

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 94-95

DENIAL OF \$275,000 FROM THE STATE WATER POLLUTION  
CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT FOR INVESTIGATION OF PCE  
CONTAMINATION AT VALLEY CLEANERS, SOLVANG

WHEREAS:

1. Existing data show high concentrations of perchloroethylene (PCE) in soil gases beneath the Valley Cleaners site in the City of Solvang (Solvang); and
2. The site is located near the Santa Ynez River and a drinking water source for the Solvang; and
3. PCE is one of the most widespread and persistent carcinogens in the environment which poses a serious threat to beneficial uses of ground water in many areas, including Solvang; and
4. The current property owner and the discharger claim to have no ability to investigate or cleanup the discharge; and
5. The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, (RWQCB) has requested \$275,000 from the Account to determine the extent of PCE contamination at the Valley Cleaners site; and
6. The funds in the Account are limited and cannot fund all the cleanups required to solve the dry cleaner problem which is not unique to this site and is likely prevalent throughout the state.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board hereby denies the RWQCB request of \$275,000 from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account to fund investigation of PCE contamination at the Valley Cleaners site, Solvang.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Administrative Assistant to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on October 20, 1994.

  
Maureen Marché  
Administrative Assistant to the Board

State of California

# MEMORANDUM

To: Al Garbutt, Sanitary Engineering Associate  
Construction Administrative Unit  
Division of Clean Water Programs-Loans & Grants Branch  
State Water Resources Control Board  
PO Box 944212  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2120

Date: August 25, 1994

FAX # 916-227-4349



Roger W. Briggs, Executive Officer

From: California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Coast Region -- 81 Higuera Street, Suite 200  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-5427

Subject: REQUEST FOR CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT FUNDS

This memo is a request for funds from the Cleanup and Abatement account. We have two high priority projects that require funding, as described below. This request will be considered by the Regional Board at its regular meeting on September 9, 1994. If approved by the Regional Board, we understand you will present a formal request to the State Board for consideration.

## ELKHORN SLOUGH AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM FUNDS REQUESTED-- \$310,000

The Elkhorn Slough Watershed is an area of intense agricultural production, yielding 20% of this country's strawberry crop, with much of the growing area being on steep slopes. Agricultural runoff causes significant buildup of pesticides and fertilizers in the Slough (fertilizers in the water column, and pesticides in sediment and the food chain). Strawberry farms lose an average of 33 tons of topsoil per acre per year during "normal" years, and up to 145 tons per acre during wet years. The estimated annual cost of erosion damage is \$1,834,000 measured as farm productivity losses and damage to public roads.

This Regional Board needs funds to help establish an education outreach program to help individual farmers develop agricultural runoff and erosion control practices for their farms. We propose using Cleanup and Abatement funds to augment planned outreach education efforts by the Soil Conservation Service. The Soil Conservation Service is planning a five year program to educate and assist farmers in implementing agricultural practices to eliminate runoff and erosion. This rather unique program is based on an understanding of the specific social and economic conditions of individual farmers in the watershed. Most of the erosion and runoff problems occur on steep irrigated land, which is predominately owned by Hispanic farmers who speak little or no English. The Soil Conservation Service Outreach Program is tailored to these individual farmers and their families, employing a local Spanish speaking farmer as a liaison.

The Soil Conservation Service needs funding for three tasks which cannot be done with their budget. The tasks are outlined below in the "estimated costs" section.

The following information is provided as required by the Administrative Procedures Manual:

*Agency Requesting Funds*-- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Soil Conservation Service.

*Entity Responsible For Waste Discharge*-- Irrigated farmland in the Elkhorn Slough watershed.

*Location of the Discharge*-- Elkhorn Slough, mid Monterey Bay area

*Type of Discharge*-- Runoff from irrigated farmland containing pesticides and fertilizers.

*Description of Water Body Affected*-- The Elkhorn Slough is an ecologically critical estuarine complex on the central California Coast. The watershed is approximately 44,900 acres in size, while the water body itself is about 1,000 acres. Over 1,400 acres of the Slough are in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, and the Slough borders the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The Slough is one of the most important estuarine areas on the Pacific flyway for migratory birds. This area is among the most heavily farmed regions in the State, providing favorable growing conditions year round.

*Description of Threat to Water Quality*-- Erosion is filling in wetlands. Pesticides have been building up in the food chain within the Slough for decades. These coastal waters have also shown some of the State's highest concentrations of pesticides in mussel tissue.

*Description of Discharger's Ability to Cleanup the Pollution*-- The farmers have stated their willingness to correct agricultural runoff and erosion problems if given education and guidance to do so. Farmers have an economic incentive to prevent erosion because of the extensive loss of topsoil.

*Previous Actions to Abate the Problem*-- Previous educational outreach efforts have failed because they did not consider the social and economic conditions of farmers in the Slough watershed.

*Other Funding Sources*-- The Soil Conservation Service is pursuing funds from their parent agency (U. S. Department of Agriculture). Unfortunately, these funds can only be used for specific tasks. Funds for the tasks outlined below (numbered one through three) must be funded by another source.

*Description of Proposed Abatement*--

1. Staff costs to oversee coordination of agency activities in the Slough watershed (\$30,000/year for seven years = \$210,000)-- Several agencies are working on various projects in the Slough watershed, with little coordination of activities. The lack of coordination is inefficient and causes confusion among farmers. Funds must be provided to cover staff time on this task.

2. Reimbursement to an individual local farmer who would act as a liaison between agency staff and farmers in the watershed (\$10,000/year for seven years = \$70,000)-- This individual will be responsible for coordinating education activities, disbursement of educational materials, promotion of farmer participation in the learning process, and general communication between agencies and farmers. Reimbursement for time spent on these services must be provided to the local farmer.
3. Demonstration of Best Management Practices (\$30,000)-- The Soil Conservation Service cannot provide funds for the purchase or installation of facilities for demonstration of best management practices, such as sediment catch basins, road re-alignment, planting of grasses, and irrigation equipment. These facilities will be installed by local farmers, with oversight from Soil Conservation Service staff. Funds will be used to purchase materials and cover associated staff costs.

*Estimate of Costs--*

Task One	\$210,000
Task Two	\$ 70,000
Task Three	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
Total Cost	\$310,000

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**VALLEY CLEANERS, CITY OF SOLVANG--PERCHLOROETHYLENE IN GROUND WATER**

A general investigation is necessary to determine the extent of PCE contamination in soil and ground water at the Valley Cleaners site in Solvang, California. The site is located near the Santa Ynez River, where the City of Solvang has municipal wells. The City uses ground water as a drinking water source. Existing data show high concentrations of PCE in soil gases beneath the site. An investigation to delineate the extent of contamination in soils and ground water, and develop remediation alternatives is necessary.

The following information is provided as required by the Administrative Procedures Manual:

*Agency Requesting Funds--* Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

*Entity Responsible For Waste Discharge--* Valley Cleaners.

*Location of the Discharge--* 1604 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang. Approximately a half mile from the Santa Ynez River.

*Type of Discharge--* Perchloroethylene (PCE) is one of the most widespread and persistent carcinogens in the environment today. PCE was used extensively in dry cleaning, electronics, and machining industries. The most common method of disposal was discharge to sanitary sewers or simply dumping in a convenient location. PCE is heavier than water, and moves easily through soils. The combination of popular uses, distribution through sewer systems, persistence in the environment, specific gravity, and ability to breakdown clay aquitards makes this chemical a serious threat to beneficial uses of ground water in many areas, including Solvang.

*Description of Water Body Affected*-- The ground water basin beneath the city of Solvang is threatened and may be impacted. Ground water extracted from the basin is used as a source of drinking water.

*Description of Threat to Water Quality*-- The discharge may be impacting drinking water. A preliminary investigation revealed high concentrations of PCE in soil vapor beneath the site.

*Description of Discharger's Ability to Cleanup the Pollution*-- The current property owner has appeared before the Regional Board and claims to have no ability to investigate or cleanup the discharge. The discharger (Valley Cleaners, the property lessee) also claims to have no ability to investigate or cleanup the discharge.

*Previous Actions to Abate the Problem*-- No abatement measures have occurred, and none are likely considering the financial status of the owner and discharger.

*Description of Proposed Abatement*-- Investigation to determine the extent of contamination and vapor extraction.

*Estimate of Costs*--

Delineation of PCE in soil and groundwater	\$ 75,000
<u>Vapor Extraction</u>	<u>\$200,000</u>
Total	\$275,000

If you have any questions or comments about this request, please contact Paul Jagger at 8-629-3690, or Michael Thomas at 8-629-4623. Thank you for your help on these projects.

cc: Charles B. Allen, Regional Board Chairman  
Melanie A. Mayer Gideon, Regional Board Vice-Chair

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File: CASTATUS

**Cleanup and Abatement Account**  
**Status of Funds**  
Report Date: 08-Sep-94

Amount	Project No.	Comment
\$3,407,591.17		Net Funds Available June 30, 1994
\$23,552.20	C/A 122	Disencumber July 8, 1994
\$1,536,185.00	C/A 113	Disencumber
<b>\$4,967,328.37</b>		<b>Subtotal</b>
<b>\$2,750,000.00</b>		<b>Total C/A 121, 126, 128, &amp; 129</b>
<b>\$2,217,328.37</b>		<b>Subtotal uncommitted</b>

Amount	Other Commitments Project No.	Comment
\$21,516.00	Reso 92-43	Region 2
\$43,811.00	Reso 92-43	Region 5
\$40,000.00	Reso 93-30	Region 1
\$569,000.00	Reso 93-30	Region 2
\$61,700.00	Reso 93-30	Region 3
\$10,300.00	Reso 93-30	Region 6
\$13,000.00	Reso 93-30	Region 9
<b>\$759,327.00</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	
<b>\$1,458,001.37</b>		<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>

*info only*