

October 29, 2012



Charles R. Hoppin, Chair and Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via Email: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject: Comments on Item 6 on the 11/6/12 State Water Board Agenda (Proposed Resolution Directing Additional Actions to Improve the Underground Storage Tank Program)

Dear Chair Hoppin and Members of the Board:

As the groundwater management agency for Santa Clara County, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) works to aggressively protect groundwater in accordance with District Board policy. Nearly half of the water used in the county comes from groundwater, and in the southern portion of the county, it is the sole drinking water supply source.

The District appreciates your consideration of the following two comments on the subject resolution for the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program:

1. The resolution should be modified such that formal case closure for UST sites is not granted until related monitoring and extraction wells are properly destroyed. The Low-Threat Closure Policy allows for residual contamination to remain in place, which increases the risk of groundwater contamination from abandoned or improperly destroyed wells acting as vertical conduits. Requiring responsible parties (RPs) to properly destroy related wells before the case is closed will help ensure a low threat to human health and the environment.
2. The resolution should be modified such that the Path to Closure Plan is developed by the RP, with the concurrence of the regulatory agency. While it is appropriate for the regulatory agency to identify impediments to closure (as required by the Low-Threat Closure Policy), the RP is best equipped to identify specific remedial actions and associated timelines to remove the impediments to closure.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (408) 630-2073.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Maher".

Joan Maher, P.E.
Deputy Operating Officer
Water Supply Division

cc: J. Fiedler, B. Ahmadi, V. De La Piedra, G. Cook

