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October 26, 1998

Mr. Bruce M. Rucker Senior Geologist/Project Manager Stellar Environmental Solutions 2110 Sixth Street Berkeley, CA 94710

Dear Mr. Rucker:

Redwood Regional Park Service Yard Fuel Leak Site, Oakland, California

In response to your October 9, 1998 work plan, October 14, 1998 letter, and telephone conversation of the same date on the subject project, I offer the following comments and recommendations.

First, let me say that I was surprised to learn that the October 9th work plan wasn't a draft, but a plan which had already been implemented; and any suggestions for modification could be only be accommodated if they involved data presentation or evaluation. As I mentioned during our phone conversation, the approach seemed to rehash the amount of contamination in the near surface groundwater leading to the creek, but missed the biological connection that would address the need, or justification for further remediation. My conclusions have not changed since re-reading the document.

I have no objection with the October 9th work plan, and concede that it may provide some relevant insight late. It stands on at the subject site; but cannot "accept" it as adequate to address all site-related issues. The risk to fish and aquatic life from a release of petroleum hydrocarbons, even at admittedly low concentrations, is difficult, if not impossible to assign, based solely on physical-chemical data, and assumed dilution. The toxicity data upon which most risk analysis are based are derived through chemical-specific methods, conducted under carefully controlled laboratory conditions without consideration of real world conditions (e.g. variations of insitu dissolved oxygen, temperature, or combinations of chemicals).

I have attached the requested copy of Fish and Game Code Section 5650(a)(1) which is an appropriate ARAR for cleanup unless other considerations are addressed; namely, that the prohibited petroleum product is infeasible to completely remove, and that the "placement" or release is not adversely affecting the instream biota. "Adversely affecting" means more than just the absence of acute or chronic toxicity, but also avoidance of reproductive effects on fish and invertebrates as well. This could be a tall order, but we have found that a well designed, seasonal, instream bioassessment program can provide vital evidence of whether-or-not local or far field effects are resulting from the discharge. I have attached a copy of the protocol and

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

Mr. Rucker October 26, 1998 Page Two

reference requested. If you have any questions on protocol or additional information on its applicability, please call Mr. Jim Harrington at the Department of Fish and Game, Water Pollution Control Laboratory at (916) 358-2858.

I look forward to working with you in the future on this project.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Rugg

Water Quality Biologist

Region 3

cc: Scott Seery, Ala Co. Health Care Services Agency

Ken Burger, EBRPD Jim Harrington, WPCL

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- (2) A total allowable catch, reflecting the long-term yield each species is capable of sustaining, using the best available science and bearing in mind the ecological importance of the species and the variability of marine ecosystems.
- (3) A permanent reduction in harvest.

(c) Funding to prepare the recovery and management plan and any planning and scoping meetings shall be derived from the fees collected for the abalone stamp.

(d) On or before January 1, 2008, and following the adoption of the recovery and management plan by the commission, the department may apply to the commission to reopen sport or commercial fishing in all or any portion of the waters described in Section 5521. If the commission makes a finding that the resource can support additional harvest activities and that these activities are consistent with the abalone recovery plan, all or a portion of the waters described in Section 5521 may be reopened and management measures prescribed and implemented, as appropriate. The commission may close or, where appropriate, may establish no-take marine refuges in any area opened pursuant to this section if it makes a finding that this action is necessary to comply with the abalone management plan.

(e) If the commission determines that commercial fishing is an appropriate management measure, priority for participation in the fishery shall be given to those persons who held a commercial abalone permit during the 1996-97 permit year.

(Added by Statutes 1997 Chap. 787)

CHAPTER 2. POLLUTION

Article 1. General

5650. Pollute Waters; Hazardous Substances List

- (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), it is unlawful to deposit in, permit to pass into, or place where it can pass into the waters of this state any of the following:
- (1) Any petroleum, acid, coal or oil tar, lampblack, aniline, asphalt, bitumen, or residuary product of petroleum, or carbonaceous material or substance.
- (2) Any refuse, liquid or solid, from any refinery, gas house, tannery, distillery, chemical works, mill, or factory of any kind.
- (3) Any sawdust, shavings, slabs, or edgings.
- (4) Any factory refuse, lime, or slag.
- (5) Any cocculus indicus.
- (6) Any substance or material deleterious to fish, plant life, or bird life.
- (b) This section does not apply to a discharge or a release that is expressly authorized pursuant to ***, and in compliance with, the terms and conditions of a waste discharge requirement pursuant to Section 13263 of the Water Code or a waiver issued pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 13269 of the Water Code issued by the State Water Resources Control Board or a regional water quality control board after a public hearing, or that is expressly authorized pursuant to, and in compliance with, the terms conditions of a federal permit *** for which the State Water Resources Control Board or a regional water quality control board has, after a public hearing, issued a water quality certification pursuant to Section 13160 of the Water Code. This section does not confer additional authority on the State Water Resources Control Board, a regional water quality control board, or any other entity.
- (c) It shall be an affirmative defense to a violation of this section if the defendant proves, by a preponderance of the evidence, all of the following:
- (1) The defendant complied with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations requiring that the discharge or release be reported to a government agency.
- (2) The substance or material did not enter the waters of the state or a storm drain that discharges into the waters of the state.

- (3) The defendant took reasonable and appropriate measures to effectively mitigate the discharge or release in a timely manner.
- (d) The affirmative defense *** in subdivision (c) *** does not apply and may not be raised in an action for civil penalties or injunctive relief pursuant to Section 5650.1.
- (c) The affirmative defense in subdivision (c) does not apply and may not be raised by any defendant who has on two prior occasions in the preceding five years, in any combination within the same county in which the case is prosecuted, either pleaded noto contendere, been convicted of a violation of this section, or suffered a judgment for a violation of this section or Section 5650.1. This subdivision shall apply only to cases filed on or after January 1, 1997.
- (f) The affirmative defense in subdivision (c) does not apply and may not be raised by the defendant in any case in which a district attorney, city attorney, or Attorney General alleges, and the court finds, that the defendant acted willfully.

(Amended Statutes 1997 Chap. 766)

5650.1. Water Pollution - Civil Penalties

(a) Every person who violates Section 5650 is subject to a civil penalty of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each violation.

(b) The civil penalty imposed for each separate violation pursuant to this section is separate, and in addition to, any other civil penalty imposed for a separate violation pursuant to this section or any other provision of law.

- (c) In determining the amount of any civil penalty imposed pursuant to this section, the court shall take into consideration all relevant circumstances, including, but not limited to, the nature, circumstance, extent, and gravity of the violation. In making this determination, the court shall consider the degree of toxicity and volume of the discharge, the extent of harm caused by the violation, whether the effects of the violation may be reversed or mitigated, and with respect to the defendant, the ability to pay, the effect of any civil penalty on the ability to continue in business, any voluntary cleanup efforts undertaken, any prior history of violations, the gravity of the behavior, the economic benefit, if any, resulting from the violation, and any other matters the court determines justice may require.
- (d) Every civil action brought under this section shall be brought by the Attorney General upon complaint by the department, or by the district attorney or city attorney in the name of the people of the State of California, and any actions relating to the same violation may be joined or consolidated.
- (e) In any civil action brought pursuant to this chapter in which a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction is sought, it is not necessary to allege of prove at any stage of the proceeding that irreparable damage will occur if the temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction is not issued, or that the remedy at law is

inadequate.

- (f) After the party seeking the injunction has met its burden of proof, the court shall determine whether to issue a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction without requiring the defendant to prove that it will suffer grave or irreparable harm. The court shall make the determination whether to issue a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction by taking into consideration, among other things, the nature, circumstance, extent, and gravity of the violation, the quantity and characteristics of the substance or material involved, the extent of environmental harm caused by the violation, measures taken by the defendant to remedy the violation, the relative likelihood that the material or substance involved may pass into waters of the state, and the harm likely to be caused to the defendant.
- (g) The court, to the maximum extent possible, shall tailor any temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction narrowly to address the violation in a

CALIFORNIA STREAM BIOASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

(HABITAT ASSESSMENT AND BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING)

The California Stream Bioassessment Procedure (CSBP) is a standardized protocol for assessing physical and biological conditions of wadable streams in California. There are two companion documents for this procedure: "California Stream Bioassessment Procedure (Macroinvertebrate Laboratory and Data Analyses)" and "California Stream Bioassessment Procedure (Field and Laboratory Quality Assurance/Control)". The CSBP is a regional adaptation of the national Rapid Bioassessment Protocols described in "Rapid Bioassessment Protocols for use in Streams and Rivers: Benthic Macroinvertebrates and Fish" (EPA 444/4-89-001).

This document describes procedures for habitat assessment and biological sampling of wadable streams using benthic macroinvertebrates. Developing aquatic bioassessment techniques for California is an iterative process; contact the California Department of Fish and Game's Water Pollution Control Laboratory (WPCL) at (916) 358-2858, e-mail: jharr@sna.com or visit the California Aquatic Bioassessment Web Site (http://www.dfg.ca.gov/cabw/cabwhome.html) for the most current version of the CSBP.

MONITORING STRATEGIES

The CSBP can be used to detect aquatic impacts from point and non-point source pollution and for biological assessment of ambient water quality. This field sampling procedure was designed for collecting benthic macroinvertebrates from individual riffles chosen as part of an appropriately designed monitoring program. The CSBP may not be appropriate for all aquatic monitoring programs - contact WPCL for advice on proper application of the CSBP. The following bioassessment strategies can be employed for:

Point Sources of Pollution - There will be discernable perturbations, impacting structures or discharges into the stream with point sources of pollution. The affected section of stream and an upstream unaffected section should be surveyed for riffles having relatively similar gradient, substrate and physical/habitat condition. Each riffle becomes a potential sampling site for benthic macroinvertebrates. At least one riffle in the unaffected section should be sampled as a control. One or more riffles should be sampled in the affected section depending on the amount of detail that is required on downstream recovery. At least three samples should be collected at each riffle depending on the necessary level of statistical accuracy required for the project.

Non-point Sources of Pollution - There will be no obvious perturbations or discharges into the stream with non-point sources of pollution. The stream or stream section of interest should be surveyed for similar riffles, and then at least three riffles should be

7. Using a pencil, write the following information on a piece of water-proof paper and place in the jar: sample identification number followed by -01, -02 (to identify each transect sampled from a riffled), watershed name, date and sampler's initials.

Habitat Assessment

The habitat assessment portion of this procedure should be used if a more comprehensive physical assessment is not planned. Habitat assessments can be used without biological sampling, but whenever biological sampling occurs, there must be a habitat assessment conducted for every riffle sampled.

- 8. Conduct a rapid assessment of physical conditions for an entire stream reach using the habitat parameters (last two pages of the CSBW) as described while walking in an upstream direction from the bottom to the top of the stream reach. The score should reflect the average conditions for the entire stream reach. Record habitat parameter scores on the cover page of a separate CSBW and make comments on any habitat impairments not covered by the habitat parameters.
- 9. For biological sampling, habitat parameters 1 through 3 should be used to evaluate the average condition along the transacts sampled for benthic macroinvertebrates. Habitat parameters 4 through 7 should be used to assess conditions for a larger area upstream of the riffle section. Habitat parameters 8 through 10 should be used to assess each bank immediately upstream of the riffle section. Record habitat parameter scores on the cover page of each CSBW used for biological sampling.

Sample Handling, Storage and Transfer

- 10. At the end of the field day, record the following information on a COC for each (or group of) biological samples: program name; watershed name; field ID numbers; sampling dates; and name, address, telephone number and signature of one of the crew members collecting the sample.
- 11. Verification samples and COCs must remain in a locked sample depository until a decision has been made to send them to a bioassessment laboratory for processing.
- 12. When transporting to a bioassessment laboratory, each (or group of) sample must be accompanied by a COC. Upon delivery, a Bioassessment Laboratory Number will be assigned to each sample. Record this number on the COC and each individual CSBW along with the name and address of the bioassessment laboratory. When all verification samples listed on the COC are accounted for, then the individual delivering the samples will sign the "Released By" portion and the laboratory personnel will sign the "Received By" portion of the COC. The original COC will remain at the laboratory and a copy will be retained by the project supervisor.

CALIFORNIA STREAM BIOASSESSMENT PROCEDURE FIELD WORKSHEET

HABITAT ASSESSMENT PARAMETERS		
1. INSTREAM COVER:		
2. EPIFAUNAL SUBSTRATE:		
3. EMBEDDEDNESS:		
4. CHANNEL ALTERATION:		
5. SEDIMENT DEPOSITION:		
6. RIFFLE FREQUENCY:		
7. CHANNEL FLOW:		
8. BANK VEGETATION: L:R:		
9. BANK STABILITY: L: R:		
10. RIPARIAN ZONE: L: R:		
COMMENTS:		

CDFG - WPCL

2005 Nimbus Rd. Rancho Cordova, Ca. 95670

(916) 358-2858 FAX (916) 985-4301 e-mail: jharr@sna.com

Bioassessment homepage - http://www.dfg.ca.gov/cabw/cabwhome.html

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AQUATIC BIOASSESSMENT LABORATORY

DATE:

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LABORATORY REVISION DATE - MARCH, 1996

SAMPLE ID:	
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Habitat	Category						
Parameter	Optimai	Suboptimal	Marginal	Poor			
1. instream Cover (Fish)	Greater than 50% mix of snags, submerged logs, undercut banks, or other stable habitat.	30-50% mix of stable habitat for maintenance of populations.	10-30% mix of stable habitat, habitat availability less than desirable.	Less than 10% mix of stable habitat lack of habitat is obvious.			
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0			
2. Epifaunal Substrate	Well-developed riffle and run; riffle is as wide as stream and length extends two times the width of stream; abundance of cobbie.	Riffle is as wide as stream but length is less than two times width; abundance of cobble; boulders and gravel common.	Run area may be lacking; riffle not as wide as stream and its length is less than 2 times the stream width; gravel or large boulders and bedrock prevalent; some cobble present.	Riffles or runs virtually nonexistent; large boulders and bedrock prevalent; cobble lacking.			
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0			
3. Embeddedness	Gravel, cobble, and boulder particles are 0-25% surrounded by fine sediment.	Gravel, cobble, and boulder particles are 25-50% surrounded by fine sediment.	Gravel, cobble, and boulder particles are 50-75% surrounded by fine sediment.	surrounded by fine sediment.			
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 17%	.10::::9: 8: 7: ::6:	5 4 3 2 1 0			
4. Channel Alteration	Channelization or Some channelization New embankments		present on both banks; and 40 to 80% of stream reach channelized and disrupted.	Banks shored with gabion or cement; over 80% of the stream reach channelized and disrupted.			
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0			
5. Sediment Deposition	Little or no enlargement of islands or point bars and less than 5% of the bottom affected by sediment deposition.	Some new increase in bar formation, mostly from coarse gravel; 5-30% of the bottom affected; slight deposition in pools.	Heavy deposits of fine material, increased bar development; more than 50% of the bottom changing frequently; pools almost absent due to substantial sediment deposition.				
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0			

Habitat	Category						
Parameter	Optimal	Suboptimal	Marginal	Poor			
6. Frequency of Riffles	Occurrence of riffles relatively frequent; distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream equals 5 to 7; variety of habitat.	Occurrence of riffles infrequent; distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream equals 7 to 15.	Occasional riffle or bend; bottom contours provide some habitat; distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream is between 15 to 25.	Generally all flat water or shallow riffles; poor habitat; distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream is between ratio > 25. 5: 4 3: 2 1 0			
	Water reaches base	Water fills > 75% of	Water fills 25-75% of	Very little water in			
7. Channel Flow Status	of both lower banks and minimal amount of channel substrate is exposed.	the available channel; or <25% of channel substrate is exposed.	the available channel and/or riffle substrates are mostly exposed.	channel and mostly present as standing pools.			
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	. 15 14 13 12 11	10: 9. 8. 7. 6	5 4 3 2 1 0			
8. Bank Vegetative Protection (score each bank) Note: determine left or right side by facing downstream.	More than 90% of the streambank surfaces covered by native vegetation, including trees, understory shrubs, or nonwoody macrophytes; vegetative disruption, through grazing or mowing, minimal or not evident; almost all plants allowed to grow naturally.	70-90% of the streambank surfaces covered by native vegetation, but one class of plants is not well-represented; disruption evident but not affecting full plant growth potential to any great extent; more than one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining.	50-70% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation; disruption obvious; patches of bare soil or closely cropped vegetation common; less than one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining.	Less than 50% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation; disruption of streambank vegetation is very high; vegetation has been removed to 2 inches or less in average stubble height.			
SCORE (LB)	Left Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0			
SCORE (RB)	Right Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0			
9. Bank Stability (score each bank)	Banks stable; no svidence of erosion or bank failure; little potential for future problems.	Moderately stable; infrequent, small areas of erosion mostly healed over.	Moderately unstable; up to 60% of banks in reach have areas of erosion; high erosion potential during floods.	Unstable; many eroded areas; "raw" areas frequent along straight sections and bends; obvious bank sloughing; 60-100% of bank has erosional scars.			
SCORE (LB)	Left Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0			
SCORE (RB)	Right Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0			
10. Riparian Vegetative Zons Width (score each bank riparian zone)	Width of riparian zone > 18 meters; human activities (i.e., parking lots, roadbeds, clearcuts, lawns, or crops) have not impacted zone.	Width of riparian zone 12-18 meters; human activities have impacted zone only minimally.	Width of riparian zone 6-12 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal.	Width of riparian zone <6 meters: little or no riparian vegetation due to human activities.			
SCORE (LB)	Left Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0			
SCORE (RB)	Right Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0			