California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for Environmental Protection

Internet Address: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb8
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Gray Davis
Governor

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb8.

November 10, 2003

Thomas M. Cota, Branch Chief
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Southern California Cleanup Operations – Cypress Branch
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

CITY OF RIVERSIDE – FORMER SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, CITY YARD, AND AGRICULTURAL PARK

Dear Mr. Cota:

This will follow up your recent conversations with Mark Adelson of my staff regarding the above-referenced site. As you know, we initially became involved with this site because of concerns that the grading project was impacting a wetland. These concerns have now been addressed.

During this same grading project, the developer encountered a subterranean tank containing a sludge-like substance. Most of this material was transported to the sludge drying beds at the City of Riverside's wastewater reclamation facility for further processing. Subsequent analyses of this material showed that it contained concentrations of PCBs at levels that would classify it as a hazardous waste. As soon as they realized the nature of this material, the City notified us and promptly began removing it, as well as the asphalt and concrete liner, to an approved hazardous waste disposal site. All of the material has been removed from the sludge drying beds and the City has monitored internal piping and treatment processes, as well as the effluent from the plant, and has not detected any residuals. We believe that the City has performed adequate cleanup activities at the wastewater reclamation plant and we have closed our files on this project.

A Site Investigation, dated September 23, 2003 (enclosed) was performed to evaluate the extent of contamination at the former wastewater treatment site. This investigation indicates that, although soil contaminated with PCBs remains at the site, water quality does not appear to be threatened. However, the contaminated soil may pose a health risk. Since the site does not pose a threat to water quality, it appears appropriate that your department should assume lead responsibility for further investigation/cleanup oversight of this site.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (909) 782-3284, or Gary Stewart of my staff at (909) 782-4379.

Sincerely,

for Gerard J. Thibeault
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Site Investigation (9/23/03)
Environmental Site Assessment (3/11/03)

cc: Debbie Anderson, City of Riverside, Public Works Department – Engineering
Stephen Schultz, City of Riverside, Public Works Department – Sewage Systems