



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Coast Region



Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

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Gray Davis
Governor

May 13, 2003

Mr. Richard W. McClure
Olin Corporation
Environmental Remediation Group
PO Box 248
Charleston, TN 37310-0248

Dear Mr. McClure:

SLIC: 425 TENNANT AVENUE, MORGAN HILL; PERCHLORATE REMOVAL SYSTEM FOR THE CITY OF MORGAN HILL'S TENANT AVENUE WELL

The City of Morgan Hill's Tennant Avenue well, located approximately 250 feet southwest of Olin's property, has been polluted with perchlorate originating from the Olin site. The well has been shut down since March of 2002 when perchlorate was detected at 15.8 µg/l. The Tennant Avenue well formerly produced an average of 450 gallons per minute and its shutdown strains the City's water supply during the high water-use summer season. Without this well, the City projects severe water shortages this summer, especially with the shutdown of three other wells due to sporadic detections of perchlorate.

The Regional board may require Olin to abate the effects of its discharge of waste. Consequently the Board may require Olin to provide the City with an alternative water supply or take other action to abate, among other things, the City's inability to use the Tennant Avenue well. The City has suggested that Olin fund wellhead treatment at the Tennant Avenue well. Benefits of this alternative include:

1. A treatment unit can be purchased and installed quickly and be operational by July 1, 2003, in time to help meet summer water use.
2. The extraction and treatment of perchlorate contaminated water at the Tennant Avenue well will reduce the mass of perchlorate leaving the area and will provide partial hydraulic containment of the plume within the well's radius of influence.

We suggest Olin work cooperatively with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the City of Morgan Hill to coordinate purchase, installation, operation, and maintenance of a wellhead treatment system. However, Olin may propose an alternative that will otherwise allow the City to use the Tennant Avenue well or provide an alternative water supply.

Pursuant to Section 13267 of the California Water Code, you are directed to submit to the Regional Board, by **May 23, 2003**, a plan to fund wellhead treatment so the City can use the Tennant Avenue well during summer 2003 or an alternative plan to allow the City to use the well this summer or provide water supply to replace the City of Morgan Hill's Tennant Avenue well. The plan must propose an alternative that can be implemented by July 1, 2003.

California Environmental Protection Agency



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Failure to comply with this request may subject you to civil liability pursuant to Section 13268 of the California Water Code. The reason the Regional Board needs this plan is to ensure timely replacement of the City’s water supply polluted with perchlorate. The evidence that supports requiring Olin Corporation to provide the report includes soil and groundwater data collected at and near the site. More detailed information is available in the Regional Board’s public file on this matter.

Any person affected by this action of the Regional Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board to review the action in accordance with Section 13320 of the California Water Code and Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 2050. The petition must be received by the State Board within 30 days of the date of this order. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions will be provided upon request.

If you have any questions, please contact A. John Mijares at (805) 549-3696 or Harvey Packard at (805) 542-4639.

Sincerely,

Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

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cc:

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