

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

9 February 2015

Mr. Juergen Vespermann  
California Department of Transportation  
Division of Environmental Planning  
2015 E. Shields Avenue, Suite 100  
Fresno, California 93726-5428

***CALTRANS MODESTO SOIL STOCKPILE SITE -COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF  
GROUNDWATER DATA; REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE WITH GROUNDWATER  
MONITORING FREQUENCY AND ANALYTE LIST, SR-132 MODESTO***

Dear Mr. Vespermann:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff reviewed the *Caltrans Modesto Soil Stockpile Site -Comparative Evaluation of Groundwater Data; Request for Concurrence with Groundwater Monitoring Frequency and Analyte List* letter (Letter) dated 14 January 2015 prepared by Caltrans. The Letter proposes a groundwater sampling frequency and analyte list (Plan) for the Caltrans Modesto Soil Stockpile Site (Site) based on the findings of Caltrans' previously submitted report titled *Comparative Evaluation of Groundwater Data, Caltrans Modesto Soil Stockpiles, Stanislaus County, California, June 2, 2014* (Report). The Letter also requests our concurrence with the Plan.

The Letter indicates that the analysis as presented in the Report shows "... *that contaminants in the three stockpiles are not impacting underlying groundwater quality.*" As a result of this conclusion, Caltrans is requesting our concurrence with the following Plan:

- Bi-annual depth to water measurements (Spring and Fall)
- Annual monitoring and reporting (starting Spring 2015)
- Analysis for:
  - Barium, strontium, total dissolved solids, and sulfate
  - Field parameters-temperature, conductivity, pH, oxidation/reduction potential and dissolved oxygen

After consultation with the Department of Toxic Substances regarding the Plan, both agencies generally concur with the Plan. However, we would like to point out that even though the soil stockpiles appear not to be currently impacting the groundwater quality beneath the Site, this conclusion is based on only current soil stockpile physical conditions. Since the soil stockpiles are subject to future physical changes from the SR-132 highway project and contain contaminants that have been shown through previous leaching studies to have the potential to adversely impact surface and groundwater quality, the stockpiles must continue to be managed appropriately by Caltrans to prevent surface and/or groundwater impacts.

Furthermore, during the planned construction phase of the SR-132 highway project, Caltrans may be required to increase their groundwater sampling and monitoring frequency at the Site.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this letter at 916.464.4678 or [Steven.Meeks@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Steven.Meeks@waterboards.ca.gov).



Steven Meeks, P.E.  
Chief, Private Sites Cleanup Unit

CC: Steven Becker, P.G., DTSC, Cal Center  
Randy Adams, C.E.G., DTSC, Cal Center  
Richard Stewart, P.G. Caltrans, Fresno  
Nicole Damin, Stanislaus County Health Agency  
John Juhrend, P.E., C.E.G, Geocon Consultants, Inc.  
Jim Brake, P.G., Geocon Consultants, Inc.  
Dr. Andrew A. Kopania, P.G., H.G., EMKO Environmental, Inc.