Message

From: Chen, Christopher [CHEN.CHRISTOPHER@EPA.GOV]
Sent: 2/18/2014 7:29:18 PM
To: McKinley, Helen [McKinley.Helen@epa.gov]
CC: Chan, Patrick [Chan.Patrick@epa.gov]; Overman, Pamela [Overman.Pamela@epa.gov]; Sakamoto, Glenn [Sakamoto.Glenn@epa.gov]; Ebbert, Laura [Ebbert.Laura@epa.gov]; johnf@sanpasqualtibe.org
Subject: RE: Chicken Ranch Map and Address (San Pasqual Tribe Follow-up)

Thanks for the great information, Helen. I'm checking with the state-regulated PWS to make sure that there is nothing to be concerned about in regards to drinking water.

Christopher Chen
Enforcement Division - SDWA/FIFRA Section
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (ENF 3-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (415) 972-3442

-----Original Message-----
From: McKinley, Helen
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 11:25 AM
To: Chen, Christopher
Cc: Chan, Patrick; Overman, Pamela; Sakamoto, Glenn; Ebbert, Laura; johnf@sanpasqualtibe.org
Subject: RE: Chicken Ranch Map and Address (San Pasqual Tribe Follow-up)

Hi Chris - No there have been no nitrate impacts to San Pasqual's wells. Currently some of the reservation (District B and the Casino) is served 100% by municipal water from Valley Center's state-regulated PWS. District A is served by one well, and Valley Center supplements that supply as much as 80% at this time. The one well on District A detects nitrate from ND to < 2 mg/l as nitrogen - very low numbers. They sample for nitrate annually. The map mentioned in this email string was not attached, but it sounds like the facility is off res, but close by. My sanitary survey visit in March 2012 did not observe or smell this facility as we inspected both water systems (District A and District B). Well 3 on District A is under consideration for use and the data historical and current on that well is ND for nitrate as nitrogen. Thank you for checking with me on this question and I would appreciate any further information about it, Helen

PS - an internet search reveals that Armstrong Egg Farms sells eggs and certified organic poultry compost - so they are probably composting their chicken manure and that would be aromatic! The company has been there a very long time - established in 1947. Their facebook site is https://www.facebook.com/armstrongeggfarms.

-----Original Message-----
From: Chen, Christopher
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 10:16 AM
To: McKinley, Helen
Subject: FW: Chicken Ranch Map and Address (San Pasqual Tribe Follow-up)

Hi Helen,
I recently received this email and wanted to check with you to see if you have any knowledge of San Pasqual's drinking water situation. Apparently there is concern with nitrate levels in their drinking water? I didn't notice any violations within DIME but I might have been looking in the wrong places.

Thanks!
Chris

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-----Original Message-----
From: Chan, Patrick
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 10:59 AM
To: Chen, Christopher
Cc: Young, Marvin; Pringle, Everett; Sakamoto, Glenn; Shareem, Jelani
Subject: FW: Chicken Ranch Map and Address (San Pasqual Tribe Follow-up)

Hi Chris,

Can you look into this facility? Armstrong Chicken Farm. People are concerned about the animal wastes generated from this facility. The smell too!! There are possible wastewater violations, but there might be also drinking water violations too? HIGH NITRATE! IN the TRIBE's wells. This facility is located near the San Pasqual Tribe, San Diego, CA.

Thanks,
Patrick Chan
2-3551

-----Original Message-----
From: Sakamoto, Glenn
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 9:32 AM
To: Chan, Patrick
Subject: FW: Chicken Ranch Map and Address (San Pasqual Tribe Follow-up)

Patrick,

This facility is located in the San Diego area, not Los Angeles area as previously cited. Thanks.

I look forward to hearing back from you on any DW violations noted for this facility.

Glenn

-----Original Message-----
From: Sakamoto, Glenn
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 9:17 AM
To: Greenberg, Ken
Subject: RE: Chicken Ranch Map and Address (San Pasqual Tribe Follow-up)

Ken - I called the RWQCB, Los Angeles office yesterday and left a voice mail message with the waste water program unit supervisor, Cassandra Owens (213)576-6750. She returned my call at COB yesterday. I returned her call this morning ROC: 2/13/14, 9:05am.

Record of Communication:

- I inquired into NPDES or WDR coverage on this site. Answ: There is no NPDES or WDR on Armstrong Chicken Ranch.

- Ms. Owens was unfamiliar with the name but will look into the details of this facility.

- I inquired whether there is potential drinking water contamination in the area of this facility. I will inquire with our Drinking Water folks to see if they know of this facility and any pertinent violations.

- Ms. Owens will e-mail me any existing details the Regional Board has.

...more details to come.

-Glenn

-----Original Message-----
From: Greenberg, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 9:06 AM
To: Sakamoto, Glenn
Subject: FW: Chicken Ranch Map and Address (San Pasqual Tribe Follow-up)

Glenn - please check with Regional Board to see if they have this chicken ranch under an NPDES or WDR permit. Also see if RWQCB knows anything about drinking water contamination in this area. You may also need to check with Water Division drinking water folks. Then let's discuss before responding to Laura Ebbert. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----
From: Ebbert, Laura
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 5:33 PM
To: Greenberg, Ken
Cc: Overman, Pamela; Miller, Amy
Subject: FW: Chicken Ranch Map and Address (San Pasqual Tribe Follow-up)

Ken!
Following up on Jared's fairly recent trip to southern California, we have an action item that he originally suggested should be Air-Enforcement's, but upon further discussion it sounds like it might be Water-Enforcement.

The general issue is this: there is a high-density chicken farm immediately adjacent to the San Pasqual tribe. The odor from this farm is apparently eye-watering. The Tribe may have nitrate exceedance in their drinking water (or might have concerns about nitrates - I wasn't sure). There are questions from Jared about what regulatory oversight the EPA may have over this facility, and it looks like if it's anyone, it might be in your program (runoff? Storage and disposal of animal waste?).

Pam Overman is our most knowledgeable person here in CED who can provide you more information - let me know if we three should meet to share with you what we know so far.

Thanks!

LE

Laura Ebbert
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-----Original Message-----
From: Overman, Pamela
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 4:25 PM
To: Salazar, Matt
Cc: Ebbert, Laura; Schultz, Frances; Zimpfer, Amy
Subject: FW: Chicken Ranch Map and Address (San Pasqual Tribe Follow-up)

Hi Matt,
The San Pasqual Tribe sent me the attached map which shows the Armstrong Chicken Ranch and the closest reservation boundaries.
They also gave me the following address for the Ranch:
27431 North Lake Wohlford Road
Valley Center, CA 92082

The Environmental Director mentioned that they stockpile manure and sell it commercially. This seems to be another source of the blowing debris.

Feel free to let me know if you need any additional information.

Pam

Pamela Overman
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-----Original Message-----
From: Desiree Morales Whitman [mailto:Desireem@sanpasqualtribe.org]
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 1:55 PM
To: Overman, Pamela
Subject: Fwd: Chicken Ranch Map

Desiree Morales Whitman

Here is the map showing the chicken ranch and its relation to the Reservation.