

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

TENTATIVE ORDER No. R2-2024-XXXX

TERMINATION OF ORDER No. 88-075

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS for:

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY and
LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY
LIVERMORE, ALAMEDA COUNTY**

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

- 1. Purpose of Order:** The purpose of this Order is to terminate waste discharge requirements (WDRs) Order No. 88-075, for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) (the Dischargers) for the LLNL Livermore Site and the adjoining DOE research facility known as the Sandia National Laboratory (SNL) in Livermore.
- 2. Background:** The Regional Water Board adopted Order No. 88-075 to prescribe requirements for treated extracted groundwater discharges to land an adjoining DOE property as part of a pilot study extraction test. The WDRs also allowed discharge of treated groundwater to land at the LLNL Livermore Site for irrigation. Treatment Facility A (TFA) was the initial groundwater treatment facility within the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) groundwater cleanup project at the LLNL Livermore Site. Operations at TFA began in April 1989 under WDR Order No. 88-075, allowing the discharge of treated groundwater to the TFA percolation pond at SNL until June 2003. During this period, approximately one billion gallons of treated groundwater were discharged. In 2002, LLNL proposed terminating use of the TFA percolation pond. In June 2003, treated groundwater was diverted to surface water bodies, including Arroyo Las Positas and Arroyo Seco, following the discharge requirements outlined in the CERCLA Record of Decision (ROD) for the LLNL Livermore Site.

Four groundwater monitor wells were sampled to evaluate potential impacts to groundwater from discharges to the TFA percolation pond. Between 1989 and 2003, elevation measurements showed that a groundwater mound developed beneath the TFA percolation pond which subsided after 2003. The evaluation indicated that groundwater mounding caused contaminant migration outside the hydraulic capture zone for the TFA tetrachloroethylene plume remediation system. LLNL discontinued further discharges to the TFA percolation based on results of the evaluation.

Groundwater well W-591 located between the TFA percolation pond basin cells was decommissioned in April 2006 and the aboveground pipelines were also removed in

the mid-2000s. SNL plans to remove a small manifold vault system near the former recharge basin and evaluate an existing below grade pipeline to confirm that it is capped and closed-in-place following SNL's utility management procedures.

- 3. Basis for Termination:** The discharges and wastewater management systems regulated by Order No. 88-075 have been terminated and dismantled and will not be reused. Accordingly, Order No. 88-075 is no longer needed.
- 4. CEQA:** This action terminates a Regional Water Board order. Termination of the order is not a project as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). There is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14 §§ 15378 and 15061, subd. (b)(3).)
- 5. Notification:** The Regional Water Board has notified the Dischargers and interested agencies and persons of its intent to terminate the waste discharge requirements and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments.
- 6. Public Hearing:** The Regional Water Board, at a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. 88-075 is terminated, except for purposes of future enforcement for past violations of the requirements of Order No. 88-075.

I, Eileen White, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on September XX, 2024.

Eileen M. White, P.E.
Executive Officer