Wastewater Treatment Facility is available for any future site development. (1, 6)

7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS B Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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The injection of reducing agents will not result in the generation of hazardous materials that would require off-site disposal. The dechlorination process is conducted below the ground surface. Therefore, no hazardous wastes are proposed for transport, use or disposal as part of the injection activities. The drilling of groundwater monitoring wells will generate soil cuttings that will be disposed off-site in routine transport and disposal procedures, currently in place. Wash water for decontamination of drilling equipment will also be generated, but likely will be treated on-site in the existing treatment system and discharged to the Willits publicly owned treatment works (POTW). (1)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>	_____

A significant amount of soil and groundwater data exists for the project area. In addition, existing studies have been conducted to demonstrate that the proposed project will effectively remediate soil and groundwater contamination and not cause significant adverse environmental effects. Mitigation measures have been included to prevent any possibility for off-site migration of contaminants in groundwater, including extensive groundwater monitoring to detect groundwater movement and a contingency plan to extract groundwater should the potential for off-site groundwater migration occur. Studies have demonstrated that the existing groundwater extraction system can effectively control unwanted migration of contaminants. Because of the extensive studies and previous work conducted at the site, it is concluded that the project site has a very low potential for encountering buried hazardous materials such as drums. (7, 9, 10)

There may be some odors associated with the injection of one reducing agent, molasses. In addition, the injections will result in increased concentrations of vinyl chloride due to the dechlorination process, and the potential to temporarily mobilize iron, manganese, arsenic and/or antimony. A groundwater monitoring program will be conducted to evaluate the mobilization of metals and vinyl chloride that may result as part of this project. If mobilized metals and/or vinyl chloride threatens to migrate off the Site, groundwater extraction wells located along the property boundary will be promptly connected to the existing groundwater treatment system. The purpose of the extraction system is to capture and contain the mobilized byproducts and/or vinyl chloride, and prevent the migration off the former Remco property. The extracted groundwater will be treated through the existing on-site groundwater treatment system, and the treated groundwater will be discharged to the Willits POTW. (1, 4, 6, 10)

Refer to Mitigation Measure 3.1.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
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Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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No hazardous emissions or the handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste is anticipated as part of this project. The former Remco Hydraulics Facility is approximately 300 feet from Baechtel Grove Middle School. The only waste generated will be washwater to decontaminate the equipment between injections points, reducing agents if spilled, and soil cuttings from the drilling of groundwater monitoring wells. None of these wastes are considered to be hazardous, hazardous substances, or acutely hazardous. (1, 6)

Refer to Mitigation Measure 3.1 and 3.2.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	_____	_____	_____	_____ <u> X </u>
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The former Remco Hydraulics Facility is no longer listed on the Department of Toxic Substances Control’s “Site Cleanup – Site Mitigation and Brownfield Reuse Program Database.” However, the State Water Resources Control Board has generated a list pursuant to section 65962.5 (Cortese List) in which the Remco Hydraulics Facility is listed. Under the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15300.2(e), the use of a categorical exemption is prohibited for sites listed on the Cortese List pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5. The Cortese List and accompanying CEQA provision are intended to prevent new development on former contaminated sites without adequate disclosures to the public and decision-making bodies. Though this project may have met criteria for certain categorical exemptions under the law (see e.g. Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15330), the Regional Water Board elected to prepare a Negative Declaration out of an abundance of caution. The project does not have the potential to create a significant hazard to the environment or public.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	_____	_____	_____	_____ <u> X </u>
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. (1, 11)

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. (1, 11)

g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The project would not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with the City of Willits' adopted Emergency Operations Plan. The project would not change existing traffic or circulation patterns, and would have no effect outside the project area. (1, 6)

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The project would not be located in an area subject to wildland fires. There are no wildland fire lands for the former Remco Facility in the City of Willits' General Plan. (5, 6)

8. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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Draft Waste Discharge Requirements will be considered for adoption for this project. The draft Waste Discharge Requirements will be considered for adoption at the January 29, 2009 Regional Water Board meeting. No violations of the water quality standards or the Draft Waste Discharge Requirements are anticipated to result from the project. (1, 6, 12)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

The volume that is currently extracted and potentially extracted, if the contingency plan is necessary, will be minimal. Most newly installed domestic water supply wells are deeper than 20 feet to get a good sanitary seal to prevent the infiltration of potential contaminants such as coliform and bacteria pollutants. Groundwater monitoring will be conducted to evaluate groundwater elevations. (1, 4, 6)

There are no water supply wells in the immediate vicinity of the project. The closest domestic wells are located at 92 Franklin Avenue (approximately 600 feet) and 62 Flower (approximately 500 feet) of the project area. These residences are also connected to the City of Willits Municipal Water supply. (6, 7, 13)

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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The project will not alter the existing drainage pattern. There are no streams or rivers in the immediate project area, only one storm drain that collects all stormwater runoff from the site. This storm drain system, including all drain inlets are lined to prevent infiltration of groundwater into the stormwater conveyance system. Thus, no contaminated groundwater, nor the reducing agents injected into groundwater can infiltrate the system.(1, 6)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

Refer to 8(c) above. (1, 6)

e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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This item is for projects that pave huge areas creating more runoff that could overload existing culverts, etc. The project does not include any paving and will not change any of the existing drainage systems. Therefore, the project will not create or contribute any new stormwater runoff or provide additional sources of polluted runoff. Refer to (c) above. (1, 6)

f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
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The addition of reducing agents to groundwater will change the existing water quality in the project area. However, groundwater in the area is highly contaminated, primarily with volatile organic compounds. Other pollutants including chromium, semivolatile organic compounds, and petroleum hydrocarbons also exist at the site. The project of adding reducing agents to groundwater is designed to reduce groundwater toxicity and enhance cleanup of the aquifer. (1, 6, 9, 10)

g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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The project will not include any housing. The project is not located in a flood zone. (14)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

The project is not within a 100-year flood hazard area. (14)

i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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This item is about projects that could cause flooding or trigger failure of a dam. The site, as it exists today, does not expose people or structures to flooding. The injection of reducing agents would not change any of the facility. The project will not expose people or structures as a result of flooding or the failure of a levee or dam. (1)

j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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The project site is not subject to seiche or tsunami. (1)

9. LAND USE AND PLANNING -

Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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The project would not physically divide a community because there is no planned construction activities proposed. The injection of reducing agents is intended to help accelerate cleanup of the site so the property can be reused at some point in the future and without exposing anyone to contamination in soil and groundwater. (1)

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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See 9(a) above. The project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation. (1, 5)

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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There are no habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans which affect the project area. (1, 6)

10. MINERAL RESOURCES --
Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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There are no mineral resources known to exist on the project site. (1, 6)

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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Refer to 10 (a) above.

11. NOISE - Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	_____	_____	_____X_____	_____
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Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The project will not result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards. The noise is limited to a drilling rig that will be at the site for approximately one month.

Mitigation Measure 11.1: The discharger shall comply with the City of Willits Noise Ordinance. (1, 15)

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The project would not generate excessive groundborne vibration. No blasting or similar activity that could create vibration would occur during project construction. A hollow stem auger drill rig and/or a direct push drill rig would not create ground vibrations. (1, 6, 9)

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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There will be no additional permanent noise associated with the project. The initial injection of reducing agents will take approximately four weeks to complete. See 11(a) above. Therefore, no permanent increase in noise levels will occur. (1, 6)

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	_____	_____	_____X_____	_____
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The drilling to inject the reducing agents will increase the noise level in the immediate area during the project. The houses to the north, and west of the sites could be affected by noise from the drilling rig. The drilling activity is limited to the duration of one month during daytime hours. (1, 6, 15)

Mitigation Measure 11.1: The discharger shall comply with the City of Willits Noise Ordinance. (1, 15)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____

The project is not in the vicinity of a public or private airstrip. (1, 11)

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The project is not in the vicinity of a private airstrip. (1, 11)

12. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The project will have no direct or indirect effect on population. (1, 6)

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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Consultants and contractors coming to the site for this project will most likely stay in local hotels. No housing of these workers is necessary and therefore, no housing will be displaced by the project. (1, 6)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

Refer to 12(b) above. No people will be displaced by the project and therefore no replacement housing is needed. (1, 6)

13. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

a) Fire and police protection?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b) Schools, parks or other public facilities?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

The police and fire departments will continue to provide service to the area. The project will have no effect on population or housing, and therefore no effect on schools, parks or other facilities. (1, 6)

14. RECREATION --

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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The project will have no effect on population growth or the distribution of the population, and will have no effect on park use. (1, 6)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

See item 14(a) above.

15. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC --
Would the project:

a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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The project would not cause an impact on traffic. A temporary increase in traffic would occur during project construction, in association with on-site workers and transport of a drilling machine. These additional vehicles could consist of a drill rig, pickup truck to support the rig, possibly three to five vehicles to transport the consultant overseeing the project, county environmental health department staff and Regional Water Board staff to observe the project. (1, 6)

b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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See 15(a) above.

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The project would not cause a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks. (1,6)

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The project will not include hazardous design features or incompatible uses. (1,6)

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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See item 7(g) above.

f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The existing site has adequate parking to accommodate on-site workers and visitors to the site. (1)

g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The project does not affect alternative modes of transportation. (1, 6)

16. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The former Remco Hydraulics facility is served by wastewater lines that connect to a treatment facility operated by the City of Willits. This project will not result in increased sewage flows other than minor amounts for on-site workers. Groundwater extraction, treatment and discharge to the POTW is already occurring. Additional extraction, if necessary from contingency monitoring wells, would be minimal. (1, 6, 16)

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The project would not require the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities. Water demand and wastewater generation would be minimal due to the type of project proposed. (1, 6)

c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The project would not require the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. (1, 6)

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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Water service is available from the City of Willits to the former Remco Hydraulics facility. (1, 6)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____

As discussed under 16 (a) and 16(b) above, there is adequate wastewater capacity to serve the project. (1, 6)

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The project will not produce a significant amount of waste. Currently contaminated soils generated as part of the on-going soil and groundwater investigation are stored in bins inside the building. The soils are tested and hauled to an approved disposal site. Regular solid waste such as office paper, etc. is collected by the local garbage service. (1, 17, 18)

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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Refer to 16 (f), above.

17. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE --

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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No fish, wildlife or plant species or habitat would be impacted by the project. As discussed in Section 5, the project would not eliminate important examples of major periods of California history or prehistory.

<p>b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?</p>	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
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The injection of reducing agents, when viewed along with the other site activities, including past molasses and oil injections and other past soil and groundwater remedial activities, generates no significant cumulative impacts.

<p>c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?</p>	_____	_____	_____X_____	_____
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All potential direct and indirect impacts on the environment identified in this Initial Study are mitigated to a "Less Than Significant Level". The project will accelerate the cleanup of groundwater and is expected to have direct positive effects to water quality and the environment. (1, 7, 9, 10, 23, 24, 25)

LIST OF REFERENCES

1. Regional Water Board staff evaluation based on review of the project site and project description
2. Mendocino County Assessors Parcel Map
3. Telephone Communication with Mendocino County Air Pollution Control District, December 31, 2007
4. Draft Regional Water Board Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R1-2009-0001
5. Telephone Communication, City of Willits, January 3, 2008
6. Regional Water Board staff evaluation of impact based on past experience
7. Final Remedial Investigation Report, Former Remco Hydraulics Facility, Volumes 1 through 5, dated April 2002
8. Special Publication 42, Fault-Rupture Hazard Zones in California, Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act with Index to Earthquake Fault Zones Maps, Revised 1997
9. Interim Remedial Action Work Plan for Hexavalent Chromium-Affected Groundwater, dated March 11, 2003; and Addendum to Interim Remedial Action Work Plan for Hexavalent Chromium Affected Groundwater, dated June 18, 2003
10. Final Post-Injection Report on Pilot Study of In-Situ Chromium Reduction, Former Remco Hydraulics Facility, Willits, California, dated October 31, 2001
11. U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, Willits Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute, 1991
12. Draft Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2009-0001
13. Preliminary Removal Site Evaluation Report, Remco Hydraulics, Inc., Site, January 15, 1998
14. FEMA Flood Insurance Map, Community Panel #060187-0001C
15. City of Willits Noise Ordinance
16. City of Willits, Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2001-17, NPDES Permit No. CA0023060
17. Telephone Communication, Willits Environmental Remediation Trust, December 18, 2008
18. Regional Water Board Files, Abex Corporation, Former Remco Hydraulics Site File Record, Volumes 1 through 52
19. California Government Code Section 65962.5

20. Department of Toxic Substances Control, Site Cleanup – Site Mitigation and Brownfield Reuse Program Database and State Water Resources Control Board Cortese List
21. California Environmental Quality Act, Cultural Resources Section 15064.5
22. Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 99-55
23. Interim Remedial Action Workplan for In-Situ Treatment of VOCs in Shallow Groundwater, November 2007
24. Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-200-54, In-Situ Pilot Study for the chemical Reduction of Chromium
25. Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2003-085, In-Situ Chromium Soil and Groundwater Treatment
26. Addendum to the Interim Remedial Action Work Plan for In-Situ Treatment of VOCs in Shallow Groundwater, June 18, 2008
27. Addendum No. 2 to the Interim Remedial Action Work Plan for In-Situ Treatment of VOCs in Shallow Groundwater, August 25, 2008
28. Contingency Plan for Proposed In-Situ Treatment of Shallow Groundwater IRA, dated December 2, 2008