

INFORMATION SHEET

ORDER NO. R5-2005-_____
NPDES NO. CA0082511
AAF-McQUAY, INC., ET AL.
GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION SYSTEM
TULARE COUNTY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Due to pollution of groundwater underlying two neighboring industrial sites in Visalia, identified as the west and east parcels, AAF-McQuay, Inc., is engaged in an extensive groundwater cleanup effort. AAF-McQuay, Inc. assumed the lead for remediation in December 1990.

AAF-McQuay, Inc., as system operator, is the primary discharger. G&H Enterprises, LLC., Danny S. Freitas and Jeannette Freitas; Fewer Ranch; The Estate of Bill B. Banias; Clifton G. Harris III and Charmaine L. Harris; Arthur Duarte and Katherine Duarte Family Trust; and Delbert and Geraldine Williamson and Mohr Family Revocable Living Trust, as property owners where groundwater is extracted or owners and lease holders who accept treated groundwater for irrigation, are secondary dischargers responsible for assuring that irrigation practices do not cause nuisance or adversely impact plume containment and cleanup.

Past industrial activities at the “west” and “east” parcels, contributed to groundwater degradation. The west parcel of 20 acres is at 6941 West Goshen Avenue (APN 081-03-69). In 1966, the Bostitch Division of Textron, Inc. developed a portion of the 20-acre parcel and manufactured nail and staple products and fastening devices. About 10 acres of the property was used as cropland. The manufacturing operations stopped in 1982. In 1986, The Stanley Works purchased the property and, as Stanley Bostitch, Inc., a Rhode Island corporation, started manufacturing coiled nail products and discharged rinse waters containing residual solution from acid and alkaline baths into dry wells. Stanley Bostitch, Inc. discontinued operation of the facility in 2001.

The east parcel of 10 acres is at 6707 West Goshen Avenue (APN 085-02-38). From 1961 to 1974, McQuay Perfex Corporation manufactured heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment at this site. From 1976 to 1982, SSP Agricultural Equipment, Inc. manufactured wind machine parts at the plant. SnyderGeneral Corporation assumed the assets and liabilities of McQuay Perfex Corporation in 1984. In 1994, SnyderGeneral Corporation was acquired in a stock purchase by the O.Y.L. Group. The acquisition resulted in a name change from SnyderGeneral to AAF-McQuay, Inc. From 1982 to 1996 the plant was used to manufacture extruded plastic products by SunStar Plastics Engineering Corporation and Pepco Water Conservation Products, Inc. Since 1996, the plant has been leased by R. Lang, Inc. for storage of home improvement products for retail distribution.

INFORMATION SHEET ORDER NO. R5-2005-XXX
AAF-McQUAY, INC., ET AL
NPDES NO. CA 0082511
GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION SYSTEM
TULARE COUNTY

In 1984, Tulare County sampled the on-site water well and detected trichloroethylene (TCE). Between 1984 and 1987, 16 on-site monitoring wells were installed and TCE; 1,1-dichloroethylene (1,1-DCE); tetrachloroethylene (PCE); and 1,1-dichloroethane (1,1-DCA) were detected above Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Other detected constituents were below the MCLs.

The Regional Board and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) determined that operations at the Stanley Bostitch facility and the facility adjacent and east of Stanley Bostitch, the east parcel, contributed to the degradation of groundwater by VOCs through the discharge of process wastewater to dry wells. The dry wells at the west parcel were abandoned in 1983 and “clean-closed” by removal of the surface casings, excavation and removal of soils to a depth of 20 feet, and backfill of the excavated area with grout in 1986. The dry wells at the east parcel were abandoned in 1980 and “clean-closed” in the Spring of 1990.

AAF-McQuay, Inc. assumed lead responsibility of cleanup and currently operates the groundwater extraction, treatment and disposal system and discharges treated groundwater to North Branch Mill Creek Ditch at two locations (Discharge 001 and 003) and to 12 agricultural fields (Discharge 002). Currently groundwater is extracted from six wells located on property owned by the secondary dischargers listed above. Treatment is by two sets of activated carbon treatment tanks. Each set has two vessels operated in series.

North Branch Mill Creek Ditch is an ephemeral stream tributary to Cross Creek that flows to the Tule River during wet years. Effluent discharged to North Branch Mill Creek Ditch is used for irrigation at various points below the outfalls and for groundwater recharge. Agricultural uses of North Branch Mill Creek Ditch waters are primarily for field crops and a few orchards.

The soils in the uppermost strata of the site range from loam to sandy loam. Because of their granitic parent material, these soils are typically coarse textured. The surficial deposits in the uppermost strata comprise soils that are primarily sandy silt and silty sand. The surficial deposits extend to depths of about 10 to 20 feet below ground surface with an average thickness of about 15 feet.

Based on the information obtained from the *Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells in Unconfined Aquifer*, published by the Department of Water Resources in 1996, the depth of groundwater in the region is 75 to 90 feet below ground surface. During the past 10 years, the regional groundwater table has dropped about 50 feet largely due to overdraft pumping for agricultural purposes. Groundwater flow is normally towards the west, southwest with a hydraulic gradient of about 10 feet per mile. During the pumping season, large cones of depression in the potentiometric surfaces form around the pumping wells.

Average annual precipitation in the area is 12 inches and the annual pan evaporation is 77 inches, based on climatological data collected from 1960 to 1987 by the Department of Water Resources.

Remediation activities at the site are proceeding under California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Determination and Order No. I&S 90/91-001.

DTSC is the lead agency in the site remediation activity. On 11 December 1997, DTSC approved the Final Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the site, which established groundwater target cleanup levels for the compounds of interest at their respective MCLs.

The Discharger conducts short-term pumping tests at the monitoring or extraction wells. Pumped water would be diverted to any one of the treatment units for treatment prior to discharge. The Discharger also proposes occasional discharge of untreated wastewater of small volumes to the agricultural fields during well development, redevelopment, or tests of well pump repairs. The discharge of untreated wastewater would be limited to 100,000 gallons per 5-day period and such events would not occur more than 10 days per year. Such discharges appear to be insignificant. If spread out on the smallest field, field No. 9 of two acres, the flow would result in a hydraulic loading of only 270 gal/ac/day.

COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Receiving water data collected under the previous Order includes two sampling events in 1999. One sample was taken at receiving water sampling station R-2 (100 feet downstream from Discharge 001/treatment unit 28B5/28G1) on 9 September 1999 and one sample was taken at receiving water sampling station R-3 (100 feet downstream from Discharge 003/treatment unit 28E3) on 15 December 1999. In the R-2 sample, 1,1-dichloroethylene was detected at 1.1 µg/L, and cis-1,2-dichloroethylene was detected at 0.77 µg/L. In the R-3 sample 1,1-dichloroethylene was detected at 0.66 µg/L.

A Notice of Violation was issued to the Discharger on 16 November 1999 for exceeding the monthly median concentration for selected volatile organic compounds to North Branch Mill Creek Ditch in August and September 1999. The violation occurred due to breakthrough of the carbon treatment unit No. 28B5/28G1. Fresh carbon was placed in the polish vessel of the unit on 22 October 1999. Regional Board staff conducted a review of the Discharger's monitoring data for 1998 and 1999. The results indicated that breakthrough of the 28B5/28G1 treatment unit occurs approximately every six months and breakthrough on the 28E3 treatment unit occurs approximately annually. In response to this the Discharger accelerated the schedule for replacing carbon in the treatment units.

BENEFICIAL USES OF THE RECEIVING WATER

The Basin Plan designates the beneficial uses of Valley Floor Waters, such as North Branch Mill Creek Ditch and Cross Creek (Hydrologic Area 558.10) as:

- agricultural supply (AGR);
- industrial service supply (IND);
- industrial process supply (PRO);
- water contact recreation (REC-1);
- non-contact water recreation (REC-2);
- warm freshwater habitat (WARM);
- wildlife habitat (WILD);
- support of rare, threatened, or endangered species (RARE); and
- groundwater recharge (GWR).

The beneficial uses of the underlying groundwater, as identified in the Basin Plan, are municipal and domestic, industrial service, industrial process, and agricultural supply.

REASONABLE POTENTIAL ANALYSIS

A reasonable potential analysis was conducted using all monitoring data submitted by the Discharger. Discharger monitoring data for VOCs are included in Attachment C. An effluent limitation is included where there exists the reasonable potential to exceed a TBEL¹, specified in Finding 36, or cause an exceedance of applicable water quality objectives in North Branch Mill Creek Ditch (whichever is more stringent). Table 1 summarizes the reasonable potential analysis for detected constituents.

TABLE 1 – REASONABLE POTENTIAL ANALYSIS SUMMARY

Constituent	Units	MEC	WQO	TBEL	RP
Copper	µg/L	11	10.1	-	Y
Chloromethane	µg/L	0.52	-	<0.5	Y
Chloroform	µg/L	0.75	1240	<0.5	Y

¹ Technology Based Effluent Limit. These limits are applied as the daily maximum effluent limits for all VOC constituents and are more stringent than the most restrictive applicable water quality criterion or objective.

cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	µg/L	1.6	-	<0.5	Y
1,1-Dichloroethylene	µg/L	2.7	3.2	<0.5	Y
1,1-Dichloroethane	µg/L	-	-	<0.5	Y ¹
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	µg/L	2	-	<0.5	Y
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	µg/L	-	42	<0.5	Y ¹
Tetrachloroethylene	µg/L	1.7	840	<0.5	Y
Trichloroethylene	µg/L	1.6	81	<0.5	Y

¹ Reasonable potential finding based on groundwater investigations showing the presence of these constituents. See Finding 7.

In accordance with the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (hereafter referred to as the SIP), on 19 July 2001 and 25 March 2002 the Discharger reported analytical results for 126 priority pollutants, pH, and hardness in the effluent. The Discharger also submitted analytical results for each of the 17 TCDD congeners listed in Table 4 of the SIP. The Discharger did not submit receiving water data necessary to determine whether additional limits are necessary protect already impaired receiving waters (i.e. SIP third trigger). This Order requires receiving water data and may be reopened to include additional limits if necessary. Also, the existing data have MLs for many of the VOCs that are higher than those required by Section 2.4 of the SIP (i.e. the reported MLs were too high to determine whether or not VOCs are present in the discharge at levels which could cause exceedances of applicable water quality objectives).

The above information is necessary to determine whether constituents in the discharge, in addition to those specified in Table 1 have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality criteria for North Branch Mill Creek Ditch. Therefore, instead of requiring a Priority Pollutant Analysis once during the permit term, this Order requires an initial analysis (**by 30 June 2007**), and an analysis within one year of Order expiration (see Monitoring and Reporting Program, **California Toxics Rule Monitoring**). However further dioxin monitoring is not required. The Discharger submitted dioxin monitoring previously as required, and no dioxins were detected in its effluent. The Implementation Policy allows the Regional Board to exempt the Discharger from further dioxin monitoring because it is a low volume discharger, and dioxin has not been detected in its effluent during previous monitoring events.

This Order also contains provisions that allow the Regional Board to reopen the Order and insert limitations based on Priority Pollutant Analysis monitoring.

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING

Federal regulations, 40 CFR Part 122.44 (d)(1)(i), require that NPDES permit effluent limitations control all pollutants which are or may be discharged at a level which will cause or have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an in-stream excursion above any State water quality standard, including any narrative criteria for water quality. Beneficial uses, together with their corresponding water quality objectives or federally promulgated water quality criteria, are defined per federal regulations as water quality standards.

State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 68-18 requires implementation of Best Practicable Treatment and Control (BPTC) to ensure that the highest water quality is maintained consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State. Federal Regulations require effluent limits representing best available technology economically feasible (BAT) for all toxic pollutants. For treatment of VOCs in groundwater, BAT is consistent with BPTC. BAT based on Regional Board staff's best professional judgment, and BPTC for groundwater degraded by VOCs, provides that the pollutants should be discharged at concentrations less than quantifiable levels for each pollutant.

The effluent limitations consider BPTC for VOC removal, the historical performance of the on-site treatment systems, receiving water conditions, and USEPA Method quantitation limits and are less than California Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels.

Changes From Previous Order No. 98-200 (Effluent Limitations)

Volatile Organic Compounds. Previous Order No. 98-200 assigned VOC monthly median limitations that were less than current detection levels (<0.5 µg/L), but assigned a daily maximum of 5 µg/L for these constituents. This Order assigns daily maximum BAT/BPTC limitations for VOCs that are less than the current detection levels (<0.5 µg/L), and does not contain a monthly median limitation. Also, technology based limitations for chloromethane are included in this Order because it was detected in the effluent at a concentration that is greater than current applicable technology based effluent limitations of <0.5 µg/L.

Previous Order No. 98-200 assigned VOC daily maximum limitations of 5 µg/L for discharge to adjacent land areas (Discharge 002). This Order requires that all discharges, including those to adjacent land, meet BAT/BPTC requirements described above.

See the "Technology Based Effluent Limitations" section of this Information Sheet for additional information.

Copper Limitations. This Order contains water quality based effluent limitations for copper based on CTR criteria for the protection of aquatic life. See “Copper Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations,” below, for additional information.

Conductivity Limitations. The Basin Plan establishes maximum effluent limitations for EC in surface water discharges as follows: “The maximum electrical conductivity of a discharge shall not exceed the quality of the source water plus 500 micromhos per centimeter or 1,000 micromhos per centimeter, whichever is more stringent. When the water is from more than one source, the EC shall be a weighted average of all sources.” This Order establishes effluent limitations for EC based on the Basin Plan requirement.

Boron Limitations. The Basin Plan requires that the boron concentration in all surface water discharges be less than 1.0 mg/L. This Order establishes effluent limitations for boron based on the Basin Plan requirement.

Chloride Limitations. The Basin Plan requires that the chloride concentration in all surface water discharges be less than 175 mg/L. This Order establishes effluent limitations for chloride based on the Basin Plan requirement.

Copper Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations

Copper was found to have a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an in-stream excursion above a narrative or numerical water quality standard. Copper has CTR acute and chronic receiving water objectives for the protection of aquatic life that are dependant on receiving water hardness. The criteria were calculated using minimum reported effluent hardness because North Branch Mill Creek Ditch is effluent dominated and the Discharger has not submitted receiving water hardness data. If receiving water monitoring shows that the hardness is significantly different from the effluent hardness, the Order may be reopened to include additional effluent limitations, or change existing limitations. The reasonable potential analysis is summarized for copper below:

	Highest Concentration in Effluent	Most Restrictive Water Quality Objective	<u>Criteria Source</u>	<u>RP</u>
Copper	11 µg/L	10.12 µg/L	CTR Chronic	Y

Water quality based effluent limitations (WQBELs) calculated for copper, based on the most restrictive water quality objectives and the methodology presented in the SIP, are summarized below. A detailed derivation of the WQBELs is shown in Attachment D.

	<u>AMEL</u> ¹	<u>MDEL</u> ²
Copper	7.6 µg/L 0.05 lbs/day ³	15.3 µg/L 0.1 lbs/day

¹ Average monthly effluent limitation.

² Maximum daily effluent limitation.

³ Mass based effluent limitations were calculated using the long term average effluent discharge rate for Discharges 001 and 003 (0.79 mgd discharge calculated from Tables 1 and 2 of Finding 8).

Mass based effluent limitations were calculated using the average effluent discharge flow rates for Discharges 001 and 003 (i.e. summation of the average effluent flows for each discharge point) in accordance with 40 CFR 122.45. The average effluent discharge flow rates for Discharges 001 and 003 are shown in Tables 1 and 2 of Finding 8. Therefore, when assessing compliance with the limitations, the Discharger must calculate the total mass emission rate of copper from Discharges 001 and 003.

Based on available copper monitoring results, the Discharger will not immediately be able to comply with the above AMEL of 7.6 µg/L. Therefore interim copper limitations have been included in the Order provided that the Discharger complies with the information requirements contained in Provision F.6. The above final effluent limitations will take effect in the shortest practical time, but no later than **28 April 2010**.

Interim Copper Limitations

The U.S. EPA adopted the NTR and the CTR, which contains water quality standards applicable to this discharge and the SIP contains guidance on implementation of the NTR and CTR. Interim limitations are established when compliance with NTR- and CTR-based Effluent Limitations cannot be achieved by the existing discharge. The SIP, Section 2.2.1, requires that if a compliance schedule is granted for a CTR or NTR constituent, the Regional Board shall establish interim requirements and dates for their achievement in the NPDES permit. The interim limitations must: 1) be based on current treatment plant performance or existing permit limitations, whichever is more stringent; 2) include interim compliance dates separated by no more than one year, and; 3) be included in the permit provisions.

Concerning the development of interim effluent limitations, USEPA's effluent database suggests that effluent concentrations are best characterized as a lognormal distribution. USEPA has developed a statistical approach which combines the knowledge of effluent variability, as

estimated by a coefficient of variation (CV), with the uncertainty due to a limited number of data, to project an estimated maximum concentration for the effluent. This estimated maximum pollutant effluent concentration can be calculated as the upper bound of the expected lognormal distribution of effluent concentrations at a high confidence level. This statistical approach is outlined in USEPA's *Technical Support Document for Water Quality Based Toxics Control* (TSD) (EPA/505/2-90-001).

In developing interim limitations, the Regional Board has considered the recommendations of the TSD. Where applicable, interim maximum daily effluent limitations have been established in this Order based upon the estimated maximum effluent pollutant concentration, representative historical effluent data, and the statistical approach described in TSD Chapter 3 (Box 3-2, Table 3.1). Where data sets are small and/or where a CV cannot be calculated, a CV of 0.6 may be used as a default measure of the relative variability in these calculations. When calculating a CV from a particular effluent pollutant data set where concentrations were reported as less than detectable, one half of the detection limit was used in the calculation.

The SIP, Section 1.2, states, "When implementing the provisions of the Policy, the Regional Board shall use all available, valid, relevant, representative data and information, as determined by the Regional Board. The Regional Board shall have discretion to consider if any data are inappropriate or insufficient for use in implementing this Policy." The Board will review all data relevant to establishing an interim effluent limitation and determine on a constituent-by-constituent basis the validity of each data set in representing "the current treatment plant performance."

The interim limitations in this Order are based on the current treatment plant performance and the Order includes a time schedule for compliance with final effluent limitations. The Regional Board finds that the Discharger can maintain source control and treatment plant measures to consistently comply with the interim limitations included in this Order. However, discharge of constituents in concentrations in excess of the final effluent limitations, but in compliance with the interim effluent limitations, can significantly degrade water quality and adversely affect the beneficial uses of the receiving stream on a long-term basis. For example, USEPA states in the Ambient Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life for copper, that it will take an unstressed system approximately three years to recover from a pollutant in which exposure to copper exceeds the recommended criterion. The following interim limitations for copper establish an enforceable maximum effluent concentration until compliance with the final effluent limitations can be achieved:

	<u>MDEL</u> ¹
Copper	81.4 µg/L 0.5 lbs/day ²

1 Maximum daily effluent limitation.

2 Mass based effluent limitations were calculated using the long term average effluent discharge rate for Discharges 001 and 003 (0.79 mgd discharge, see Tables 1 and 2 of Finding 8).

Technology Based Effluent Limits

Section 1.4 of the SIP requires that water quality based effluent limits be compared to technology based effluent limits and that the more protective limit be applied in the permit. Therefore, technology based effluent limits must be developed for each constituent detected in the effluent or groundwater at the site². For establishing BAT based upon BPJ, 40 CFR 125 requires consideration of several specific factors. The following factors were considered:

Appropriate Technology for Category or Class of Discharges, Processes Employed, Engineering Aspects of Various Control Techniques. GAC treatment systems are commonly used to remove VOCs from extracted groundwater at cleanup sites. Systems are designed to remove VOCs to nondetectable concentrations. Properly operated and maintained systems perform reliably and ensure essentially complete removal of VOCs. The Discharger employs GAC systems.

Age of Equipment. GAC units were installed in 1993 and have not been upgraded.

Influent, Effluent, and Receiving Water Data. GAC systems are currently in place elsewhere in the State and monitoring data has shown that these systems are capable of consistent VOC removal to levels less than the MLs.

Unique Factors Relating To The Applicant. The Discharger has not identified any unique factors that would justify discharges equaling or exceeding quantifiable concentrations of VOCs.

Non-Water Quality Environmental Impacts, Including Energy Requirements; Cost Of Achieving Proposed Effluent Reduction. The systems currently in place reliably remove VOCs to nondetectable concentrations of <0.5 µg/L, therefore, implementation of the proposed limits would not create additional non-water quality impacts, or financial costs for the Discharger.

² All VOCs detected in the groundwater, influent, or effluent were considered in this analysis.

The above supports a conclusion that the limits of <0.5 µg/L as a daily maximum reflect BPTC/BAT.

The technology based standard for cleanup of VOCs in groundwater with GAC treatment systems is that all effluent should be discharged with unquantifiable levels of VOCs in the effluent. For priority pollutants the MLs listed in Appendix 4 of the SIP represent the minimum quantifiable levels of these constituents and serve as the technology based effluent limits. For non-priority pollutants (cis-1,2-dichloroethylene), California Department of Health Services publishes Detection Limits for purposes of Reporting (DLRs) which establish minimum quantifiable levels for numerous organic chemicals. The DLR for cis-1,2-dichloroethylene serves as the technology based effluent limitation (TBEL). A summary of the TBELs is listed below in Table 2:

TABLE 2 - TBELS

Constituent	Source	TBEL
Chloromethane	SIP MLs	<0.5 µg/L
Chloroform	SIP MLs	<0.5 µg/L
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	CA Health Services DLRs	<0.5 µg/L
1,1-Dichloroethylene	SIP MLs	<0.5 µg/L
1,1-Dichloroethane	SIP MLs	<0.5 µg/L
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	SIP MLs	<0.5 µg/L
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	SIP MLs	<0.5 µg/L
Tetrachloroethylene	SIP MLs	<0.5 µg/L
Trichloroethylene	SIP MLs	<0.5 µg/L

MONITORING

This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) has the following differences from the previous MRP No. 98-200:

Influent and Mid-treatment Monitoring. Quarterly influent and Mid-treatment VOC monitoring is required. This information will assist in determining VOC levels in influent, and associated prediction of breakthrough. Quarterly frequency is reasonable given that the breakthrough is predicted every 6-months to 1-year.

Priority Pollutants. Two separate Priority Pollutant sampling events are required to provide CTR data pursuant to the requirements of the SIP. See “Reasonable Potential Analysis,” of this Information Sheet.

Toxicity. Annual acute toxicity monitoring and once per permit term chronic toxicity are required to assess the toxicity of the discharge on receiving waters.

RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS

This Order includes Receiving Water Limitations for: bacteria, biostimulatory substances, chemical constituents (lead, arsenic, barium, copper, cyanide, iron, manganese, silver and zinc), color, floating material, oil and grease, pH, pesticides, radioactivity, sediment, settleable material, suspended material, tastes and odors, temperature, toxicity, turbidity, chloride, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen based on the applicable narrative and numeric water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plan.

Antidegradation and CEQA Considerations

The permitted discharge is consistent with the anti-degradation provisions of 40 CFR 131.12 and Resolution No. 68-16. BPTC for cleanup of groundwater degraded by volatile organic constituents and extracted for treatment is removal of VOCs to a level at or below corresponding analytical quantitation limits. Some resulting degradation of the receiving waters could occur if VOCs are present at concentrations below the quantitation limits, but such degradation would not be quantifiable. The Discharger has not submitted an analysis to the Regional Board demonstrating that degradation resulting from discharges of VOCs at concentrations in excess of quantifiable levels would be consistent with the maximum benefit of the people of the state and Resolution No. 68-18. During periods of limited or no dilution, some degradation of the receiving water may occur from these pollutants, however, the discharge will not cause an exceedance of water quality objectives or cause a significant impact on the beneficial uses of groundwater and surface water. The continued remediation of degraded groundwater, and the use of the treated groundwater for irrigation and discharge to North Branch Mill Creek Ditch, both benefit the people of the state.

The action to adopt waste discharge requirements (NPDES permit) for this facility is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Section 13389 of the California Water Code.