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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

November 8, 2010

The Honorable Betty Putnam
Mayor of Santa Fe Springs
11710 Telegraph Avenue
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670-3579

Dear Mayor Putnam:

Thank you for your letter dated October 25, 2010 requesting that EPA hold an additional public meeting in Santa Fe Springs to discuss the proposed cleanup plan for contaminated groundwater in Operable Unit 2 (OU-2) of the Omega Chemical Corporation Superfund Site. We appreciate your interest in the cleanup decision at this Site. We believe that our office has conducted an extensive public involvement effort related to this proposed cleanup plan that included public meetings as well as face-to-face meetings with both staff and city officials of the City of Santa Fe Springs as summarized in the following paragraph. For this reason, EPA is not prepared to offer any additional public meetings at this time. The 90-day public comment period will end on November 22, 2010.

On August 19, 2010, nearly 3500 recipients including your city officials were mailed the OU-2 Proposed Plan fact sheet that included a summary of the proposed cleanup plan and an invitation to attend the open house and public meeting that EPA held on August 31, 2010 at the Whittier Community Center. Your city representatives attended that meeting, at which EPA described the rationale and scope of the proposed cleanup action. This opportunity allowed time for the general public and city officials to ask questions and get clarification on the plan. EPA also published a notice in the local newspaper for this meeting.

Since the meeting, EPA has received and approved two requests to extend the public comment period. It was extended in September for 30-days; and again in October for an additional 30-days and now ends on November 22, 2010. For both extensions of the public comment period, EPA published a notice in the local newspaper, sent a notice to the Site's mailing list and contacted your city officials. Following the public meeting we have received only a few clarifying questions from residents. We have also met or talked with public and other stakeholders and stakeholder groups (including Golden State Water Company, the Central Basin Water Authority, the South East Water Coalition and the City of Norwalk) to answer their questions about the proposed plan.

At the end of the comment period, EPA will consider both written and recorded comments before selecting the OU-2 remedy. A responsiveness summary, which consists of written responses to all comments, will be attached to the Record of Decision (ROD) for the OU-2 remedy. A notice will be published in the newspaper and a fact sheet summarizing the ROD sent to the Site's mailing list. Both items will let the public know the ROD is available at the Site Information Repository located at the Whittier Public Library and can also be found online at EPA's web page for the Omega Chemical Corporation Site: http://www.epa.gov/region09/OmegaChemical.

We are available to answer questions from the public and interested stakeholders at any time. There will be additional public involvement opportunities during the design and implementation of the cleanup remedy after it is selected.

I hope you find this information helpful, and I look forward to receiving the City of Santa Fe Spring's written comments. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at (415) 947-4183 or via e-mail at deschambault.lynda@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Lynda Deschambault

Lynda Deschambault,
Remedial Project Manager
Superfund Division, SFD-7-1

Cc: The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Lori Parnass, DTSC