

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California 95403

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF
A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION,
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

AND

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R1-2008-0033

FOR

IN-SITU TREATMENT OF CONTAMINATED SOIL AND GROUNDWATER

Union Pacific Railroad
99 Frances Street
Santa Rosa, California

Sonoma County

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) is overseeing the cleanup activities related to soil and groundwater contamination at 99 Frances Street in Santa Rosa. In the late 1980's, contamination from the solvent trichloroethene (TCE), was discovered on the property from previous land activities associated with scrap metal salvage and recycling between 1967 and 1986.

The property is in a mixed light industrial, commercial and residential area. Currently, the property contains a vacant lot, but is zoned light industrial. Union Pacific Railroad is the current owner of 99 Frances Street and is identified as a responsible party for cleanup activities. Other responsible parties have been identified and include the former salvage yard owners and operators.

Since 1989, Union Pacific Railroad has completed a significant amount of cleanup activities, including collection of soil samples, continuous groundwater monitoring activities, domestic well sampling, and continuous operation of a groundwater extraction and treatment system. The groundwater extraction and treatment system's primary function is to prevent on-going migration of the contamination.

Additionally, Union Pacific Railroad conducted a pilot study in 2006 to determine a feasible remedial option for soil and groundwater cleanup. The study consisted of three subsurface injection events of an organic food-grade substrate used to cleanup groundwater contamination. The pilot study selected the substrate cheese whey, and showed successful results.

Union Pacific Railroad has submitted an interim remedial action plan to continue with an on-going injection program. The proposal includes annual on-site injections of an organic food-grade substrate and continuous groundwater monitoring to determine the effectiveness of the cleanup.

This type of activity requires coverage under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) issued by the Regional Water Board. WDRs are a type of permit that provides requirements and prohibitions to ensure that the activity does not create additional pollution or a public nuisance.

An Initial Study/Checklist and Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA is California legislation that requires the consideration of whether a project will have a significant impact on the environment. Based on Regional Water Board staff determination, the proposed project will not create a significant environmental impact with imposed mitigation. Mitigation measures are incorporated into the WDRs.

Public Hearing Procedures

The Regional Water Board will consider the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Checklist, and whether to affirm, reject, or modify the proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R1-2008-0033 for In-Situ Treatment of Contaminated Soil and Groundwater for the Union Pacific Railroad Company Site, 99 Frances Street, Santa Rosa, California. A public hearing to consider comments and objections on this matter is scheduled for April 24, 2008 at The Sons of Italy Weed Lodge No. 1269, Memorial Hall, 155 Clay Street, Weed, California.

The Regional Water Board is issuing this notice to solicit public comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration and proposed adoption of WDRs. Interested persons should submit written copies of all technical reports, testimony, and other evidentiary material concerning this issue to the Regional Water Board office by 5:00 p.m. on April 4, 2008. This written material will be submitted to the Regional Water Board members and all interested persons along with the full agenda materials.

Written material received after the above date may be accepted by the discretion of the Regional Water Board chair. Untimely written material will not be accepted or incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice a party. The Chair may choose to modify this rule upon a showing of a severe hardship (California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 648.1 and 648.4).

All those who plan to testify at this hearing must submit written statements to the Regional Water Quality Control Board no later than April 4, 2008. The statements should provide the name of the witness, his or her qualifications (if an expert), and the scope of his or her intended testimony. The time limit for oral testimony or comments will be set by the Regional Water Board Chair and are subject to change. These time limits normally allow no more than 10 minutes each for Regional Water Board staff and Dischargers. All speakers are expected to honor these time limits. Other interested persons may also provide testimony at this public hearing. However, any testimony given by someone other than staff or the Discharger, may be limited to three minutes and may only be given under the limited scope of summarizing or explaining any timely-submitted or late-accepted written evidence. No new evidence will be allowed to be presented

at this public hearing. In an effort to be fair to all people who wish to testify at this public hearing, the Regional Water Board Chair may choose to use a timer to ensure that individuals stay within the time limits set by the Chair. The Chair also requests that in order to avoid unnecessary repetitive testimony, that one spokesperson be selected to speak on behalf of many individuals, when those individuals share a common affiliation or interest.

The tentative Order, related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or on-line at:

www.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov

Appointments are recommended for file review and can be made by calling (707) 576-2831. The tentative Order is also available for review on the Regional Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

Telephone inquires regarding this matter may be direct to Colleen Hunt of the Regional Water Board, at (707) 576-2831. Written comments may be submitted to the Regional Water Board, Attention: Colleen Hunt, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California, 95403. Comments must be received on or before April 4, 2008.

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Regional Water Board. El número de teléfono es (877) 721-9203.

Notice to the Hearing Impaired TDD users can obtain information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service (800) 735-2929 to reach the Public Participation Specialist. Ask them to contact the Regional Water Board at (877) 721-9203 regarding Waste Discharge Requirements for Union Pacific Railroad.

Robert R. Klamt
Interim Executive Officer

February 29, 2008

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