

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LOS ANGELES REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R03-006

APPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND  
ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR  
UNITED STATES NAVY, NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY  
PORT HUENEME  
(FIELD DEMONSTRATION AND VALIDATION  
OF A NEW DEVICE FOR MEASURING GROUNDWATER AND SOLUTE FLUX)  
PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA

(FILE NO. 94-073)

**WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region finds that:**

1. The United States Navy (hereafter Discharger) owns and operates Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, Ventura County.
2. Naval activities began at the Port Hueneme facility in 1940.
3. A gas station, built in 1950, is located at the southeast corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Dodson Street, at the Port Hueneme facility.
4. A plume of groundwater contaminated with dissolved fuel hydrocarbons, including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes (BTEX) and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), was discovered beneath and downgradient from the gas station in 1985.
5. Detectable BTEX extends approximately 1,000 feet downgradient of the former gas station. Detectable MTBE extends approximately 5,400 feet downgradient (southwest) of the former gas station. The plume at the demonstration site is expected to only contain MTBE.
6. The Discharger proposes to conduct an 18-month demonstration and evaluation of a new in-well device for measuring groundwater flux and solute flux.
7. As part of the evaluation process, it is expected that a total of 618 grams of biodegradable alcohol tracers will be automatically released to shallow perched groundwater within the existing MTBE plume by the devices.
8. The test will be conducted at three locations; location A-1, location A-2, and location B. The area covered by locations A-1 and A-2 measure about 100 feet by 25 feet and location B measures about 25 feet by 25 feet. Locations A-1 and A-2 are about 2,000 feet from location B.
9. Details of the test procedures and methods are included in a document titled *Final Remedial Action Plan for the Solute Flux Measurement Device*, dated October 16, 2002, and prepared by base staff. The plan was approved by the Regional Board in a letter dated October 21, 2002.

April 3, 2003

10. The discharge of alcohols into the groundwater is a discharge of waste subject to section 13260 of the California Water Code. However, the discharged alcohol is expected to be naturally broken down into harmless compounds. If the alcohols were not naturally degraded they would be captured by the system of pumping wells operated by the discharger to control and contain the MTBE plume.
11. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region designates the groundwater in the Oxnard Plain Basin for beneficial uses including municipal and domestic supply, industrial process supply, industrial service supply, and agricultural supply.
12. The permitted discharge is consistent with the antidegradation provisions of State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 68-16 (Anti-degradation Policy). The discharge may result in some localized exceedance of background concentrations of alcohols. Moreover, any parameter change resulting from the discharge:
  - a. will be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State,
  - b. will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial use of such waters, and
  - c. will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region.
13. The Regional Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe Waste Discharge Requirements for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations. The Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge and to the tentative requirements.
14. This Regional Board has assumed lead agency role for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act and has conducted an Initial Study (in the format of an expanded Environmental Checklist) in accordance with title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15063. Based on the Initial Study, the Regional Board prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration that the project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.
15. Copies of the Environmental Checklist and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration were transmitted to all agencies and persons known to be interested in the matter.
16. All comments received have been addressed by Regional Board staff. The Regional Board considered all testimony and evidence at a public hearing held on April 3, 2003 at the City of Simi Valley Council Chambers, 2929 Tapo Canyon Road, City of Simi Valley, California, and good cause was found to approve the Environmental Checklist and adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This Regional Board hereby approves the Environmental Checklist and adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the United States Navy, Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme Facility, project known as Field Demonstration and Validation of Device for Measuring Water and Solute Fluxes.
2. A copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the State Water Resources Control Board.
3. A copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to all interested parties.
4. The discharge of alcohols into the shallow aquifer shall conform with all the requirements, conditions, and provisions set forth in *A. Waste Discharge Requirements, and B. Provisions* of the ORDER NO. R4-2003-0056.

CERTIFICATION

I, Dennis A. Dickerson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region on April 3, 2003.

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DENNIS A. DICKERSON  
Executive Officer

April 3, 2003