

SSFL Stormwater Expert Panel*

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March 29, 2010

To: Cassandra Owens, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Cc:

Re: Expert Panel NPDES Recommendations Regarding Dioxins and Metals in Stormwater

Dear Ms. Owens:

Attached please find our reports on dioxins and metals for the SSFL site and permit. These reports represent an independent assessment by the Expert Panel on the background levels of dioxins and metals which may be helpful to the Board when considering stormwater limits. These reports were prepared as a result of our commitment to the Board at an earlier hearing.

We have carefully reviewed the SSFL stormwater dioxin data, dioxin literature (on stormwater and other waters), and other NPDES permits that regulate dioxins. As you know from our previous reports and presentations, the Panel believes that the current TCDD Toxicity Equivalent (TEQ)-based dioxin NPDES permit limits are so low that many other types of stormwater runoff – including from industrial, resident/urban, and even open (i.e., natural reference watersheds) landuses – would frequently exceed permit values. We have proposed an alternative way of reporting and regulating dioxins with particular reference to the SSFL site but may also be useful in other applications.

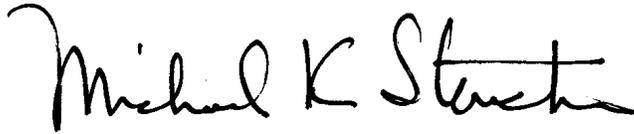
The attached dioxin report suggests an alternative methodology for regulating dioxins for your consideration. We also understand that other California Regional Boards are now struggling with this same problem. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Board, for example, has recently issued an order (R2-2010-0054) changing the way dioxin and furan TEQs are calculated. We will be studying their recent order and how it might relate to SSFL and other permits.

* The Expert Panel members are acting as private consultants in order to assist the Regional Board and The Boeing Company develop and implement methods to meet the requirements of Cease and Desist Order R4-2007-0056, dated November 1, 2007. Their opinions and directives are not the opinions and directives of their respective employers.

We are also attaching our metals report that discusses background sources and levels, as well as compliance issues (similar to dioxins) that would be encountered should these permit limits be applied to many other stormwater runoff sources, again including both developed and open landuses. This report suggests accounting for background levels when developing permit limits, as well as other important recommendations. Like the dioxin report, this metals report was also promised to your Board at an earlier hearing.

We apologize for the delay in getting this information to you. Please contact us with any questions that you, your staff or the Board members might have.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael K Stenstrom". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'M' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael K. Stenstrom, for the Expert Panel