



# City of Carson Report to Mayor and City Council

September 16, 2014  
Unfinished Business

**SUBJECT: CONSIDER STATUS REPORT ON THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AND CARSON DECLARATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY WITHIN THE CAROUSEL TRACT**

Submitted by Cedric L. Hicks, Sr.  
Director of Community Services

Approved by Nelson Hernandez  
City Manager

## I. SUMMARY

This item is on the agenda at the request of Mayor Pro Tem Santarina to provide updates at all regularly scheduled City Council meetings related to the environmental investigation of the Carousel Tract.

## II. RECOMMENDATION

CONSIDER and DISCUSS.

## III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE such other action the City Council deems appropriate that is consistent with the requirements of law.

## IV. BACKGROUND

Since the September 2, 2014 report, the Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) is reviewing the Remedial Action Plan (RAP), Feasibility Study (FS), Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) and simultaneously preparing the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Regional Board has weekly technical discussions/consultation with Shell Oil Company (Shell) regarding the RAP and the Draft EIR. The Regional Board projected that the Draft EIR will be completed and released for public comment in mid October 2014. Thereafter, the Regional Board will issue a Notice for Public Comment on the proposed RAP and a 45-day public comment period on the Draft EIR. On August 27, 2014, the Regional Board released a Carousel Tract update to the public (Exhibit 1).

Testing of property in the Carousel Tract is continuing and the latest reports are posted on the Regional Board's website at:

[http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=T10000000228](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000000228)

As of August 22, 2014, the completed Residential Sampling Activity is as follows:

- 271 homes have been screened for methane. (95%)
- 272 homes have had soils sampled and vapor probes installed. (95%)
- 272 homes have had sub-slab soil vapor probes sampled. (95%)
- 260 homes have had indoor air sampling. (91%)

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- 237 of 260 homes have had their 2<sup>nd</sup> round of indoor air sampling. (91%)

*Timeline of Activities*

A general timeline that tracks past and current activities of the Carousel Tract environmental investigation is included as (Exhibit No. 2).

**V. FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**VI. EXHIBITS**

1. The Regional Board Carousel Tract August 2014 Update. (3-4)
2. Carousel Tract Environmental Investigation Timeline. (pgs. 5-10)

Prepared by: Ky Truong, Public Safety and Community Services Manager  
*Carousel Tract September 16, 2014*

*TO: Rev05-07-2014*

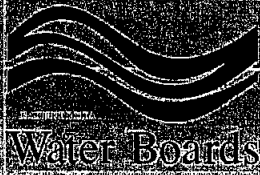
Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services	Public Works
Community Development	Community Services

**Action taken by City Council**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Action \_\_\_\_\_

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# Carousel Tract

(Former KAST Property Tank Farm)



## August 2014 Update

### Upcoming Activities

#### Carousel Community Meetings

You will be invited to a Community Meeting to hear about the proposed cleanup (RAP) and the draft EIR, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions for clarification and provide written comments.

Your comments are welcome and encouraged. Please look for a Carousel Community Meeting invitation in your mailbox in Fall 2014.

To access the proposed RAP, Feasibility Study (FS) & Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) online, go to: <http://goo.gl/RGy28a> or [www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/Kast/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/Kast/index.shtml)

You may review the proposed RAP, FS & HHRA at the Regional Board's office:  
320 West 4th Street, Suite #200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
Appointments are encouraged:  
call (213) 576-6600 or fax your request to (213) 576-6717

For more information:  
Susana Lagudis, Public Participation  
LA Regional Water Quality Control Board  
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During Fall 2014, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) will issue a Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment on the proposed Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) 45-day public comment period. The RAP proposes actions for cleanup in the Carousel community. The Regional Board determined that some of the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed cleanup may be significant, and is preparing an EIR to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the clean up actions and identify appropriate mitigation measures.

During the comment period, the Regional Board staff will host a series of community meetings to share key elements of the RAP and EIR, and receive comments. Your participation is valued and important.

Upon completion of the public comment period, the Regional Board will prepare a response to comments and consider whether to approve, reject, or require revisions to the RAP, and whether to certify the EIR.

#### RAP HIGHLIGHTS

The RAP contains a description of the actions proposed by the responsible party, Shell Oil Company (Shell), to meet the approved cleanup goals. The RAP is intended to address these primary goals:

- 1) Attain cleanup levels and implement actions to protect human health;
- 2) Provide the residents with unrestricted use of their property; and
- 3) Restore the ground water quality beneath the Carousel Tract.

The RAP proposes five types of actions to attain the approved cleanup goals:

- Contaminated Soil Removal: Remove impacted soil at 214 properties, replace the soil with clean soil, and restore the yards to their previous condition as agreed upon before the process begins.
- Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) and Bioventing: Extract vapors from the ground and treat the soil vapor using a method to break down hydrocarbons into carbon dioxide and water at 221 properties at a facility located outside of the Carousel community.
- Sub-slab Vapor Mitigation: Install sub-slab vapor mitigation systems in at least 28 homes, and at all Carousel homes upon request, to address potential impacts to indoor air from contaminated soil underneath the houses.
- Groundwater Cleanup: Active removal and passive treatment of petroleum hydrocarbons to restore groundwater quality.
- Long-term Cleanup Monitoring: Continued monitoring of soil vapor, extraction and bioventing systems, and groundwater to ensure effectiveness of the cleanup activities.

# EXHIBIT NO. 1



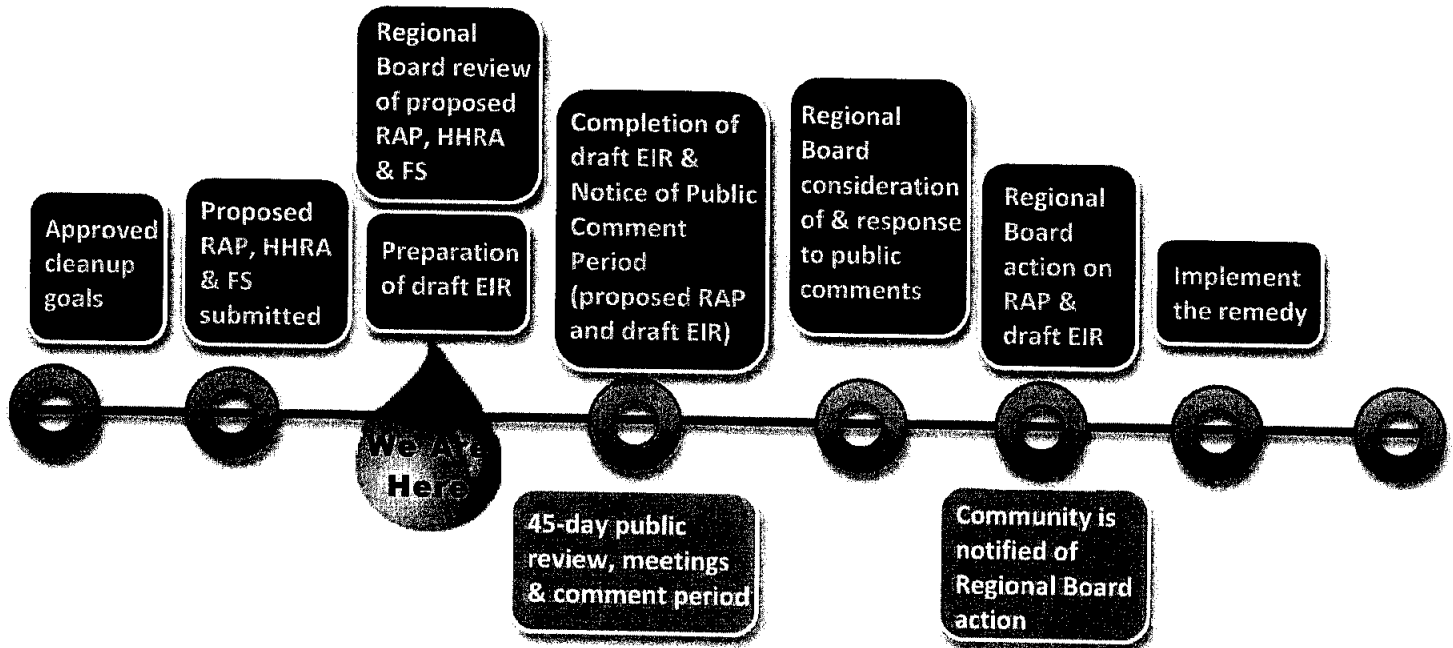
**EIR STATUS**

An EIR is a report that informs the public and governmental agencies of potentially significant environmental impacts of a project and identifies mitigation measures to reduce impacts to less than significant. The draft EIR currently being developed by the Regional Board will evaluate the environmental impacts of the cleanup actions in the proposed RAP, evaluate alternatives to the proposed cleanup actions, and identify mitigation measures. Common impacts associated with soil and groundwater cleanup include increased traffic, noise, ground vibration, and dust, vapor, and odor (air quality); those and other potential environmental impacts will be evaluated in the draft EIR. Once the draft EIR is completed, it will be made available for public review and comment, concurrent with the proposed RAP.

**Cleanup Sequence**

*Sequence based upon currently available information, but may be subject to change*

**CLEANUP ACTION**



**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*The mission of the California State Water Resources Control Board is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The goals of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Regional Board) site cleanup program are to protect and restore water resources and establish stringent goals to protect human health, water quality, and the environment, today and into the future.*

## Carousel Tract Environmental Investigation Timeline

Date	Significant Actions/Reports	Notes
March 11, 2008	DTSC informed LARWQCB about former Shell Oil Company Tank Farm	
May 2008	LAWRQCB initiated an environmental investigation	
December 2008	LAWRQCB approved proposed work plan submitted by Shell to investigate contaminants of concern	
December 31, 2008	LARWQCB issued California Water Code § 13267 Investigative Order	
October 15, 2009	Shell submitted Final Phase I Site Characterization Report	
March 2011	LARWQCB issued Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R4-201100046	
February 22, 2013	Shell submitted <i>Site-Specific Cleanup Goal Report</i>	
May 2013	LAWRQCB issued a fact sheet providing information and advising of comment period for <i>Site-Specific Cleanup Goal Report</i>	30-day comment period ending June 24, 2013
June 24, 2013	City submitted comments to <i>Site-Specific Cleanup Goal Report</i>	Forwarded reports by Everett & Associates and Soil/Water/Air Protection Enterprise
July 18, 2013	City Council conducted workshop to allow presentation by Mr. Sam Unger, Executive Director of LARWQCB	Presentation by Dr. Lorene Everett and James T. Wells PhD raising concerns related to environmental conditions
July 29, 2013	City Council adopted Resolution No. 13-081 declaring the existence of an emergency in the Carousel Tract	
July 30, 2013	Letters sent to the Governor, Attorney General, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Mr. Unger	Requested immediate assistance due to emergency conditions in Carousel Tract
July 31, 2013	City staff, Mr. Bob Bowcock, Dr. Everett and Mr. Wells met with representatives of Los Angeles County Fire Department and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	City Council declaration of emergency conditions discussed and copies of Everett & Associates reports transmitted for review

EXHIBIT NO. 2



## Carousel Tract Environmental Investigation Timeline

Date	Significant Actions/Reports	Notes
August 21, 2013	LARWQCB sent detailed letter to Shell denying proposed site-specific cleanup goals and requiring revisions to be submitted by October 21, 2013	LARWQCB incorporated OEHHA Memorandum dated July 22, 2013 and UCLA Expert Panel Interim Report dated July 24, 2013
September 11, 2013	City letter to Mr. Sam Unger	Expressing appreciation from City Council and community for response to <i>Site-Specific Cleanup Goal Report</i>
September 24, 2013	LARWQCB community open house CEQA scoping meeting	Request for input from community and public agencies related to evaluation of environmental impacts; comment period ends on October 8, 2013
September 30 – October 10, 2013	LARWQCB Public Participation Specialist to conduct office hours at Carson City Hall	Opportunity for LARWQCB to meet with residents and community stakeholders
October 8, 2013	CEQA scoping comments due to LARWQCB from September 9 through October 8, 2013	Comment letters sent by City of Carson and Bob Bowcock/Barbara Post
October 10, 2013	City staff arranging for a meeting with LARWQCB, LACoFD, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, OEHHA, Mr. Bowcock, Dr. Everett and Mr. Wells PhD	Review of technical reports and discussion of public agencies responses and actions
October 21, 2013	Shell submitted a <i>Revised Site-Specific Cleanup Goal Report</i> to LARWQCB	Shell proposed to evaluate options that provide excavation in specific areas and does not include any further evaluation associated with the removal of homes
October 24, 2013	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Letter to City of Carson	Letter states there is not an immediate health threat from site conditions



## Carousel Tract Environmental Investigation Timeline

Date	Significant Actions/Reports	Notes
October 30, 2013	LARWQCB letter to Shell for review of <i>Community Outdoor Air Sampling and Analysis Report</i>	Based on statistical tests, LARWQCB concludes that outdoor air concentrations do not differ between the site and surrounding area. Shell is required to address OEHHA comments and to develop a work plan for an additional soil-vapor survey by November 29, 2013. LARWQCB determined on January 13, 2014 that no further evaluation required
October 31, 2013	LARWQCB notice on <i>Proposed Draft Revised Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R4-2011-0046</i>	The proposed draft order names Dole Food Company, Inc. as an additional responsible party. Comments and evidence must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on December 6, 2013. Dole Food Company has requested an extension to January 2014 to provide comments. LARWQCB approved extension to January 13, 2014. On January 7, 2014, Regional Board approved extension to January 21, 2014
November 12, 2013	Letter to Carousel Tract Owners and Occupants advising of November 19, 2013 City Council Workshop	
November 19, 2013	City Council conducted workshop with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and Los Angeles County Fire Department	
January 8, 2014	LARWQCB response to <i>Assessment of Environmental Impact and Feasibility of Removal of Residual Concrete Reservoir Slabs</i>	Directs Shell to either remove the residential concrete slabs as appropriate or isolate the residual concrete slabs beneath the foundation of the homes and paved areas using engineering techniques to the extent necessary to address long term health risks or nuisance concerns



## Carousel Tract Environmental Investigation Timeline

Date	Significant Actions/Reports	Notes
January 13, 2014	LARWQCB response to <i>Revised Community Outdoor Air Sampling and Analysis Report</i>	LARWQCB concludes that outdoor air concentrations do not differ between the site and surrounding area. No further evaluation required
January 21, 2014	Dole response to <i>Proposed Draft Revised Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R4-2011-0046</i>	Dole requested to not be included in the Draft Order since their subsidiary, Barclay Hollander Corporation, did not discharge any of the contaminants of concern
January 23, 2014	Community meeting organized by Congresswoman Hahn	Meeting to hear from residents and discuss options for obtaining improved levels of response from the Regional Board
January 23, 2014	LARWQCB response to <i>Revised Site-Specific Cleanup Goal Report</i>	LARWQCB identified deficiencies in the Shell Revised Report and directed a remedial action plan, Human Health Risk Assessment and other environmental documents be submitted by March 10, 2014
February 10, 2014	LARWQCB clarification and revision to their January 8, 2014 letter (effective date of January 13, 2014) regarding the Residential Concrete Slab Report	LARWQCB removed reference to regulations for underground storage tanks
February 23, 2014	Shell submitted a Petition for Review and Request for Hearing to the State Water Resources Control Board in the matter of Cleanup and Abatement Order R4-2011-0046 (CAO)	The State Water Resources Control Board has not responded to Shell's petition
March 10, 2014	Shell submitted Remedial Action Plan (RAP), Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA), and draft environmental documents to LARWQCB	LARWQCB set a tentative period of 30 day to review the documents and provide opportunity for public viewing
March 19, 2014	LARWQCB filed Notice of Preparation (NOP)	Preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Report in accordance to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
March 25, 2014	LARWQCB and PCR Service Corporation met with City's staff	As part of the draft Environmental Impact Report, staff discussed transportation, noise, and odor concerns with LARWQCB and PCR





## Carousel Tract Environmental Investigation Timeline

April 18, 2014	LARWQCB received comments from LAUSD regarding the NOP	LARWQCB is reviewing LAUSD comments and will provide response
April 30, 2014	LARWQCB responded to Shell's RAP, FS, and HHRA	LARWQCB rejected Shell's proposed cleanup plan and revised RAP to be submitted by Shell by June 16, 2014 by 5 p.m.
April 30, 2014	LARWQCB issued notice of violation (NOV) to Shell for failure to submit a RAP based on approved site-specific cleanup goals	LARWQCB directed Shell to comply by June 16, 2014
May 23, 2014	LARWQCB met with Shell regarding the RAP	LARWQCB discussed deficiencies and revisions with Shell
June 3, 2014	LARWQCB issued notice of opportunity for additional public comment	The deadline to submit public comments is 5 p.m. on June 16, 2014
June 4, 2014	LARWQCB granted Shell a two-week extension to submit the revised RAP, FS, and HHRA	The revised documents are due on June 30, 2014
June 16, 2014	Shell submitted additional comments regarding the Proposed Revised Draft Cleanup and Abatement Order No. RB4-2011-0046	The Regional Board is reviewing Shell's comments
June 30, 2014	Shell submitted the revised RAP, FS, and HHRA to the Regional Board	The Regional Board is reviewing the revised documents
July 7, 2014	The City of Carson sent a letter notifying the Carousel Tract residents of the availability of the RAP, FS, and HHRA via the Regional Board website	The documents are part of the draft EIR process



## Carousel Tract Environmental Investigation Timeline

July 22, 2014	The Regional Board is reviewing the RAP, FS, HHRA and preparing the draft EIR. Testing of property in the Carousel Tract is ongoing	Testing result and the Regional Board latest activities are available at: <a href="http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/">http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/</a>
August 25, 2014	The Regional Board is reviewing the RAP, FS, HHRA and preparing the draft EIR.	No new dates set for meeting with the Carousel Tract residents
August 27, 2014	The Regional Board released August 2014 community update for the Carousel Tract	Tentative release of proposed RAP and Draft EIR in mid October 2014

