

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT – John Wolfenden
 MEETING DATE: July 14, 2010

ITEM: 5.F

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

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

DISCUSSION: This is a semi-annual status report for the three cleanup programs: Underground Storage Tank (UST) Cleanup Program, Site Cleanup Program (SCP), and Military Cleanup Program (also known as the Department of Defense program). These programs oversee the investigation and cleanup of sites that have caused soil and groundwater pollution. The topics included in this status report are: 1) case closures, 2) performance measures, 3) UST Resolution implementation, and 4) environmental screening levels.

Case Closure Progress

The table below shows case closure goals and actual closures for this fiscal year for each program. The high number of UST case closures is due in large part to our efforts (started in mid-2008) to review all our UST cases.

Cleanup Program	FY 09-10 Case Closures	
	Target	Actual
UST	30	66
SCP	20	28
Military	40	23
Total	90	117

Performance Measures

For FY 09-10, the cleanup programs collectively will exceed performance targets for two measures (number of cases closed, number of cases starting active remediation). The “cases closed” measure indicates the elimination of any threats to human health or water quality; results are shown above. The “cases starting active remediation” measure indicates the transition from site investigation to actual cleanup; results are shown below.

Cleanup Program	FY 09-10 Cases Starting Active Remediation	
	Target	Actual
UST	5	1
SCP	10	6
DOD	10	69
Total	25	76

The cleanup programs will start tracking two more performance measures in FY 10-11: number of cases with human health exposure controlled and number of cases with groundwater contaminant migration controlled. These measures were borrowed from USEPA's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program, where they were used as environmental indicators. Meeting these two measures indicates that a site poses no current threat to human health and water quality. We will establish performance targets for these measures in the future, after we determine our baseline performance.

UST Resolution Implementation

The UST Cleanup Program task force and the UST Cleanup Fund task force submitted additional recommendations to the State Board in February 2010. The *Cleanup Program* recommendations included suggested changes to the UST cleanup regulations that would add low-risk closure criteria to the regulations. The closure criteria would be defined by certain petroleum concentrations and distances to municipal drinking water wells. State Board is considering these recommendations but does not have a specific timeframe for follow-up.

The *Cleanup Fund* recommendations included an outside audit of the program, up front budgeting for expenditures on each case, and more transparency in the decisions made by Fund staff. The State Board accepted these recommendations.

ESL Update

This region's Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) are being updated to reflect new information about the vapor intrusion concern. We developed the ESLs in 2000 as a tool to rapidly assess potential concerns at contaminated sites. USEPA and Cal/EPA also have screening levels, but our ESLs cover a broader range of constituents and environmental concerns. We update the ESLs every two to three years to reflect changes in underlying toxicity factors and other new information. The last update was in May 2008. This latest update is mainly intended to address new information about the vapor intrusion concern. Vapor intrusion refers to the migration of volatile chemicals from groundwater or soil into occupied buildings. More recent information from USEPA and from within our own region suggests that vapor intrusion potential can vary significantly depending on site conditions. The draft update has received internal review and will undergo external review prior to its completion.

RECOMMEN-
DATION:

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

File No. 1210.47 (JDW)