



Media Release

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD LOS ANGELES REGION

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Regional Water Board Directs Shell Oil Co. to Strengthen Carousel Tract Petroleum Cleanup Goals

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The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) has ordered Shell Oil Co. to revise its proposed cleanup goals for the Carousel subdivision in Carson.

The Regional Board sent a letter to Shell Oil Company with the comments on the report and the rationale for requiring a revised proposal for site-specific cleanup goals (*link to letter at bottom*).

The 285-home Carousel subdivision was built on the site of a former Shell Oil tank farm, and the soil and groundwater underneath the homes is contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons, including benzene and methane. The Regional Board issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) in 2011, requiring Shell to develop a site-specific cleanup goal report for the contaminants found at the site.

As required by the CAO issued by the Regional Board, Shell conducted extensive site investigations and remediation pilot testing, and submitted a cleanup goal report to the Regional Board on February 22. That report was released for a 30-day public comment period, and evaluations were received from the state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and an expert panel from the University of California, Los Angeles.

The Regional Board reviewed the report, taking into consideration the applicable law and policy, the requirements of the CAO, public comments and the evaluations from OEHHA and the expert panel.

The Regional Board concluded that the proposed site-specific cleanup goals are not fully consistent with requirements, guidance and policy, and need to be revised to address all regulatory requirements governing selection of cleanup goals. The proposed site-specific cleanup goals were developed to be protective of human health. However, the Regional Board found that they do not support residential unrestricted land uses as required by the CAO, nor

do they fully comply with other requirements, such as State Water Resources Control Board procedures to follow on site cleanup.

“It is critically important that the site cleanup in the Carousel subdivision is done correctly and comprehensively, to assure the safety and health of the residents there,” said Board Chair Maria Mehranian.

“We understand the urgency residents feel about the situation. That is why we are directing Shell to resolve the issues we found with their report as quickly as possible so we can move towards actual cleanup.”

Shell is required to submit the revision by October 21. Once the Regional Board approves the goals, Shell will be required to submit a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) setting forth cleanup plans. Cleanup will begin after approval of the RAP and completion of the California Environmental Quality Act process.

For more information about the Carousel subdivision CAO, visit:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/Kast/index.shtml>

To read the Regional Board’s letter to Shell Oil, visit:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/Kast/docs/SSCG%20revision%20letter.pdf>