
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 29, 2017

The Honorable David Alvarez
San Diego City Council, District 8
City Administration Building
202 C Street, 10th Floor
San Diego, California 92101

Subject: Closure of Low-Threat Petroleum Cleanup Site Adjacent to Cesar Chavez Park

Dear Council Member Alvarez:

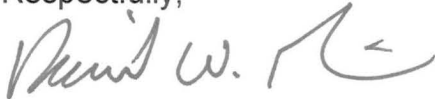
The Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board), is well aware of the environmental justice challenges faced by the community of Barrio Logan and the fact that Cesar Chavez Park is the only location where community members have access to San Diego Bay. The purpose of this letter therefore is to ensure you are aware that: (1) a recent investigation has confirmed that a low-threat petroleum cleanup site in the vicinity of the Park does not pose a risk to human health or to the environment; and (2) the Water Board is now proposing to close this site.

Background: The area where Cesar Chavez Park is now was historically the location of several fuel pipelines, aboveground storage tanks, and underground storage tanks that were removed or abandoned prior to the mid-1990s. Residual petroleum hydrocarbons from former operations remain in soil and groundwater, specifically under the pavement of the parking lot adjacent to the Park. To evaluate whether the remaining petroleum is currently an environmental risk, the San Diego Water Board worked with the Port of San Diego, the property owner, to perform an investigation in early 2017. The investigation found that remaining constituents are present at low concentrations and are generally at least 5 feet below ground surface, which is also beneath the pavement of the parking lot. The investigation concluded that no exposure pathways exist and confirmed that residual contamination beneath the parking lot does not pose a risk to Park visitors or to the surrounding communities. Accordingly, and consistent with the criteria for closure under the State's Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy, the San Diego Water Board proposes to issue a letter of "no further action" to close the case, assuming no significant issues arise during the public notification period ending September 6, 2017.

The public notice regarding the proposed closure can be reviewed at http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/regulators/deliverable_documents/6066710531/Water%20Street%20Web%20Site%20Public%20Notice%20NFA.pdf. Information about the case, including historical documentation and recent environmental reports, can be found in our Geotracker database at: http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0608133034.

If you have questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David W. Gibson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Gibson
Executive Officer

Cc: Port Commissioner Rafael Castellanos
Council Member Georgette Gomez
Senator Toni Atkins
Supervisor Greg Cox
Diane Takvorian, Environmental Health Coalition
Eric Bowlby, Canyonlands
George Courser, Sierra Club