



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**REGIONAL WATER BOARD APPROVES \$7.375 MILLION SETTLEMENT
OF GROUNDWATER POLLUTION CASE IN DOWNTOWN LODI**

SACRAMENTO—The Central Valley Water Board today approved a series of settlements with the City of Lodi and the other parties responsible for groundwater pollution in downtown Lodi.

In the settlements, the City of Lodi agreed to take responsibility for cleaning up the soils and the groundwater plume in exchange for cash contributions toward the cleanup by the other responsible parties totaling \$7.375 million. Lodi will also contribute \$2.2 million to the cleanup fund and pay whatever additional funds are needed in the future to operate and maintain the cleanup systems.

In April of 2004, the Regional Water Board issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order to the City, Guild Cleaners, the Lodi News Sentinel and others responsible for the discharge of the cleaning solvent perchloroethene, known as PCE, to the groundwater in the downtown Lodi area. The PCE had forced the closure of one municipal water supply well and is now starting to appear in another supply well. To comply with the Cleanup and Abatement Order, the City took responsibility for the project and completed the investigation of the extent of the PCE plume.

“The Regional Water Board appreciates that the parties are leaving the litigation behind them and putting their resources into actually cleaning up the contamination. The City of Lodi has shown real leadership in this effort and we are pleased that we also were able to help facilitate this development,” said Bob Schneider, Chairman of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The settlements, once approved by the Federal District Court, will end years of costly litigation between the City and the other responsible parties.

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