



Legislation Text

File #: 2015-432, Version: 1

Report to Mayor and City Council

Wednesday, June 03, 2015

New Business Discussion

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

I. SUMMARY

This item is 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

May 21, 2015, Barclay Hollander Corporation (Barclay), also referred to as BHC, sent a letter to the Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) requesting stay and reconsideration of the revised *Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R4-2011-0046* (CAO). Barclay also informed the Regional Board of its intention to file a petition for review with the State Water Resource Control Board (State Water Board) challenging the Regional Board's issuance of the revised CAO (Exhibit No. 1).

Any person aggrieved by the Regional Board action may petition the State Water Board to review the action. The petition must be received by State Water Board by June 1, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

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?

As of March 10, 2015, the completed Residential Sampling Activity is as follows:

- 272 homes have been screened for Methane. (95%)
- 273 homes have had soils sampled and vapor probes installed. (96%)
- 273 homes have had vapor probes sampled. (95%)
- 261 homes have had indoor air sampled. (91%)
- 244 of 261 homes have had their 2nd round of indoor air sampling. (94%)

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. Letter from Barclay to the Regional Board, dated May 21, 2015. (pgs. 3-6)
2. Carousel Tract Environmental Investigation Timeline. (pgs. 7-15)

Prepared by: Ky H. Truong, Public Safety and Community Services Manager

May 21, 2015

VIA FIRST CLASS AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Deborah Smith
Chief Deputy Executive Officer
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: Request for Stay and Reconsideration – In the Matter of Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R4-2011-0046, Former Kast Property Tank Farm (SCP No. 1230, Site ID No. 2040330, File No. 11-043)

Dear Ms. Smith:

As you know, we represent Barclay Hollander Corporation (“Barclay”) and on April 30, you named Barclay as a “discharger” in the foregoing Revised Cleanup and Abatement Order (“Revised CAO”). Barclay intends to file a petition for review with the State Water Resources Control Board (“State Board”) challenging the Regional Board’s issuance of the Revised CAO. Barclay also intends to seek a stay of the Revised CAO until the State Board renders its decision and appeals, if any, from that decision have been exhausted. In the interest of minimizing the burden on the State Board and recognizing that Barclay has significant defenses that will now need to be resolved by the State Board and, possibly, a court, Barclay respectfully requests that the Regional Board stay the effective date of the Revised CAO and/or reconsider its issuance.

While we may disagree about the merits of Barclay’s petition for review, there is no dispute that Barclay’s previous comments submitted to the Regional Board raised substantial questions of law and fact that will take time for the State Board to review and decide. These issues include whether Barclay is a “discharger” under Water Code section 13304(a), whether Barclay qualifies for the safe harbor provision in Water Code section 13304(j), and whether the Regional Board’s findings of fact are supported by the evidence. Because you are familiar with Barclay’s challenges, they are not repeated in any detail here.

Further, Barclay intends to challenge the Revised CAO based on substantial procedural defects in the process the Regional Board followed in investigating and naming Barclay on the Revised CAO. These include: (1) the failure to provide an evidentiary hearing; (2) the failure to consider highly relevant evidence that has been, and continues to be, obtained as part of the ongoing *Acosta* Litigation; (3) the June 2014 reopening of the then-closed comment period allowing Shell the opportunity to file



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comments when it had previously failed to do so; (4) improper conduct on the part of both the Prosecutorial and Advisory Teams; and (6) the prejudicial delay in waiting to name Barclay until after the close of the comment period on the Remedial Action Plan (“RAP”).

Given your recent decision to issue the Revised CAO notwithstanding Barclay’s submissions, we recognize that you are unlikely to reconsider the Revised CAO. Even so, we hope you will agree that the State Board will find the issues identified above to be important and issues that will require their time and attention to consider. Accordingly, Barclay requests that the Revised CAO be stayed until the State Board renders its decision on the appeal and any further appeals from that decision have been exhausted.

Finally, there is certainly no argument that staying, or reconsidering, the Revised CAO will have any effect on the cleanup proceeding apace. Ms. McChesney, the Prosecution Team’s lawyer, made clear that Shell will clean up the site regardless of whether Barclay is named:

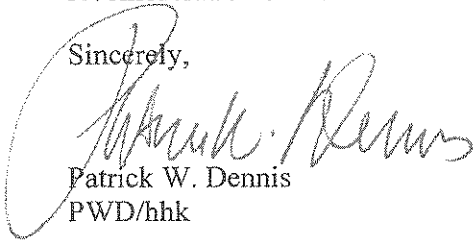
BOARD MEMBER DIAMOND: “So until that decision [whether to name Barclay] is made, one way or the other, what is – what impact does that have on us moving forward with the cleanup of this site?”

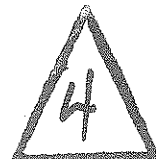
MS. McCHESNEY: “*Oh, none.* The – Shell never petitioned or challenged the original cleanup and abatement order. So they’ll – they’re still responsible, regardless of who else might be added.” (Transcript of June 14, 2014 Regional Board hearing at page 15 (emphasis supplied).)

At his recent deposition, Sam Unger, the Executive Officer of the Regional Board, fully agreed with Ms. McChesney’s statement (Unger Deposition at pages 191:20- 192:6). Thus, staying or reconsidering the Revised CAO will not hinder or delay Shell’s performance of its obligations in any way.

Given the upcoming June 1 deadline for Barclay to file its appeal with the State Board, please let us know promptly whether you will grant this request for a stay and/or reconsideration of the Revised CAO.

Sincerely,


Patrick W. Dennis
PWD/hhk



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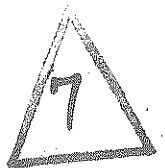
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Carousel Tract Environmental Investigation Timeline

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



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	The documents are part of the draft EIR process



Carousel Tract Environmental Investigation Timeline

	website	
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: http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/
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
September 19, 2014	Shell submitted the RAP Relocation Plan to the Regional Board	Tentative release of proposed RAP and Draft EIR at end of October 2014, and meeting with the Carousel Tract resident is projected to begin on November 2014
October 8, 2014	The Regional Board continues preparation of Draft EIR and review of the RAP	The Regional Board required the RAP addendums to be submitted by Shell on October 20, 2014. Meeting with the Carousel Tract residents is projected to occur in the middle of November 2014
October 15, 2014	The Regional Board scheduled community meetings	The Regional Board mailed invitations of community meetings to the Carousel Tract residents
October 15, 2014	Shell submitted addendums to the RAP, FS, and HHRA	The documents are posted on the Regional Board website
November 5, 2014	The Regional Board released the draft EIR proposed RAP for public review and comment	The draft EIR, proposed RAP and support documents are available at the Carson Library, the Los Angeles Regional Board Office and website



Carousel Tract Environmental Investigation Timeline

November 12,15,18,20, 2014	The Regional Board held community group meetings with Carousel Tract residents	The discussion was centered on the draft EIR and proposed RAP
November 22, 2014	The Regional Board hosted a public meeting at the Carson Community Center	The discussion centered on the draft EIR and proposed RAP
December 3, 2014	City of Carson Environmental Commission received the draft EIR and proposed RAP for review	City staff will submit the Commission's comments to the Regional Board
December 8, 2014	The Regional Board notified Dole Food Company Inc. (Dole) of its intention to revise the Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R4-2011-0046 CAO)	Barclay Hollander Corporation (Barclay), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dole, to be named as responsible parties to the Carousel Tract contamination
December 24, 2014	Barclay sent a written request to the Regional Board	Barclay submitted additional written evidence, and schedule a formal evidentiary hearing with the Regional Board
January 6, 2015	Barclay sent a follow up letter to its December 24, 2014 Letter to the Regional Board	Barclay submitted additional documentary evidence to the Regional Board
January 6, 2015	Shell sent a letter to the Regional Board	Shell is opposed to Barclay's requests to submit additional evidence and for a formal evidentiary hearing
January 7, 2015	Integrated Resource Management, Inc. (IRM) responded to Barclay's December 24, 2014 Letter	IRM requested appropriate notice and opportunity to be heard for Carousel Tract residents. IRM also commented on the substance of the revised CAO and attached documentary evidence
January 9, 2015	The Regional Board sent an electronic letter to all interest parties	The Regional Board will consider additional comments on pending procedural request by 5 p.m., January 16, 2015



Carousel Tract Environmental Investigation Timeline

January 15, 2015	Site Cleanup Program Staff (SCP Staff) of the regional Board sent a response letter objecting inclusion of additional evidence into the record as requested by Barclay Hollander Corporation (Barclay)	SPC Staff is requesting opportunity to respond if a hearing for additional evidence is granted by the Chief Deputy Executive Officer of the Regional Board
January 16, 2015	Barclay sent a letter to the Regional Board	Barclay clarified its scope to submit additional evidence, seek clarification from the Regional Board, and request timing of evidential hearing.
February 20, 2015	The Regional Board released a "Notification of Work" to the public	Land (public streets) and aerial photographic survey activities are tentatively scheduled from March 2, 2015 to March 20, 2015 for the Carousel Tract and surrounding area
February 27, 2015	The Regional Board replied to parties and interested persons	The Regional Board accepted Mr. George Bach deposition dated November 19, 2014 into administrative record
March 11, 2015	The SCP Staff provided explanations to assumptions and copies of graphic results	The explanation addressed the three assumptions in memo dated March 20, 2014 from Dr. C.P. Lai to SCP Staff
April 2, 2015	SCP Staff, Barclay, and Shell submitted comments to the Regional Board regarding the revised CAO	Barclay is requesting inclusion of Mr. George Bach deposition dated November 19, 2014 into administrative record. SCP Staff and Shell opposed its inclusion
April 17, 2015	The Regional Board sent letter to all parties and interested persons	Informing all parties and interest persons of the separation of functions between the Advising Team and SCP Staff. The Regional Board intends to issued final action regarding Tentative Revised CAO on or after April 24, 2015
April 22, 2015	Barclay sent a letter to the Regional Board	Barclay is requesting delay of final action regarding the Tentative Revised CAO until depositions of the SCP Staff are completed



Carousel Tract Environmental Investigation Timeline

April 30, 2015	Regional Board sent a letter to Dole and Barclay aka (BHC)	The Regional Board issued the Revised CAO adding Dole and Barclay as responsible parties
May 21, 2015	Barclay sent a letter to the Regional Board	Barclay requests stay and reconsideration of the Revised CAO

