

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

ORDER NO. R2-2024-0003

RESCISSION OF SITE CLEANUP REQUIREMENTS (ORDER NOS. 92-037 and 92-086) for:

The Former East Palo Alto Industrial Area, which is composed of 29 properties located within the boundaries of what was formerly known as the East Palo Alto Industrial Area (EPAIA) and/or the Ravenswood Industrial Area (RIA) in East Palo Alto, San Mateo County.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter the "Regional Board"), finds that:

1. **Regional Board Order:** The Regional Board adopted Site Clean-up Order Nos. [92-037](#) and [92-086](#) (collectively "Orders") on April 15, 1992, and July 15, 1992, respectively for 29 properties in what was formerly called the East Palo Alto Industrial Area (EPAIA) and/or the Ravenswood Industrial Area (RIA). The Orders required the parties responsible for these properties to submit site use histories, develop workplans to identify the extent of soil and groundwater impacts, report results of the investigations, and propose further characterization as needed.
2. **Compliance with Board Orders:** Dischargers complied with the Orders by undertaking the following activities:
 - **Environmental Assessment:** Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) were conducted and in some cases followed by additional soil and groundwater sampling. The ESAs and sampling characterized environmental conditions and identified the nature and extent of the environmental impacts. The contamination identified was primarily petroleum hydrocarbons, pesticides, and metals.
 - **Site Remediation:** Site remediation was conducted at several properties and included tank removal, soil removal, and groundwater remediation. Each case has a GeoTracker case with documentation of investigation and remediation activities.
 - **Risk Management of Residual Contamination:** Residual contamination remaining at some properties has either been addressed by land use covenants, risk management plans, other orders, or continued oversight by the Regional Board.
3. **Basis for Rescission:** The requirements of the Orders have been met for all the properties.

4. **Human Right to Water:** The State of California’s policy is that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. (Wat. Code, § 106.3; see also State Water Board Resolution No. 2016-0010.) The human right to water extends to all Californians, including disadvantaged individuals and groups and communities in rural and urban areas. The dischargers have satisfied the requirements of the Orders. The rescission of the Orders will not affect the human right to water.
5. **CEQA:** This action rescinds an order to enforce the laws and regulations administered by the Regional Water Board. Rescission of the order is not a “project” as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). (Public Resources Code, § 21065; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15378.) This action is exempt from CEQA because there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15061, subd. (b)(3).)
6. **Notification:** The Regional Water Board has notified the dischargers (the current record owners of fee title) and interested persons of its intent to rescind site cleanup requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order Nos. 92-037 and 92-086 are rescinded.

Eileen White, P.E.
Executive Officer