

Subject: **September 23, 2004 Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Perchlorate Community Advisory Group was held at the San Martin Lions Club, 12415 Murphy Avenue, San Martin, on September 23, 2004 at 7 pm.

1. **Pledge:** The Chair, Ms. Sylvia Hamilton, led the Pledge.
2. **Administrative Items:**
 - a. Additional Agenda Items
 - i. Introductions added under the pledge
 - b. Interested parties should add their name and contact information to the sign-in sheet at the back table to get on the PCAG mailing list
 - c. August 13 Meeting Minutes approved as written
3. **Presentations:**
 - a. Rick McClure, Project Manager, Olin Corporation
 - i. Mr. McClure began by thanking PCAG for the invitation to present Olin's case to the community. He also gave a brief overview of Olin's presentations:
 - (1) Michael Burns 2nd Quarter
 - (2) Mike Turaszki Groundwater Flow Report
 - b. Michael Burns, MACTEC
 - i. Sampling program for on site and off site
 - (1) On site perchlorate results:
 - (a) Described on site monitoring wells: the highest perchlorate concentrations have been found the southern portion of the site
 - (b) Three aquifers beneath the site are as referred to as follows: A zone: shallow 0-55ft; B-zone: intermediate 68-220 ft; and C-zone: deep aquifer 243ft and deeper.
 - (2) Offsite monitoring program
 - (a) Monitors lateral and vertical extent of perchlorate
 - (b) Assess trends and variability of perchlorate concentrations
 - (c) Work to Date
 - (i) 1,520 wells sampled
 - (ii) 254 wells sampled four or more times
 - (iii) Perchlorate distribution evaluation
 - (3) Quarterly Monitoring Report
 - (a) Showed latest perchlorate detects in 2004
 - (b) Onsite monitoring
 - (i) Perchlorate is limited to southern area shallow and intermediate aquifers
 - (ii) All perchlorate detections in deeper aquifers have been below 6 ug/L

Audience Member: Suggested that everyone show perchlorate detection data the same way in order for community members to be able to track the progress easier.

Question: Audience member asked how many times wells are tested.

Answer: Mr. Burns replied that wells are tested quarterly.

- ii. Ms. Hamilton informed community members that Olin Corporation has sent letters to residents asking for access to property so they can keep testing their wells. Each wellowner should have received a letter if they are considered to be in the contaminated area.
- c. Groundwater Flow Assessment Report (Mike Turaszki, MACTEC)
- i. Study conducted north of the site
 - ii. Study Objectives
 - (1) Assess direction of Groundwater Flow
 - (2) Collect and analyze existing water level and geologic data
 - (3) Listed the data sources that they used to put the report together
 - (4) Llagas Basin was the subject of most of the study.
 - (5) Part of the assessment is evaluating uses of the data
 - (6) Objective is to identify major patterns of groundwater flow
 - iii. Lithology Findings
 - (1) Lithologic (soils) data was obtained from nearby environmental sites. Investigations at nearby sites indicate similar lithology to what has been found at the Olin site
 - (2) Intermediate aquifer zone extends throughout area of study
 - (3) The thickest and most permeable zones are found towards the center of the valley
 - (4) The Regional groundwater flow direction is predominantly to the south.
 - iv. Examination of hydrographs (water level charts) shows that groundwater flow patterns have been very consistent throughout the last fifty years.
 - v. Groundwater consistently moves to the south
 - (1) Orientation of buried stream channels does not reverse flow directions
 - (2) Local pumping has been unable to overcome regional flow
 - (3) Morgan Hill wells are the major pumpers and need to be evaluated more than most.
 - vi. Simulation findings: A modeling study was conducted.
 - (1) Account for recharge patterns
 - (2) Groundwater moves in a predictable direction
 - (3) Most similar production wells are on the east side of the path line.
 - (4) Madrone Channel (District recharge ponds) is responsible for a significant amount of the water.
 - (5) The Nordstrom Park well is hydrologically isolated from the site and so is the Condit well.
 - (6) Northern perchlorate detection not related to Olin
 - vii. Conclusions
 - (1) Groundwater elevation data have shown consistent flow in a southerly direction
 - (2) Groundwater pumping has not reversed flow direction at the site

Question: Ms. Hamilton asked when Northern perchlorate detections were found?

Answer: Mr. Turaszki replied that they were sampled once and detected 6 ppb and the second time they were tested it showed a negative detection.

Question: Mr. Bob Wood asked what type of testing is used? Why not use a tracing test?

Answer: Mr. Turaszki answered that tracing tests were not used because it would take a decade to get results.

Question: Ms. Janie Burkhart asked what caused Northern detections?

Answer: Mr. Turaszki said that was not from Olin and he could not comment on it.

- d. City of Morgan Hill (Ed Tewes, City Manger Morgan Hill)
 - i. Olin Corporation has said that they have no further cause to investigate however, the City of Morgan Hill disagrees.
 - (1) Three major issues
 - (a) Clean up site
 - (i) Condit, Nordstrom, and other wells are still showing detections of perchlorate.
 - (b) Clean up of basin
 - (c) Alternative water supply for contaminated wells
 - (i) 35,000 people in Morgan Hill rely on municipal water supply
 - (ii) Have to drill alternative wells to replace shut down wells.
 - (2) Flow Assessment Report
 - (a) Flow assessment report still has data gaps.
 - (b) Must install monitoring wells for perchlorate in groundwater
 - (c) Report is incomplete because incomplete data and more should be added.
 - (d) Selective data is used for studies
 - (e) The perchlorate in the detected wells came from the Tennant site.
 - (f) Insist Regional Board to take action to have Olin install new test wells
- e. Regional Water Quality Control Board (Eric Gobler)
 - i. Regional Board is reviewing reports and wants comments from public, PCAG, City, and SCVWD so that they can complete their position in about 2-3 weeks.
 - (1) Mr. George Cook from the Santa Clara Valley Water District said that the District agrees with the City of Morgan Hill in that the Groundwater Flow Assessment report was not satisfactory in answering the questions.
 - (2) Ms. Hamilton said if anyone wants to send their comments to Regional Board to send them to her and she can put all the comments together and send them to the Regional Board so that they can make their 2-week deadline.

Q: Ms. Hamilton asked whether Olin disagreed with all or part of the CAO.

A: Mr. Athey replied that they appealed the whole order, disagreeing with everything.

- 4. **Regional Water Quality Control Board** (David Athey)
 - a. Clean up and abatement order (CAO)
 - i. Olin appealed clean up and abatement order which the State Board is currently reviewing.
 - ii. CAO requires Olin to test and provide bottled water to wells with 4 ppb and higher
 - b. Regional Board is currently reviewing the off-site monitoring report that Olin has issued.
 - c. The Regional Board encourages community members to take advantage of Olin's request to sample wells.
 - i. Ms. Hamilton said that she would like community members to feel comfortable responding to Olin and their request.
 - d. Mr. Athey informed PCAG that CAO order is still in full effect until appeal is decided.
- 5. **Additional Topics**
 - a. Groundwater Guardian (Zohra Karimi): Groundwater Guardians annual designation was applied for and results will be sent to Santa Clara Valley Water District in November 2004.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Zohra Karimi