

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Barbara Sieminski)
MEETING DATE: September 9, 2009

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **Demonstration of Updated GeoTracker, the Water Boards' Primary Database for Cleanup Sites**

CHRONOLOGY: None

DISCUSSION: The Water Boards have made a conscious effort over the last several years to increase the transparency of our regulatory programs. A key part of that effort has been to make information about the cleanup cases we oversee more readily available to the public. GeoTracker was recently upgraded (GeoTracker 2.0) to meet changing needs. As noted in the July 2009 Executive Officer's Report, we just completed a project to fully populate all "required fields" in GeoTracker for our active cleanup sites. In this item, we will demonstrate the range of information available to the public and to our staff in GeoTracker, its case management capabilities, and how it has been adapted to track performance measures and respond to State Board mandates.

Background

GeoTracker is a database and geographic information system that provides online access to cleanup site information. It is the primary database we use to track our oversight of soil and groundwater cleanup sites. It tracks regulatory and environmental data about cleanup sites in several programs: leaking underground fuel tanks, Department of Defense, Site Cleanup Program, and landfills. It also contains limited information about public drinking water wells, giving regulators the ability to assess potential threats to drinking water sources. It was developed in the mid-1990s when the Water Boards were grappling with the challenges of the fuel oxygenate MTBE at leaking fuel tank sites throughout the State. Our sister agency, the California Department of Toxic Substances, has since developed a very similar database known as EnviroStor. The two databases contain links connecting the two.

Public uses

The public can access GeoTracker at <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>. Users can enter an address of interest and find out what cleanup sites are located nearby, as well as obtain specific information at these sites, such as site cleanup status and history, contaminant concentrations in different media (soil, groundwater), any land use restrictions, regulatory actions, community involvement, site closure review, depth-to-water data, site maps, and boring logs. Geotracker allows users to view key documents for each site, including Board letters and orders, cleanup reports, public notifications, and fact sheets. In addition, users can view various reports created from data stored in GeoTracker and modify these reports for their

needs (e.g., sorting data by various parameters such as site type, site status, lead agency, watershed, zip code, contaminant, and so forth).

GeoTracker is used mostly by the following groups:

- dischargers and their consultants conducting investigation and cleanup
- public agencies reviewing development proposals
- mortgage companies and banks providing property financing
- buyers of real property seeking site environmental information
- concerned citizens

Regulatory uses

Board staff accesses a regulator's version of GeoTracker through a password-protected website. The regulator's version allows staff to open new cases, update GeoTracker information (such as case status), upload documents (such as Board letters and orders), run queries, and generate additional reports. Staff also review electronic documents uploaded by dischargers; once we accept these e-documents then they become available for public viewing. The regulator's version enables staff to manage their individual cases (e.g., track due dates of reports for cleanup sites they oversee). Managers can also generate GeoTracker reports to assist with program management (e.g., number of regulatory actions within each site-cleanup program). GeoTracker is also the place where we track performance measures in the site cleanup programs (e.g., numbers of case closures). Finally, the State Board uses GeoTracker to respond to legislative mandates and other top-down directives. For example, after the State Board adopted its UST resolution in May, GeoTracker was updated to allow staff to track implementation actions (e.g., changes in UST site monitoring frequencies and completion of site-closure assessments at UST sites). The Executive Officer's Report for this month contains additional information about the UST resolution's implementation.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:**

No action needed – information item

FILE NO:

4670.00 (BGS)

APPENDICES:

none