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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

12 MAR 1986

Mr. Stan Phillippe
Calif. Dept. of Health Services
Toxic Substances Control Division
1219 K Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Phillippe:

Enclosed for your review and comment is a copy of the Draft San Gabriel Supplemental Sampling Program (SSP) Report prepared by EPA's contractor, CH_2M Hill. As you know, the primary purpose of the SSP was to obtain the best representation possible of the extent of ground water contamination through the use of data obtained from existing ground water wells in the basin. Sampling activities during the SSP were coordinated with the sampling activities conducted pursuant to Assembly Bill 1803 (AB 1803) to ensure that there would be no duplication of effort. The results of the SSP will assist in the design of a cost-effective groundwater monitoring well installation program that will be implemented during the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS).

In addition, I have also enclosed, for your information, an updated summary of the sampling results that were obtained for the 70 wells that were sampled by CH_2M Hill during the SSP. EPA has also provided the individual well owners with the sampling results listed in this summary. Please be advised that several changes have been made to the data reported in the sampling results summary that was provided to Tom Bailey of your office in my letter of December 26, 1985. These changes include: 1) deletion of reported positive findings for several organic compounds due to a reassessment of the quality assurance data associated with the analysis of field blanks; and 2) deletion of all reported results for the perchlorate ion analyses.

All perchlorate ion analysis results have been deleted due to an identified deficiency in the analytical method used. Examination of the laboratory method for perchlorate ion analysis revealed that the presence of nitrates at levels above 1 mg/l is known to interfere positively with perchlorate ion. Data concerning the presence of nitrates has been provided by the

Sanitary Engineering Branch of California DOHS for 10 of the 14 wells sampled for perchlorate ion. Nitrate levels ranged from 3.5 to 110 mg/l. The concentrations of perchlorate ion reported by the laboratory were not corrected for the presence of nitrates. In addition, an assessment of the analytical method conducted by the Southern California Laboratory of DOHS concluded that the presence of several other ions (Br^-, CO_3^{2-}, and SO_4^{2-}) also interferes with the method. Therefore, the perchlorate data reported by the laboratory is considered invalid.

Please note that the draft report and sampling results are only being provided to the San Gabriel Management and Technical Committees at this time for review and comment. A draft report will be released to the public after this review is completed.

I would like to invite you to a joint meeting of the Management and Technical Committees scheduled for 1:00 P.M., March 27, 1986, at the offices of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, 11310 East Valley Boulevard in El Monte, California, to discuss comments on the draft SSP Report. In addition, this meeting will also be used to provide the committees with an update of the status and schedule for Superfund activities in the San Gabriel Valley, clarify the roles that the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and the committees will play during the San Gabriel RI/FS, and, if time allows, discuss EPA's proposed approach for conducting the RI/FS.

I request that you be prepared to discuss your comments on the draft report at the March 27 meeting or that written comments be submitted by that date. If you prefer, however, you may direct your comments and questions by telephone to Neil Ziemba at (415) 974-7520.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Keith Takata

Keith A. Takata
Chief
Superfund Programs Branch

Enclosures

cc: San Gabriel Management & Technical Committees