

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
 SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT – Chuck Headlee
 MEETING DATE: July 13, 2011

ITEM: **5F**

SUBJECT: **Cleanup Programs – Status Report including Case Closures**

CHRONOLOGY: The Board receives semi-annual status reports on this subject.

DISCUSSION: This is the semi-annual status report for the Board’s three cleanup programs: Underground Storage Tank (UST) Cleanup Program, Site Cleanup Program (SCP), and Military Cleanup Program (also known as the Department of Defense or “DoD” program). These programs oversee the investigation and cleanup of sites that have caused soil and groundwater pollution.

Case Closure Progress

The table below shows case closure targets for the fiscal year just ended (FY 10-11) and case closures broken out by program. We have generally met or exceeded our targets for the past fiscal year.

Cleanup Program	FY 10-11 Case Closures		
	Target	Actual	% of Target
UST	30	51	170%
SCP	20	20	100%
DoD	40*	44	110%
Total	90	115	128%

* internal target (no statewide target)

Performance Measures

For the past few years, the Water Boards have used performance measures to show the public what our programs accomplish (e.g., the State Board’s “My Water Quality” portal). For FY 10-11, our cleanup programs collectively met or exceeded targets for the performance measure, “number of cases closed” (as shown above). This measure tracks the elimination of threats to human health and water quality.

We met or exceeded targets for the performance measure, “number of cases starting active remediation” in all cleanup programs (as shown below). This measure tracks the transition from site investigation to actual cleanup.

Cleanup Program	FY 10-11 Cases Starting Active Remediation		
	Target	Actual	% of Target
UST	1	7	700%
SCP	5	5	100%
DoD	10	15	150%
Total	16	27	169%

Two new performance measures will be added in the current fiscal year (FY 11-12). They are “human health exposure controlled” and “groundwater contamination migration controlled.” These measures should indicate how we’re doing at addressing acute problems associated with cleanup sites.

State Water Board’s UST Policy

The State Board continues to make progress toward establishment of an Underground Storage Tank (UST) policy. In January 2011, it circulated for comment a revised draft of the policy, prepared by a stakeholder group, the UST Task Force. The draft policy defines low-threat fuel UST cases and directs oversight agencies to close them immediately. Oversight agencies include the Regional Water Boards as well as various local agencies.

As noted in our last status report, our office has been actively using low-threat criteria to close fuel UST cases for a number of years. We welcome the State Board’s efforts to establish a low-threat case closure policy for fuel UST cases statewide. We expressed our support for the January 2011 draft while at the same time providing comments on areas for improvement.

A third draft was recently presented to Water Board managers and will be the subject of a July status report to the State Board itself. Barring significant State Board comment, State Board staff intends to proceed with scientific peer review, CEQA review, and a formal public comment period later this year. Our staff will remain engaged in reviewing UST policy drafts and will keep the Board informed of significant developments.

Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) Update

We have made further progress in our efforts to update this Board's ESLs. ESLs are a tool we use to rapidly assess potential concerns at soil and groundwater pollution sites. The draft ESL update would make significant changes in screening levels for vapor intrusion (the migration of volatile chemicals from groundwater or soil into occupied buildings). We have been fortunate to have the assistance of Dr. Utha Hellmann-Blumberg, a toxicologist who has volunteered with us part-time for the past six months. She provided valuable assistance to edit the ESLs document, tables, and equations based on comments received from our Cal/EPA sister agencies, the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, in late 2010. This temporarily filled a gap created by the departure of our risk assessor earlier in 2010. Because of this assistance, we are now able to circulate the draft ESL update to a small group of outside reviewers. We hope to complete the update of the ESLs this calendar year.

Staff Changes

Terry Seward has been officially promoted to Division Chief for the Groundwater Protection Division.

RECOMMEN-
DATION:

This is an information item only and no action is necessary.

File No. 1210.47 (CTH)