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September 28, 2017

Ms. Diane Smith
Executive Officer
High Desert Association of Realtors
11890 Hesperia Road
Hesperia, CA 92345

Dear Ms. Smith,

Thank you for discussing with me on-going PG&E's Cr(VI) groundwater remediation in Hinkley. In that, there may be questions from your association members about the status of on-going remediation efforts, please find described below some key facts:

1. The hexavalent chromium Cr(VI) groundwater plume has been, and continues to be, controlled through a variety of proven remediation technologies. Plume boundaries are well defined. Cr(VI) concentrations continue to decline, and in large areas of the mapped plume, are already under the State mandated drinking water standard. [The so-called maximum contaminant level (MCL)¹].
2. There are no private residences or domestic water wells, within the Cr(VI) groundwater plume area, which have the most elevated concentrations of Cr(VI).
3. Every quarter, up to approximately 600 monitoring wells are sampled, including approximately 50 domestic wells. ALL sampled domestic wells are below, what has been the California drinking water standard.
4. On November 4, 2015, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board signed a cleanup and abatement order which established the requirements and clean-up goals for managing the Cr(VI) plume².
5. The USGS³ has been conducting a comprehensive evaluation of groundwater conditions in the Hinkley Valley. The goal is to definitively address what are the naturally occurring background levels of Cr(VI), and what is the man-made Cr(VI) contribution from PG&E's historic release at their compressor station. This study is on schedule and a draft of the final report will be released towards the end of 2019⁴.

¹ In 2014, California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) established a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium at 10 parts per billion. Recently (August 2017), as a result of legal action, this MCL was withdrawn by SWRCB. Until a revised MCL is adopted by SWRCB, the total chromium MCL (currently 50 parts per billion) will be used as the drinking water standard. Please refer to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/docs/coc_hexchromcr6.pdf

² https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2015/pr11915_pge_cao.pdf

³ United States Geological Survey

⁴ <https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2016/1004/ofr20161004.pdf>

In summary, should any potential real estate transactions in the Hinkley Valley become compromised due to perceptions about Cr(VI) impacts in groundwater, we hope that your membership can become familiar with the knowledge that the Cr(VI) issues are well defined and being remediated.

In our capacity, as an independent third-party technical resource for the Hinkley Community, Project Navigator, Ltd., as the IRP Manager, maintains a website with a wealth of information which is a resource to your membership:
www.hinkleygroundwater.com.

Should your members and affiliates have specific questions about a land parcel's proximity to the Cr(VI) groundwater impacts, please have them contact us.

Respectfully,



Anna Marie Cwieka
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Project Navigator, Ltd.



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