

KRISTI FURMAN
Clerk of the Board

RECEIVED
COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE



TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4221
FAX: (707) 463-4245
EMAIL: bos@co.mendocino.ca.us
www.co.mendocino.ca.us/bos

2009 APR - COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
501 Low Gap Road • Room 1090
Ukiah, California 95482

March 31, 2009

Maziar Movassaghi, Acting Director
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 I Street, 25th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Department of Toxic Substances Control to Assume Lead Oversight for the Investigation and Remediation of Soil and Groundwater Contamination at the Former Masonite Industrial Plant Site

Dear Director Movassaghi:

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors unanimously requests that the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) assume lead oversight for the investigation and remediation of soil and groundwater contamination at the former Masonite industrial plant site. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) is currently the lead oversight agency for this site. Given the lengthy history and documented use of a wide array of toxic substances at this site the Board of Supervisors believes that it is prudent for DTSC to assume lead oversight responsibility at this site.

The Masonite plant site operated for more than fifty years, beginning in 1951, a time when the environmental and health related impacts of modern industrial chemicals were not as clearly understood and carefully regulated as they are at present. Concern persists in the community about known and unknown soil and groundwater contamination and remediation at the site that may be attributable to the significant number and quantities of highly toxic substances that are known to have been used on site.

Concern has been raised that the Soil and Groundwater Management Plan (SGMP) does not properly describe or account for past use of toxic substances at the site. Toxic substances known to have been used at the site or produced as byproducts of the manufacturing process include furans, dioxins, PCBs and an array of heavy metals. Particularly in light of plans to develop the site for alternate uses, proper site characterization is necessary to provide assurance that all soil and groundwater contamination is being properly remediated.

The SGMP incorrectly states that the Mendocino County Division of Environmental Health (MCDEH) is the "secondary oversight agency for environmental issues" at the site. With all due respect, MCDEH does not have the capacity, in terms of technical expertise or available personnel, to act in the capacity of secondary oversight agency for this site, and does not, in fact, do so. The role of MCDEH at this site will generally be limited to permitting and supervision for the removal of underground tanks and the installation of monitoring wells.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

C: Tom, ALISON

CARRE BROWN
First District

JOHN MCCOWEN
Second District

JOHN PINCHES
Third District


KENDALL SMITH
Fourth District

J. DAVID COLFAX
Fifth District

We believe DTSC is uniquely qualified to provide the technical and scientific expertise necessary to assure the public that all toxic contamination issues have been properly investigated and remediated. Accordingly, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that DTSC assume the responsibility of lead oversight agency for the former Masonite industrial plant site.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John Pinches, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Attachments:

- Soil and Groundwater Management Plan
- Citizens for Adequate Review letter of August 27, 2008
- Citizens for Adequate Review letter of March 5, 2009

cc: ✓ Linda Adams, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
✓ Tom Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer
CFAR