

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
CRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



March 20, 2012

Landowner
Address
City, State Zip code

DWR Parcel No.:
County:
APN:

SUBJECT: Geotechnical Activities in Support of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has received requests from landowners to eliminate the environmental lab testing of soil samples collected during the performance of geotechnical explorations associated with parcels that have been and are under consideration by the California Water Commission related to the BDCP.

In the event DWR observes on-site indicators during the course of the geotechnical explorations, DWR staff is specifically trained to act with special safety caution. On-site indicators, including dead vegetation, crusting, discolored soil, and odors, may indicate the presence of above-threshold levels of certain chemical compounds. If on-site indicators are encountered during field explorations, DWR staff is instructed to immediately discontinue field exploration, maintain a safe distance from the area, and immediately notify the landowner. Initial course of action may include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Dispatch a trained environmental scientist and health and safety team to assess the "observational circumstance." If this occurs, then the landowner will be notified of this additional investigation at least 48 hours before dispatching the team.
2. If the initial findings appear to confirm the potential presence of a hazardous substance, samples will be collected for laboratory testing.
3. Upon verification of the substance from the testing, notifications will be made to the relevant governing authorities, including CAL-EPA, local county authorities, and other agencies with authority over hazardous substances.

Laboratory testing helps identify the potential presence of chemical substances within the subsurface materials including hydrocarbons, metals, toxic metalloids (including arsenic), and pesticides (Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons, California Administrative Manual (CAM-17) California Code of Regulations Title 22, and EPA SW8081A). Such testing is required to minimize worker exposure to unsuitable materials and to identify the amount of unsuitable material, if any, that needs to be disposed of in order to support construction planning and to address related environmental impacts.

Additionally, DWR will remove cuttings and drilling mud from the site during the course of DWR's geotechnical explorations. The operator of the landfill where these cuttings will be disposed requires the materials to be tested prior to disposal. The results of recent lab testing have not required any reporting action by DWR. Substances that have been tested have not exceeded the threshold limits established by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

While DWR acknowledges landowner's concerns, it is DWR's legal obligation to comply with all applicable laws and regulations. As stated in previous correspondence, DWR cannot accept responsibility for preexisting hazardous materials found on the property, if any, nor can DWR accept responsibility for any necessary remediation. Past experience indicates that the likely presence of hazardous materials is very low.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding this matter, please contact (Land Agent's Name) at (916) xxx-xxxx, toll free at (866) 688-3227, or by email at XXXX@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Allan Davis
Supervising Land Agent