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# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region

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**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT**

### **DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR REMEDIAL EXCAVATION AND IN-SITU TREATMENT PILOT TESTING AT FORMER KAST TANK FARM PROPERTY, CAROUSEL TRACT RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD, CARSON, CALIFORNIA**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles (Regional Board) has prepared a draft Negative Declaration (and associated Initial Study) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for proposed remedial excavation and in-situ pilot testing at the Former Kast Tank Farm Property, Carousel Tract Residential Neighborhood, in Carson, California. The Regional Board intends to adopt a Negative Declaration for the proposed project without a public hearing.

#### **PROJECT LOCATION:**

The Former Kast Tank Farm Property (Site) presently consists of the Carousel residential neighborhood and city streets. The Site is located between Marbella Avenue on the west and Panama Avenue on the east and between East 244th Street on the north and East 249th Street to the south, in the City of Carson, County of Los Angeles, California.

While the Site as a whole consists of approximately 44 acres, only an area approximately the size of 1 acre (or 45,000 square feet) will be remediated during pilot testing. The proposed pilot testing identifies a number of properties or combinations of properties as suitable candidates for the proposed work from among the Carousel homes.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The proposed project involves implementation of a Pilot Test Work Plan for remedial excavation and in-situ treatment pilot testing at the Site.

This Site was owned and operated by Shell Oil Company (Shell) from the early-1920s to the mid-1960s as a crude oil storage facility (i.e. tank farm). In the mid-1960s, the tank farm operation was closed and Shell sold the Site. The Site was subsequently developed into the Carousel residential neighborhood. However, due to the former tank farm activities, the Site is contaminated with both petroleum and non-petroleum chemicals. Under the oversight of the Regional Board, Shell is investigating and remediating soil and groundwater impacts at the Site. On March 11, 2011, the Regional Board issued Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R4-2011-0046 requiring Shell to cleanup and abate the effects of petroleum hydrocarbon compounds and other contaminants of concern discharged to soil and groundwater at the Site. Among other requirements, the CAO required Shell to develop a pilot testing work plan to be approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer that included: 1) evaluation of the feasibility of removing impacted soils to 10 feet and removal of contaminated shallow soils and

reservoir concrete slabs encountered within the uppermost 10 feet, including areas beneath residential houses; 2) remedial options that can be carried out where site characterization (including indoor air testing) is completed; and 3) plans for relocation of residents during soil removal activities, plans for management of excavated soil on-site, and plans to minimize odors and noise during soil removal. Pursuant to the CAO, Shell has submitted the required Pilot Test Work Plan to the Regional Board for the Executive Officer's approval. Shell's Pilot Test Work Plan consists of the following three documents: 1) *Pilot Test Work Plan, Remedial Excavation and In-Situ Treatment Pilot Testing* dated May 10, 2011, prepared by URS Corporation and Geosyntec Consultants; 2) *Addendum to Pilot Test Work Plan, Remedial Excavation and In-Situ Treatment Pilot Testing*, dated August 15, 2011, prepared by URS Corporation and Geosyntec Consultants, and 3) *Addendum 2 to Pilot Test Work Plan, Remedial Excavation and In-Situ Treatment Pilot Testing*, dated August 26, 2011, prepared by URS Corporation. Collectively, these three documents are referred to as the "Work Plan."

The Work Plan evaluates the feasibility of the degree to which impacted shallow soils to a depth of 10 feet below ground surface (bgs) and the concrete reservoir bases (slabs) located at approximately 10 feet bgs beneath portions of the former locations of the soil storage reservoirs can be effectively removed, including beneath residential houses. The Work Plan provides an overview of potential pilot test locations, the remedial approach, a description of excavation methods to be pilot tested, a description of oxidants proposed to be injected and bioventing technology, as well as measures designed to avoid or reduce potentially significant effects on the environment. These measures include: traffic control; monitoring and mitigation of dust, vapors, and odors; noise monitoring during excavation; vibration monitoring of homes during excavation activities; monitoring of stability of excavation walls and adjacent and nearby structures; site landscape restoration; and temporary relocation of residents at affected properties during intrusive portions of pilot testing.

Upon completion of the Work Plan, the CAO requires Shell to prepare a full-scale impacted soil Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Site. Information gained from implementation of the pilot testing activities will be used to develop and assess different potential remedial strategies, and will be incorporated into the analysis and recommendations that will be contained in the RAP for the Site. The selection of a final remedy may be subject to additional environmental analysis and documentation prepared in accordance with CEQA.

#### **DETERMINATION:**

The draft Initial Study describes and evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Work Plan. The draft Negative Declaration concludes that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the Regional Board, that the project as proposed may have a significant effect on the environment. The project as proposed by Shell includes measures designed to avoid or reduce any potential impacts to the environment. Therefore, the project does not require any additional mitigation measures.

**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:**

The draft Negative Declaration, draft Initial Study, and other supporting documents (including Shell's Work Plan) are available for review at the following locations:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
Hours: Monday – Friday: 8 am – 5 pm

Carson Public Library  
151 E. Carson St.  
Carson, CA 90745  
Hours: Monday - Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm  
Fridays: 10 am - 6 pm  
Saturdays: 10 am - 5 pm  
Sundays: 1 pm - 5 pm

Electronic copies of the documents are also available on the Regional Board's website at:  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/> under "Announcements"

**PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD:**

The draft Negative Declaration and draft Initial Study are available for a 30-day public review and comment period, from September 7, 2011 to October 7, 2011. Comments on the adequacy of these documents will be accepted during this period. All interested agencies and persons are invited to submit written comments on these documents. Written comments must be *received* by the Regional Board no later than **5:00 p.m. on October 7, 2011**. Written comments may be submitted by email or hard copy.

Emails should be addressed to: [tayalew@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:tayalew@waterboards.ca.gov)

Written comments may be mailed or hand-delivered to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
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**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Please direct questions to Dr. Teklewold Ayalew at (213) 576-6739 ([tayalew@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:tayalew@waterboards.ca.gov)) or Ms. Thizar Tintut-Williams at (213) 576-6723 ([twilliams@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:twilliams@waterboards.ca.gov)).

Date: August 31, 2011