## **FEASIBILITY STUDY**

# **South Basin Groundwater Protection Project Operable Unit 2**

*Prepared for:* 

**Orange County Water District**

*18700 Ward Street Fountain Valley, California 92708* 

*Prepared by:* 



9820 Willow Creek Road, Suite 395 San Diego, California 92131 (858) 221-0264

Project No. 151099







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## <span id="page-13-0"></span>**ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**









## <span id="page-17-0"></span>**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### Introduction

This Feasibility Study (FS) has been prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) on behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) in support of the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being conducted by OCWD to address groundwater contamination in Operable Unit 2 (OU2) in the south-central portion of the Orange County Groundwater Basin (the Basin) in Orange County, California (Study Area) (Figure ES-1). OU2 is groundwater contamination in the Shallow Aquifer System off-property of numerous groundwater contamination source sites located within the SBGPP Study Area where groundwater contaminant plumes emanating from individual source sites have migrated and commingled. (Figure ES-2).

The purpose of this FS is to provide detailed evaluation and comparative analysis of remedial alternatives that were developed in the Feasibility Study Initial Screening Evaluation (FSISE) and the Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation (FSDE) to address groundwater contamination in OU2 (EA, 2021b and 2021e; OCWD, 2021). The FSISE and FSDE were submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for their technical review as part of the reporting requirements listed in the Proposition 1 Grant Agreement (No. D1712505) for the RI/FS between OCWD and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Division of Financial Assistance (DFA).

This FS is the culmination of and comprises the FSISE and the FSDE and incorporates all of the related comments and revisions, additional analyses, and information associated with these documents that were requested by the RWQCB, the State Water Board DFA, and the DTSC during the meetings and in the communications referenced in Section 1.0.

Additionally, during the period April 8 through July 6, 2022, comments on the draft OU2 FS were received from the following entities as part of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) review:

- a letter from the Irvine Ranch Water District dated June 27, 2022;
- a letter from Geosyntec Consultants on behalf of SoCo West, Inc. (SOCO) dated June 30, 2022, with s supplement provided by Geosyntec Consultants on July 5, 2022;
- a letter from Newmeyer Dillion on behalf of DRSS-I, LCC (DRSS) dated July 5, 2022;
- an e-mail from CDM Smith on behalf of Textron dated July 5, 2022;
- an e-mail from Carl Benninger dated July 6, 2022;
- an email from the DTSC dated June 16, 2022, that was transmitted to OCWD on July 11, 2022.

These comments were evaluated and are addressed in the text of this document and as detailed in Appendix V.

OCWD is conducting the SBGPP RI/FS in cooperation with the DTSC and the RWQCB to develop an interim remedy for OU2 groundwater contamination.

## Geology and Hydrogeology

From shallow to deep, the three aquifer systems in the Study Area are the Shallow Aquifer System, the Principal Aquifer System, and the Deep Aquifer System. Although identified as separate systems, the aquifer systems are known to be hydraulically connected as groundwater flows between them by way of discontinuities in the aquitards or leakage through the intervening aquitards (OCWD, 2015).

Based on comparison of the elevations of storm channel bottoms in the Study Area with groundwater elevations in the upper portion of the Shallow Aquifer System, it appears that the base of some of the channels in the southern portion of the Study Area are below the water table within the Shallow Aquifer System (Figure ES-3). The base of the channels in the northern portion of the Study Area and the base of some of the channels in the southern portion of the Study Area are above the water table in the Shallow Aquifer System. In cases where the base of the channels is below the water table of the Shallow Aquifer System, there is potential for groundwater to flow from portions of the Shallow Aquifer System into the channels.

## Water Supply Wells

Inventories for water supply wells in and adjacent to the Study Area indicate that more than 80 water supply wells have been installed since the latter half of the 1800s with the actual location and current status of many, if not most, of these wells remaining unknown (Figure ES-4). Chemicals of Concern (COCs) have been detected in active and inactive water supply wells within and near the Study Area. Former abandoned and likely improperly destroyed water supply wells in the Study Area may also act as conduits for the transport of groundwater containing COCs from the Shallow Aquifer System downward into the underlying Principal Aquifer System.

#### Chemicals of Concern

For the purposes of this document, and as described herein, OU2 COCs are defined as compounds that originated from the source sites, which:

- Exceed human health exposure point concentrations (EPCs); and/or
- Exceed toxicity benchmarks for surface water receptors for non-volatile compounds.

COCs originating from the source sites were identified in the Preliminary Remedial Investigation Report (Preliminary RI Report) (Aquilogic, 2015). The SRI identified Compounds of Potential Concern (COPCs) and principal COPCs (Hargis +Associates, Inc.  $[H + A]$ , 2020). The Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) identified COPCs and chemicals of potential environmental concern (COPECs) (TFG, 2020).

The revised HHERA was prepared in response to comments from, and subsequent discussions with, the RWQCB and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) (TFG, 2020). The HHERA quantified potential risks associated with residential and ecological exposure to contaminants in groundwater. Specifically, the receptors evaluated included a residential child, residential adult, freshwater and saltwater aquatic plants, aquatic invertebrates, and fish. Fiftyeight COPCs exceeding EPCs were identified in the HHERA. Of these only the following were

identified as contaminants of concern originating from the source sites and are designated as OU2 groundwater COCs:

- Trichloroethylene (TCE)
- Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)
- $\bullet$  1,1-Dichloroethylene (1,1-DCE)
- 1,4-Dioxane
- Perchlorate
- Hexavalent chromium (Cr6)
- Vinyl chloride
- 1,1-Dichloroethane (1,1-DCA)
- 1,2-Dichloroethane (1,2-DCA)
- cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (cis-1,2-DCE)
- $1,1,2$ -Trichloroethane  $(1,1,2$ -TCA)

Regarding potential surface water exposures, thirty-eight COPECs exceeding toxicity benchmarks (TBs) were identified in the HHERA. Of these, volatile compounds were removed as OU2 surface water COCs, since these compounds volatilize and are diluted short distances and time periods after entering surface water features. Cr6 was the only remaining non-volatile contaminant of concern originating from the source sites at concentrations exceeding TBs and is therefore the only OU2 groundwater COC related to potential surface water receptors.

Based on the preceding, the term COCs is used in this document to identify the chemicals that will be the subject of OU2 IRMs. The terms COPCs, principal COPCs, and COPECs are used herein only when discussing or referencing their definitions and usage in previous documents<sup>[1](#page-19-0)</sup>.

#### Nature and Extent of OU2 COCs

The Shallow Aquifer System in the Study Area is characterized by various lenses, layers, interbeds, and mixtures of interfingered fine and coarse-grained material. Based on detailed lithologic evaluation and Figures 5-17A through 5-17N in the SRI Report (H+A, 2020), the Shallow Aquifer System, with increasing depth, was subdivided into the following four layers:

- Layer 1: an uppermost fine-grained portion at and below the water table;
- Layer 2: a generally laterally continuous predominantly coarse upper sand zone;
- Layer 3: a mixed zone of sands and fine-grained materials; and
- Layer 4: a laterally continuous and relatively coarse-grained basal sand (Basal Sand).

As discussed with, and to incorporate comments from the RWQCB and the State Water Board DFA, this FS includes additional evaluation and description of the stratigraphic Layers 1 through 4 presented in Section 1.2.1 of the FSISE and the SRI Report cross sections (SRI Figures 5-16

<span id="page-19-0"></span><sup>1</sup> Preliminary RI Report (Aquilogic, 2015), SRI Report (H+A, 2020), HHERA Report (TFG, 2020).

through 5-17N). Revised plan-view figures of COCs in OU2 groundwater were classified into Layers 1 through 4 and are included herein. During the April 7, 2021 meeting, it was agreed that the FS would include figures illustrating color-coded symbols classified by concentration ranges ('color dot maps') for each COC except 1,1-DCA, 1,2-DCA, and 1,1,2-TCA (these chemicals have low prevalence and concentrations in groundwater and concentration range figures do not provide meaningful utility), for each of Layers 1 through 4. Also, as discussed with and requested by the RWQCB and the State Water Board DFA, this FS describes source site-specific hydrostratigraphic units (HSUs) and their correlation with the preceding Layer 1 through 4 designations in areas adjacent to or near conceptually planned OU2 interim remedial measures (IRMs).

## Remedy Status and Remedial Action Objectives

One of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) primary goals for any corrective action program is to expedite risk reduction through implementation of interim measures to control or minimize ongoing or potential threats to human health or the environment (USEPA, 2012). In many state and federal remedial programs, interim measures are used to address risks to human health or the environment in advance of final remedy selection. The recommended Interim Measure Performance Standard includes:

- 1. Control, minimize, or eliminate releases(s) or potential release(s) that pose actual or potential threats to human health and the environment and,
- 2. To the extent practicable, be consistent with remedies that meet the remedy performance standard.

Consistent with USEPA guidance, OCWD intends to implement IRMs that will be consistent with any final remedy, if required. Conceptually, the IRMs would be applied to OU2 groundwater, and long-term groundwater monitoring would be performed as part of these actions. Five-year remedy reviews would be performed to track the progress and effectiveness of the IRMs. The five-year remedy reviews also would evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the source site remedial efforts as they pertain to preventing off-property migration of COCs. Evaluation of the combined effectiveness both of the OU2 IRMs and the source site remedial efforts would provide the basis for determining if changes to source site remedial efforts were warranted and/or if changes to the IRMs were warranted.

Specific recommended remedial action objectives (RAOs) for IRMs contemplated within the OU2 are:

- 1. Protect groundwater resources from further degradation by preventing lateral and vertical migration of high concentration COCs into zones with lower concentrations of COCs within OU2, to the extent practicable;
- 2. Protect groundwater resources by preventing the potential for vertical migration of high concentration COCs from the upper/middle portions of the Shallow Aquifer System to the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells, to the extent practicable;
- 3. Protect groundwater resources from further degradation by preventing the spread of COCs exceeding maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in the leading-edge areas of the plume, to the extent practicable;
- 4. Implement a reliable interim groundwater remedy(s) that is compatible with ongoing and planned remediation at source sites and associated off-property locations, where applicable;
- 5. Prevent discharge of COCs exceeding ecological risk-based concentrations from the Shallow Aquifer System to surface water channels; and
- 6. Prevent human exposure to contaminated groundwater with COC concentrations exceeding MCLs or other applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs).

#### Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements

Potential federal and State of California ARARs have been identified and evaluated from the universe of regulations, requirements, and guidance for the SBGPP.

#### General Response Actions, Remedial Technologies, and Process Options

General Response Actions (GRAs) are medium-specific response categories that are likely to satisfy the RAOs as defined by USEPA guidance. GRAs and associated remedial technologies and process options evaluated for OU2 groundwater are presented as follows:



 $POTW = \frac{pubits}{pubits}$  owned treatment works

GWRS = OCWD's Groundwater Replenishment System Advanced Wastewater Purification Facility

For the purposes of this document, source removal and/or source control remedial technologies that have been, are being, or will be implemented at source sites are not included as GRAs, since these efforts are assumed to be implemented by potentially responsible parties under the oversight of state agencies.

#### Screening of Remedial Technologies and Process Options

Consistent with USEPA guidance, "Effectiveness, implementability, and cost are the criteria used to evaluate and select representative process options."

From the list of technologies potentially applicable for remediating OU2 groundwater, many technologies were excluded from further consideration because they were considered less or not effective, not implementable, or too costly relative to the retained technologies. The main bases for screening the excluded technologies included:

- Inability to treat 1,4-dioxane,
- Potential for incomplete volatile organic compound (VOC) degradation/byproduct generation,
- Incompatibility with off-property access and encumbrance limitations within OU2, and/or
- Relatively high cost for little or no benefit in effectiveness or implementability over other technologies.

Based on the initial screening, the following remedial technologies and process options were retained for development of remedial alternatives:

- No Action
- Institutional Controls
- Monitoring
- Containment with treated water discharge to:
	- o POTW and GWRS, or
	- o Injection into the Shallow Aquifer System
- Monitored Natural Attenuation
- In-Situ Chemical Oxidation (ISCO) using persulfate
- Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells, if located

## Remedial Alternatives for Further Detailed Evaluation

Excepting the No Action alternative, Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells process options are not considered stand-alone remedial alternatives, but each of them is recommended as components of any remedial alternative(s) applied as part of OU2 IRMs. Based on the retained process options, the following alternatives were developed in the FSISE to address OU2 IRM RAOs and are further evaluated in detail herein:

- Alternative  $1 No$  Action
- Alternative 2 Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA)
- Alternative 3 Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS
- Alternative 4 Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to the Basal Sand
- Alternative 5 In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation
- Alternative 6 Containment and In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS

Detailed Evaluation of Remedial Alternatives

Section 7 provides detailed evaluation of the remedial alternatives consistent with the following NCP Threshold and Balancing Criteria as well as environmental sustainability:

## **Threshold Criteria**

- 1. Overall protectiveness of human health and the environment
- 2. Compliance with ARARs

## **Balancing Criteria**

- 3. Long-term effectiveness and permanence
- 4. Reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume (TMV) of contaminants through treatment.
- 5. Short-term effectiveness
- 6. Implementability
- 7. Cost

The last two NCP criteria, referred to as "modifying criteria," will be evaluated later and the results will be presented in the Proposed Interim Remedial Action Plan and Responsiveness Summary (IRAP) and the Community Involvement Plan Implementation activities and documents. These criteria are as follows:

- 8. Regulatory agency acceptance
- 9. Community acceptance

## Groundwater Flow Model

A numerical groundwater flow model was developed to support the evaluation of the six remedial alternatives identified above. The numerical modeling is based on the current conceptual hydrogeologic model of the regional and local groundwater flow system. The groundwater flow model was calibrated to transient conditions representative of the low and high potentiometric cycles observed in area monitoring wells. Calibration targets included groundwater levels, groundwater flow directions (estimated from potentiometric surface maps), and vertical hydraulic gradients. The model calibration incorporated historical groundwater extraction from source site remediation systems and the model simulations incorporated ongoing and planned source site remedial system groundwater extraction. In response to comments received from SoCo West, Inc., (SOCO), the OU2 groundwater flow model grid spacing was refined to incorporate the approved SOCO source area remedy which has yet to be installed. The refined OU2 groundwater flow model evaluated change in groundwater flow direction and change in groundwater flux at the SOCO property to assess the influence of OU2 groundwater extraction in the vicinity of the SOCO source control remedy.

## IRM Compatibility with Source Site Remedial Efforts

The compatibility of the planned IRMs with source site remedial efforts that are ongoing or planned in proximity to the conceptual IRMs was also evaluated. The relative changes in groundwater fluxes and/or directions of flow that may result from implementation of Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6 at and near source sites with ongoing or planned remedial actions were evaluated by using the groundwater flow model. Alternative 5 and the ISCO portion of Alternative 6 was evaluated by considering the changes in geochemical conditions at and near source sites with ongoing or planned remedial actions that may result from implementation of these alternatives.

Generally, there were relatively low changes in groundwater fluxes and flow directions in Layers 1 and 2 (the only layers where source site remedial actions are or are planned to be applied) at and near most of the source sites. For the purposes of this evaluation, simulated groundwater flux increases less than a factor of 0.5 and changes in groundwater flow directions less than 20 degrees from ambient (non-IRM pumping conditions) are considered negligible. As further described in Section 7, there are several source sites where the simulated changes in groundwater flux and/or the direction of groundwater flow in Layers 1 and/or 2 resulting from IRM pumping were higher than these screening criteria over limited areas.

For Alternative 5 and the ISCO portion of Alternative 6, it is anticipated that, excepting the Cherry Aerospace source site, changes in geochemical conditions would be limited to the relatively narrow injection width (perpendicular to the direction of groundwater flow) of approximately 24 feet of each ISCO injection alignment, with some changes in geochemical conditions at relatively short distances downgradient of each alignment. It is possible that increases in oxidation potential and/or generation of hexavalent chromium may extend further downgradient of the transects, which could complicate source area remediation at Cherry Aerospace and/or potentially discharge to surface channels in the southern portion of the Study Area. Therefore, Alternative 5 has some potential for impacts to existing remediation systems and/or surface channels in the southern portion of the Study Area. These impacts are less likely for the ISCO portion of Alternative 6.

#### Comparative Analysis

Table ES-1 summarizes a relative comparison and ranking of the six remedial alternatives regarding the degree to which each one satisfies the two threshold criteria and the five balancing criteria. The six alternatives also are compared and relatively ranked in terms of the green or sustainable practices anticipated during IRM implementation. The sustainability assessment was performed to maintain consistency with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Part 300), commonly referred to as the National Contingency Plan or NCP. Specifically, the USEPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) *Principles for Greener Cleanups* was used and is referenced herein (USEPA, 2009), which states "OSWER cleanup programs should consider these Principles for Greener Cleanups during any phase of work, including site investigation, evaluation of cleanup options, and optimization of the design, implementation, and operation of new or existing cleanups." The sustainability assessment, like the Threshold and Balancing Criteria, should be used in the remedy selection process, although it may be considered in some instances to be a secondary consideration relative to the Threshold and Balancing Criteria. More detailed sustainability assessment will be conducted during the design phase to integrate green principles into the overall processes. In general, the distinguishing factors that result in ranking certain alternatives more favorably than others are their ability to meet threshold criteria, their implementability, and their cost effectiveness. Excepting Alternative 1 (No Action), Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells process options would be a component of all applied IRMs, and they would all provide a similar measure of protectiveness to human health and the environment as a component of each alternative.

## **Threshold Criteria**

Comparing the overall Threshold Criteria with each other, Alternatives 3 and 4 rank highest, Alternative 6 ranks moderately high, Alternative 5 has modest ranking, Alternative 2 has a relatively low ranking and Alternative 1 is lowest in rank (Table ES-1).

Alternative 1 (No Action) does not meet the primary threshold criteria of protectiveness of human health and the environment. With excess risk present, this alternative was not retained for consideration as a preferred alternative because of its inability to meet the basic threshold criteria of protectiveness.

Alternative 2 (Monitored Natural Attenuation) also does not meet the primary threshold criteria of protectiveness of human health and the environment with the exception of protection of human exposure to groundwater containing COCs through institutional controls (Table ES-1). In the context of an IRM and since there is no active remediation being implemented there are no chemical-specific ARARs identified for Alternative 2; however, in context of transitioning an IRM to a final remedy, this alternative would not comply with the chemical-specific ARARs associated with the state and federal MCLs for OU2 groundwater COCs in a reasonable timeframe. Alternative 2 does meet the location- and action-specific ARARs.

Alternatives 3 and 4 (Containment with POTW/GWRS and Local Treatment with Reinjection, respectively) meets the primary threshold criteria of protectiveness of human health and the environment and compliance with ARARs (Table ES-1).

Alternative 5 (In-Situ Chemical Oxidation) might meet the threshold criteria of protectiveness of human health and the environment; however, the potential for generation of persistent undesirable byproducts, particularly in close proximity to the surface water channels in the southern portion of the Study Area is of concern (Table ES-1). The potential for generation of persistent undesirable byproducts along with potential for not complying with Basin Plan Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) due to relatively large application of amendments is also of concern when evaluating compliance with ARARs.

Alternative 6 (Containment and In-Situ Chemical Oxidation) is effectively a mix of Alternatives 3 and 5, with a smaller application area for ISCO, thereby reducing, but not eliminating protectiveness of human health and the environment and ARARs (Table ES-1).

## **Balancing Criteria**

Comparing the overall Balancing Criteria with each other, Alternative 3 ranks highest, followed closely by Alternative 4, Alternative 6 ranks moderately high, Alternative 5 has modest ranking, Alternative 2 has a relatively low ranking and Alternative 1 is lowest in rank (Table ES-1).

Alternative 1 (No Action) ranks low in long-term effectiveness, reduction of TMV, and short-term effectiveness, and high in implementability (Table ES-1). It was not ranked in cost.

Alternative 2 (Monitored Natural Attenuation) ranks low in reduction of TMV and short-term effectiveness, relatively low in long-term effectiveness and high in implementability and cost (Table ES-1).

Alternative 3 (Containment with POTW/GWRS) ranks moderately high in cost and high in longterm effectiveness, reduction of TMV, short-term effectiveness and implementability (Table ES-1).

Alternative 4 (Containment with Reinjection) ranks moderately in cost, relatively high in implementability and high in long-term effectiveness, reduction of TMV and short-term effectiveness (Table ES-1).

Alternative 5 (In-Situ Chemical Oxidation) ranks low in cost and moderately in long-term effectiveness, reduction of TMV, short-term effectiveness and implementability (Table ES-1).

Alternative 6 (Containment and In-Situ Chemical Oxidation) ranks relatively low in cost and relatively high in long-term effectiveness, reduction of TMV, short-term effectiveness and implementability (Table ES-1).

#### Green and Sustainable Practices

Comparing the overall Sustainability of each alternative, Alternative 2 ranked highest, followed closely by Alternative 3, Alternative 4 has a modest ranking, Alternative 6 has a relatively low ranking and Alternative 5 has a low ranking (Table ES-1).

#### Other Considerations

The six remedial alternatives were evaluated relative to one another based on compatibility with source site remediation and proximity to the Armstrong Channel (Table ES-1). Alternatives 1 and 2 are compatible with source site remediation systems; however, neither of these alternatives are compatible with Armstrong Channel. Alternative 5 is slightly more compatible with source site remediation systems when compared to Alternatives 3, 4 and 6; however, this alternative is not compatible with Armstrong Channel. Alternatives 3 and 4 are compatible with source site remediation and compatible with Armstrong Channel, given the flexibility and reversibility of these remedial alternatives. In instances where these alternatives have negligible effects, the containment alignment is relatively close to the source site. At these sites, the options for implementation include not installing extraction wells or balancing extraction rates during implementation to moderate and minimize effects of the respective source sites.

**TABLES EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** 




















#### **Table ES-1. Threshold and Balancing Criteria Evaluation for OU2 Interim Remedial Measures Alternatives, Sustainability Assessment and Other Considerations**



#### **Table ES-1. Threshold and Balancing Criteria Evaluation for OU2 Interim Remedial Measures Alternatives, Sustainability Assessment and Other Considerations**

I is understood that cross flow from the Shallow Aquifer System into the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells is difficult to address for any of the alternatives; however, alternatives that begin to m from the Shallow Aquifer System are given a moderate to high ranking.



#### **Criteria Ranking**

- 
- 
- 
- 
- ARAR Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements
- BTU British Thermal Units 0 None/Not Applicable
- $\text{COCs}$  Chemical(s) of Concern 1 Low
- GWRS 2 Low to Moderate OCWD Groundwater Replenishment System Advanced Wastewater Purification Facility
- IRM Interim Remedial Measures 3 Moderate 3 Moderate 3 Moderate 3 Moderate 3 Moderate 4 Moderate 6 High
- ISCO In-Situ Chemical Oxidation
- LGAC Liquid-phase granular activated carbon 5 High
- POTW Public Owned Treatment Works
- RAO Remedial Action Objectives
- WQO Water Quality Objectives from Santa Ana Basin Plan

# **FIGURES EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**







Approximate distribution based on maximum concentration of principal chemicals of potential concern (COPCs) (tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, 1,1-dichloroethylene, perchlorate and 1,4-dioxane, micrograms per liter [ug/l]). See appendix for details.

Water level elevation based on upper shallow aquifer system water level measurements in first half of 2012 (see appendix), feet NAVD88 datum. Q1/Q2 2012 water level contours selected as the data set for this period was more extensive than other data sets.

> FIGURE ES-2. OVERVIEW OF EXTENT OF PRINCIPAL COMPOUNDS OF POTENTIAL CONCERN IN SHALLOW AQUIFER SYSTEM

Street South Main Street §¨¦**I 5** South Main **\*\*\*\*\* SANTA ANA SANTA FE CHANNEL Bristol Street** Bristol Street Edinger Avenue ю 1983 **an t-Grand Avenue** Grand Avenue  $\circledast$ West Warner Avenue Red Hill Avenue  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ **SANTA ANA DELHI CHANNEL** SANTA ANA DELHI CHANNEL East Dyer Road  $\begin{bmatrix} 1,500 & 3,000 \\ 0 & 1,500 & 3,000 \end{bmatrix}$ **BARRANCA CHANNEL \*\*\*\*\* CHANNEL**<br>CHANNEL **SANTA ANA GARDENS**  Feet**LANE CHANNEL ARMSTRONG CHANNEL** Barranca Parkway PETERS CANYON WASH **\*\*\*\*\* BARRANCA CHANNEL SANTA ANA DELHI CHANNEL** LHI CHANNEI **SANDRESO CREEK \*\*\*\*\***¨¦§**I 405 AIRPORT SANTA ANA DEI SAN DIEGO**<br>CREEK O **STORM CHANNEL** CHAREET **\*\*\*\*\***m **LANE CHANNEL** ¨¦§**I 405 SAN JORQUIN SAN DIEGO SAN DIEGO CREEK CHANNEL** Culver Drive **PAULARINO CHANNEL** NOTES: **BUILDING** Study Area Channels, Creeks, Washes Channel bottom elevation in vicinity of Study Area was estimated using LiDAR data. This was compared to approximate elevation of groundwater table based on Channel Bottom Below Water Table (estimated) water levels measured in upper portion of shallow aquifer system to assess whether Channel Bottom Above Water Table (estimated) channel bottom was above or below channel bottom.

> Portions of channels that are not indicated to be above or below channel were either too close to assess or not in Study Area.

**HARGIS + ASSOCIATES, INC** 



# **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This Feasibility Study (FS) has been prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc., (EA) on behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) in support of the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being conducted by OCWD to address groundwater contamination in Operable Unit 2 (OU2) in the south-central portion of the Orange County Groundwater Basin (the Basin) in Orange County, California (Study Area) (Figure 1-1). OU2 is groundwater contamination in the Shallow Aquifer System off-property of numerous groundwater contamination source sites (source sites) located within the SBGPP Study Area where groundwater contaminant plumes emanating from individual source sites have migrated and commingled. There is another Operable Unit designated within the Study Area (Operable Unit 1). Operable Unit 1 is being addressed by responsible parties for the source sites under the oversight of the State of California and pertains to vadose zone and groundwater contamination in the Shallow Aquifer System directly beneath source properties (Aquilogic, 2015).

The purpose of this FS is to provide detailed evaluation and comparative analysis of remedial alternatives that were developed in the Feasibility Study Initial Screening Evaluation (FSISE) and the Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation (FSDE) to address groundwater contamination in OU2 (EA, 2021b and 2021e; OCWD, 2021). The FSISE and FSDE were submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for their technical review as part of the reporting requirements listed in the Proposition 1 Grant Agreement (No. D1712505) for the RI/FS between OCWD and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Division of Financial Assistance (DFA). In a letter dated March 25, 2021, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) transmitted their comments on the FSISE to OCWD (RWQCB, 2021a) (Appendix H). The State Water Board DFA provided their comments on the FSISE in an e-mail to OCWD dated March 29, 2021 (Appendix I). On April 7, 2021, a TAC meeting was convened between representatives of the RWQCB, the State Water Board DFA, OCWD, and EA to discuss the RWQCB and the State Water Board comments on the FSISE (Appendix J). On May 23, 2021, Responses to TAC comments on the FSISE were transmitted to the TAC (EA, 2021d; Appendix K). On May 26, 2021, a TAC meeting was convened between representatives of the RWQCB, the State Water Board DFA, OCWD, and EA to further discuss the RWQCB and the State Water Board DFA comments on the FSISE (Appendix L). On June 17, 2021, the RWQCB transmitted comments on the FSISE to OCWD (Appendix M). On September 20, 2021, OCWD sent the draft FSDE to the TAC (OCWD, 2021). On October 26, 2021, a TAC meeting was convened between representatives of the RWQCB, the State Water Board DFA, DTSC, OCWD, and EA to discuss incorporation of FSISE comments into the FSDE (Appendix N). On November 10 and 15, 2021, OCWD received DTSC comments on the FSDE (Appendix O). On November 24, 2021, OCWD received RWQCB comments on the FSDE (Appendix P). On December 1, 2021, a TAC meeting was convened between representatives of the RWQCB, the State Water Board DFA, DTSC, OCWD, and EA to discuss incorporation of FSISE comments into the FSDE (Appendix Q). On December 15, 2021, a TAC meeting was convened between representatives of the RWQCB, the State Water Board DFA, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), OCWD, and EA to continue discussion of the December 1, 2021 TAC meeting topics (Appendix R). On December 16, 2021, OCWD transmitted preliminary draft responses to the TAC review comments on the FSDE (Appendix S). On January 10, 2022, a TAC meeting between representatives of the RWQCB, the State Water Board DFA, OCWD, and

EA was convened to discuss the modeling particle tracking portion of the FSDE (Appendix T). On April 7, 2022, OCWD transmitted the draft OU2 FS to the OCWD South Basin Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG). On May 25, 2022, a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) meeting to discuss the draft OU2 FS was convened, which included participants from the SAG, OCWD, the TAC, and EA.

During the period April 8 through July 6, 2022, SAG comments on the draft OU2 FS were received from the following entities as part of the SAG review (Appendix V):

- A letter from the Irvine Ranch Water District dated June 27, 2022;
- A letter from Geosyntec Consultants on behalf of Soco West, Inc. (SOCO) dated June 30, 2022 with s supplement provided by Geosyntec Consultants on July 5, 2022;
- A letter from Newmeyer Dillion on behalf of DRSS-I, LCC (DRSS) dated July 5, 2022;
- An e-mail from CDM Smith on behalf of Textron dated July 5, 2022;
- An e-mail from Carl Benninger dated July 6, 2022;
- An email from the DTSC dated June 16, 2022, that was transmitted to OCWD on July 11, 2022.

Additionally, on June 28, 2022, OCWD presented a status update on the South Basin project and the alternatives evaluated in the Draft OU2 FS Report to the City of Santa Ana's Delhi Community Association. As part of OCWD's outreach, notifications of the community meeting were sent by mail to all residents and businesses within the South Basin study area.

A Technical Memorandum *Response to Comments on Draft Feasibility Study Report, South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2*, prepared by EA, dated November 28, 2022 (Appendix V) evaluated and addressed the above comments, which included updated cost estimates for certain remedial alternatives; evaluation of OU2 groundwater extraction influence on the SOCO source site remedy; and, typographical and minor editorial revisions.

On November 8, 2022, a TAC meeting between representatives of the RWQCB, the State Water Board DFA, DTSC, OCWD, and EA was convened to discuss response to SAG comments on the draft OU2 FS (Appendix U).

This FS is the culmination of and comprises the FSISE and the FSDE and incorporates all of the related comments and revisions, additional analyses, and information associated with these documents that were requested by the RWQCB, the State Water Board DFA, and the DTSC during the meetings and in the communications referenced in the preceding paragraph.

This FS includes the following elements:

- Section 1 provides an introduction, the overall purpose and scope of the Feasibility Study (FS), an outline of the scope of this document, remedy status, and a background summary of the Study Area.
- Section 2 presents remedial action objectives (RAOs) for OU2 groundwater.
- Section 3 presents applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs).
- Section 4 provides the evaluated general response actions, remedial technologies and process options.
- Section 5 presents a screening evaluation of remedial technologies and process options.
- Section 6 presents and summarizes remedial alternatives based on the retained remedial technologies and process options.
- Section 7 provides a detailed analysis of remedial alternatives.
- Section 8 presents a comparative analysis of remedial alternatives.
- Section 9 presents references cited.
- Appendix A summarizes the data and methods used to prepare the chemicals of concern (COCs) in OU2 groundwater plan view figures.
- Appendix B describes potential federal and State of California ARARs for the SBGPP.
- Appendix C provides an OU2 remedial alternatives sustainability assessment.
- Appendix D provides detailed cost estimates for OU2 remedial alternatives.
- Appendix E presents details of numerical groundwater flow model development, calibration, and modeling results to support the FS process.
- Appendix F summarizes source site hydrostratigraphic units correlated with Layers 1 through 4 defined herein and groundwater extraction rate estimates, where available
- Appendices G through T provide correspondence, meeting minutes, and evaluations prepared as a result of the 2021 and 2022 TAC meetings.
- Appendix U provides the November 8, 2022 OCWD South Basin Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (D1712505)
- Appendix V, Response to SAG Comments on Draft Feasibility Study Report, South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2

#### **1.1 Remedy Status**

One of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) primary goals for any corrective action program is to expedite risk reduction through implementation of interim measures to control or minimize ongoing or potential threats to human health or the environment (USEPA, 2012). In many state and federal remedial programs, interim measures are used to address risks to human health or the environment in advance of final remedy selection (USEPA, 2012). The recommended Interim Measure Performance Standard includes:

- 1. Control, minimize, or eliminate releases(s) or potential release(s) that pose actual or potential threats to human health and the environment and,
- 2. To the extent practicable, be consistent with remedies that meet the remedy performance standard.

USEPA believes that the recommended performance standard for interim measures to "control, minimize or eliminate" covers the broad range of actions that might be needed at a site-specific level in the short term to address risk to human health and the environment during interim measures (USEPA, 2012). USEPA guidance states that interim measures should, to the extent practicable, be consistent with final remedies (USEPA, 2012). In choosing interim measures, the primary elements of what would be acceptable as a final remedy for the site, including preference for treatment of principal threats, should be considered in the design and application of interim remedial measures (IRMs). A variety of types of interim measures have been implemented (USEPA, 2012). In most cases, these measures, such as source removal, supply of alternate water supplies, plume containment or access controls, have been consistent with any final remedy and are an effective use of remedial resources (USEPA, 2012).

Another USEPA guidance document (USEPA, 1999a) describes when interim actions may be appropriate and states: "Reasons for taking an interim action could include the need to:

- Take quick action to protect human health and the environment from an imminent threat in the short term, while a final remedial solution is being developed; or
- Institute temporary measures to stabilize the site or operable unit and/or prevent further migration of contaminants or further environmental degradation."

The second bullet applies to OU2 IRMs.

In response to the State Water Board DFA comments on the FSISE, it is noted that Interim Remedial Actions do not include numeric cleanup goals as part of RAOs, nor do they provide an estimate for cleanup times (USEPA, 1991 and 1999). Comparing the anticipated relative durations of remedial operations, groundwater extraction and treatment (GET) and in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) would be similar and monitored natural attenuation (MNA) would be longer than either GET or ISCO. For Alternatives 2 through 6, it is expected that the IRMs will operate for at least several decades, so 30 years was used as a basis of the comparisons and cost estimates.

Consistent with the preceding USEPA guidance, OCWD intends to implement IRMs that will be consistent with any final remedy, if required. Conceptually, IRMs would be applied to OU2 groundwater and long-term groundwater monitoring would be performed as part of these actions. Five-year remedy reviews would be performed to track the progress and effectiveness of the interim remedy. The five-year remedy reviews also would evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the source site remedial efforts as they pertain to preventing off-property migration of COCs. Evaluation of the combined effectiveness both of the OU2 IRMs and the source site remedial efforts would provide the basis for determining if changes to the IRMs were warranted. A final remedy will likely incorporate restoration of groundwater for the COCs defined herein to the designated beneficial use, to the extent practical, which would be advanced by the selected alternative.

# **1.2 Background**

The Study Area is an approximate five square mile area located in the south-central part of the roughly 300 square mile Basin located in Orange County, California (Figure 1-1). The SBGPP Study Area is located within the southeastern portion of the city of Santa Ana, the western portion of the city of Irvine, and the southwestern portion of the city of Tustin.

The SBGPP Study Area has a decades-long history of industrial operations at numerous individual source sites from which the release of chemicals has resulted in soil and groundwater contamination beneath and downgradient of the industrial sites (Figure 1-2). Plumes of groundwater contamination emanating from chemical releases at individual source sites within the Study Area have migrated away from their source areas and in many cases have commingled to form a broad expanse of groundwater contamination in the Shallow Aquifer System. These commingled plumes extend laterally downgradient in the direction of groundwater flow from north to south, over an area at least 2.5 miles in length and 1.2 miles in width from east to west (Aquilogic, 2015; H+A, 2020).

#### *Geologic and Hydrogeologic Framework*  $1.2.1$

The regional geologic and hydrogeologic framework for the Study Area was detailed as part of the Preliminary Remedial Investigation Report (Preliminary RI Report) and was summarized in the Supplemental Remedial Investigation (SRI) Report (Aquilogic, 2015; H+A, 2020). OCWD has divided the groundwater basin into three major aquifer systems based largely on geologic data and vertical potentiometric head differences between wells constructed at different depth intervals within the aquifer systems (Aquilogic, 2015; OCWD, 2015). From shallow to deep, the three aquifer systems are the Shallow Aquifer System, the Principal Aquifer System, and the Deep Aquifer System. Although individually identified, the aquifer systems are known to be hydraulically connected as groundwater flows between them by way of discontinuities in the aquitards or leakage through the intervening aquitards (OCWD, 2015).

First groundwater encountered within the Study Area occurs in the Shallow Aquifer System at depths as shallow as a few feet below land surface (bls). The heterogeneous mixture of sediments that comprise the Shallow Aquifer System within the Study Area extends from near land surface to depths ranging from about 83 feet bls in the south-central portion of the Study Area to about 162 feet bls in the north-central portion of the Study Area (Aquilogic, 2015; Avocet, 2018; H+A, 2020). In OU2, the Shallow Aquifer System is distinguished from the upper portions of the underlying Principal Aquifer System by variable thicknesses of generally finer-grained lower permeability sediments that tend to restrict, but do not preclude, hydraulic communication between the two aquifer systems. The Shallow and Principal Aquifer Systems are components of the Orange and Irvine Groundwater Management Zones which are defined in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan) (RWQCB, 2016). The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses for the Orange and Irvine Groundwater Management Zones, including the Domestic and Municipal (MUN) beneficial use.

The heterogeneous complex of unconsolidated sediments that comprise the Shallow Aquifer System within the Study Area is generally characterized by various thicknesses of interfingered layers, lenses, interbeds, laminations, and mixtures of clays, silts, sands, and gravels of varying lateral extents. The large- and small-scale spatial variability and juxtaposition of different lithologies reflects the dynamic non-uniform and occasionally punctuated alluvial, fluvial, and channel-fill depositional environments, and sedimentary and cross-cutting erosional processes that characterize the relatively young more-recent infill of the Shallow Aquifer System in this portion of the Basin (Piper and Garrett, 1953; Poland and Piper, 1956; Poland and Sinnott, 1959; Aquilogic, 2015; OCWD, 2015).

The overall thickness of the Shallow Aquifer System within the Study Area decreases from approximately 160 feet in the northern portion of the Study Area to approximately 80 feet in the southern portion of the Study Area (H+A, 2020). The Shallow Aquifer System is distinguished from the upper portions of the underlying Principal Aquifer System by a sequence of predominantly fine-grained aquitard material of variable thickness that in large part appears to be laterally continuous across the Study Area.

Based on detailed lithologic evaluation and Figures 5-17A through 5-17N in the SRI Report (H+A, 2020), the Shallow Aquifer System, with increasing depth, was subdivided into the following four layers:

- Layer 1: an uppermost fine-grained portion at and below the water table;
- Layer 2: a generally laterally continuous predominantly coarse upper sand zone;
- Layer 3: a mixed zone of sands and fine-grained materials; and
- Layer 4: a laterally continuous and relatively coarse-grained basal sand (Basal Sand).

SRI figures referencing the "Upper Portion of the Shallow Aquifer System" always include Layer 1, often include the upper portion of Layer 2, and sometimes include Layer 2 and the upper portion of Layer 3 depending on location within the Study Area; SRI figures referencing the "Lower Portion of the Shallow Aquifer System" correspond with Layer 4 (Basal Sand); and SRI figures referencing the "Middle Portion of the Shallow Aquifer System" often include all or the lower portion of Layer 2 and Layer 3, and sometimes include all or portions of Layer 3 depending on location within the Study Area.

The Basal Sand was encountered at depths ranging from about 67 feet bls in the southern portion of the Study Area, to about 128 feet bls in the northern portion of the Study Area (H+A, 2020). The thickness of the Basal Sand appears to range from about 9 feet in the southern portion of the Study Area, to about 62 feet in the northern portion of the Study Area (H+A, 2020).

#### 1.2.2 *Surface Water*

The predominant surface water features in and around the Study Area are those that have evolved from earlier marshy areas, drainages, and channels that have been re-engineered over the years to form the current network of lined and unlined channels that ultimately drain southerly to San Diego Creek and southwesterly to Upper Newport Bay (Figure 1-3).

Based on comparison of the elevations of the channel bottoms with groundwater elevations in the upper portion of the Shallow Aquifer System, it appears that the base of some of the channels in the southern portion of the Study Area are below the water table within the Shallow Aquifer System. The base of the channels in the northern portion of the Study Area and the base of some of the channels in the southern portion of the Study Area are above the water table in the Shallow Aquifer System. In cases where the base of the channels is below the water table of the Shallow Aquifer System, there is potential for groundwater to flow from portions of the Shallow Aquifer System into the surface channels.

#### 1.2.3 *Impacts to Groundwater in the Principal Aquifer System*

The occurrence, nature, magnitude, and extent of groundwater contamination in the Shallow Aquifer System being addressed as part of OU2 threatens water quality in the underlying Principal Aquifer System that is used extensively for domestic water supply. OCWD is addressing this threat by conducting an RI/FS in support of an interim remedy for OU2 groundwater contamination.

#### 1.2.4 *Data Sources and Results of Prior Investigations*

This FS relies upon data, results and interpretations developed in the Preliminary RI Report (Aquilogic, 2015), and the SRI Report (H+A, 2020), as well as other Study Area investigators and regulatory authorities including, but not limited to, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA); the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); the California Department of Water Resources (DWR); the CalEPA DTSC; the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB); the RWQCB, the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) acting as the Certified Unified Planning Agency (CUPA) for many of the cities and the county of Orange; OCWD; Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD); and a host of individual source site investigators that have conducted or are conducting various source site groundwater assessment and remediation activities for responsible and potentially responsible parties at some, but not all, Study Area source sites.

#### $1.2.5$ *Water Supply Wells*

For the purposes of this document:

- Water supply wells incorporate the following classifications: Active Municipal Water Supply Wells; Inactive Municipal Water Supply Wells; Unknown Municipal Water Supply Wells; Active Water Supply Wells; Inactive Water Supply Wells; Inactive Other Water Supply Wells; Unknown Other Water Supply Wells; Abandoned Other Water Supply Wells; Destroyed Other Water Supply Wells; Historical Water Supply Wells (Mendenhall, 1905).
- Legacy Water Supply Wells incorporate the following classifications: Historical Water Supply Wells (Mendenhall, 1905); Unknown Other Water Supply Wells (WRMS); and Abandoned Water Supply Wells (WMRS).

Inventories for water supply wells in and adjacent to the Study Area indicate that numerous water supply wells have been installed since the latter half of the 1800s with the actual location and current status of many, if not most, of these wells remaining unknown (H+A, 2020). A 1904 USGS regional well survey (Mendenhall, 1905) included an inventory of more than 80 water supply wells located within and adjacent to the Study Area being used for irrigation, domestic, or stock purposes (Table 1-1). The majority of these water supply wells were located west of the former railroad alignment that is now the SR-55 corridor, south of Warner Avenue, and north of what is now MacArthur Boulevard. Water supply well locations provided as part of the USGS well survey have been digitized to illustrate their approximate locations relative to recognizable features within the Study Area (Figure 1-4). The USGS well inventory indicates that installation dates for this subset of water supply wells ranged from 1870 through 1904; those total depths ranged from 3 to 490 feet bls. The current status of these water supply wells is unknown.

The SRI Report provided an updated inventory of water supply wells located within and adjacent to the Study Area (H+A, 2020) (Table 1-2). The updated inventory indicated that the majority of the 52 additional water supply wells from the OCWD WRMS database are or were located along or west of the SR-55 corridor (Figure 1-4). It is possible that some of these 52 water supply wells were also identified in the 1904 USGS well survey. Well construction information provided for at least 39 of the water supply wells listed in the updated water supply well inventory indicated that these wells extended through the Shallow Aquifer System into the Principal Aquifer System. The status (and count) of the additional 52 water supply wells identified from the WRMS database has been characterized as: destroyed (9 wells); abandoned (18 wells); inactive (1 well); and of unknown status (24 wells).

Trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (PCE), 1,1-dichloroethylene (1,1-DCE) and/or perchlorate have been detected in two active water supply wells, IRWD-3 and IRWD-5, and two water supply wells that have been properly destroyed and sealed (TIC-51R and TIC-91) (H+A, 2020).

### 1.2.5.1 Inactive Potable Water Supply Wells

There are two inactive potable water supply wells located within the Study Area along the SR-55 corridor south of Dyer Road (H+A, 2020) (Table 1-2) (Figure 1-4). Available water quality data for these water supply well indicated that low concentrations of TCE and 1,1,2-trichloro-1,2,2 trifluoroethane (Freon 113) were detected in groundwater samples collected from IRWD-51 in 1991 (H+A, 2020).

### 1.2.5.2 Active Water Supply Wells

There are seven<sup>1</sup> active water supply wells located within and adjacent to the Study Area ( $H+A$ , 2020) (Table 1-2; Figure 1-4) including:



1 Upon further evaluation by OCWD, this well, which was identified as an Industrial well in the FSISE, was determined to be a cathodic protection well.

Available water quality data for the active water supply wells within the Study Area were compiled from the OCWD WRMS database (H+A, 2020). PCE and perchlorate have been detected in potable water supply well IRWD-3 at above the respective drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCL) (H+A, 2020). There was also depth specific sampling conducted inside the well casing of IRWD-3 in 2008 and 2009 (H+A, 2020). TCE and PCE were detected at concentrations below the drinking water MCL throughout the entire static water column in July 2008 and were detected in most of the samples collected in May 2009.

# **1.3 Consistency with the National Contingency Plan**

OCWD is conducting the SBGPP RI/FS in cooperation with DTSC and RWQCB to develop an interim remedy or remedies to address chemical contaminants that have impacted groundwater in OU2 (OU2 is groundwater contamination in the Shallow Aquifer System off-property of numerous groundwater contamination source sites located within the SBGPP Study Area where groundwater contaminant plumes emanating from individual source sites have migrated and commingled), and to do so in a manner consistent with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Part 300), commonly referred to as the National Contingency Plan or NCP.

To ensure consistency with the NCP, methods and procedures used as part of this RI/FS process are intended to be in general conformance with relevant guidelines and procedures recommended by federal, state, and local government agencies and regulatory authorities, including USEPA, DTSC, and RWQCB. Where appropriate, guidelines and procedures specified by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) have been used.

Other principal elements of the NCP include guidelines and standards for quality assurance/ quality control (QA/QC) for data acquisition, and public participation to ensure stakeholder and community involvement in the decision-making process for implementation of appropriate remedy controls.

### **1.4 Nature and Extent of Contamination**

For the purposes of this FS, the nature and extent of contamination is based on prior analyses presented in the Preliminary RI Report and SRI Report, and further clarified herein (Aquilogic, 2015; H+A, 2020).

The SRI Report (H+A, 2020) identified TCE, PCE, 1,1-DCE, 1,4-dioxane, and perchlorate as principal Compounds of Potential Concern (COPCs). Other organic and inorganic compounds that have been detected in Study Area Shallow Aquifer System groundwater were generally detected less frequently, less broadly distributed, and occur at lower concentrations within the footprints of the principal COPC plumes (H+A, 2020).

The SRI included contaminant distribution (commingled plumes) maps for each of the principal COPCs using the most recent data collected from a variety of groundwater sample locations. The location and general dates of groundwater samples collected have been compiled (Figure 1-5). The plume maps prepared as part of the SRI illustrated the occurrence, magnitude, and extent of the principal COPCs for two depth intervals within the OU2: the upper portion of the Shallow Aquifer System to depths within 60 feet of land surface (Layer 1, in some areas extends into the upper portion of Layer 3) and the middle portion of the Shallow Aquifer System at depths greater than 60 feet to depths near the top of the Basal Sand (all or portions of Layers 2 and 3, depending on area) (Figures 1-6 through 1-15 of the FSISE).

As discussed and agreed upon with the RWQCB and the State Water Board DFA during the April 7, 2021 meeting (EA, 2021c), this FS includes additional evaluation and illustration of the stratigraphic layers 1 through 4 as presented in Section 1.2.1 of the FSISE and in the SRI Report cross sections (SRI Figures 5-16 through 5-17N). Figures 1-6 through 1-25 and 1-27 through 1-39 illustrate revised plan-views of COCs in OU2 groundwater classified into Layers 1 through 4, and Appendix A provides details on the data and methods that were used to prepare these figures. COC figures for 1,1-dichloroethane (1,1-DCA), 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA), and 1,1,2 trichloroethane (1,1,2-TCA) were not prepared for this document, since the frequencies of detection and/or relative concentrations of these COCs were low, and the distributions of these COCs are encompassed by the distributions of COCs illustrated herein. During the April 7, 2021 meeting, it was agreed that the FS would include figures illustrating color-coded symbols classified by concentration ranges ('color dot maps') for each COC, for each of Layers 1 through 4.

### **1.5 Conceptual Site Model**

The conceptual site model was described in the SRI and included a discussion of the nature and extent of contamination, sources of contamination, contaminant fate and transport, and potential exposure and receptor pathways (H+A, 2020).

There are numerous contaminant source areas within the Study Area. Some of the volatile organic compound (VOC) source sites contain dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) or residual DNAPL (Aquilogic, 2015) that will continue to act as long-term sources of contamination to offproperty groundwater if not contained or removed. Most, if not all, of the source areas are decades old. Given the heterogeneous mix of sediments, with a relatively high proportion of fine-grained sediments, matrix back diffusion from source areas can also serve as a prolonged source of elevated concentrations of COCs from source properties to downgradient off-property locations (Environmental Security Technology Certification Program, 2012; Sale et al., 2013; Stroo et al., 2012; Chapman and Parker, 2005; Seyedabbasi et al., 2012). There is no known or suspected DNAPL in OU2, as OU2 is defined in this document, and identification of DNAPL boundaries are part of the source site remedies.

Remediation of source areas is expected to be conducted by potential responsible parties in tandem with the interim remedy resulting from this RI/FS.

The potential for vapor intrusion of VOCs from source areas and from OU2 groundwater is not part of this RI/FS and to the extent that these pathways pose a risk to human health, they are expected to be addressed by potentially responsible parties and are not further discussed in this document.

Advection of COCs in OU2 groundwater is anticipated to be the predominant transport process, primarily through coarser zones. Legacy Water Supply Wells in the Study Area may also act as conduits for the transport of groundwater containing COCs from the Shallow Aquifer System downward into the underlying Principal Aquifer System. In the southern portion of the Study Area, some portion of COCs in groundwater in the upper portion of the Shallow Aquifer System has migrated to surface water channels that extend below the water table (Harding Lawson Associates, 2000). Groundwater elevation data indicate that, if unabated COCs in OU2 will expand and continue to flow in a southerly direction beyond the Study Area.

Diffusion processes in areas downgradient of source properties are expected to slow COC migration by transferring mass from primary transport zones within the coarse intervals to the surrounding finer grained material. Over time, however, back diffusion from the finer grained intervals back into coarse intervals is expected to prolong conditions that result in elevated COPC concentrations in groundwater.

It is expected that sorption to aquifer solids may retard the migration of TCE/PCE and to a lesser extent 1,1-DCE relative to the rate of groundwater flow. The compound 1,4-dioxane, however, is not expected to experience significant sorption/retardation due to its low sorption potential (Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment, 2008). In addition, perchlorate and hexavalent chromium (Cr6) sorption are expected to be relatively insignificant.

Given the extent and concentrations of TCE, PCE, 1,1-DCE and 1,4-dioxane detected in groundwater downgradient of source area properties, it is expected that intrinsic biodegradation is not a dominant process affecting these OU2 COCs.

The potential for hydrolysis of the principal COPCs is expected to be low, with the exception of the abiotic transformation of 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA) to 1,1-DCE.

Intrinsic oxidation/reduction of VOCs and 1,4-dioxane are not expected to be dominant processes; however, Cr6 can be reduced in areas where reducing conditions naturally occur.

Unrestricted domestic use of groundwater within the Shallow Aquifer System could result in ingestion, dermal, and inhalation exposure to consumers. These pathways and exposures are considered as part of the human health and ecological risk assessment (HHERA) discussed below (H+A, 2020; TFG, 2020). Migration of COCs from the Shallow Aquifer System to the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells can also result in a similar exposure pathway. Although not evaluated in the HHERA, it is possible that the detections of COCs in IRWD-3 were a result of this process. IRWD-3 was put on standby status with the detection of COCs. Migration of COCs from the upper portion of the Shallow Aquifer System to surface water channels is another potential exposure pathway that was evaluated as part of the revised HHERA summarized in the following subsection.

# **1.6 Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment**

A HHERA was conducted to support the RI/FS (H+A, 2020; TFG, 2020). The HHERA incorporated response to comments from, and subsequent discussions with, the RWQCB and the Office of Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). The HHERA quantified potential risks associated with residential and ecological exposure to contaminants in groundwater. Specifically, the receptors evaluated included a residential child, residential adult, freshwater and saltwater aquatic plants, aquatic invertebrates, and fish. Evaluation of the potential for vapor intrusion was not part of the HHERA and to the extent that this pathway poses a potential risk to human health, it is expected to be addressed by potentially responsible parties. The HHERA was conducted as a "baseline risk assessment" in that it evaluated potential current risks in the absence of an interim groundwater remedial action to address the commingled plumes downgradient of the source sites.

Risk values in the HHERA were quantified for 126 COPCs and chemicals of potential ecological concern (COPECs). The human health risk values were based on exposure to COPCs associated with inhalation, dermal contact while showering, and ingestion. The ecological risk values were based on exposure of freshwater and saltwater aquatic plants, aquatic invertebrates, and fish to the COPECs in surface water bodies (San Diego Creek and Newport Bay).

#### 1.6.1 *Potential Human Health Risk*

The 58 COPCs identified in the HHERA that exceeded exposure point concentrations (EPCs) follow:





Notes:

COPC = Compound of Potential Concern

ILCR = Incremental Lifetime Cancer Risk

HQ = Hazard Quotient

 $>$  = Greater Than

Of the COPCs with ILCR values above 10<sup>-6</sup> and/or HQ values above 1, the COPCs were grouped into the following broad categories:

- OU2 contaminants of concern identified for the source sites as presented in the Preliminary RI Report (Aquilogic, 2015). These chemicals are known to be related to source site operations and consist of the following:
	- o TCE
	- o PCE
	- o 1,1-DCE
	- o 1,4-Dioxane
	- o Perchlorate
	- o Cr6
	- o Vinyl chloride
	- o 1,1-DCA
	- o 1,2-DCA
- Compounds that are generally associated with and/or are breakdown products of source site contaminants of concern and that were detected in more than 1 percent of the samples. These chemicals are likely related to source site operations and consist of the following:
	- o cis-1,2-DCE
	- $O$  1,1,2-TCA

The remaining COPCs were not retained as COCs, based on the following criteria:

- Did not appear to be related to sites (for example, dioxins, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS], and fluoride);
- Exposure point concentrations were less than estimated background concentrations presented in the SRI (for example, arsenic, mercury, and thallium);
- Were not persistent (for example fuel related compounds);
- Had two or fewer detections or were detected in a limited number of sampling locations (for example, bromate, hydrogen sulfide, N-nitrosodimethylamine [NDMA], and N-nitrosodiethylamine); and/or

• Can be affected by redox potential due to natural conditions or remediation induced conditions (manganese).

Based on the preceding, the following were designated as OU2 groundwater COCs, and are further evaluated herein:

- TCE
- PCE
- 1,1-DCE
- 1,4-Dioxane
- **Perchlorate**
- Cr6
- Vinyl chloride
- 1,1-DCA
- $1,2$ -DCA
- $cis-1,2-DCE$
- $1,1,2-TCA$

In their March 25, 2021 letter to OCWD, the RWQCB requested explanation of why Freon-113, which has been detected in groundwater at concentrations above its maximum contaminant level (MCL) for drinking water in at least one source site within the Study Area, was not listed as a OU2 groundwater COC for further evaluation. As directed by the OEHHA, the 95-percent upper confidence limit (UCL) of the mean concentration in groundwater (95% UCL) for each COPC was the assumed exposure point concentration (EPC) in the Revised HHERA (TFG, 2020). The 95% UCL for Freon-113 is 169.2 micrograms per liter (ug/l), which is below the Freon-113 drinking water MCL of 1,200 ug/l. Therefore, Freon-113 was not listed as an OU2 groundwater COC for further evaluation.

Additionally, the District and the TAC discussed the potential to monitor groundwater for PFAS as part of the Pre-Design Investigation (PDI) and/or potentially as part of the selected IRM (Appendix S). PFAS monitoring would be required for alternatives that rely on Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) Orders and it is expected that some PFAS monitoring will be conducted as part of PDI and part of groundwater extraction discharge monitoring.

#### 1.6.2 *Potential Ecological Risk*

The ecological risk assessment (ERA) portion of the HHERA identified 80 COPECs with freshwater toxicity benchmarks (TBs) and 49 COPECs with saltwater TBs. Calculation of hazard ratio (HR) values using 95-percent upper confidence limits and TBs resulted in 36 COPECs exceeding the target HR of 1 for freshwater and 19 COPECs exceeding the target HR of 1 for saltwater. The ERA likely overstated the magnitude of potential ecological risk, largely due to the absence of any adjustments to exposure concentrations based on dilution of groundwater with surface water. The ERA assumed that ecological receptors are exposed directly to COPEC

concentrations measured in groundwater when in fact COPEC concentrations in groundwater are expected to be reduced significantly through mixing; volatilization for volatile COPECs; and aerobic degradation of vinyl chloride, 1,2-DCA and possibly 1,1-DCE and cis-1,2-DCE. These mechanisms are expected to further decrease COPEC concentrations with downstream flow toward and into Newport Bay. Collection of surface water monitoring data for those COPECs with HR values exceeding 1 would allow for refinement of the ERA results and thus reduce the degree of uncertainty related to the use of groundwater data in the ERA.

Volatile COPECs are assumed to volatilize in surface water over relatively short distances and time periods after entering such systems. Therefore, the potential ecological risks for volatile COPECs in groundwater that could impact surface water receptors were screened from further evaluation. The remaining non-volatile COPECs were grouped into the following categories:

- Groundwater contaminants of concern identified for the source sites as presented in the Preliminary RI Report (Aquilogic, 2015). Cr6 is the only non-volatile COPEC known to be related to site operations.
- The remaining COPECs were not retained as COCs and fell into the following categories:
	- o Exposure point concentrations were less than estimated background concentrations presented in the SRI (for example, arsenic, boron, copper, Endosulfan I, mercury, nickel, nitrate, selenium, and silver);
	- o Were not persistent (for example fuel related compounds);
	- o Had two or fewer detections (hydrogen sulfide);
	- o Metals with low mobility (cadmium, cobalt, and lead); and/or
	- o Can be affected by redox potential due to natural conditions or remediation induced conditions (iron and manganese).

Based on the preceding, Cr6 is the only designated OU2 groundwater COC for the surface water receptor pathway.

# **2.0 REMEDIAL ACTION OBJECTIVES**

The RAO recommendations for the groundwater IRMs are to protect human health and the environment with respect to the COCs that have migrated from multiple source properties and have commingled in the SBGPP Study Area, forming a large, dissolved contaminant plume. Protection of human health is accomplished by preventing human ingestion of groundwater containing COCs exceeding MCLs/risk-based standards, and protection of the environment is accomplished by decreasing further degradation of the groundwater resource due to plume expansion and maintaining surface water COC concentrations to levels that are protective of potential ecological receptors.

Specific recommended RAOs for IRMs within the SBGPP Study Area are to:

- 1. Protect groundwater resources from further degradation by preventing lateral and vertical migration of high concentration COCs into zones with lower concentrations of COCs within OU2, to the extent practicable;
- 2. Protect groundwater resources by preventing the potential for vertical migration of high concentration COCs from the upper/middle portions of the Shallow Aquifer System to the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells, to the extent practicable;
- 3. Protect groundwater resources from further degradation by preventing the spread of COCs exceeding MCLs in the Leading-Edge areas of the plume, to the extent practicable;
- 4. Implement a reliable interim groundwater remedy(s) that is compatible with ongoing and planned remediation at source sites and associated off-property locations, where applicable;
- 5. Prevent discharge of COCs exceeding ecological risk-based concentrations from the Shallow Aquifer System to surface water channels; and
- 6. Prevent human exposure to contaminated groundwater with COC concentrations exceeding MCLs or other ARARs.

Figure 2-1 illustrates source sites with current or currently planned groundwater extraction and treatment systems. Figure 2-2 illustrates source sites with current or planned in-situ remediation programs.

The selected IRMs must achieve the RAOs and must be compatible with ongoing and currently planned remediation at source sites and off-property locations, where applicable. In order to be compatible with remediation at source sites, the IRMs would be implemented to avoid substantially negatively affecting groundwater quality or groundwater velocity/flow/capture conditions or treatment areas at and near source sites with ongoing or planned remedial actions as follows:

• For in-situ technologies, generation of byproducts detrimental to source site remedial efforts will be avoided.

• For groundwater extraction and treatment, significantly increasing groundwater velocities beneath and near the source sites and/or significantly negatively affecting their capture/treatment areas will be avoided.

Based on the ongoing or planned source site remedial efforts, Figures 2-3 through 2-5 illustrate the approximate areas of OU2 targeted for IRMs.

As described in the preceding section, COCs identified at source sites at concentrations exceeding MCLs and/or risk-based standards that are designated as OU2 COCs include:

- TCE
- PCE
- 1,4-Dioxane
- Perchlorate
- $\bullet$  Cr<sub>6</sub>
- Vinyl chloride
- $\bullet$  1,2-DCA
- $\bullet$  1,1-DCE
- $\bullet$  cis-1,2-DCE
- $\bullet$  1,1,2-TCA

Cr6 was the only COC identified at source sites at concentrations exceeding ecological risk-based standards that is designated as an OU2 COC.

### **3.0 APPLICABLE OR RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS**

Potential federal and State of California ARARs have been identified and evaluated from the universe of regulations, requirements, and guidance for the SBGPP. Under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) regulations, a remedial action must achieve ARARs, unless a waiver is granted. The ARARs can be defined as standards, requirements, criteria or limitations under federal (or if more stringent, state) environmental laws as they relate to onsite remedial actions. In the context of this evaluation of ARARs "onsite" includes the areal extent of contamination and all suitable areas near the contamination necessary for implementation of the response action (40 CFR, Part 300.5). For CERCLA sites, onsite actions must comply with the substantive aspects of ARARs. Since the SBGPP is not a CERCLA site, onsite and offsite actions must comply with applicable local, state, and federal requirements. As defined in the SRI (H+A, 2020) and herein, OU2 is groundwater contamination in the Shallow Aquifer System off-property of numerous groundwater contamination source sites located within the SBGPP Study Area where groundwater contaminant plumes emanating from individual source sites have migrated and commingled. Thus, the term "onsite" in relation to "actions that must comply with applicable local, state, and federal requirements" includes all of OU2.

In some situations, ARARs may not be available or adequately address protection of human health and the environment. Where ARARs do not sufficiently address a situation, to-be-considered (TBC) criteria (e.g., non-promulgated advisories, criteria, guidance, or proposed standards) issued by federal and state agencies can be used to define cleanup and/or performance standards (40 CFR Part 300.400[g][3]). These TBC criteria are not ARARs; they are not enforceable, nor are they legally binding, unless that TBC criterion is adopted as a cleanup or performance standard in the Statement of Basis or applicable permit to construct or operate the Interim Remedy.

The ARARs, in conjunction with the overall protection of human health and the environment criterion, form the threshold criteria to evaluate remedial alternatives when selecting a remedial action. This evaluation includes an initial determination of whether the potential ARARs actually qualify as ARARs, and a comparison for stringency between the federal and state regulations to identify the controlling ARARs. The identification of ARARs is an iterative process. The final determination of ARARs will be made in the Statement of Basis, after public review, as part of the remedial action selection process. Therefore, the ARARs and TBCs identified are considered preliminary.

The ARARs presented in the FSISE have been revised to incorporate comments received from the RWQCB (RWQCB, 2018). The revised ARARs are provided in Appendix B.

#### **4.0 GENERAL RESPONSE ACTIONS, REMEDIAL TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCESS OPTIONS**

This section describes General Response Actions (GRAs) likely to achieve RAOs and remedial technologies/process options that can be used to implement GRAs. GRAs are selected to satisfy the RAOs for each medium of concern, in this case OU2 groundwater. These actions, initially defined during scoping, are refined during the feasibility study (FS) phase and relate to basic methods of protection such as treatment or containment (USEPA, 1988 and 1989).

In the RI/FS process, the term "technology" refers to general categories of technologies, such as chemical treatment or capping. The term "technology process option" refers to specific alternative processes within each technology family, such as ion exchange or use of a soil clay cap. A list of potentially applicable technologies and technology process options, corresponding to the identified general response actions, is compiled and then reduced by evaluating the process options with respect to technical implementability (USEPA, 1989). That is, existing information on technologies and site characterization data are used to screen out process options that cannot be effectively implemented at a given site.

To simplify the development and evaluation of alternatives, one representative process option should be selected, if possible, for each technology type remaining after the technical implementability screening procedure (USEPA, 1989). Effectiveness, implementability, and cost are the criteria used to evaluate and select representative process options (USEPA, 1989).

#### **4.1 General Response Actions**

GRAs are medium-specific response categories that are likely to satisfy the RAOs as defined by USEPA guidance (USEPA, 1988 and 1989). GRAs and associated remedial technologies for OU2 groundwater are summarized below and further described in the following subsections.

- No Action
- Institutional Controls
- Monitoring
- Containment
	- o Groundwater Extraction
	- o Physical Barriers
- Ex-Situ Treatment Cleanup Actions
	- o Extracted Groundwater Treatment
	- o Treated Water Discharge or End Use Process Options
- In-Situ Treatment Cleanup Actions
	- o Monitored Natural Attenuation
	- o Active In-Situ Bioremediation
- o Chemical Processes
- o Thermal Processes
- o Physical Processes

There are commingled groundwater plumes within the SBGPP (Aquilogic, 2015; H+A, 2020). Source removal and/or source control remedial technologies at many, but not necessarily all, source sites have been or are expected to be implemented in accordance with agency approved plans. In addition, some potentially responsible parties have implemented active groundwater remediation at locations off of their respective properties in accordance with agency approved plans. While some of the source sites have implemented, are implementing, or have submitted plans to implement remedial actions to contain or treat groundwater contamination beneath or near their properties, many of these releases have not been confined to each individual source property but have in fact migrated off-property and commingled with contaminant plumes from multiple other individual source sites. It is these commingled plumes that are not subject to previous, ongoing, or planned source site remediation that will be the subject of the proposed OU2 IRMs (Figures 2-3 to 2-5).

For the purposes of this FS, source removal and/or source control remedial technologies applied at individual source sites were not included as GRAs in the FSISE and are not included herein, since these efforts are assumed to be implemented by specific potentially responsible parties under the oversight of state agencies. In addition, containment and/or treatment zones downgradient of source sites, which are being or will be implemented in a timely manner in accordance with agency plans are likewise not included in applicable GRAs in this FS. The detailed analysis of alternatives presented in subsequent sections of this FS does consider existing and planned source removal and/or source control remedial technologies along with source site on- and off-property containment and/or treatment zones.

#### $4.1.1$ *No Action*

Under this option, no active groundwater remediation measures including monitoring, institutional controls, or sealing of Legacy Water Supply Wells would be implemented in OU2. This alternative is required by the NCP and CERCLA to provide a baseline for comparison with the risk reduction achieved by other alternatives.

#### $4.1.2$ *Institutional Controls*

Institutional controls are non-engineered instruments such as administrative and legal controls that help minimize the potential for human exposure to contamination and/or protect the integrity of the remedy. Institutional controls play an important role in site remedies because they reduce exposure to contamination by limiting land or resource use and guide human behavior. Institutional controls are appropriate during all stages of the cleanup process to accomplish various cleanuprelated objectives. To provide overlapping assurances of protection from contamination, institutional controls should be "layered" (i.e., use of multiple institutional controls) or implemented in a series.

#### $4.1.3$ *Monitoring*

Groundwater monitoring comprises the periodic measurement of physical and/or chemical parameters to evaluate whether a remedy is performing as expected. Performance monitoring is conducted to evaluate whether the interim remedy is making progress toward achieving short-term protection goals or intermediate performance goals.

#### $4.1.4$ *Containment*

Containment uses groundwater extraction or physical barriers to hydraulically contain groundwater contaminants and to recover contaminants from the subsurface. Containment keeps contaminants from reaching drinking water supply wells, wetlands, streams, and other natural resources (USEPA, 2012 and 2020a).

#### $4.1.5$ *Ex-Situ Groundwater Cleanup*

Ex-situ groundwater cleanup applies physical, chemical, or biological treatment to extracted groundwater prior to discharge. Potential treated water discharge or end uses for OU2 include:

- Injection;
- Discharge to storm drain;
- Discharge to a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) and the groundwater replenishment system (GWRS); or
- Non-potable reclaimed water discharge.

#### $4.1.6$ *In-Situ Groundwater Cleanup*

In-situ treatment occurs when groundwater is treated in place without extraction from the aquifer. In-situ treatment technologies can destroy, immobilize, or remove contaminants.

# **4.2 Identification of Remedial Technologies and Process Options**

Process options for remedial technologies identified for OU2 include:



POTW = publicly owned treatment works

GWRS = OCWD's Groundwater Replenishment System and Advanced Wastewater Purification Facility

### **5.0 SCREENING OF REMEDIAL TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCESS OPTIONS**

The following subsections describe the screening criteria that were applied to screen the identified remedial technologies and process options. Consistent with USEPA guidance effectiveness, implementability, and cost are the criteria used to evaluate and select representative process options (USEPA, 1989).

### **5.1 Effectiveness**

Effectiveness is a measure of the ability of an option to: (1) reduce toxicity, mobility, or volume; (2) minimize residual risks; (3) afford long-term protection; (4) minimize short-term impacts; and (5) achieve protectiveness goals and meeting IRM RAOs. Technologies that offer significantly less effectiveness than other proposed technologies are screened from further consideration. Options that do not provide adequate protection of human health and the environment likewise are screened from further consideration.

### **5.2 Implementability**

Implementability is a measure of the technical feasibility and availability of the option and the administrative feasibility of implementing it (e.g., obtaining access to private properties and/or public right-of ways [ROWs]). Options that are technically or administratively infeasible or that would require equipment, specialists, or unavailable access to private properties, or would not be available within a reasonable period were screened from further consideration. One critical implementability component considered in the FSISE and herein is compatibility of process options and treatment technologies with remediation that is ongoing or currently planned at source sites.

### **5.3 Relative Cost**

Relative qualitative costs for implementing the remedial technologies and process options are considered. Technologies that cost more to implement, but that offer no benefit in effectiveness or implementability over other technologies, were screened from further consideration. The TAC requested a sensitivity analysis to assess the variations in specific assumptions associated with design, implementation, operation, discount rate, and the effective life an alternative can have on the costs estimated, and this item was discussed during a December 1, 2021 meeting between representatives of the TAC, OCWD, and EA (Appendices Q, S, and T). It was agreed that a sensitivity analysis would not add substantial value to the FS and that the relative cost estimates and comparisons in this document are not intended to develop or support reserve estimates. The cost estimate(s) for selected Alternative(s) will be refined after pre-design investigation (PDI) data collection and at different phases of the design process.

# **5.4 Screening of Remedial Technologies and Process Options**

Screening of remedial technologies and process options are summarized in Table 5-1 and discussed in the following subsections.

#### 5.4.1 *No Action*

This alternative is required by the NCP (40 CFR Part 300.430) and CERCLA (USEPA, 1988 and 1989) to provide a baseline for comparison with the risk reduction achieved by other alternatives and will not be part of any identified remedial alternative (Table 5-1).

#### 5.4.2 *Institutional Controls*

The properties overlying OU2 groundwater subject to planned IRM(s) are owned by many entities. Therefore, obtaining property deed/land use restrictions preventing the use of groundwater for properties overlying OU2 groundwater is not feasible and will not be part of any identified remedial alternative (Table 5-1). However, an institutional control requiring any party proposing the installation and operation of water supply wells in the Study Area to apply for a well construction permit from the OCHCA is currently in place as a County ordinance. An additional institutional control that is feasible for implementation is notification of OCWD, RWQCB, DTSC and water suppliers in the Study Area by OCHCA of any water supply well construction permit applications. Such notification would allow communication between the agencies and the applicant with the goals of preventing human exposure to COCs and avoiding interference with OU2 IRMs and source site remedial measures. Institutional control measures would be developed and administered as part of OU2 IRMs. Similar institutional controls have been successfully implemented as part of the remedy for groundwater contamination from former Marine Corps Air Station El Toro.

Effectiveness Effectiveness is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

Implementability

Implementability is considered relatively high, with the effectiveness limitations noted in Table 5-1.

Cost Cost is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

# Screening Determination

Institutional controls are retained as a GRA as part of all remedial alternatives, except the No Action Alternative.

#### 5.4.3 *Monitoring*

Some form of groundwater monitoring in accordance with applicable plans, permits, and/or Orders will be required for all retained GRAs and remedial alternatives, except the No Action Alternative.

Long-term groundwater monitoring is a component of containment and in-situ GRAs. Groundwater monitoring also will generate data used to:

- Evaluate contaminant plume migration and provide continuing tracking and interpretation of the distributions of COCs in OU2 groundwater;
- Expand and refine the groundwater monitoring network, if and as required;
- Evaluate and optimize remediation system performance;
- Identify enhancements to or expansion of remediation systems and/or additional areas targeted for groundwater remediation, if necessary; and
- Support additional computer flow modeling evaluations during IRMs application, to the extent implemented.

For the treated groundwater injection discharge option (Section 5.4.6.1), specific groundwater monitoring would be identified in the RWQCB WDR Order Monitoring and Reporting Program (M&RP) that would be obtained for this option.

Long-term monitoring will be performed on a periodic frequency, depending on the objective of the specific monitoring program and the maturity of remedy implementation. The long-term groundwater monitoring network will consist of existing and new wells that will be installed as part of the OU2 IRMs. Groundwater monitoring reports will be prepared and submitted in accordance with the requirements of applicable plans, permits, and/or Orders. The monitoring program will include analysis of COCs. A detailed long-term monitoring program for the selected remedial alternative will be developed as part of the remedial design.

Effectiveness Effectiveness is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

Implementability

Implementability is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

Cost Cost is considered relatively moderate (Table 5-1).

Screening Determination

Monitoring is retained as a GRA as part of all remedial alternatives, except the No Action Alternative.

#### 5.4.4 *Containment*

Remedial technologies associated with containment, including groundwater extraction and physical barriers, are described in the following subsections.

#### 5.4.4.1 Groundwater Extraction

Containment uses groundwater extraction or physical barriers to hydraulically contain groundwater contaminants and to recover contaminants from the subsurface. Groundwater extraction and treatment, also commonly referred to as pump and treat, has been widely used in the remediation industry for decades, offering the combined advantages of hydraulic containment of contaminant plumes while also recovering contaminants from the subsurface for ex-situ treatment (Air Force Civil Engineer Center and United States Army Corps of Engineers, 2017). The USEPA (2012 and 2020a) describe that pump and treat (P&T):

"is a common method for cleaning up groundwater and other aqueous media contaminated with dissolved chemicals, including industrial solvents, metals, and fuel oil. Water is

extracted and conveyed to an above-ground treatment system that removes the contaminants. P&T systems also are used to 'contain' the contaminant plume. Containment of the plume keeps [the plume] from spreading by pumping contaminated water toward the wells. This pumping helps keep contaminants from reaching drinking water wells, wetlands, streams, and other natural resources."

Groundwater pump and treat is the selected GRA at approximately 20 percent of Superfund sites (USEPA, 2020a) and has been and continues to be applied at hundreds of sites in California (DWR, 2016).

Containment would be applied to OU2 to control or limit the lateral and vertical migration of the existing commingled contaminant plumes. The process option for OU2 groundwater containment is groundwater extraction wells or trenches. Groundwater trenches would extract groundwater from only the upper portion of Layer 1. Groundwater extraction wells would extract groundwater from all or portions of Layers 1 through 3. Groundwater trenches and/or extraction wells placed at selected (optimized) locations could provide hydraulic control of groundwater migrating laterally downgradient in the Shallow Aquifer System or vertically into the Principal Aquifer System.

### Effectiveness

Containment using groundwater extraction is an effective and common method of remediating contaminated groundwater and in 2016, approximately 800 sites in California used pump and treat systems as a GRA (DWR, 2016). The DWR stated that, "Most groundwater extraction and treatment remediation systems are located at sites where volatile organic compound (VOC) solvents, such as trichloroethylene (TCE) and PCE, have contaminated groundwater".

A potential challenge associated with containment in OU2 includes the difficulty in reversing the vertical hydraulic gradients in the vicinity of Legacy Water Supply Wells. While extraction of contaminated groundwater from the Shallow Aquifer System would reduce the vertical hydraulic gradient between the Shallow Aquifer System and the Principal Aquifer System in the vicinity of the extraction wells, it would be impractical to extract a sufficient quantity of groundwater from the Shallow Aquifer System to fully overcome the vertical hydraulic gradients between the Shallow Aquifer System and the Principal Aquifer System occurring most of the time.

An additional challenge associated with containment in OU2 is the duration of operating the remedy. The ability to cease operations relies on the effectiveness of source remediation efforts and on multiple pore flushes to remove contaminants from the groundwater where the IRMs are applied. In general, relatively lengthy operations are required due to aquifer matrix and subsurface heterogeneities or low permeability zones where relatively lower groundwater velocities and greater contaminant matrix diffusion can result in relatively less efficient contaminant recovery. However, groundwater extraction and/or containment have been applied at hundreds of sites in California and at several source sites with some effectiveness in controlling lateral migration; shallow groundwater extraction rates from individualsource site extraction wells have ranged from less than 1 to approximately 29 gallons per minute (gpm); and hydraulic capture appears to have been achieved in portions of the Shallow Aquifer System where groundwater extraction has been applied. The effectiveness of pump and treat to achieve containment is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

### Implementability

As demonstrated throughout California and at several source sites, containment is implementable. Although application of containment to OU2 groundwater (extraction wells, piping, treatment systems) will be limited to non-source site private properties and/or public ROWs, its implementability is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

### Cost

Major containment cost categories include design; permitting; extraction wells; pipelines; treatment system construction; treatment system operation and maintenance (O&M); and treated water disposal. Relative cost for containment is considered high (Table 5-1).

### Screening Determination

Containment is retained as a remedial technology for developing remedial alternatives.

# 5.4.4.2 Physical Barriers

Physical barriers are physical structures designed to prevent or minimize movement of groundwater past the structures. These include barriers such as slurry walls, grout curtains, or sheet piling. Installation of these types of barriers are limited to depths of less than 100 feet (Federal Remediation Technologies Roundtable, 2020).

For OU2, sealing of Legacy Water Supply Wells is also a physical barrier that could prevent or minimize movement of groundwater from the Shallow Aquifer System to the Principal Aquifer System.

# Effectiveness

Physical barriers applied in OU2 likely would require supplementation with other actions and would not be effective as a stand-alone remedial action. Groundwater mounding behind physical barriers can divert contaminated groundwater laterally around or vertically beneath the barriers to other uncontaminated areas.

If all of the Legacy Water Supply Wells could be located and accessed, sealing them would be effective in mitigating vertical migration of contaminants from the Shallow Aquifer System to deeper aquifers. However, numerous water supply wells have been installed since the latter half of the 1800s with the actual location and current status of most of these water supply wells remaining unknown (H+A, 2020). For this reason, the practical effectiveness of sealing the Legacy Water Supply Wells is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

# Implementability

Physical barriers would be very impractical to design and install over the large OU2 groundwater plume. OU2 is overlain by a highly developed area with industrial and commercial buildings, extensive underground utilities, and highly trafficked streets and consequently the physical construction of the barriers would be extremely difficult at best. Implementing this technology would require extensive and complex permitting, regulatory agency involvement, relocation of numerous subsurface utilities, public participation, and stakeholder negotiations.

Locating all of the Legacy Water Supply Wells to seal them is not possible. Current standard methods for locating these wells are not expected to be successful. Even if all of the wells could reliably be located, many of them would likely be beneath existing structures that would have to be partially or completely demolished to accommodate the well sealing activities.

Implementability is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

### Cost

Relative cost to install physical barriers, or to locate and destroy all of the Legacy Water Supply Wells would be very high (Table 5-1).

### Screening Determination

Physical barriers are not retained as a remedial technology for developing remedial alternatives. Based on the preceding, locating and sealing all of the Legacy Water Supply Wells is not feasible and consequently is not practical or retained as a sole remedial alternative. However, sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells when they are discovered or made accessible is retained as a part of all remedial alternatives, except the No Action Alternative.

#### 5.4.5 *Ex-Situ Groundwater Cleanup*

Ex-situ groundwater cleanup refers to the extraction and aboveground treatment of groundwater before it is discharged to the final end use (e.g., reinjection, non-potable reclaimed water system, storm drain, or POTW and GWRS). Treatment consists of physical, chemical, or biological processes, and can include multiple methods to address different COCs or to meet specific discharge requirements. The purpose of this FS is to primarily address the removal of COCs, however technologies that can be effectively implemented to meet discharge requirements will also be noted for future consideration once end-use pathways are identified. A variety of technologies that have been extensively established in industry are discussed below, with a focus on their applicability to the site conditions and general feasibility as remedial options.

# 5.4.5.1 Physical Treatment of Extracted Groundwater

The following sections describe remedial technologies evaluated for physical treatment of extracted groundwater.

# *5.4.5.1.1 Air Stripping*

Air stripping is a method of treatment that contacts influent groundwater with air in order to transfer VOCs to vapor phase. Specific technologies include trayed/packed columns, low-profile aeration, bubble diffusion, or aspiration/centrifugal units. Systems are typically combined with vapor-phase granular activated carbon (VGAC) or oxidizer units, which destroy the VOCs that are captured in the air stream (off-gas).

### Effectiveness

Well-designed air stripping systems are very effective for the removal of VOCs, however, the effectiveness of these systems depends on contaminant volatility and the air to water ratio. Watersoluble contaminants such as 1,4-dioxane or Cr6, or slightly soluble compounds such as chlorinated alkanes, are not easily removed with this technology. Effectiveness is considered relatively moderate to high (Table 5-1).

### Implementability

Air stripping columns can be complex units to operate and require a high level of supervision in comparison to other technologies. Scaling and fouling on the internal trays or packing material are also common issues and can be difficult to remedy without a complete shutdown of the system. Additionally, the air effluent likely would need to be treated with a VGAC system or an oxidizer to meet air quality emission standards. Implementability is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

### Cost

The initial cost of air stripping systems primarily consists of the contactor itself and any instrumentation required to monitor operational effectiveness or increase system automation. These costs can be moderate to high, depending on the size of the system. In addition, operation and maintenance costs are relatively high given the complexity of the unit and potential for scaling that would need to be addressed via a shutdown. Cost is considered relatively moderate to high (Table 5-1).

### **Screening Determination**

Screened from further consideration in the FS due to low implementability compared with other technologies with similar treatment capabilities. However, this technology could be considered in the future during remedial design to meet end use requirements.

# *5.4.5.1.2 Liquid-Phase Granular Activated Carbon (LGAC) Adsorption*

LGAC is known to be highly effective for the removal of TCE and PCE, and moderately effective for the removal of other chlorinated ethenes. In operation, water flows through the carbon bed vessels where contaminants are selectively adsorbed onto the carbon media surface. After the carbon adsorption capacity is reached, the carbon media needs to be replaced and the spent carbon regenerated by a vendor at their facility. Systems typically include multiple vessels to maintain continuous operation and prevent breakthrough.

### Effectiveness

LGAC is widely used throughout the industry, and its effectiveness in the removal of TCE, PCE, and other organic compounds is well-established. It is not an effective treatment for 1,4-dioxane, Cr6, or perchlorate. In addition, this technology can be effectively implemented to quench excess hydrogen peroxide after an advanced oxidation process that utilizes ultraviolet (UV)/peroxide treatment. Systems that are currently operating or have operated in the OU2 area have effectively used LGAC as a remedial measure. Effectiveness is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

### Implementability

This technology requires very little supervision during operation. The primary maintenance requirement is the removal and regeneration of the carbon media, which can be accomplished without a full system shutdown if multiple vessels are run in parallel. Transitions between different parallel-run vessels can be automated or conducted manually. Implementability is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

# Cost

Initial costs primarily consist of the initial purchase of the LGAC vessels and media, piping and controls. Operational costs include the removal and regeneration of carbon media, which is
typically conducted through a third-party vendor. Cost is considered relatively moderate (Table 5-1).

## Screening Determination

Retained for further evaluation in the FS. This technology is effective for the removal of multiple COCs identified for this OU2 site and is easily implementable for the given site conditions.

## *5.4.5.1.3 Membrane Processes*

Membrane processes are a physical separation technology that allow the selective permeation of compounds through a barrier, resulting in a treated permeate stream and a rejected concentrate/brine stream. Membranes can either be semi-permeable (reverse osmosis [RO]) or very small diameter filtration (nanofiltration). Nanofiltration operates at relatively low pressures compared to RO and is effective in removing divalent ions (such as nitrate and sulfate) but not monovalent ions (such as sodium or chloride). RO removes a wider range of constituents than nanofiltration, including monovalent ions, and is therefore generally more effective than nanofiltration. These systems are often implemented to meet stringent discharge requirements due to the high percentage of removal for ions and dissolved solids. Disposal of the concentrated brine may present disposal challenges.

### Effectiveness

Membrane processes are highly effective for the removal of a wide range of ionic species, such as total dissolved solids, perchlorate, Cr6 and many other contaminants, however, are not as effective as other technologies for the removal of 1,4-dioxane or VOCs. Membrane processes are typically implemented to achieve strict concentration requirements for end use options, such as storm drain, reclaimed water, or deep zone injection into an aquifer with higher water quality than the extracted groundwater. Effectiveness is considered relatively high for dissolved solids, perchlorate, Cr6 and many other contaminants, but moderate to low for VOCs and 1,4-dioxane (Table 5-1).

#### Implementability

Membrane processes are typically implemented with filtration, anti-scalant addition, pH regulation, and clean-in-place systems to combat membrane fouling inherent to membrane treatment. With these supplemental systems integrated into the process design, membrane processes are straightforward to operate and maintain, and can operate almost continuously if multiple units are arranged in parallel. However, the rejected concentrate/brine solution is typically 5 to 15 percent of the influent flow for nanofiltration and 10 to 20 percent of the influent flow for RO and would require discharge to a POTW. Implementability is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

## Cost

Membrane processes, particularly RO systems, can have a high initial cost. However, operational costs are relatively low, since the system can be run with minimal operator attention. Disposal costs for the rejected concentrated brine solution must be considered. Cost is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

## Screening Determination

Screened from further consideration in the FS with the exception of injection of treated groundwater, since membrane processes have low to moderate effectiveness for the treatment of OU2 COCs and since perchlorate and Cr6 have not been identified as significant contaminants in the areas that may be considered for OU2 IRMs. The main documented perchlorate source and associated plume are outside the scope of the OU2 FS and IRMs. Hexavalent chromium is found at several source sites but is not widespread within OU2. Alternative 4 uses reverse osmosis to reduce inorganic constituents to concentrations similar to those existing in the receiving layer (Basal Sand). Ion exchange is not warranted for this type of application.

# *5.4.5.1.4 Evaporation/Condensation*

This technology concentrates dissolved solids and other non-volatile constituents from water by boiling contaminated water and condensing the purified water. However, the boiling points of VOCs and 1,4-dioxane are below or close to that of water and therefore these constituents would be retained in the condensate. In general, systems using this technology are built for relatively low flow applications due to the large amount of energy needed to vaporize water.

## Effectiveness

Evaporation/condensation is effective for the removal of non-volatile contaminants and dissolved solids, including perchlorate and Cr6. However, it is not effective for the removal of volatile contaminants or 1,4-dioxane, making this technology unsuitable for the removal treatment of COCs as stated in the RAOs. Effectiveness is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

## Implementability

Systems using evaporation/condensation methods are very energy intensive, since the untreated water needs to be heated to boiling. The heating method (e.g., direct-fired, electric) can generate operational or maintenance challenges. In addition, dissolved solids deposited in the evaporation chamber can build up and decrease the heat transfer efficiency of the system or damage the equipment. Evaporation/condensation units do have a relatively small footprint and are best suited for low flow rate applications. Implementability is considered relatively moderate (Table 5-1).

## Cost

Evaporation/condensation units are expensive relative to their operating capacity, and the heating method can present high installation and operating costs for utilities. Cost is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

## **Screening Determination**

Screened from further evaluation in the FS, due to low effectiveness and high cost compared to other technologies.

## *5.4.5.1.5 Ion Exchange*

Ion exchange is a chemical process in which dissolved ionic contaminants are exchanged with innocuous ions with similar charge on the surface of a cation or anion ion exchange resin. Ion exchange resins are physical media that aid in ion exchange and therefore have been grouped into physical treatment of groundwater. The process stream should be prefiltered prior to ion exchange to prevent particulate fouling of the resin matrix. Ion exchange resins typically used for

groundwater treatment employ a strong base anion exchange resin which selectively removes dissolved anions (including perchlorate or Cr6 as chromate) which have a higher affinity for the resin than the lower affinity, exchangeable anion which is released from the resin into the effluent water.

Ion exchange resins are contained in a fixed or moving bed down-flow or up-flow contactor system. The resin must be regenerated when the resin becomes fully loaded with ions removed from the groundwater and breakthrough occurs. Regeneration is accomplished using a strong acid, strong base, or high concentration brine solution (depending on the resin type and contaminants) to replace the contaminant ions on the resin and multiple bed volumes of regenerant are typically used to restore the exchange capacity.

### Effectiveness

Ion exchange processes are highly effective for the removal of many organic and inorganic ions, including perchlorate and Cr6, however ion exchange is not effective for the removal of VOCs or 1,4-dioxane. Effectiveness is considered relatively high for perchlorate and Cr6 but ineffective for VOCs and 1,4-dioxane (Table 5-1).

### Implementability

Ion exchange beds have a relatively small footprint and can be operated continuously if multiple reactors are run in parallel. These systems require minimal operational supervision, and maintenance is infrequent. However, the regeneration solution can present operational and/or disposal challenges. Implementability is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

#### Cost

Cost is primarily driven by the type of resin used, which may need to be specialized if other constituents in the process stream compete with ion exchange sites, and the disposal of the regeneration solution. Cost is considered relatively moderate to high (Table 5-1).

#### Screening Determination

Screened from further consideration in the FS, since perchlorate, Cr6, and organic ions have not been identified as significant contaminants in the areas that may be considered for OU2 IRMs. However, this technology could be considered in the future during remedial design to meet end use requirements.

## 5.4.5.2 Chemical Treatment of Extracted Groundwater

The following section describes remedial technologies evaluated for chemical treatment of extracted groundwater.

## *5.4.5.2.1 Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP)*

AOP refers to a class of technologies that utilize various methods to create hydroxyl radicals in a treatment system, which react with and destroy a variety of organic compounds. Common methods include UV radiation, hydrogen peroxide, ozone, or a combination of multiple methods. For this site, ozone is not an acceptable treatment process option since it has the potential to create bromate as a harmful byproduct. AOP is commonly used in both groundwater and wastewater treatment for both contaminant destruction and water disinfection.

## Effectiveness

AOP is known to be highly effective for the removal of 1,4-dioxane, NDMA, and unsaturated VOCs, however, the effectiveness for destruction of chlorinated alkanes (e.g., 1,1-DCA) is much lower. Effectiveness for systems utilizing UV radiation depends on the turbidity of the influent water for UV transmittance and requires pre-filtration to maximize operation. This technology is used extensively throughout industry and is a reliable method for the removal of many organic COCs identified earlier in this document. Effectiveness is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

## Implementability

The large variety of AOP methods available allows any system to be tailored to site specific needs. Reactors typically have a small footprint and are low maintenance. In general, AOPs are not stand alone, and may require downstream quenching or filtration to capture oxidation byproducts or excess peroxide/ozone. Implementability is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

## Cost

AOPs have a high capital cost, require the replacement of feedstock as the system operates, and lamp replacement is typically required every 3 to 5 years. Many AOP systems have developed advanced, energy-efficient lamps to reduce electrical costs, however the energy costs for this technology will be relatively higher than other technologies. Other operational costs are relatively low, since the system is simple to run and can do so with minimal supervision. Cost is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

## Screening Determination

Retained for further evaluation in the FS, since it effectively treats 1,4-dioxane and other VOCs such as TCE and PCE.

## 5.4.5.3 Biological Treatment of Extracted Groundwater

The following sections describe remedial technologies evaluated for biological treatment of extracted groundwater.

## *5.4.5.3.1 Biological Liquid-Phase Granular Activated Carbon (Bio-LGAC) Adsorption*

Bio-LGAC systems are very similar to standard LGAC systems, but they also allow for a limited build-up of a biological film on the carbon media that can remove a wider range of COCs. The Bio-LGAC process involves the simultaneous adsorption and aerobic biodegradation of many organic contaminants and has been most frequently used in the advanced treatment for potable water and industrial wastewater treatment. This treatment technology also includes nutrient injections and other process controls that are necessary to maintain the health of the biomass and the effectiveness of the system.

## Effectiveness

Similar to LGAC, this technology is effective for the treatment of VOCs and perchlorate and can be tailored to specific contaminants through the selection of biological species. Organisms can be sensitive to process conditions, and an inability to effectively manage the reaction environment can result in a decrease in effectiveness or total lack of treatment. Effectiveness is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

## Implementability

Bio-LGAC systems have a relatively small footprint and are relatively easy to install. The primary issue of Bio-LGAC is the build-up of biomass during operation, which requires backwashing to remove and the subsequent disposal of biomass. In addition, off-gas produced as a byproduct may require additional treatment through VGAC or an oxidizer, and filters may need to be installed downstream of the process to capture biomass that escapes the Bio-LGAC vessel. In addition, greater operational supervision is required for Bio-LGAC systems than LGAC systems since the biological organisms can be sensitive to minor changes in process conditions. Implementability is considered relatively moderate (Table 5-1).

## Cost

Costs primarily depend on the initial purchase of the LGAC vessels, media, and starting biomass. Operational costs may include periodic purchase of additives used to maintain the health of the biomass. Cost is considered relatively moderate to high (Table 5-1).

### **Screening Determination**

Screened from further consideration in the FS, since the marginally improved removal efficiency does not justify the increased operational complexity over a standard LGAC system.

## *5.4.5.3.2 Biological Treatment*

Biological treatment of extracted groundwater typically takes place in an above-ground reactor that contains high surface area media, such as sand. Microbes that are effective in the degradation of specific COCs live in the reactor and are maintained with nutrient injections and process control. Systems can be operated aerobically or anaerobically, depending on the application.

#### Effectiveness

Systems using biological treatment can be customized to target specific COCs present at the treatment site and are highly effective for the removal of VOCs and perchlorate. Maintaining process conditions that allow the microbes to thrive is the primary determining factor for effectiveness, and mismanaged systems can have very low removal rates. Effectiveness is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

#### Implementability

Biological treatment systems possess inherent operational complexity, since microbes are highly sensitive to process conditions. In addition, off-gas treatment and periodic biomass removal may be required. Implementability is considered relatively moderate (Table 5-1).

## Cost

Since the design of biological treatment systems depends heavily upon the specific microbes present in the reactor, costs can vary widely. Simpler systems tend to be less expensive, but still require a high degree of process monitoring and control that can drive up costs quickly. Cost is considered relatively moderate to high (Table 5-1).

#### Screening Determination

Screened from further consideration in the FS, due to high operational complexity relative to other available technologies.

#### 5.4.6 *Treated Water Discharge or End Use Process Options*

As described further below, treated water discharge, end use, or disposal options include:

- Injection
- Storm drain disposal
- POTW and GWRS
- Non-potable reclaimed water use

## 5.4.6.1 Injection

Treated groundwater would be discharged to the subsurface using injection wells. The injection wells could be screened in the interval from which groundwater is extracted; in the Shallow Aquifer System beneath the extracted interval (screened in the Basal Sand); or in the deeper aquifer systems.

## Effectiveness

As described above, individual source site extraction wells reportedly have achieved sustainable groundwater extraction rates ranging from less than 1 to approximately 29 gpm. This suggests that injection of treated water may be a feasible discharge option. Since the receiving aquifer(s) would have sufficient capacity to accept treated water, this option would allow uninterrupted discharge and would not have the potential limitations described herein for non-potable reclaimed water end use and/or storm drain discharge. Effectiveness in disposing of the treated groundwater is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

## Implementability

The Principal Aquifer System is currently used for the production of drinking water. For reinjection into aquifers that currently are used for the production of drinking water, the extracted water would have to be treated to relatively strict discharge standards that are often more stringent than drinking water standards. State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 68-16 prohibits degradation of groundwater used for potable uses. Under the state's anti-degradation policy, water that meets drinking water standards might require additional treatment prior to injection since the receiving aquifer may have better water quality than water that is treated only to drinking water standards. Injection into the Principal Aquifer System could require treatment technologies that generate a waste brine stream high in total dissolved solids, which cannot be reused and would be discharged to a POTW. For these reasons, injection into the Principal Aquifer System is not further considered herein.

Injection of treated groundwater into the zone from which it is extracted would require consideration of potential interference with source site remedial efforts and existing plumes within the Shallow Groundwater System which would require significant access and permitting effort. Injection into the same vertical interval (Layers 1 through 3) where extraction would be applied is not recommended based on:

1. The predominantly fine-grained nature of Layer 1 and to a lesser extent Layer 3 and the anticipated low injection rates and relatively more frequent well development activities resulting therefrom;

- 2. The potential to displace relatively high COC concentrations in Layers 1 through 3 and negatively affect surrounding shallow groundwater quality; and
- 3. The potential for increasing lateral and vertical groundwater velocities that could intercept nearby Legacy Water Supply Wells and accelerate vertical migration of COCs from the Shallow Aquifer System into the Principal Aquifer System.

Thus, injection into the Basal Sand (Layer 4) portion of Shallow Aquifer System is the only injection scenario that is considered in this document. This would require acquisition of a RWQCB WDR Order, which would specify the discharge conditions that typically require injected water quality to meet drinking water MCLs or notification levels (NLs), and/or meet the water quality existing in the Basal Sand.

Implementation would be difficult based on the extensive permitting and agency approvals that would be required. Multiple injection wells would have to be installed and conveyance piping would be required from the treatment system to each injection well. Injection well performance typically is more sensitive to changes in groundwater levels and water quality compared with extraction wells and they typically require relatively more frequent and robust maintenance and redevelopment.

Implementability is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

### Cost

Based on the preceding administrative, permitting, access, treatment requirements, agency, and public participation requirements, the relative cost is considered high (Table 5-1).

#### **Screening Determination**

Injection into the Basal Sand is retained in the FS as a discharge option for remedial alternatives.

## 5.4.6.2 Storm Drain

Water would require treatment to meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge standards and would be discharged to nearby storm drains or storm channels. The current general discharge permit for discharges to surface waters from groundwater remediation in the San Diego Creek/Newport Bay Watershed (impaired water bodies) is Order No. R8-2007-0045. Based on discussions with RWQCB, this general permit would be required if selenium concentrations exceed 5 to 6 ug/l, and relevant total maximum daily load (TMDL) requirements would apply. Alternatively, there is an expired general discharge permit for groundwater cleanup discharges to surface water in the Santa Ana River Basin that may be renewed, but would only be applicable if selenium concentrations are below 5 ug/l.

Both general permits have narrative and numerical discharge objectives, and numeric criteria for priority toxic pollutants contained in the California Toxics Rule (CTR) criteria are applicable. In order to meet CTR criteria, this disposal option would require treatment technologies that generate a waste brine stream high in total dissolved solids, which would be discharged to a POTW.

## Effectiveness

The discharge capacity to storm drains or storm channels may be completely utilized during and after precipitation events, which would require temporary termination or cycling of groundwater

containment extraction wells. These short-term cycling events are not anticipated to reduce effectiveness of remedy. Effectiveness is considered relatively moderate (Table 5-1).

#### Implementability

Discharge to storm drains would require NPDES permitting and compliance with very stringent CTR criteria. In order to achieve these discharge objectives, treatment likely would be complex and would need to include membrane process with a concentrated brine discharged to the POTW. Implementability is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

### Cost

Capital costs could vary depending upon the distances to and capacity of existing storm drains and channels in the area. If existing storm drain capacity is too low, the capacity may have to be expanded, or the treated water would have to be conveyed longer distances to a location where storm drain capacity is adequate. A replenishment assessment fee for all extracted groundwater would be applicable to fund replenishment of the groundwater. Given the relatively high degree of groundwater treatment, cost is considered relatively moderate to high (Table 5-1).

#### Screening Determination

Storm drain discharge is not retained in the FS as a discharge option for remedial alternatives.

## 5.4.6.3 POTW and GWRS

Treated water would be discharged to a municipal sewer under a Special Purpose Discharge Permit (SPDP) and conveyed to the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) POTW Reclamation Plant No. 1 in Fountain Valley. Most of the Plant No. 1 effluent is further treated at the GWRS, a joint collaboration of OCWD and OCSD, which produces high-quality water to recharge the groundwater basin, protects the groundwater basin from seawater intrusion, and reduces the amount of wastewater discharged to the ocean. This discharge option supports the groundwater resource by returning the treated groundwater to the basin; however, there are costs associated with operation of the GWRS.

Discharge to the OCSD POTW must comply with all maximum allowable local non-domestic discharge limits described in Ordinance No. OCSD-53 Table 1 and prohibitions in Sections 201 (A) and (B). Currently Table 1 does not contain VOC discharge limits and the 1,4-dioxane discharge limit is 1.0 milligram per liter (mg/l). Pretreatment prior to discharge is likely to be required if 1,4-dioxane concentration exceeds 10 to 25 percent of the discharge limit. Local discharge limits are periodically reevaluated by OCSD, and the next evaluation and possible revision to discharge limits is expected in 2022.

## Effectiveness

The discharge capacity to the POTW may be diminished during and after precipitation events, which would require temporary termination or cycling of groundwater containment extraction wells. These short-term cycling events are not anticipated to reduce effectiveness of remedy. POTW/GWRS is an effective extracted and treated water discharge option that is sustainable and preserves the groundwater resource and effectiveness is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

## Implementability

POTW discharge standards are the least stringent of all the discharge and end use options. The local POTW agency has communicated a desire to accept this water for its operations and implementability is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

### Cost

Sewer discharge costs under OCSD's SPDP include administrative permit fees, discharge flowbased fees, supplemental capital facilities capacity charges, and surcharge fees for suspended solids and biological oxygen demand. Additionally, the incremental cost to treat the discharged water using the GWRS could also be incurred.

Discharge to the POTW would likely have the lowest relative costs for treatment and the relative overall cost of this discharge option is therefore relatively moderate compared to the other discharge or end use options (Table 5-1).

#### Screening Determination

POTW/GWRS is retained in the FS as a discharge option for remedial alternatives.

### 5.4.6.4 Non-Potable Reclaimed Water

Treated water could be distributed to an existing non-potable reclaimed water pipeline network in the area for reuse as irrigation or industrial water.

#### Effectiveness

Since treated water production could exceed demand for non-potable reclaimed water at different times of the day and/or year, implementation of this end use option would be highly difficult. Nonpotable reclaimed water demand is seasonal. Highest demand is in the summer season, and the lowest demand is in the winter season. This cyclical demand could result in reduced containment effectiveness during periods where groundwater extraction rates and related groundwater capture zone(s) could be diminished over prolonged periods of time. Effectiveness is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

#### Implementability

There are no existing non-potable reclaimed water pipeline networks in the OU2 area that could be used for reuse. In addition, permitting for production and distribution of non-potable reclaimed water would present challenges as Waste Discharge Requirements/Water Reclamation Requirements permits are generally specific to municipal water reclamation plants and specific distributors. Implementability of this option is relatively low (Table 5-1).

#### Cost

This option is practically infeasible based on implementability criteria. The relative cost would be high (Table 5-1).

#### Screening Determination

Reclaimed water is not retained in the FS as a discharge option for remedial alternatives.

#### 5.4.7 *In-Situ Groundwater Cleanup*

In-situ groundwater cleanup typically is used to remediate groundwater by reducing the toxicity, mobility, and volume of the targeted contaminants. In-situ treatment technologies and process options also can be used as part of a containment remedy.

In-situ process options include natural attenuation and biological, chemical, thermal, and physical treatment (Table 5-1). These response actions would include treatment of COCs in OU2 groundwater to meet the RAOs.

In-situ treatment technologies are focused on reducing the toxicity, mobility, and volume of OU2 groundwater. These treatment technologies produce relatively less waste than ex-situ treatment methods such as pump and treat systems. Except for natural attenuation, all in-situ treatment processes utilized as part of an OU2 groundwater remedy would be employed as a barrier to intercept and destroy the contaminant plume(s) and prevent their further lateral migration downgradient of high concentration areas and/or near the leading edge of the plumes.

## 5.4.7.1 Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA)

MNA includes physical processes such as dispersion, diffusion, dilution, adsorption, and passive volatilization; chemical processes such as chemical oxidation, reduction, neutralization, and precipitation; abiotic degradation; and reactions resulting from biological processes to reduce contaminant concentrations to an acceptable level without active intervention. MNA has been accepted as a treatment technology for lower concentrations of many contaminants, and several guidance documents have been produced by regulatory agencies (USEPA 1998, 1999b, 2010, and 2015). Certain "lines of evidence" need to be met for MNA to be considered (USEPA 1998, 1999b).

Examples of lines of evidence typically used to evaluate MNA effectiveness include:

- Historical contaminant mass reduction monitoring data vs. time (temporal data):
	- o Concentration vs. time graphs for individual wells
	- o A collection of plume maps over time
	- o Statistical trend analysis, such as Mann-Kendall
	- o Mass loss along a flow line
	- o Modeling results indicating mass reduction
- Hydrogeologic or geochemical data:
	- o Documentation that daughter product formation accounts for parent compound concentration decreases
	- o Demonstrating that geochemical conditions support the desired attenuation process, such as anaerobic degradation
	- o Demonstrating that electron acceptors are being depleted and electron acceptors are sufficient
- Field or microcosm studies, if the first two lines of evidence are not sufficient

If these requirements are, or appear to be met, a long-term monitoring plan is developed to ensure MNA remains protective; guidance documents also have been developed for monitoring (USEPA 2004, 2011). It is clear that intrinsic biodegradation (natural attenuation) was and is not sufficient to prevent migration of COCs from source sites to off-property downgradient areas. Based on the statistical analysis of COC concentration trends downgradient of source site remediation areas presented in the SRI, it is also clear that these processes are not sufficient where existing conditions represent expanding COPC plumes, steady state or stable conditions.

## Effectiveness

If applied at appropriate locations, with an adequate monitoring network and analytical schedule, MNA is effective, especially for large, relatively low concentration plumes where other technologies cannot be applied or would be prohibitively costly. For OU2 groundwater, MNA effectiveness is expected to be limited by the presence of Legacy Water Supply Wells within the Study Area, with the actual location and current status of most of these wells remaining unknown. These wells in the Study Area likely act as conduits for the transport of groundwater containing COCs from the Shallow Aquifer System downward into the underlying Principal Aquifer System. Additionally, the concentrations and distributions of COCs beneath and downgradient of source sites not subject to source site remedial efforts in several areas of OU2 groundwater where MNA could potentially be implemented suggest that MNA applied as a sole remedial action would not be effective. MNA effectiveness and the ability to cease monitoring relies on COC concentration reductions in areas where subsurface heterogeneities and low permeability zones result in prolonged matrix back diffusion. For these reasons, MNA effectiveness is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

## Implementability

Because MNA requires only monitoring, it is relatively easy to implement, requiring relatively less infrastructure compared with other process options, which is ideal for a highly developed area like OU2. MNA monitor wells would be installed on privately owned, non-source site properties and/or public ROWs. As a stand-alone process option, MNA would require a substantial number of monitor wells and a very large monitoring network compared with other process options, which could complicate implementability. Implementability is considered relatively high (Table 5-1).

#### Cost

Since MNA requires only monitoring, which all other remedies also require, along with analysis of some additional parameters and evaluation of data, it is relatively less costly than other process options. However, as a stand-alone process option, MNA would require a substantial number of monitor wells and a very large monitoring network compared with other process options, Therefore, cost is considered relatively moderate (Table 5-1).

## Screening Determination

MNA is retained in the FS as a process option for remedial alternatives.

## 5.4.7.2 Active In-Situ Bioremediation (ISB)

ISB technologies typically apply nutrients, sometimes bioaugmented with microorganisms, to the subsurface to stimulate biodegradation of contaminants by generating environments suitable for the sustenance and propagation of microorganisms. Microbial degradation can be either anaerobic

or aerobic. Bioremediation effectiveness is affected by pH, temperature, redox conditions, site hydrology, and the conditions required for biodegradation of each targeted contaminant. Most chemicals degrade more rapidly and completely under aerobic conditions. However, some contaminants (e.g., PCE) require anaerobic conditions to biodegrade. Nutrients would be applied to OU2 groundwater using multiple injection wells placed along linear alignments constructed perpendicular to the direction of groundwater flow. The injection well alignments would be designed to intercept and treat contaminants along the groundwater flow path through the alignments.

## Effectiveness

Bioremediation applied at South Basin source sites with solvents and/or 1,4-dioxane has had limited effectiveness. Degradation of parent compounds (PCE and TCE) has been observed at some sites (Arcadis, 2019; Stantec, 2020a and 2020b). However, generation of persistent, undesirable (cis-1,2-DCE) and more toxic (vinyl chloride) daughter products have been observed (Arcadis, 2019). ISB of 1,4-dioxane has been documented in pilot studies after the addition of oxygen and an appropriate bacterial culture to induce metabolic biodegradation of 1,4-dioxane (Chiang et al., 2016). The addition of oxygen and an appropriate substrate (e.g., butane, propane, ethane) can induce cometabolic biodegradation of 1,4-dioxane. Zhang et al. (2016) demonstrated that chlorinated VOCs inhibit biodegradation of 1,4-dioxane. Thus, it has been recommended that chlorinated VOCs be removed before using biological treatment for 1,4-dioxane (USEPA, 2020a). In addition to the above, potential challenges associated with ISB in OU2 include an inability to reduce COC concentrations before they cross flow from the Shallow Aquifer System into the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells. It is generally impractical to deploy targeted in-situ treatment in the immediate vicinity of Legacy Water Supply Wells due to the unknown location of these wells. The ability to cease application of ISB and achieve RAOs relies on the effectiveness of source remediation efforts, reliance of pore flushing between ISB transects, and reliance on effective distribution of amendments into the subsurface. In general, prolonged operations are required due to incomplete and insufficient delivery of amendments in heterogeneous systems or low permeability zones and back diffusion processes (EPA, 2013) within the application area and throughout the IRM area between transects. Effectiveness is considered relatively low (Table 51).

## Implementability

The process option for ISB would include injection wells and biological treatment, perhaps enhanced with bioaugmentation (enhanced in-situ bioremediation [EISB]). Given the relatively large areas potentially targeted for remediation in OU2, application of ISB for "plume-wide" remediation throughout OU2 is infeasible and not considered herein. ISB injection wells placed at regular, closely spaced intervals along linear alignments constructed perpendicular to the direction of groundwater flow could provide treatment of COCs migrating laterally in the Shallow Aquifer System. Construction of injection wells for ISB would be confined to limited areas at non-source site private properties and/or public ROWs as demonstrated at the remediation performed downgradient of the ITT source site (Arcadis, 2019). Further, ISB typically requires multiple application events at a relatively moderate frequency related to other process options (likely less often than ISCO and more often than in-situ chemical reduction [ISCR]) and may be relatively more burdensome and disruptive to affected property owners or public ROW users. Implementability is considered relatively moderate (Table 5-1).

## Cost

The cost to install injection wells, procure nutrients and bioaugmentation agents, and perform ISB injections on a per-event basis is relatively low. However, the combination of likely multiple application events, particularly if undesirable byproducts are generated and persist at a relatively moderate frequency would add to the overall cost, which is considered relatively moderate to high (Table 5-1).

## Screening Determination

ISB is not retained in the FS as a process option for remedial alternatives for OU2 groundwater subject to IRMs, since OU2 groundwater contains a mix of chlorinated solvents and 1,4-dioxane.

## 5.4.7.3 Chemical Processes

Chemical process options for in-situ treatment include ISCO, ISCR, and chemical fixation.

ISCO involves emplacement of a strong oxidizing agent (amendment) such as hydrogen peroxide, sodium persulfate, or sodium permanganate, to the subsurface. These oxidizing agents cause the rapid chemical degradation of some COCs. ISCR involves emplacement of a reducing agent (amendment) such as zero valent iron (ZVI), calcium polysulfide, or sodium dithionite to the subsurface. For in-situ chemical processes to effectively destroy contaminants, the oxidant/reductant must come into direct contact with the contaminant molecules. Another consideration for ISCO is natural oxidant demand (NOD), which refers to the consumption of an oxidant by non-target constituents due to reactions related to the organic and inorganic components in the matrix (soil or groundwater). As a result, the selection of an oxidant is greatly dependent on the site conditions such as the aquifer NOD, permeability, size and concentration of the target COC, and the persistence of the oxidant in a particular environment.

Given the relatively large areas potentially targeted for remediation in OU2, application of ISCO and/or ISCR for "plume-wide" remediation throughout OU2 is infeasible and not considered herein. Oxidizing and/or reducing agents can be emplaced using dedicated injection wells; injected directly into aquifer materials through direct-push boreholes using specialized injection tooling; or by pneumatic emplacement into open boreholes. However, based on the potential for surfacing of amended water and on the anticipated multiple applications that any in-situ technology is likely to require, the last two methods of emplacement are not considered for OU2 groundwater. ISCO and/or ISCR injection wells placed at regular, closely spaced intervals along linear alignments constructed perpendicular to the direction of groundwater flow could provide treatment of COCs migrating laterally in the Shallow Aquifer System. ISCO applied to OU2 groundwater likely would require more frequent applications based on the short ISCO amendment longevity relative to ISCR or ISB amendments.

Chemical treatment also can be applied as a permeable reactive barrier (PRB). This technology is designed to intercept and treat contaminants where they are placed along linear alignments constructed perpendicular to the direction of groundwater flow. PRBs are constructed in trenches containing reactive media applied to treat specific COCs. The barrier allows water to pass through while the media removes the contaminants by precipitation, degradation, adsorption, or ion exchange. PRB performance can be affected by the presence of fractured rock, heterogeneous lithologic conditions, deep aquifers, high aquifer hydraulic conductivity, and barrier plugging. PRB applications using oxidizing or reducing amendments in a configuration required for effective treatment are not feasible at OU2 due to accessibility constraints on the private property and public ROWs where this remedy will be installed; therefore, PRBs are not further considered.

A significant OU2 groundwater COC is 1,4-dioxane, which is not effectively treated using most ISCO amendments and all ZVI amendments. Therefore, ISCR will not be further evaluated in this document.

ISCO has been applied at several source sites using potassium permanganate (Ricoh Electronics Facility); persulfate (Bell Industries and Baxter Health Care); persulfate activated with chelated iron (Baxter Health Care); and hydrogen peroxide and ozone (Universal Circuits).

ISCO pilot testing at Ricoh using potassium permanganate in 2009 resulted in short-term COC concentration declines, followed by rebounding concentrations within approximately 6 months of application (Wayne Perry Inc., [WPI], 2018). Further, baseline and groundwater monitoring data collected during groundwater remediation pilot testing at the Ricoh source site indicated that elevated concentrations of metals were produced as a result of ISCO groundwater remediation using permanganate (WPI, 2010). Chromium groundwater concentrations in monitor well RMW-1 increased from a baseline (pre-injection) concentration of 34 ug/l to a maximum post-injection concentration of 10,400 ug/l and baseline (pre-injection) chromium groundwater concentrations in monitor well RMW-6S increased from 21 ug/l to a maximum post-injection concentration of 588 ug/l. Ricoh reportedly is now planning to apply EISB using lactate (WPI, 2019).

ISCO pilot studies were performed in 2011 and 2015 at Baxter Healthcare using persulfate to treat 1,4-dioxane and 1,1-DCE. In 2017 the studies were expanded to source area treatment using persulfate activated with chelated iron. Data collected during and after the 2017 source area treatment indicate that COC treatment effectiveness was limited and 1,4-dioxane was not effectively treated (BBJ Group, 2019).

ISCO pilot testing at Universal Circuits using hydrogen peroxide and ozone was performed in 2007. Some destruction of 1,1-DCE was observed, but there was no mention of 1,4-dioxane, which occurs at significant concentrations.

ISCO pilot testing using persulfate performed at the Bell Industries site in 2016 reportedly was successful. An ISCO pilot study using sodium persulfate was implemented in the bakery area south of the site. Based on the results of the study, ISCO treatment was deemed effective for both 1,1-DCE and 1,4-dioxane. However, based on the limited radius of influence of the chemical injections, the short duration of the chemical reaction, and the cost of the material, large-scale implementation was deemed cost prohibitive (Atlas, 2019).

Based on the preceding, the only in-situ process option further considered to target chlorinated VOCs and 1,4-dioxane is ISCO with the use of activated persulfate.

## Effectiveness

As described in the preceding section, ISCO pilot testing performed at the Bell Industries site in 2016 appears to have successfully treated COCs, including 1,4-dioxane. However, experience within OU2 and at many other sites throughout Southern California indicate that, relative to ISCR,

ISCO application typically requires more frequent applications, which is reflected in the implementability and cost criteria. In addition to the above, potential challenges associated with ISCO in OU2 include an inability to reduce COC concentrations before they cross flow from the Shallow Aquifer System into the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells. It is generally impractical to deploy targeted in-situ treatment in the immediate vicinity of Legacy Water Supply Wells due to unknown location of these wells. The ability to cease application of ISCO relies on the effectiveness of source remediation efforts, reliance of pore flushing between ISCO transects, and reliance on effective distribution of amendments into the subsurface. In general, prolonged operations are required due to unpredictable delivery of amendments in heterogeneous or low permeability zones and back diffusion processes within the application area and throughout the IRM area between transects. Effectiveness is considered relatively moderate (Table 5-1).

### Implementability

The process option for ISCO would include injection wells and chemical treatment. ISCO injection wells placed at regular, closely spaced intervals along linear alignments constructed perpendicular to the direction of groundwater flow could provide treatment of COCs migrating laterally in the Shallow Aquifer System. Construction of injection wells for ISCO in groundwater would be confined to limited areas at non-source site private properties and/or public ROWs. Further, ISCO typically requires multiple application events at a relatively high frequency related to other process options and may be relatively more burdensome and disruptive to affected property owners or public ROW users. Implementability is considered relatively moderate (Table 5-1).

#### Cost

The cost to install injection wells, procure oxidant and perform ISCO injections on a per-event basis is relatively low. However, the combination of likely multiple application events at a relatively high frequency will add to the overall cost, which is considered relatively high (Table 5-1). In fact, although ISCO using persulfate was successfully used to treat COCs, including 1,4-dioxane, in groundwater at the Bell Industries source site, it was reported that fullscale application of ISCO would be too costly and application of GET is now proposed (Atlas, 2019).

#### Screening Determination

ISCO using activated persulfate is retained in the FS as a process option for remedial alternatives.

## 5.4.7.4 Thermal Processes

Thermal processes heat groundwater to volatilize certain COCs. Thermal processes for in-situ treatment of contaminants in groundwater typically include electrical resistance heating (ERH), thermal conduction heating, steam injection, and hot air injection.

#### Effectiveness

Effectiveness of thermal processes is considered relatively high but is infeasible in OU2 based on implementability limitations (Table 5-1).

## Implementability

Given the relatively large areas potentially targeted for remediation in OU2, application of thermal technologies for "plume-wide" remediation throughout OU2 is practically infeasible. Any thermal remedy would require design, permitting, construction, and operation and maintenance of soil vapor extraction (SVE) systems to contain, capture, and treat VOC off-gassing from the groundwater. The feasibility of obtaining sufficient access to private properties and/or public ROWs to install and maintain the thermal process infrastructure (electrodes, probes, conveyance piping, electrical lines, SVE wells and piping, SVE treatment system[s]) is very low and would negatively encumber these properties. Implementability is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

## Cost

Energy requirements would be prohibitively high. Thermal process infrastructure (electrodes, probes, conveyance piping, electrical lines, SVE wells and piping, SVE treatment system[s]) costs would be high. The cost is considered relatively very high (Table 5-1).

## **Screening Determination**

Thermal processes are not retained in the FS as a process option for remedial alternatives.

## 5.4.7.5 Physical Processes

Physical process options for in-situ treatment of contaminated groundwater include air sparging (AS) with SVE, or the use of fracturing to emplace amendments into groundwater. AS removes VOCs and some semi volatile organic compounds from groundwater by volatilization, and SVE then removes the vapor-phase contaminants using vacuum blowers and vapor extraction wells. The extracted vapor is collected at the surface and is treated or discharged to the atmosphere, or both. Fracturing can be applied using either hydraulic or pneumatic methods and can create pathways in the aquifer that increase the permeability of soils. However, RWQCB Order No. R8- 2018-0092, General Waste Discharge Requirements for In-Situ Groundwater Remediation at Sites Within the Santa Ana Region states:

The discharge of wastes in geological formations in a manner that increases the mobility and/or extent of the contaminant plume through fracturing of the geologic formation is prohibited. Additionally, fracturing of aquitards that separate two distinct water-bearing zones is prohibited under any condition.

Therefore, fracturing as a physical process will not be considered further in the FS for OU2 IRMs.

## Effectiveness

AS would not effectively treat 1,4-dioxane. Further, AS is not technically feasible, since the volume of groundwater subject to OU2 IRMs is relatively large and many of the properties overlying it are inaccessible. Effectiveness is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

## Implementability

Given the relatively large areas potentially targeted for OU2 IRMs, application of AS for "plumewide" remediation throughout OU2 is practically infeasible. Any AS remedy would require design, permitting, construction, and operation and maintenance of SVE systems to contain, capture, and treat VOC off-gassing from the groundwater. The feasibility of obtaining sufficient access to private properties and/or public ROWs to install and maintain the AS process infrastructure (AS wells, conveyance piping, electrical lines, SVE wells and piping, SVE treatment system[s]) is very low and would negatively encumber these properties. Implementability is considered relatively low (Table 5-1).

### Cost

Energy requirements would be prohibitively high. AS infrastructure (AS wells, conveyance piping, electrical lines, SVE wells and piping, SVE treatment system[s]) costs would be high. The cost is considered relatively very high (Table 5-1).

#### Screening Determination

Physical processes are not retained in the FS as a process option for remedial alternatives.

## **5.5 Retained Remedial Technologies and Process Options**

The results of the technology screening are summarized Table 5-1. From the list of technologies potentially applicable for remediating OU2 groundwater, many technologies were excluded from further consideration because they were considered less effective, not implementable, or too costly relative to the retained technologies. The main bases for screening the excluded technologies included:

- Inability to treat 1,4-dioxane;
- Potential for incomplete VOC degradation/byproduct generation;
- Incompatibility with OU2 access configuration and access and encumbrance limitations; and/or;
- Relatively high cost for little or no benefit in effectiveness or implementability over other technologies.

Based on the preceding section the following remedial technologies and process options are retained for development of remedial alternatives:

- No Action
- Institutional Controls
- Monitoring
- Containment with treated water discharge to:
	- o POTW and GWRS, or
	- o Injection into the Basal Sand of the Shallow Aquifer System
- Monitored Natural Attenuation
- ISCO using persulfate
- Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells, if located

The Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells process options are not considered stand-alone remedial alternatives. However, each of these process options will be a part of any remedial alternative(s) implemented as IRMs for OU2.

# **6.0 DEVELOPMENT OF REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES**

The retained technologies and representative process options are combined in this section to formulate remedial alternatives.

## **6.1 Alternative Development Approach**

USEPA guidance requires that a No Action Alternative be considered and compared to the Action alternatives (USEPA, 1988). The No Action Alternative does not include active remediation, institutional controls or monitoring at OU2. Excepting the No Action Alternative, remedial alternatives were assembled, some as sole remedies, and some by combining the remedial technologies and process options related to the containment and treatment GRAs. Each of the active alternatives also incorporates groundwater monitoring, institutional controls and sealing Legacy Water Wells, if located and accessible.

## **6.2 Remedial Alternatives**

Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells process options are not considered stand-alone remedial alternatives, but each of these process options will be a part of any remedial alternative(s) applied as part of an OU2 IRM, excepting the No Action Alternative. Based on the retained process options, the following alternatives were developed to address OU2 IRM RAOs:

- Alternative  $1 No$  Action
- Alternative 2 Monitored Natural Attenuation
- Alternative 3 Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS
- Alternative 4 Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to the Basal Sand
- Alternative 5 In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation
- Alternative 6 Containment and In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with discharge to POTW and GWRS

#### $6.2.1$ *Alternative 1 – No Action*

USEPA guidance requires that a No Action Alternative be considered and compared to the action alternatives (USEPA, 1988 and 1989). The No Action Alternative is therefore included as a baseline alternative and does not include active remediation, institutional controls, sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells, or monitoring at OU2. No cost is associated with this alternative. There are existing and planned/approved source site remedial actions, existing regulatory and statutory controls over groundwater extraction and use, existing or planned non-CERCLA response actions (i.e., cleanup under state orders or cessation of pumping by operators at water supply wells affected by VOCs), and natural attenuation. However, the lateral and vertical remediation or containment of the OU2 groundwater plumes downgradient of the source sites are not objectives of these source site remedial actions.

#### 6.2.2 *Alternative 2 – Monitored Natural Attenuation*

Alternative 2 remedial actions would include comprehensive collection of groundwater samples from a substantial MNA monitoring network; laboratory and field analyses of relevant MNA analytes and parameters; and detailed evaluation of MNA data throughout OU2. As a stand-alone remedial alternative, a substantial number of additional monitor wells would be required. Collected data would be evaluated in accordance with guidance criteria to determine if MNA is an effective treatment option (USEPA, 1998 and 1999b). If determined to be an effective remedial alternative, a long-term monitoring plan would be developed and data collected pursuant to this monitoring plan would be periodically reevaluated to determine if MNA is performing as expected (USEPA, 2011).

#### 6.2.3 *Alternative 3 – Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS*

Alternative 3 remedial actions would include installation of groundwater extraction wells screened in all or portions of Layers 1 through 3 within the Shallow Aquifer System and construction of an aboveground treatment system(s). As conceptually illustrated on Figure 2-3, this alternative would be applied at select and accessible locations within higher concentration and leading-edge areas of the plumes. Groundwater would be extracted in higher concentration areas to decrease lateral and vertical migration of high concentration COCs into zones with lower concentrations within OU2; decrease the threat of COC migration from the Shallow Aquifer System to the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells that cannot be located or properly destroyed; and begin to treat and reduce the concentration of COCs in groundwater. Groundwater would be extracted from leading-edge areas to control the spread of OU2 COCs and minimize discharge of COCs exceeding ecological risk-based concentration from the Shallow Aquifer System to surface water channels. Extracted groundwater would initially be treated using filtration to reduce sediment load and LGAC to reduce VOC concentrations, then discharged to the sewer and would ultimately be treated by the POTW and GWRS.

Groundwater monitoring would be conducted to evaluate performance of the containment system, maintain compliance with permits, plans, or orders, and to evaluate remediation progress. The groundwater monitoring program would be developed as part of the final IRM design. Access controls would be implemented around the treatment system(s) to communicate potential risks and exclude unauthorized access to the treatment building. O&M would consist of extraction well maintenance and redevelopment, and treatment system operations, monitoring and maintenance that would include filter and LGAC change out and disposal, equipment maintenance and repair, and process monitoring.

#### *Alternative 4 – Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and*  6.2.4 *Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to the Basal Sand*

Alternative 4 remedial actions would include installation of groundwater extraction wells screened in all or portions of Layers 1 through 3 within the Shallow Aquifer System; installation of injection wells screened in Layer 4 (Basal Sand) within the Shallow Aquifer System; and construction of an aboveground treatment system(s). As conceptually illustrated on Figure 2-3, this alternative would be applied at the same locations with effectively the same performance as Alternative 3. Extracted groundwater would initially be treated using UV light and hydrogen peroxide technology to reduce 1,4-dioxane to required treatment levels. Groundwater would then be passed through LGAC to treat the remaining COCs. Additional treatment to reduce total dissolved solids may also be performed. Treated water would then be injected into the Basal Sand.

Groundwater monitoring would be conducted to evaluate water quality, maintain compliance with permits, plans, or Orders, and to evaluate remediation progress. The groundwater monitoring program would be developed as part of the WDR Order M&RP that would be required for this alternative. The groundwater monitoring program would be developed as part of the final IRM design. Access controls would be implemented around the treatment system(s) to communicate potential risks and exclude unauthorized access to the treatment building. O&M would consist of extraction and injection well maintenance and redevelopment, and treatment system operations, monitoring and maintenance that would include chemical supply, LGAC change out and disposal/recycling, equipment maintenance and repair, and process monitoring. The groundwater monitoring program would be developed as part of this alternative.

#### *Alternative 5 – In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-*6.2.5 *Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation*

Alternative 5 remedial actions would include installation of injection wells screened in all or portions of Layers 1 through 3 within the Shallow Aquifer System and periodic application of ISCO using persulfate. Dissolution of sodium persulfate results in the formation of the persulfate anion (S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup>) and two sodium ions (Na<sup>+</sup>). The persulfate anion (S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup>) is a strong oxidant, which itself can degrade many environmental contaminants or it can be catalyzed with various reactants to form the more powerful sulfate radical.

Persulfate activation is required to convert the persulfate into the highly reactive persulfate anion radical, a very strong oxidant capable of destroying a wide range of contaminants. Selection of the persulfate activation method, however, depends on many factors, including the target contaminants, lithology, hydrogeology, and other specific site conditions, which can be conducted during the Pre-Design Investigation if an alternative using ISCO is part of the IRMs. The persulfate activator that will be included in the detailed evaluation is high pH (alkaline) activation, which is known to generate super oxide radicals, providing a source of reductive species capable of destroying, among other compounds, chlorinated ethenes. Alkalinity can also increase desorption of contaminants from soil surfaces or enhance dissolution of non-aqueous phase liquids (NAPLs) for better contact with the persulfate. The target pH for effective activation is in the range of 10.5 to 12. Sodium hydroxide (NaOH) often is used to adjust alkalinity for injection applications.

The mechanism for sodium persulfate oxidation of contaminants is direct oxidation and free radical formation. Direct oxidation utilizes the oxidation capacity of the persulfate ion itself, converting to the sulfate ion  $(SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2</sup>)$  upon reaction. This method is capable of oxidizing VOCs and other compounds. In these reactions, several byproducts, including carbon dioxide, sulfate, chloride, and hydrogen ions, are generated and released to the groundwater. These reaction byproducts are not expected to pose water quality problems, since most of the byproducts are either innocuous or will readily react with aquifer material and subsequently stabilize.

As conceptually illustrated on Figure 2-4, this alternative would be applied at select and accessible locations within higher concentration and leading-edge areas of the plumes. ISCO would be applied in transects within relatively high COC concentration area to decrease lateral and vertical migration of high concentration COCs into zones with lower concentrations within OU2; decrease the threat of COC migration from the Shallow Aquifer System to the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells that cannot be located or properly destroyed; and begin to treat and reduce the concentration of COCs in OU2 groundwater. ISCO would be applied in leading-edge areas to control the spread of OU2 COCs and minimize discharge of COCs exceeding ecological risk-based concentration from the Shallow Aquifer System to surface water channels. The repeated application and consequent reactive persistence of persulfate in the subsurface may result in diffusive transport of the oxidant into low permeability zones. This can be beneficial in reducing the effects of contaminant rebound that can occur when reverse matrix diffusion of contaminants occurs from low permeability strata (Parker, 2002). Persulfate density is greater than water and density-driven transport may generate greater lateral and vertical distribution of oxidants into the aquifer that could further enhance the contact between oxidants and contaminants. Persulfate persistence in the subsurface is directly proportional to its injected concentration and inversely proportional to the natural oxidant demand of the aquifer material and/or contaminants. Injection of persulfate at relatively higher concentrations would allow increased reactive persistence in the subsurface relative to injection of relatively lower concentrations.

Groundwater monitoring would be conducted to evaluate water quality, maintain compliance with permits, plans, or Orders, and to evaluate remediation progress. The groundwater monitoring program would be developed as part of the WDR Order M&RP that would be required for this alternative. O&M would include persulfate and potentially other chemical procurement, injection well maintenance, and periodic application of persulfate using the injection wells.

#### 6.2.6 *Alternative 6 – Containment and In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with discharge to POTW and GWRS*

Alternative 6 remedial actions would include: installation of groundwater extraction wells screened in all or portions of Layers 1 through 3 within the Shallow Aquifer System; construction of an aboveground treatment system(s); installation of injection wells screened in all or portions of Layers 1 through 3 within the Shallow Aquifer System and periodic application of ISCO using persulfate. As conceptually illustrated on Figure 2-5, the ISCO portion of this alternative would be applied in OU2 at select and accessible high concentration areas within OU2, and the GET portion of this alternative would be applied at select and accessible locations within the remaining high concentration and leading-edge areas of the plume. ISCO and groundwater extraction would be applied to relatively high COC concentration areas to decrease lateral and vertical migration of high concentration COCs into zones with lower concentrations within OU2; decrease the threat of COC migration from the Shallow Aquifer System to the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells that cannot be located or properly destroyed; and begin to treat and reduce the concentration of COCs in OU2 groundwater. Groundwater would be extracted from leadingedge areas to control the spread of OU2 COCs and minimize discharge of COCs exceeding ecological risk-based concentration from the Shallow Aquifer System to surface water channels. The groundwater end-use would be determined based on the evaluations performed for Alternatives 3 and 4. The ISCO process would be similar to Alternative 5, although somewhat limited in scope.

Groundwater monitoring would be conducted to evaluate water quality, maintain compliance with permits, plans, or Orders, and to evaluate remediation progress as generally outlined for groundwater extraction and treatment/ISCO processes outlined in Alternatives 3 and 5, respectively.

## **7.0 DETAILED EVALUATION OF REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES**

This section presents an individual analysis of each of the six remedial alternatives presented previously in Section 6. Each of the alternatives is evaluated against seven of the nine NCP criteria. The last two NCP criteria, referred to as "modifying criteria," will be evaluated after the FS is complete.

## **7.1 NCP Criteria and Sustainability Assessment**

The seven NCP evaluation criteria for which the six alternatives will be evaluated in this document are presented in this section. In addition, sustainability assessment has also been evaluated for each of the remedial alternatives (Section 7.1.3). The sustainability assessment was performed to maintain consistency with the NCP. Specifically, the USEPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) *Principles for Greener Cleanups* was used and is referenced herein (USEPA, 2009), which states "OSWER cleanup programs should consider these Principles for Greener Cleanups during any phase of work, including site investigation, evaluation of cleanup options, and optimization of the design, implementation, and operation of new or existing cleanups." The sustainability assessment, like the Threshold and Balancing Criteria, should be used in the remedy selection process, although it may be considered in some instances to be a secondary consideration relative to the Threshold and Balancing Criteria. More detailed sustainability assessment will be conducted during the design phase to integrate green principles into the overall processes. The last two NCP criteria incorporate regulatory agency and community acceptance and will be conducted later (Section 7.1.4).

#### $7.1.1$ *Threshold Criteria*

The first two NCP criteria are threshold criteria and the alternative must comply with them to be eligible for consideration as a remedy.

## Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment

This criterion assesses whether each alternative provides and maintains adequate protection of human health and the environment. Alternatives are assessed to determine whether they can adequately protect human health and the environment from unacceptable short- and long-term risks posed by OU2 COCs. This criterion is also used to evaluate how risks would be eliminated, reduced, or controlled through treatment, engineering controls, and/or institutional controls.

## Compliance with ARARs

This criterion is used to determine if each alternative would comply with ARARs under federal environmental laws and state environmental or facility siting laws, or whether invoking waivers to specific ARARs is justified. Other information identified as TBC criteria, such as advisories, criteria, or guidance, is considered where appropriate during the ARARs analysis. Potential action-, location-, and chemical-specific ARARs for the alternatives presented in this FS are identified in Appendix B.

#### $7.1.2$ *Balancing Criteria*

The balancing criteria are used to evaluate the relative advantages and disadvantages of each remedial alternative.

## Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence

This criterion addresses the ability of an alternative to maintain reliable protection of human health and the environment over time once clean-up objectives have been achieved. The primary components of this criterion are the magnitude of residual risk remaining in OU2 groundwater after remedial objectives have been met and the extent and effectiveness of controls that might be required to manage the risk posed by treatment residuals and untreated wastes.

## Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume through Treatment

This criterion addresses the degree to which alternatives employ treatment or recycling technologies that permanently and significantly reduce the toxicity, mobility, or volume (TMV) of hazardous materials in OU2 groundwater. The NCP expresses EPA's preference for remedies where treatment is used to reduce the principal threats at a site through destruction of toxic contaminants, irreversible reduction in contaminant mobility, or reduction of total volume of contaminated media.

## Short-Term Effectiveness

This criterion considers the effect of each alternative on the protection of the community, workers and the environment during the construction and implementation process. The short-term effectiveness evaluation addresses protection during implementation of the IRM prior to meeting the RAOs of the final remedy.

## Implementability

This criterion evaluates the technical feasibility and administrative feasibility (i.e., the ease or difficulty) of implementing each alternative and the availability of required services and materials during its implementation.

## Cost

This criterion evaluates the cost of implementing each alternative. The cost of an alternative encompasses engineering, construction, and O&M costs incurred over the life of the project. This includes both short-term capital costs and long-term O&M costs.

The cost estimates include capital and annual O&M costs, as well as net present value (NPV). The NPV allows costs for remedial alternatives to be compared by discounting all costs to the year that the alternative is implemented. For estimating NPV, a 30-year period of operation has been assumed. The remedial alternatives may extend beyond 30 years. For all alternatives, the NPV was calculated using the discount rate of 2.5 percent, which was provided by OCWD. The 2.5 percent discount rate is based on OCWD's financial personnel input and is the typical current discount rate used by OCWD for assessing longer-term projects (Appendix S).

#### $7.1.3$ *Sustainability Assessment*

In addition to the seven NCP criteria, each alternative is also evaluated using the concept of sustainability by estimating its consumption and reuse of raw materials (including treated groundwater and wastewater), energy consumption, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with different treatment technologies (Appendix C). The sustainability assessment was performed to maintain consistency with the NCP. Specifically, the USEPA OSWER *Principles for Greener Cleanups* was used and is referenced herein (USEPA, 2009), which states "OSWER

cleanup programs should consider these Principles for Greener Cleanups during any phase of work, including site investigation, evaluation of cleanup options, and optimization of the design, implementation, and operation of new or existing cleanups." This assessment evaluates the degree to which the remedial alternative can be viewed as "green" from the perspective of improving environmental conditions. However, the use of energy, materials, and resources for the cleanup activities creates its own environmental footprint. The assessment and optimization of the cleanup to minimize its environmental impact is referred to as "green cleanup assessment." The OSWER policy cites the following five elements of a green cleanup assessment that are assessed for each alternative (USEPA, 2009):

- Total Energy Use and Renewable Energy Use
- Air Pollutants and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Water Use and Impacts to Water Resources
- Material Management and Waste Reduction
- Land Management and Ecosystems Protection

The Land Management and Ecosystem element focuses on minimizing areas requiring activity or use limitations (e.g., destroy or remove contaminant sources); minimizing unnecessary soil and habitat disturbance or destruction; using native species to support habitat; and minimizing noise and lighting disturbance. Since these items either are addressed by or are not applicable to the individual remedial alternatives presented herein, this element was not evaluated. The Water Use for the alternatives evaluated herein are similar and low. The Impacts to Water Resources regarding water quality are summarized in the evaluation of the effectiveness of each remedial alternative. The Impacts to Water Resources regarding water quantity have not been assessed; however, Alternatives 1 and 2 use no and little water, respectively; Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 extract groundwater, but return the majority of it to the groundwater resource through recharge; and, Alternative 5 also effectively returns utilized water to the groundwater resource through injection.

The SiteWise™ Tool for Green and Sustainable Remediation was used to evaluate and semiquantitatively rank the sustainability of each of the remedial alternatives (Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Command [NAVFAC], 2018) (Appendix C). SiteWise is designed to calculate the environmental footprint of remedial alternatives generally used by the industry. The tool is a series of Excel sheets and provides a detailed baseline assessment of several quantifiable sustainability metrics including: GHGs; energy usage; electricity usage from renewable and non-renewable sources; criteria air pollutants that include sulfur oxides (SOx), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), and particulate matter (PM); water usage; resource consumption; and accident risk. SiteWise was jointly developed by Battelle, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

For the purposes of this document, the SiteWise evaluation was limited to selected well construction and treatment system construction activities (piping installation, treatment system construction) and O&M activities (i.e., groundwater monitoring and treatment system O&M)

The assessment is carried out using a building block approach where each remedial alternative is first broken down into modules that can represent generic components of an alternative or mimic the remedial phases in most remedial actions, including remedial action constructions, and longterm remedial action operation / long-term monitoring. Once broken down into various modules, the footprint of each module is calculated individually. The different footprints are then combined to estimate the overall footprint of the remedial alternative. SiteWise can be applied at the remedy selection, design, or implementation stage (NAVFAC, 2018).

Since the remedial action alternatives use similar technologies, the sustainability assessment focused on the relative comparison of the environmental impacts between the alternatives. The sustainability assessment will be revisited at the Remedial Design (RD) phase and sustainable remediation principles will be integrated into the design and operation of the selected remedial alternative once the IRMs are selected. The environmental footprint assessment of each alternative is preliminary during the FS and development of remedial alternatives. One objective during the RD phase is to reduce to the maximum extent practicable, the environmental footprint of the selected remedy with the goal of protecting human health and the environment. Detailed engineering studies will be conducted to optimize the components of the selected alternatives (for example, not just to reduce the initial cost of pipeline installation, but to account for energy usage (pumping power costs) associated with different pipeline materials (e.g., use smaller versus larger pipe sizes, use of smoother pipeline materials to reduce pressure losses, etc.). The design will include consideration of extensive use of lower energy consuming equipment, as well as solar panels to produce onsite power to offset facility power requirements from the local power supplier. In addition, consideration will be given to procurement of electrical power from greener source suppliers. Emerging technologies and changes in the economic environment at the time of RD will also be considered in order to minimize the environmental footprint of the selected remedy.

#### *Modifying Criteria*  $7.1.4$

The last two NCP criteria, Regulatory Agency Acceptance and Community Acceptance, referred to as "modifying criteria," will be evaluated and the results will be presented in the Proposed Interim Remedial Action Plan and Responsiveness Summary (IRAP) and the Community Involvement Plan Implementation activities and documents.

## Regulatory Agency Acceptance

Considers whether the state regulatory agencies agree with the analyses and recommendations, as described in the RI, FS, IRAP, and the Community Involvement Plan implementation activities and documents. Regulatory agencies, including the RWQCB, DTSC, and State Water Board DFA, are members of the TAC that provided technical input and review during the development of the RI and FS. Following agency acceptance of the Supplemental RI report in February 2021, TAC meetings continued to be held to discuss agency comments on the ARARs presented in the FS (Appendix B), screening of remedial technologies, and identification and evaluation of remedial alternatives described in the FS. TAC meeting minutes, agency comments, and responses to comments on the development of the FS are presented in Section 1.0 and Appendices H through U. Further agency engagement and input is planned during the future development of the proposed IRAP.

# Community Acceptance

Considers whether the local community agrees with the analyses and preferred alternative. Following solicitation, review, and preparation of responses to comments on the Supplemental RI report in 2020-21, engagement with the community continued during the FS development through the SAG and community outreach meetings, as well as review of the Draft OU2 FS Report. The SAG members include local city officials, water agencies, business and community groups, environmental interests, and current or former property owners (including their legal representatives and environmental consultants). Section 1.0 describes opportunities offered to the community to learn about the FS and to review and comment on the Draft OU2 FS Report. Responses to stakeholder comments on the Draft OU2 FS Report are provided in Appendix V. Further community engagement and input is planned during the future development of the proposed IRAP. This engagement will include at least one public meeting, review of the proposed IRAP, and Responsiveness Summary regarding comments received, all of which will be documented.

## **7.2 Detailed Evaluation of Remedial Alternatives**

The following six remedial alternatives for OU2 IRMs are included in the detailed analysis presented in this section:

- Alternative  $1 No$  Action
- Alternative 2 Monitored Natural Attenuation
- Alternative 3 Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS
- Alternative 4 Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to the Basal Sand
- Alternative 5 In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation
- Alternative 6 Containment and In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS

Table 8-1 summarizes the general response actions and process options included in each of the six remedial alternatives described herein.

The results of the individual evaluations presented in this section will provide the basis for comparative analysis in Section 8.0. The remedial alternatives will be compared to one another with respect to their ability to meet the NCP criteria and to achieve the IRM RAOs for OU2 groundwater. This comparison of alternatives will provide the required information for selecting the remedial alternative for achieving these objectives.

#### $7.2.1$ *Scope of Alternatives and Common Elements*

Descriptions of the six remedial alternatives were presented in Section 6.0. Additional details regarding Alternatives 2 to 6 are presented in Section 7.2.3. This information was used to develop the feasibility study cost estimates presented in the respective sections.

Since restrictions on groundwater use/exposure will be required until each remedy achieves the final remedy RAOs, the Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells process options will be a part of any OU2 IRMs. Costs for Institutional Controls and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells are common to Alternatives 2 to 6. Since each of these costs are expected to be similar for each of these alternatives, an assumed placeholder cost of \$50,000 per year for these activities was incorporated into the overall estimate for Alternatives 2 to 6. The level of effort for groundwater monitoring varies for the different remedial alternatives; therefore, the estimated costs based on scope of groundwater monitoring and reporting have been included in the estimated total costs for each of the remedial alternatives. The costs of CERCLA statutory 5-year remedy reviews were assumed to be the same for Alternatives 2 to 6 at \$100,000 per event, starting 5 years after construction of the respective alternative is complete.

Alternatives 2 to 6 will require a PDI to support more specific design aspects of the respective alternative. For the purposes of this document, PDI for Alternatives 2 to 6 includes installation of associated groundwater monitor wells. Additional PDI tasks would likely include sampling and hydraulic testing for Alternatives 2 to 6 and possibly some bench testing (for Alternatives 4 to 6). The cost estimate for PDI for Alternatives 2 and 3 consists of monitor well installation and a rough order of magnitude cost (\$1,000,000 placeholder) for sampling, hydraulic testing, and document preparation. The cost estimate for PDI for Alternatives 4 to 6 also consists of monitor well installation and a rough order of magnitude cost (\$1,500,000 placeholder) for sampling, hydraulic testing, bench testing, and document preparation.

Feasibility study cost estimates incorporate unit rates that were developed from multiple sources including: rough budgetary estimates from suppliers; professional experience/judgement with similar projects; published cost estimates for similar processes; and/or web-based research. The detailed cost estimates and source of estimate are contained in Appendix D. To the extent practical, the cost estimates attempt to incorporate coordination, permitting, security, utility clearance, traffic control, materials, equipment, and staff to implement the identified activities. It is important to recognize that the cost estimates prepared for the FS are meant to provide a comparative analysis between alternatives and provide a rough order of magnitude estimate of cost, and as such, should not be used for budgetary purposes.

#### $7.2.2$ *Incorporation of RWQCB Data Gap Analysis*

The RWQCB provided an evaluation of groundwater monitoring data gaps (RWQCB data gaps) as part of their review of the SRI in their *Summary of Data Gaps for the Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report – Orange County South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable unit 2 (Grant Agreement No. D1712505)* (RWQCB, 2019) (Appendix G). The RWQCB and the SWRCB have indicated that the SRI is complete and final (EA, 2021; OCWD, 2020) and therefore there are no data gaps related to the RI. However, and as indicated in the response to comments for the SRI (EA, 2021a), the COC distribution maps presented in the SRI and provided herein are further evaluated in relation to the ongoing or planned source site remedial efforts. This evaluation is used to identify potential data gaps associated with the Preliminary Design Investigation (PDI) or initial capital cost construction phases of IRMs for Alternatives 2 through 6. There is overlap between the RWQCB data gaps and the IRM data gaps described herein. Thus, the following sections describe areas where the RWQCB data gaps overlap with the IRM data gaps and the RWQCB data gaps could be addressed in whole or part by implementation of Alternatives 2 through 6.

The level of effort to select specific locations and depths of data gap monitor wells can be high and is reserved for the selected alternative during the Remedial Design phase of work. The level of effort to develop and present detailed data gap evaluation in this document for each alternative would not add commensurate value or influence comparison and selection of an alternative. All of the alternatives presented herein include a substantial number of monitor wells as summarized in Table 7-1. For groundwater extraction alternatives, extraction well monitoring data will also be collected, which substantially increases the monitoring data for these alternatives. The RWQCB data gaps that are not addressed in this document will be reviewed prior to conducting the PDI to assess relevancy to the selected alternative. The information developed during the PDI will inform and close data gaps for the selected alternative, and there may be data gaps that become more apparent during implementation of the remedy which will be evaluated during 5-year remedy reviews.

The following summarizes RWQCB data gaps that could be addressed in whole or part by implementation of the MNA alternative (Alternative 2) and the alternatives that incorporate an active remedial technology (Alternatives 3 to 6). For ease of reference, the numbers in parentheses in the following bullet items are from RWQCB (2019).

For Alternative 2, additional groundwater assessment/monitor well installation and monitoring would be performed by OCWD as part of the IRM PDI or initial capital construction phases at the following sites:

Bell Industries Off-Site (2)

- Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally near MW-24 and -24C stepping out laterally to the west, and downgradient to the southwest (Area 2, Figure 7-1).
- Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally south of Bell Industries and adjacent to the 55 Freeway near CPT-15, -114, -17, and -111. Since 2012, no data has been collected, therefore, the extent of the comingled COC plume may have migrated beyond the contour boundary and may be impacting sites south of the 55 Freeway (Area 2, Figure 7-1).

Holchem and Circuit One (5)

• The area bounded to the west by Holchem/Embee Plating, to the south by E Warner Avenue, to the east by Circuit One, and to the north by Barlen Enterprises (Area 1, Figure 7-1).

Area Bounded by S. Grand Avenue, E. Warner Avenue and the 55 Freeway (7)

• Since 2012, no data has been collected in the area near CPT-115, 116B, and 117, therefore, this area needs further delineation vertically and laterally. The upgradient contributions have not been fully defined for target COCs, especially for TCE, 1,1-DCE and 1,4-dioxane. Therefore, the depicted plume boundaries may have merged and/or migrated vertically and laterally since its initial assessment (Area 2, Figure 7-1).

Cherry Aerospace Off-Site (8)

• CPT data has been collected in 2012 and 2015; however, no data has been collected since. Further delineation is needed both vertically and laterally for the following location: West of Cherry Aerospace and north of SAM-4 (Area 4, Figure 7-1).

ITT Cannon (9)

• Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally between SAM-5 and SAM-6, andnear CPT-123, 124, and 190. Nearby monitoring wells MW-45B (44.3-59.3 ft bgs) and MW-17A/B (5-25 and 30-35 ft bgs) do not fully capture the shallow contamination from approximately 0-60 ft bgs and to a lesser extent do not capture the leading edge of the COCs plume from approximately 60 ft bgs-Basal Sand as depicted in the figures (Area 4, Figure 7-1).

West of intersection of Redhill Avenue and Alton Parkway (13)

• Area vertically and laterally West of Redhill Avenue and South of Alton Parkway (Area 5, Figure 7-1).

# South of the intersection of Redhill Avenue and Gillette Avenue (14)

- The eastern edge of the plume between Gillette Avenue and Armstrong Avenue (near SAM-10 and north of Baxter Healthcare) has not been delineated for all COCs. The Former Standard Screw Products Site (1712 Langley Avenue, Irvine, CA 92714) will provide some groundwater monitoring data; however, further delineation is necessary and this area remains a data gap (Area 6, Figure 7-1).
- In addition, no data exists from 0-36.5 ft bgs in the vicinity of SAM-10A (36.5-46.5 ft bgs) and step-out borings have not delineated potential downgradient impacts. CPT-170 (18-22 and 27-31 ft bgs) had detectable concentrations of all COCs within this shallow zone (Area 8, Figure 7-1).

South of the 55 Freeway and MacArthur Blvd (15)

• The southern edge of the plume has not been fully delineated vertically and laterally and presents a data gap. Since 2012, no data has been collected south of the intersection of MacArthur and the 55 Freeway, therefore, the extent of the commingled COC plume may have migrated beyond the contour boundary since the time the groundwater grab samples were obtained. Data gaps exist at the leading edge of the plume near CPT-147, 148, 160, 159, and 157 (Area 7, Figure 7-1).

Baxter Healthcare and Edwards Lifesciences Off-Site (16)

- Further delineation of the leading edge of the plume is needed vertically and laterally located to the west of MacArthur Blvd, bounded by Redhill Avenue and Main Street, and in the general vicinity of CPT-174 (Area 6, Figure 7-1).
- Further delineation of the plume is needed vertically and laterally to the east of MacArthur Blvd, bounded by Redhill Avenue and Main Street, and in the general vicinity of CPT-156, 175, 176, and 184. The leading edge of the plume has not been delineated for all COCs. In addition, SAM-9A (37.5-42.5 ft bgs) does not address shallow contamination from 0-37.5 ft bgs. The sites at the southern edge of the project Study Area include Olen Properties (2031 Main Street, Irvine, CA 92714) and Deft Chemical Coating, Inc. (17451 Von

Karman Avenue, Irvine, CA 92714) which have groundwater monitoring data that may further define the downgradient extent of the contaminants (Area 8, Figure 7-1).

For Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6 additional groundwater assessment/monitor well installation and monitoring would be performed by OCWD as part of the IRM PDI or initial capital construction phases at or near the following sites:

## Steelcase Off-Site (4)

• South of Steelcase Incorporated and Pullman Street (Area 3, Figure 7-2/3/4/5).

Area Bounded by S. Grand Avenue, E. Warner Avenue and the 55 Freeway (7)

• Since 2012, no data has been collected in the area near CPT-115, 116B, and 117, therefore, this area needs further delineation vertically and laterally. The upgradient contributions have not been fully defined for target COCs, especially for TCE, 1,1-DCE and 1,4-dioxane. Therefore, the depicted plume boundaries may have merged and/or migrated vertically and laterally since its initial assessment (Area 1, Figures 7-2 through 7-5).

Cherry Aerospace (8)

• CPT data has been collected in 2012 and 2015; however, no data has been collected since. Further delineation is needed both vertically and laterally for the following location: west of Cherry Aerospace and north of SAM-4 (Area 1, Figures 7-2 through 7-5).

Intersection of 55 Freeway and East Dyer Road (11)

- Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally in the vicinity of SAM6, CPT-168, CPT-171, and west of 7-MW-5.
	- o Approximatively 0-60 ft bgs:
		- The eastern extent of the TCE and PCE plumes near CPT-171 have not been defined.
		- The leading edge of the 1,1-DCE and 1,4-dioxane plume near CPT-168 has not been delineated. There is the potential for the 1,1-DCE and 1,4-dioxane plumes emanating from the general areas, of Holchem, Universal Circuits/Bell Industries and Steelcase to have comingled since the collection of water quality samples in 2012.
	- o Approximately 60 ft bgs-Basal Sand:
		- The leading edge of the 1,1-DCE and 1,4-dioxane plume near CPT-168 has not been delineated. There is the potential for the 1,1-DCE and 1,4-dioxane plumes emanating from the general areas of Holchem, Universal Circuits/Bell industries, and Steelcase to have comingled since the collection of water quality samples in 2012 (Area 4, Figures 7-2 through 7-5).

West of intersection of Redhill Ave and Alton Parkway (13)

• Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally for all COCs in between CPT-141 and CPT-186 (Area 5, Figures 7-2 through 7-5).

## South of the intersection of Redhill Avenue and Gillette Avenue (14)

The eastern edge of the plume between Gillette Avenue and Armstrong Avenue (near SAM-10 and north of Baxter Healthcare) has not been delineated for all COCs. The Former Standard Screw Products Site (1712 Langley Avenue, Irvine, CA 92714) will provide some groundwater monitoring data; however, further delineation is necessary and this area remains a data gap (Area 6, Figures 7-2 through 7-5).

## South of the 55 Freeway and MacArthur Blvd (15)

- The southern edge of the plume has not been fully delineated vertically and laterally and presents a data gap. Since 2012, no data has been collected south of the intersection of MacArthur and the 55 Freeway, therefore, the extent of the comingled COC plume may have migrated beyond the contour boundary since the time the groundwater grab samples were obtained. Data gaps exist at the leading edge of the plume near CPT-147, 148, 160, 159, and 157 (Area 7, Figures 7-2 through 7-5).
- In addition, SAM-8A is screened from 33-43 ft bgs and does not address shallow contamination from 0-33 ft bgs.

## Baxter Healthcare and Edwards Lifesciences Off-Site (16)

• Further delineation of the plume is needed vertically and laterally to the east of MacArthur Blvd, bounded by Redhill Avenue and Main Street, and in the general vicinity of CPT-156, 175, 176, and 184. The leading edge of the plume has not been delineated for all COCs. In addition, SAM-9A (37.5-42.5 ft bgs) does not address shallow contamination from 0-37.5 ft bgs. The sites at the southern edge of the project Study Area include Olen Properties (2031 Main Street, Irvine, CA 92714) and Deft Chemical Coating, Inc. (17451 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, CA 92714) which have groundwater monitoring data that may further define the downgradient extent of the contaminants (Area 8, Figures 7-2 through 7-5).

#### $7.2.3$ *Remedial Alternatives*

The following sections describe the remedial alternatives developed within this document. Except Alternative 1 (No Action), Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells process options would be a component of all applied IRMs, and they would all provide a similar measure of protectiveness to human health and the environment as a component of each alternative.

## 7.2.3.1 Alternative 1 – No Action

The No Action Alternative is the baseline to which all other alternatives are compared. There is no monitoring. It does not comply with ARARs nor is it protective of human health and the environment. As a result, there is no need to evaluate the No Action Alternative to the modifying criteria. In addition, No Action is not an active remedy and does not include 5-year reviews because there is no action; therefore, there is no cost associated with this alternative. This alternative is required by the NCP for detailed analysis as a baseline for comparison of the risks and costs of the other alternatives.

## Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment

The No Action Alternative does not include any Institutional Controls to prevent exposure to the contaminated site groundwater, and there is no way to monitor migration of the OU2 contaminant plumes. Thus, this alternative would not be sufficiently protective of human health or the environment because this alternative would not meet the basic threshold criteria of protecting human health and the environment, and there is documented excess risk associated with the site groundwater.

#### Compliance with ARARs

In the context of an IRM and since no action is taken, there are no chemical-specific ARARs identified for Alternative 1. Likewise, there are no location-specific or action-specific ARARs associated with this alternative. This alternative would not satisfy the USEPA preference for treatment in accordance with 40 CFR Part 264.

### Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence

The No Action Alternative would allow continued migration of COCs in groundwater with some potential reduction from natural attenuation processes; however, its effectiveness cannot be determined without groundwater monitoring. Without the implementation of Institutional Controls, the potential risk of using contaminated groundwater for drinking or other purposes would remain.

### Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume

In the No Action Alternative there would be no active treatment process for the contaminated groundwater. Therefore, TMV would not occur through treatment and any TMV reduction would be related to potential natural attenuation processes. The extent or the rate of reduction would not be known without a groundwater monitoring program. This alternative would not satisfy the statutory preference for treatment as a principal element of a remedial action.

#### Short-Term Effectiveness

Since no remedial action is performed, there is no additional short-term exposure to Site workers, residents, or the environment.

#### Implementability

The No Action Alternative can be easily implemented.

Cost

The present value cost of Alternative 1 is \$0.

#### Sustainability Assessment

Since no remedial action is performed, a sustainability assessment is irrelevant.

## 7.2.3.2 Alternative 2 – Monitored Natural Attenuation

Alternative 2 would include installation of monitor wells within the IRM areas, followed by longterm MNA monitoring. MNA monitoring would be used to track the rate at which natural destructive and nondestructive processes are reducing OU2 groundwater COCs. Figure 7-1 illustrates conceptual MNA groundwater monitoring areas This alternative would include the capital costs of installing an MNA monitoring network, and the O&M costs associated with sampling, reporting, signage installation, and 5-year reviews, which would be performed until RAOs for the final remedy are achieved.

Natural attenuation includes a number of physical, biological, and chemical processes that reduce the mass, toxicity, mobility, and concentration of contaminants without human intervention. These naturally occurring processes of biodegradation, volatilization, dispersion, and dilution can reduce contaminant concentration to acceptable levels, given enough time. MNA is a process option that evaluates and tracks the rate at which these natural processes are occurring. As stated in the EPA documents on MNA, destructive processes (biodegradation, abiotic degradation) are preferred over passive physical processes such as dilution (EPA 1998, 1999b).

MNA is often used as a follow up or combined remedy with other treatment technologies. MNA is seldom used as a stand-alone remedy for individual plumes, especially with the combination and concentrations of COCs in OU2 groundwater. The following detailed evaluation assumes MNA as a stand-alone remedy and does not preclude the use of MNA as a follow up remedy to other treatment technologies in this evaluation.

As stated in Section 5.4.7.1, MNA has not and cannot prevent continued migration of COCs in OU2. The first line of evidence (historical mass reduction) has not been met. The SRI included statistical Mann-Kendall trend analysis (H+A, 2020; Figures 5-19a through 5-19d). The results showed that in the groundwater between land surface and 100 feet in depth, the trends for COCs at concentrations above screening levels were overwhelmingly increasing.

The second line of evidence (hydrogeologic or geochemical data) also has not been met. As stated in the EPA MNA documents, destructive degradation mechanisms are preferred over passive, physical mechanisms. Biodegradation of chlorinated COCs has occurred at or downgradient of source sites where chlorinated COCs were co-released with other chemicals (e.g., methylene chloride, toluene, xylene) that can serve and appear to have served as electron donors for reductive dechlorination (e.g., Holchem) or where active ISB was performed (e.g., ITT). However, at both of these examples, significant concentrations of more mobile and/or more toxic daughter biodegradation products (cis-DCE and vinyl chloride) can or have been produced and still remain at concentrations ten to one thousand times above screening levels (Figures 1-28 through 1-31). Cis-DCE and vinyl chloride have been detected in greater than 25 percent and 10 percent of all samples, respectively (SRI, Table 5-4). At the other sites with chlorinated COCs where no ISB has been performed or there were no significant co-releases of potential electron donors, the geochemistry is not suitable for the anaerobic processes that completely biodegrade chlorinated COCs to occur. The only significant degradation reaction that has occurred is the complete abiotic degradation of 1,1,1-TCA to 1,1-DCE resulting in a mass loss of approximately 27 percent. However, the screening level for 1,1-DCE is approximately 35 times lower than that of 1,1,1-TCA.

The geochemistry is also not suitable for the degradation of perchlorate or transformation of chromium to a non-toxic form. Perchlorate has been detected at concentrations exceeding the drinking water MCL for the most part in an area outside the IRM areas (Figures 1-22 to 1-25). Hexavalent chromium was detected at concentrations exceeding the current drinking water MCL for total chromium and the former California drinking water MCL in relatively isolated areas within the Study Area (Figures 1-36 to 1-39). In general, the hexavalent chromium detected in the middle of the northern portion of the Study Area appears to be related to releases at one or more

facilities and the detection in the southern portion of the Study Area appears to be related to ISCO applications as part of source site remediation.

1,4-dioxane has been detected in greater than 60 percent of all samples collected from the Study Area (H+A, 2020; Table 5-4). The literature indicates that biodegradation of 1,4-dioxane has been observed to occur under aerobic conditions at many other sites (unrelated to the Study Area), but not all (Adamson et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2016; Adamson et al., 2021). Although slightly aerobic conditions exist in the shallow aquifer, the length of the 1,4-dioxane plumes (greater than several thousand feet) indicates the 1,4-dioxane plumes are not being controlled by natural biodegradation or any other destructive process (Figures 1-18 through 1-21).

Laboratory microcosm studies (third line of evidence) or field studies (other than active ISB) do not appear to have been performed at source sites.

## Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment

Alternative 2 would not effectively prevent migration of nor prevent further degradation of COCs in OU2 groundwater and would not prevent COCs exceeding ecological receptor thresholds from potentially discharging into surface waters, excepting that which would be accomplished through natural attenuation processes. However, an institutional control requiring any party proposing the installation and operation of water supply wells in the Study Area to apply for a well construction permit from the OCHCA is currently in place as a County ordinance. An additional institutional control that can feasibly be implemented is notification of OCWD, RWQCB, DTSC, and water suppliers in the Study Area by OCHCA of any water supply well construction permit applications. Such notification would allow communication between the agencies and the applicant with the goals of preventing human exposure to COCs and avoiding interference with OU2 IRMs and source site remedial measures. Maintaining a prohibition on the use of groundwater for potable purposes within OU2, without appropriate notification and planning will provide protection to human health by minimizing the risk of exposure to OU2 COCs in groundwater.

## Compliance with ARARs

In the context of an IRM and since there is no active remediation being implemented, there are no chemical-specific ARARs identified for Alternative 2; however, in context of transitioning IRM to final remedy, this alternative would not comply with the chemical-specific ARARs associated with the state and federal MCLs for OU2 groundwater COCs in a reasonable timeframe. Alternative 2 would comply with potential action-specific ARARs because the remedy is limited to installation of monitor wells and associated monitoring in the potential areas where this alternative could be applied. Alternative 2 complies with location-specific ARARs. This alternative would not satisfy the USEPA preference for treatment in accordance with 40 CFR Part 264.

## Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence

Institutional Controls would be effective in preventing or reducing human exposure to contaminated groundwater through restrictions on potable uses and requiring controls and/or permits on water supply well installation activities. However, this alternative is not considered an effective long-term process option for OU2, since natural attenuation processes would not be likely to achieve IRM RAOs within a reasonable timeframe due to the natural conditions of the subsurface showing limited evidence of COC degradation.

## Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume

Alternative 2 would not accelerate the reduction in the TMV of OU2 groundwater COCs in relation to active treatment alternatives. The TMV of OU2 COCs would diminish solely as a result of natural attenuation processes, which have been shown to be slow as a result of the site geochemistry (i.e., low pH, high ORP, lack of electron donor).

## Short-Term Effectiveness

Although the short-term effectiveness of Institutional Controls would be satisfactory to prevent human exposure to OU2 groundwater COCs, there would be minimal reduction of OU2 COC migration. All construction activities would take place within developed areas and with minimal expected impacts to the environment. Alternative 2 has a small potential for short-term exposure of Site workers to COCs during installation and monitoring of groundwater monitor wells. However, the potential for short-term exposure is reduced by using appropriate work procedures and controls. During remedy construction, noise and dust abatement along with appropriate traffic control would be required to protect the community during the remedy implementation. Standard and/or Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) OSHA requirements would be protective of workers during the construction and monitoring activities.

## Implementability

Because MNA requires only construction of monitor wells and monitoring, it is relatively easy to implement, requiring relatively less infrastructure compared with other process options, which is ideal for a highly developed area like OU2. MNA monitor wells would be installed on privately owned, non-source site properties and/or public ROWs. As a stand-alone process option, MNA would require a substantial number of monitor wells and a very large monitoring network compared with other process options, which could complicate implementability.

Alternative 2 would be applied without any disruption to the previous, ongoing, or planned source site remedial efforts.

## Cost

The following outlines the major scope elements associated with capital and operations, maintenance and monitoring (OMM) costs for Alternative 2 which have been used to estimate the feasibility level cost estimates. Capital costs for this alternative include installation of monitor wells. Appendix D provides the detailed assumptions and cost estimates for this alternative.

Installation and Testing of Monitor Wells: Monitor wells would be required as a component of Alternative 2 to monitor the effectiveness of this remedy. Figure 7-1 illustrates conceptual monitoring areas associated with Alternative 2 and Table 7-1 provides an estimate of the number of monitor wells that would be required to implement this alternative. The distributions of COCs in each monitoring area (Figures 1-6 through 1-39) were evaluated to estimate the number of monitor wells that conceptually would be required in each of Layers 1 through 4 to adequately monitor MNA processes and remediation progress.

Monitoring and Reporting: The MNA monitoring analytical schedule would include collection of groundwater samples from all MNA monitor wells for analysis of the compounds/constituents/parameters specified in Table 7-2.
Cost Estimate: Detailed cost estimates and the assumptions used to generate them for all remedial alternatives are provided in Appendix D. The total NPV costs associated with Alternative 2 are \$24,600,000 over an assumed 30-year project lifetime and are summarized as follows:





# Sustainability Assessment

The SiteWise Tool for Green and Sustainable Remediation was used to evaluate and semiquantitatively rank the sustainability of each of the remedial alternatives (NAVFAC, 2018) (Appendix C). The overview of carbon dioxide  $(CO<sub>2</sub>)$  emissions, and total energy and electricity used for the construction (PDI and construction) and OMM components are summarized in the following table:



7.2.3.3 Alternative 3 – Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS

Alternative 3 comprises installation of groundwater extraction wells and conveyance piping, filtration to reduce sediment load, discharge to the sewer, and treatment by the POTW (OCSD Plant 1) and GWRS. The POTW treatment includes preliminary, primary, and secondary treatment (including screening, clarification, activated sludge process, trickling filters, clarifiers, biological treatment to break down organic matter, and settling tanks). Extracted groundwater would be treated using filtration to reduce sediment load and LGAC to reduce VOC concentrations. Treated water would then be discharged to the sewer and conveyed to the POTW and GWRS. All secondary effluent from the POTW flows to the GWRS where it is treated using a three-step advanced process: microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide, producing high quality purified water that meets or exceeds state and federal drinking water standards. GWRS product water goes to the Talbert seawater intrusion barrier (protecting groundwater), mid-basin injection wells, or groundwater recharge basins.

Figure 7-2 illustrates the conceptual groundwater containment alignments where groundwater extraction wells would be installed and operated. COCs present in the targeted layers would be extracted, contained, and treated during treatment by the POTW and GWRS. Groundwater would be hydraulically contained by pumping extraction wells.

This alternative would include the capital costs of installing groundwater extraction and monitor wells and filtration treatment systems at each alignment, and the O&M costs associated with sampling, reporting, signage installation, and 5-year reviews, which would be performed to maintain compliance with IRMs RAOs and until final remedy RAOs are achieved.

Access controls would be implemented at the filtration systems to warn of dangers and prohibit unauthorized access to the respective area. O&M would comprise monitoring discharge to the sewer at each alignment and maintenance that would include change out of LGAC and filter bags, equipment maintenance and repair, and process monitoring. Groundwater monitoring would be performed to track and evaluate groundwater COC concentrations in OU2.

### Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment

Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells process options would be a component of this alternative, and they would all provide a similar measure of protectiveness to human health and the environment as a component of this alternative. Alternative 3 is protective of human health and the environment, since it would reduce the mass of COCs that would migrate beyond areas in OU2 where it would be applied, thereby reducing potential human health exposures. In addition, maintaining a prohibition on the use of groundwater for potable purposes within OU2, with appropriate notification and planning will provide protection to human health by minimizing the risk of exposure to OU2 COCs in groundwater. COCs in extracted groundwater would be treated at the POTW and the GWRS to destroy and/or reduce concentrations by the POTW and the GWRS. Alternative 3 would achieve OU2 COC capture through extraction along the alignments where it would be applied. Extraction in areas of relatively high COC concentrations/mass and at the leading edges of OU2 plumes would maintain containment and prevent further COC migration in these areas, with the exception of cross flow from the Shallow Aquifer System into the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells; however, this alternative does begin to mitigate this risk by extracting and treating COCs from the Shallow Aquifer System. Multiple groundwater extraction wells would allow the extraction rates to be varied throughout the containment areas in response to changing groundwater flow conditions.

This alternative would permanently remove contamination from the extracted groundwater and would achieve overall protection of human health and the environment.

# Compliance with ARARs

In the context of an IRM this alternative would meet chemical-specific ARARs as water treated at the POTW and GWRS meets applicable discharge requirements. In the context of transitioning the IRM to final remedy, this alternative also would meet chemical-specific ARARs associated with the state and federal MCLs for OU2 groundwater COCs by removing these COCs from OU2 groundwater. Alternative 3 would comply with potential action-specific ARARs because extracted groundwater would meet POTW pre-treatment requirements prior to discharge. Alternative 3 would meet location-specific ARARs. Treatment of extracted groundwater at the POTW and GWRS would occur prior to discharge in accordance with requirements for these systems. This alternative would satisfy the USEPA preference for treatment in accordance with 40 CFR Part 264.

# Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence

Alternative 3 would achieve capture of the OU2 COCs where it is applied and therefore meet the IRM RAOs. The groundwater extraction and treatment in this alternative would permanently remove COCs from the groundwater. Alternative 3 provides long-term effectiveness and permanence, provided that the system is operated, maintained, and monitored until the final remedy RAOs are met.

## Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume

The treatment provided under Alternative 3 would reduce the toxicity, mobility, and volume of contaminants from the extracted groundwater. The treatment provided under Alternative 3 would remove contaminants from the extracted groundwater and the treatment processes would reduce the volume and toxicity of compounds present in the extracted groundwater. The treated effluent concentrations would be below those required by the POTW and the GWRS.

#### Short-Term Effectiveness

Short-term effectiveness of Institutional Controls would be satisfactory to prevent human exposure to OU2 groundwater COCs and operation of Alternative 3 would minimize OU2 COC migration. All construction activities would take place within developed areas and with minimal expected impacts to the environment. Alternative 3 has a small potential for short-term exposure of Site workers to COCs during installation and operation/monitoring of the system components. However, the potential for short-term exposure is reduced by using appropriate work procedures and controls. During remedy construction, noise and dust abatement along with appropriate traffic control would be required to protect the community during the remedy implementation. Standard and/or HAZWOPER OSHA requirements would be protective of workers during the construction.

# Implementability

As demonstrated throughout California and at several source sites, containment is implementable. Although application of containment to OU2 groundwater (extraction wells and collection piping) would be limited to non-source site private properties and/or public ROWs, its implementability is considered moderate to high. The resources and materials needed to construct, implement, and maintain this alternative are readily available.

# Cost

The following sections summarize the major scope elements associated with capital and OMM costs. Capital costs for this alternative include installation and testing of monitor wells (PDI), and design and construction of the remedy. Appendix D provides the detailed assumptions and cost estimates for this alternative.

PDI Monitor Well Installation and Testing: Monitor wells would be required as a component of Alternative 3 to monitor the effectiveness of this remedy and to ensure that remedy implementation does not significantly affect any nearby source site remedy(s). Figure 7-2 illustrates eight monitoring areas associated with Alternative 3: six of the areas encompass the eight extraction well alignments described above, and two of the areas are to further evaluate groundwater quality upgradient of alignments G-6 and G-7 illustrated on Figure 7-2. The distributions of COCs in each monitoring area were evaluated (Figures 1-6 through 1-35) to estimate the number of monitor wells that conceptually may be required in each of Layers 1 through 4.

Construction of Extraction Wells: Figure 7-2 illustrates eight conceptual alignments (identified as G-1 through G-8) where extraction wells would be installed as part of Alternative 3. The groundwater flow model was used to simulate groundwater extraction and particle tracking was



used to estimate the total groundwater extraction rate that would be required to contain groundwater (Appendix E) throughout each alignment as follows:

The estimated number of extraction wells is based on the lithology of each Layer and on the approximate average sustainable extraction rates achieved at some of the source sites in OU2 (Appendix F). Based on source site extraction rate data, extraction wells in the northern portion of the Study Area generally have lower capacities, and extraction wells in the southern portion of the Study Area (i.e., ITT Cannon source site) have higher capacities, both of which generally align with the model-simulated extraction rate totals. General assumptions regarding the estimated groundwater extraction rates follow:

- If extraction occurs in Layer 1, extraction wells are completed in Layer 1 and separate extraction wells are placed in deeper Layers, where required.
- If extraction occurs in Layer 2 and Layer 3, the extraction well would be screened across Layer 2 and the upper portion of Layer 3.
- The extraction rate for Layer 1 wells is 1 gpm.
- The extraction rate for Layer 2 wells from alignment G-5 to the north is 2 gpm.
- The extraction rate for Layer 2 wells south of alignment G-5 is 8 gpm.
- The extraction rate for Layer 2/3 wells from alignment G-5 to the north is 4 gpm.
- The extraction rate for Layer 2/3 wells south of alignment G-5 is 10 gpm.

The number of extraction wells along each alignment was estimated by dividing the groundwater flux along each of the alignments in each layer by the assumed extraction rate per well for each layer within each alignment:





Extraction well capital costs were estimated as the product of the number of extraction wells along each alignment in each layer and the unit rate cost for extraction wells (Appendix D).

Construction of Treatment System: Treatment systems would be required for Alternative 3 to provide particulate filtration of extracted groundwater prior to discharge to the sewer. It is assumed that a total of 9 systems would be required: one for each of seven conceptual groundwater containment alignments (G-1 through G-5 and G-7 and G-8) and 2 for the G-6 alignment (one on each side of State Route 55 [SR 55]). Each system would be located within the respective alignment and would consist of a fenced concrete pad area for cartridge or bag-filter housings, LGAC vessels, instrumentation and control, power drop/panel/distribution for each extraction well within the respective alignment, discharge flowmeter, and tie-in to local sewer lateral. Total system costs are estimated as the product of the number of treatment systems and the total cost per system (Appendix D).

Construction of Collection Piping: The collection piping cost estimate is based on the total length of the eight conceptual groundwater containment alignments, totaling 10,000 feet, with the filtration system assumed to be located within each respective alignment. The disposal piping length is assumed to be 900 feet based on an assumed distance of no more than 100 feet from the treatment system to the tie-in for the local sewer lateral (Appendix D).

OMM Groundwater Monitoring and Reporting: Alternative 3 groundwater monitoring would include:

• Measurement of water level elevations and collection of groundwater samples for analysis of VOCs using EPA Method 8260B, 1,4-Dioxane using EPA Method 8270, and field parameters from the number of monitor wells estimated in Table 7-1 on a quarterly frequency for Year 1, semiannually for Years 2 through 5, and annually for Years 6 through 30.

OMM of Treatment System: Alternative 3 treatment system operation and maintenance would include:

- Electrical power for well pumps,
- Filter bag/cartridge replacements,
- LGAC changeouts,
- Labor for extraction well treatment system operation and maintenance,
- Annual city license agreements for well sites and pipelines,
- Analytical costs and labor for discharge permit monitoring and reporting and permit renewal costs,
- Sewer discharge fees for the extracted groundwater, and
- Water replenishment assessment and basin equity assessment fees for extracted groundwater discharged to the sewer.

Cost Estimate: Detailed cost estimates and the assumptions used to generate them for all remedial alternatives are provided in Appendix D. The total NPV costs associated with Alternative 3 are \$35,800,000 over an assumed 30-year project lifetime and are summarized as follows:

Cost Analysis for Alternative 3 – Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS



### Sustainability Assessment

The SiteWise Tool for Green and Sustainable Remediation was used to evaluate and semiquantitatively rank the sustainability of each of the remedial alternatives (NAVFAC, 2018) (Appendix C). The overview of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  emissions, and total energy and electricity used for the construction (PDI and construction) and OMM components are summarized in the following table:



7.2.3.4 Alternative 4 – Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to the Basal Sand

Alternative 4 comprises installation of groundwater extraction wells and conveyance piping, treatment using filtration, AOP, LGAC, and RO membrane technologies, and reinjection to the Basal Sand layer through injection wells. These technologies in tandem would produce high quality purified water that meets or exceeds state and federal drinking water standards.

Figure 7-3 illustrates the conceptual groundwater containment alignments where groundwater extraction wells and injection wells would be installed and operated. COCs present in the targeted layers would be extracted, contained, and treated. Groundwater would be hydraulically contained by pumping extraction wells. While this alternative considers collection of groundwater to a central treatment location for the extraction alignments, from an economic standpoint, the cost of constructing a collection pipeline for the small flow of groundwater extracted from alignment G-4

to a central treatment plant may warrant further analysis of other disposal options. In the overall context of the IRM, this has a relatively small influence on selection of remedial alternative, but should this alternative be selected, this alignment might be operated using approaches outlined in Alternatives 3 or 5 as determined during future PDI/design efforts.

This alternative would include the capital costs of installing groundwater extraction and monitor wells and a central treatment system. The O&M costs would be associated with sampling, reporting, signage installation, and 5-year reviews, which would be performed to maintain compliance with IRMs RAOs and until final remedy RAOs are achieved.

Access controls would be implemented at the treatment building to warn of dangers and prohibit unauthorized access to the treatment building. O&M would comprise treatment system equipment maintenance and process monitoring. Groundwater monitoring would be performed to track and evaluate groundwater COC concentrations in OU2.

# Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment

Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells process options would be a component of this alternative, and they would all provide a similar measure of protectiveness to human health and the environment as a component of this alternative. Similar to Alternative 3, Alternative 4 is protective of human health and the environment, since it would reduce the mass of COCs that would migrate beyond areas in OU2 where it would be applied, thereby reducing potential human health exposures. In addition, maintaining a prohibition on the use of groundwater for potable purposes within OU2, with appropriate notification and planning will provide protection to human health by minimizing the risk of exposure to OU2 COCs in groundwater. COCs in extracted groundwater would be treated to destroy and/or reduce concentrations. Alternative 4 would achieve OU2 COC capture through extraction along the alignments where it would be applied. Extraction in areas of relatively high COC concentrations/mass and at the leading edges of OU2 plumes would maintain containment and prevent further COC migration in these areas, with the exception of cross flow from the Shallow Aquifer System into the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells; however, this alternative does begin to mitigate this risk by extracting and treating COCs from the Shallow Aquifer System. Multiple groundwater extraction wells would allow the extraction rates to be varied throughout the containment areas in response to changing groundwater flow conditions.

This alternative would permanently remove contamination from the extracted groundwater and would achieve overall protection of human health and the environment.

# Compliance with ARARs

In the context of an IRM this alternative would meet chemical-specific ARARs as water treated would be treated to meet COC MCLs/NLs prior to reinjection. In context of transitioning the IRM to final remedy, this alternative also would meet chemical-specific ARARs associated with the state and federal MCLs for OU2 groundwater COCs by removing these COCs from OU2 groundwater. Alternative 4 would comply with potential action-specific ARARs because extracted groundwater would meet RWQCB WDR prior to injection. Alternative 4 would meet all location-specific ARARs. This alternative would satisfy the USEPA preference for treatment in accordance with 40 CFR Part 264.

# Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence

Alternative 4 would achieve capture of the OU2 COCs where it is applied and therefore meet the IRM RAOs. The groundwater extraction and treatment in this alternative would permanently remove COCs from the groundwater. Alternative 4 provides long-term effectiveness and permanence, provided that the system is operated, maintained and monitored until the final remedy RAOs are met.

## Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume

The treatment provided under Alternative 4 would reduce the toxicity, mobility, and volume of contaminants from the extracted groundwater. The treatment provided under Alternative 4 would remove contaminants from the extracted groundwater and the treatment processes would reduce the volume and toxicity of compounds present in the extracted groundwater. The treated effluent concentrations would be below those required by the WDR permit for reinjection. The brine produced as part of this alternative would be disposed to the POTW in accordance with the sewer discharge requirements.

# Short-Term Effectiveness

Short-term effectiveness of Institutional Controls would be satisfactory to prevent human exposure to OU2 groundwater COCs and operation of Alternative 4 would minimize OU2 COC migration. All construction activities would take place within developed areas and with minimal expected impacts to the environment. Alternative 4 has a small potential for short-term exposure of Site workers to COCs during installation and operation/monitoring of the treatment system components. However, the potential for short-term exposure is reduced by using appropriate work procedures and controls. During remedy construction, noise and dust abatement along with appropriate traffic control would be required to protect the community during the remedy implementation. Standard and/or HAZWOPER OSHA requirements would be protective of workers during the construction.

# Implementability

As demonstrated throughout California and at several source sites, containment is implementable. Although application of containment to OU2 groundwater (extraction wells and collection piping) would be limited to non-source site private properties and/or public ROWs, its implementability is considered moderate due to the total length of pipeline and potential availability of land for the treatment system. The resources and materials needed to construct, implement, and maintain this alternative are readily available.

# Cost

The extraction well and monitor well costs are the same as Alternative 3. The following sections summarize the major scope elements associated with capital and OMM costs. Capital costs for this alternative include installation and testing of monitor wells (PDI), and design and construction of the remedy. Appendix D provides the detailed assumptions and cost estimates for this alternative.

Construction of Injection Wells: It was assumed that injection into the Basal Sand could be sustained at 50 gpm per injection well. The number of injection wells required for Alternative 4 was then estimated to equal the total extraction rate across all of the well alignments based on the groundwater flow model required to capture groundwater at and upgradient of each alignment, divided by 50 gpm and including several spare injection wells to maintain operational flexibility.

10 Basal Sand injection wells would be constructed. The injection well capital costs were then estimated as the product of the number of injection wells and the unit rate cost for the injection wells (Appendix D).

Construction of Treatment System: Alternative 4 consists of extracting groundwater and treating in a centralized location, with an end use of reinjection to Basal Sand. It is assumed that all extracted groundwater would be routed to one treatment system via collection pipelines, would be pre-filtered, then treated using an AOP system, LGAC adsorption vessels, and RO membrane train.

The total flux from each alignment area required for capture in Alternative 4 is the same as Alternative 3, for a total of 350 gpm. Assuming that the RO membrane train operates with 85% recovery, 300 gpm of treated water would be reinjected into the Basal Sand (Layer 4), and 50 gpm of RO concentrate would be discharged to the sewer.

In addition to the main treatment technologies, the cost estimate also takes into account auxiliary equipment such as pumps, tanks, the treatment facility building, and procurement of one acre of land for the treatment system. Equipment was sized on an approximate basis given the flow rates above, and other aspects of the facility such as mechanical piping, instrumentation and controls, electrical, etc. were approximated as a percent of the total capital cost (Appendix D).

Construction of Collection Piping: Groundwater would be extracted from transects G-1 through G-8, as shown in Figure 7-3, then routed to a single treatment facility that was assumed to be located near transect G-8. This represents a roughly central location relative to the transect locations and provides a reasonable basis for pipeline length estimates.

All collection pipelines would be constructed from double-contained HDPE, ranging from 1"x3" to 6"x10" depending on the estimated required flow capacities. Pipeline lengths represent approximate values based upon logical intersections across alignments and an assumption that lines can be routed along city streets with minimal fittings (Appendix D).

Construction of Injection Well Conveyance Piping: Injection well conveyance piping was evaluated using the same format as collection piping, with the key difference being the injection conveyance pipeline would be constructed from single-contained HDPE rather than doublecontained.

The injection well conveyance network would consist of two 4-inch pipelines each carrying 150 gpm to a single treatment facility illustrated on Figure 7-3. Given that the actual pipeline length would vary widely depending on the location of the treatment facility, it was assumed that each pipeline would extend 2500 feet from the facility.

OMM Injection Well Redevelopment: It was assumed that the Basal Sand injection wells would require redevelopment on an annual frequency equaling 27 events over a 30-year duration. The injection well redevelopment costs were then estimated as the product of the number of injection wells and the unit rate cost for the injection well redevelopment (Appendix D).

OMM of Treatment System: Alternative 4 treatment system O&M would include:

- Electrical power for well pumps, treatment system equipment, and the treatment system building,
- Carbon media change-out costs for the LGAC equipment,
- UV lamp replacements for the AOP system,
- Membrane replacement for the RO system,
- Chemical refills, including hydrogen peroxide for the AOP, and sulfuric acid, antiscalant, and membrane cleaner and periodic replacement for the RO system,
- Annual city license agreements for well sites and pipelines,
- Analytical costs and labor for discharge permit monitoring and reporting and permit renewal costs.
- Labor for extraction well and treatment system operation and maintenance,
- Property taxes for treatment system parcel,
- Sewer discharge fees for the RO concentrate, and
- Water replenishment assessment and basin equity assessment fees for the RO concentrate.

Cost Estimate: Detailed cost estimates and the assumptions used to generate them for all remedial alternatives are provided in Appendix D. The total NPV costs associated with Alternative 4 are \$64,000,000 over an assumed 30-year project lifetime and are summarized as follows:

Cost Analysis for Alternative 4 – Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to the Basal Sand



#### Sustainability Assessment

The SiteWise Tool for Green and Sustainable Remediation was used to evaluate and semiquantitatively rank the sustainability of each of the remedial alternatives (NAVFAC, 2018) (Appendix C). The overview of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  emissions, and total energy and electricity used for the construction (PDI and construction) and OMM components are summarized in the following table:



#### 7.2.3.5 Alternative 5 – In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation

Figure 7-4 illustrates eleven conceptual alignments (identified as I-1 through I-11) where ISCO would be applied as part of Alternative 5. ISCO would comprise delivery via injection wells of activated persulfate to OU2 groundwater. Chemical oxidants are intended to destroy COCs, and some oxidants are generally accepted as being effective in oxidizing organic chemicals in source areas of compounds such as VOCs and 1,4-dioxane. The primary considerations for application of ISCO in source areas are the interference of other oxidizable materials in the groundwater and aquifer solids (i.e., utilization of ISCO treatment chemicals by non-target compounds), the ability to deliver chemical oxidants to COCs in the subsurface, and the ability of the oxidant to reduce COC concentrations. Since chemical oxidants, including persulfate are non-selective, any oxidizable materials in the groundwater and aquifer solids would consume the oxidant, which can limit or eliminate the destruction of COCs in the subsurface and decrease the overall efficiency of the treatment. Injection of persulfate to the treatment areas also presents difficulties due to the generally relatively fine-grained nature of OU2 aquifer materials, particularly in Layers 1 and 3.

Use of in-situ technologies in transects as flow-through treatment zones in groundwater factors in the above primary considerations for source area treatment and also has to consider the fact that contaminated groundwater upgradient of the transect treatment zone continues over time until the groundwater upgradient of the transect reaches the RAO for the final remedy. In other words, the transects need to remain active for as long as these conditions exist. Since the groundwater extraction alternatives assume that active extraction continues through year 30, this same assumption is applied to the time for which the transect treatment zone needs to be active. This can result in many reapplications of amendments through the project lifetime.

Alternative 5 would involve the field mixing and injection of activated persulfate solution into a series of injection wells. Density-driven transport of sodium persulfate may result in further distribution of oxidants vertically into the deeper portions of the Layers into which it is injected.

This alternative would include the capital costs of installing groundwater monitor and injection wells.

O&M would comprise periodic injection of ISCO amendments, WDR monitoring, and injection well redevelopment and maintenance. WDR monitoring would be performed to track and evaluate groundwater COC concentrations in OU2. Five-year reviews would be performed to maintain compliance with IRMs RAOs and until the final remedy RAOs are achieved.

# Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment

Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells process options would be a component of this alternative, and they would all provide a similar measure of protectiveness to human health and the environment as a component of this alternative. Alternative 5 may be protective of human health and the environment, since it would likely reduce the mass of COCs that would migrate beyond areas in OU2 where it would be applied, thereby reducing potential human health exposures; however, potential generation of byproducts, such as hexavalent chromium could pose a risk to environment if the byproduct is persistent. This is particularly challenging where in-situ injection occurs near surface water channels in the southern portion of the Study Area where groundwater in the uppermost portion of the Shallow Aquifer System flows into these channels. Maintaining institutional controls restricting the use of groundwater for potable purposes within OU2, with appropriate notification and planning, will provide protection to human health by minimizing the risk of exposure to OU2 COCs in groundwater and/or persistent by products of ISCO. COCs that are oxidized by the persulfate are destroyed in place. Alternative 5 has the potential to achieve OU2 COC treatment along the alignments where it would be applied. In-situ oxidation of relatively high COC concentrations/mass and at the leading edges of OU2 plumes could prevent further COC migration in these areas, with the exception of cross flow from the Shallow Aquifer System into the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells; however, this alternative does begin to mitigate this risk by treating COCs from the Shallow Aquifer System. Each ISCO alignment would incorporate a relatively dense monitoring network which would allow for ISCO application to be varied in response to changing groundwater flow conditions.

As briefly mentioned above, this alternative has a potential to generate undesired byproducts, such as hexavalent chromium. Chromium is a redox-sensitive and toxic metal, the release of which poses considerable risk to human health and/or the environment. One study investigated the impact of persulfate chemical oxidation on the release of chromium from three soils varying in physicalchemical properties (Kaur and Crimi, 2013). Soils were treated with inactivated and activated persulfate [activated with Fe(II), Fe(II)-EDTA, and alkaline pH] at two different concentrations for 48 hours and 6 months and were analyzed for chromium. Results indicated that release of chromium with persulfate chemical oxidation depends on the soil type and the activation method. Sandy soil with low oxidant demand released more chromium compared to soils with high oxidant demand. More chromium was released with alkaline pH activation. Alkaline pH and high Eh conditions favor oxidation of Cr(III) to Cr(VI), which is the main mechanism of release of chromium with persulfate chemical oxidation.

Elevated concentrations of metals, including hexavalent chromium, were produced at the Ricoh source site as a result of ISCO groundwater remediation using permanganate (WPI, 2010). Baseline (pre-injection) chromium groundwater concentrations in Ricoh monitor well RMW-1 increased from 34 ug/l to a maximum post-injection concentration of 10,400 ug/l; and baseline (pre-injection) chromium groundwater concentrations in monitor well RMW-6S increased from 21 ug/l to a maximum post-injection concentration of 588 ug/l.

Similarly, in the letter to Baxter Healthcare regarding their ISCO groundwater remediation, the RWQCB reiterated the statement, "The analytical data show elevated concentrations of arsenic, chromium, and mercury in the injection and dose-response wells, with maximum concentrations of 63, 170, and 13 micrograms per liter (ug/L), respectively" and further stated, "Based on the presence of metals such as chromium that could become a source for undesirable oxidation byproducts, Board staff agrees that it would be prudent to obtain additional data on the major contaminant horizons, in order to more narrowly and precisely target them, and thereby minimize the chance of producing undesirable compounds" (RWQCB, 2012). Additionally, full-scale ISCO using persulfate was implemented (BBJ Group, 2019). The full-scale ISCO remediation at this source site did not appear to be effective in treating 1,4-dioxane.

# Compliance with ARARs

In the context of an IRM this alternative might meet chemical-specific ARARs if the application of ISCO does not create persistent undesirable byproducts and repeated persulfate injection does not exceed Basin Plan water quality objectives or threaten water quality. In context of transitioning the IRM to a final remedy, this alternative could meet chemical-specific ARARs associated with the state and federal MCLs for OU2 groundwater COCs by removing these COCs from OU2 groundwater; however, the potential for persistent undesirable byproducts and/or water quality threats remains a potential concern. Alternative 5 could comply with potential action-specific ARARs provided the ISCO application is compliant with RWQCB WDR outside the treatment zone. As indicated above, the potential for generation of hexavalent chromium that is sufficiently persistent to flow with groundwater into nearby surface water channels in the southern part of the Study Area would be an example of a condition not meeting action-specific ARARs. Alternative 5 would meet all location-specific ARARs. This alternative would satisfy the USEPA preference for treatment in accordance with 40 CFR Part 264.

# Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence

Alternative 5 may permanently destroy COCs in OU2 groundwater where it is applied. However, it has not been an effective remedial technology at several source sites as detailed in Section 5.4.7.3. As previously indicated, application of ISCO as a flow-through treatment technology requires the treatment zone to remain active throughout the 30-year project time frame. Further as described above, ISCO has the potential to generate undesired byproducts, such as hexavalent chromium.

# Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume

The treatment provided under Alternative 5 would reduce the toxicity, mobility, and volume of COCs in OU2 groundwater. However, it could also increase the TMV of certain compounds/constituents (hexavalent chromium) in OU2 groundwater.

# Short-Term Effectiveness

Short-term effectiveness of Institutional Controls would be satisfactory to prevent human exposure to OU2 groundwater COCs and operation of Alternative 5 could minimize OU2 COC migration. Conversely, this alternative could also increase compound/constituent concentrations (e.g., hexavalent chromium) in OU2 groundwater and if these compounds/constituents are persistent and migrate outside the treatment zones this could be a complicating factor. All construction activities would take place within developed areas and with minimal expected impacts to the environment. Alternative 5 has a small potential for short-term exposure of Site workers to COCs and mixed chemical amendments during installation and operation/monitoring of this alternative. However, the potential for short-term exposure is reduced by using appropriate work procedures and controls. During remedy construction, noise and dust abatement along with appropriate traffic control would be required to protect the community during the remedy implementation. Standard and/or HAZWOPER OSHA requirements would be protective of workers during the construction.

# Implementability

The process option for ISCO would include injection wells and chemical treatment. ISCO injection wells placed at regular, closely spaced intervals along linear alignments constructed perpendicular to the direction of groundwater flow could provide treatment of COCs migrating through the treatment zone in the Shallow Aquifer System. Construction of injection wells for ISCO in groundwater would be confined to limited areas at non-source site private properties and/or public ROWs. Based on experience at several OU2 source sites, and in Southern California in general, ISCO would require multiple application events at a relatively high frequency related to other process options and may be relatively more burdensome and disruptive to affected property owners or public ROW users.

#### Cost

The following sections summarize the major scope elements associated with capital and OMM costs. Capital costs for this alternative include installation and testing of monitor wells (PDI), and design and construction of the remedy. Appendix D provides the detailed assumptions and cost estimates for this alternative.

PDI Monitor Well Installation and Testing: Monitor wells would be required as a component of Alternative 5 to monitor the effectiveness of this remedy and to ensure that remedy implementation does not significantly affect any nearby source site remedy(s). Figure 7-4 illustrates eight monitoring areas associated with Alternative 5. Six of the areas encompass the ISCO alignments, and two of the areas are to further evaluate groundwater quality upgradient of alignments I-6 and I-7 illustrated on Figure 7-4.

Construction of ISCO Injection Wells: Figure 7-4 illustrates the conceptual alignments where ISCO would be applied in as part of Alternative 5. The Layers conceptually targeted for Alternative 5 OU2 IRMs follow:



ISCO or in-situ bioremediation has been performed at several source sites, with injections occurring on spacings between injection wells/points ranging from 2.5 feet to approximately 50 feet (Arcadis, 2014; BBJ Group, 2019; SLR, 2018; AECOM, 2016a and 2016b; RWQCB, 2017 and 2020; WPI, 2010). The approximate and average radius of influence (ROI), injection spacing, injection rates, and number of injections are summarized as follows:



 $ROI = radius of influence$ 

gpm = gallons per minute

a = Arcadis February 9, 2015, Updated Conceptual Site Model and Groundwater Remedial Action Plan

b = AECOM November 1, 2016, WDR Monitoring Report, Former Bell Industries, Inc., Site.

c =WPI, December 28, 2010, Remedial Action Report, Ricoh Electronics Facility.

d = RWQCB Amended Discharge Authorization and Monitoring & Reporting Program No. R8- 2018-0092-0005 For Implementation of Full-Scale Replenishment of Biobarriers, The Former LNP Facility; 1831 East Carnegie Avenue, Santa Ana, California. June 16, 2020.

e = Deere Avenue barrier from Amec Foster Wheeler April 1, 2016, Second Addendum to the 2015 Off-Site Remedial Action Plan

f = Alton Parkway barrier from Amec Foster Wheeler April 1, 2016, Second Addendum to the 2015 Off-Site Remedial Action Plan

g = RWQCB Discharge Authorization and Monitoring and Reporting Program No.RS-2013- 0029-030 For In-Situ Groundwater Remediation at ITT Cannon Facility. April 24, 2015.

Most of the source site in-situ injections were performed under pressure and it is assumed that the Alternative 5 ISCO injections would be implemented in a similar manner. The total length of the conceptual Alternative 5 ISCO injection alignments is approximately 12,500 feet (Figure 7-4). Based on an average injection ROI of 12 feet, injection wells would be installed on 24-foot spacings. The total number of injection wells was estimated as the total length of the ISCO alignments in each Layer divided by a 24-foot injection well spacing. The total estimated number of injection wells for each layer along each alignment for Alternative 5 ISCO injections follows:





The injection well capital costs were estimated as the product of the number of injection wells and the unit rate cost for injection wells (Appendix D).

OMM ISCO Injections: One component of Alternative 5 O&M would include injection of persulfate on a periodic basis. Based on the results of source site ISCO applications and remediation monitoring and on professional judgement, the following were assumed in developing Alternative 5 injection O&M costs:

- ISCO injection wells would be constructed with one separate injection well for each targeted Layer along each of the injection alignments.
- The injection rate would equal the average estimated/observed injection rate per injection well specified above of 6 gpm.
- Approximately 2,600 gallons of amended water would be injected at each injection well.
- Approximately 3,400 pounds of PersulfOx activated persulfate would be injected at each injection well in each layer during each injection event.
- ISCO applications would occur on a frequency based on the estimated ambient groundwater flux through each 24-foot wide (in the direction parallel to groundwater flow) ISCO alignment using the calibrated groundwater model (Appendix E).
- Other assumptions and details are provided in Appendix D.

OMM WDR Monitoring: Another component of Alternative 5 O&M would include WDR groundwater monitoring. ISCO or in-situ bioremediation WDR monitoring has been performed at several source sites (Arcadis, 2014; BBJ Group, 2019; SLR, 2018; AECOM, 2016a and 2016b; RWQCB, 2017 and 2020; WPI, 2010). The approximate number of injection wells/points, number of required monitor wells specified by each source site's RWQCB WDR M&RP or Remedial Action Plan (RAP), and the estimated number of monitor wells per injection well/point at several source sites are summarized as follows:



a = Arcadis February 9, 2015, Updated Conceptual Site Model and Groundwater Remedial Action Plan

b = AECOM November 1, 2016, WDR Monitoring Report, Former Bell Industries, Inc., Site.

c =WPI, December 28, 2010, Remedial Action Report, Ricoh Electronics Facility.

d = RWQCB Amended Discharge Authorization and Monitoring & Reporting Program No. R8-2018-0092-0005 For Implementation of Full-Scale Replenishment of Biobarriers, The Former LNP Facility; 1831 East Carnegie Avenue, Santa Ana, California. June 16, 2020.

e = Deere Avenue barrier from Amec Foster Wheeler April 1, 2016, Second Addendum to the 2015 Off-Site Remedial Action Plan

f = Alton Parkway barrier from Amec Foster Wheeler April 1, 2016, Second Addendum to the 2015 Off-Site Remedial Action Plan

g = RWQCB Discharge Authorization and Monitoring and Reporting Program No.RS-2013-0029-030 For In-Situ Groundwater Remediation at ITT Cannon Facility. April 24, 2015.

RAP = Remedial Action Plan

The total estimated number of monitor wells in all layers and along all alignments for Alternative 5 based on 0.2 monitor wells per injection well is estimated to be approximately 259 (the product of 1,294 estimated injection wells and 0.2 required monitor wells per injection well). Groundwater samples would be analyzed for VOCs, 1,4-dioxane, alkalinity, chloride, cations, sulfate, nitrogen, hexavalent chromium, metals, and total dissolved solids (Appendix D).

Cost Estimate: Detailed cost estimates and the assumptions used to generate them for all remedial alternatives are provided in Appendix D. The total NPV cost associated for Alternative 5 is \$348,600,000 over an assumed 30-year project lifetime and is summarized as follows:

Cost Analysis for Alternative 5 – In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation



# Sustainability Assessment

The SiteWise Tool for Green and Sustainable Remediation was used to evaluate and semiquantitatively rank the sustainability of each of the remedial alternatives (NAVFAC, 2018) (Appendix C). The overview of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  emissions, and total energy and electricity used for the construction (PDI and construction) and OMM components are summarized in the following table:



7.2.3.6 Alternative 6 – Containment and In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS

Figure 7-5 illustrates the conceptual groundwater containment alignment where groundwater extraction wells would be installed and operated and the conceptual alignments where ISCO would be applied as part of Alternative 6. Alternative 6 utilizes the groundwater extraction well field that is the same as Alternatives 3 and 4 but for the replacement of groundwater extraction at G-8 with in-situ treatment using ISCO. Alternatives 3 and 4 are differentiated by the disposal method for extracted groundwater, with Alternative 3 discharging extracted groundwater to the sewer for POTW and GWRS treatment and Alternative 4 reinjecting extracted groundwater after it is treated by a system inside the Study Area. These Alternatives are very similar when comparing the seven NCP criteria, with the exception of cost, for which Alternative 3 was substantially less. Based on this comparison, Alternative 6 was assembled using the extracted groundwater disposal method outlined in Alternative 3. Alternative 6 also utilizes the in-situ treatment of groundwater using ISCO (see Alternative 5 for additional information), but within a select focused portion of the Study Area.

For the containment portion of this remedy, the capital costs would include installation of groundwater extraction wells, monitor wells, and filtration treatment systems, and the O&M costs would include activity associated with groundwater monitoring, reporting, and signage. For ISCO, the capital costs would include installation of injection and monitor wells, and the O&M costs would include activity associated with periodic amendment application, injection well

redevelopment, WDR monitoring, and reporting. Five-year reviews would be performed for the combined remedy to maintain compliance with IRMs RAOs and until the final remedy RAOs are achieved.

# Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment

Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells process options would be a component of this alternative, and they would all provide a similar measure of protectiveness to human health and the environment as a component of this alternative. Overall Alternative 6 is more likely to be protective of human health and the environment than Alternative 5; however, it still retains the potential generation of byproducts associated with ISCO, such as hexavalent chromium. Although, the risk to environment is less than Alternative 5 because the ISCO application is in the northern portion of the Study Area where surface water channel bottoms do not intersect shallow groundwater. Maintaining institutional controls restricting the use of groundwater for potable purposes within OU2, with appropriate notification and planning will provide protection to human health by minimizing the risk of exposure to OU2 COCs in groundwater and/or persistent by products of ISCO.

For the containment portion of the alternative, COCs in extracted groundwater would be treated to destroy and/or reduce concentrations by the POTW and the GWRS. This portion of Alternative 6 would achieve OU2 COC capture through extraction along the alignments where it would be applied. Extraction in areas of relatively high COC concentrations/mass and at the leading edges of OU2 plumes would maintain containment and prevent further COC migration in these areas, with the exception of cross flow from the Shallow Aquifer System into the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells; however, this alternative does begin to mitigate this risk by extracting and treating COCs from the Shallow Aquifer System. Multiple groundwater extraction wells would allow the extraction rates to be varied throughout the containment areas in response to changing groundwater flow conditions.

For the ISCO portion of the alternative, COCs that are oxidized by the persulfate are destroyed in place. This portion of Alternative 6 has the potential to achieve OU2 COC treatment along the alignments where it would be applied. In-situ oxidation of relatively high COC concentrations/mass and at the leading edges of OU2 plumes could prevent further COC migration in these areas, with the exception of cross flow from the Shallow Aquifer System into the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells; however, this alternative does begin to mitigate this risk by treating COCs from the Shallow Aquifer System. Each ISCO alignment would incorporate a relatively dense monitoring network which would allow for ISCO application to be varied in response to changing groundwater flow conditions.

#### Compliance with ARARs

For the containment portion of this alternative, in the context of an IRM this alternative would meet chemical-specific ARARs as water treated at the POTW and GWRS meets applicable discharge requirements. In context of transitioning the IRM to final remedy, this alternative also would meet chemical-specific ARARs associated with the state and federal MCLs for OU2 groundwater COCs by removing these COCs from OU2 groundwater. The containment portion of Alternative 6 would comply with potential action-specific ARARs because extracted groundwater would meet POTW pre-treatment requirements prior to discharge. Treatment of extracted groundwater at the POTW and GWRS would be conducted prior to discharge in accordance with requirements for these systems.

For the ISCO portion of the alternative, in the context of an IRM this alternative might meet chemical-specific ARARs if the application of ISCO does not create persistent undesirable byproducts and repeated persulfate injection does not exceed Basin Plan water quality objectives or threaten water quality. In context of transitioning the IRM to final remedy, this alternative could meet chemical-specific ARARs associated with the state and federal MCLs for OU2 groundwater COCs by removing these COCs from OU2 groundwater; however, the potential for persistent undesirable byproducts and/or water quality threats remain a potential concern. The ISCO portion of Alternative 6 could comply with potential action-specific ARARs provided the ISCO application is compliant with RWQCB WDR outside the treatment zone.

Alternative 6 would meet all location-specific ARARs. This alternative would satisfy the USEPA preference for treatment in accordance with 40 CFR Part 264.

# Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence

The containment portion of Alternative 6 would achieve capture of the OU2 COCs where it is applied and therefore meet the IRM RAOs. The groundwater extraction and treatment in this alternative would permanently remove COCs from the groundwater. The containment portion of Alternative 6 provides long-term effectiveness and permanence, provided that the treatment system is operated, maintained, and monitored until the final remedy RAOs are met.

The ISCO portion of Alternative 6 may permanently destroy COCs in OU2 groundwater where it is applied. However, it has not been an effective remedial technology at several source sites as detailed in Section 5.4.7.3. As previously indicated, application of ISCO as a flow through treatment technology requires the treatment zone to remain active throughout the 30-year project time frame. Further as described above, ISCO has the potential to generate undesired byproducts, such as hexavalent chromium.

# Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume

Alternative 6 would reduce the toxicity, mobility, and volume of contaminants from the extracted groundwater. The treatment provided under the containment portion of Alternative 6 would remove contaminants from the extracted groundwater and the treatment processes would reduce the volume and toxicity of compounds present in the extracted groundwater. The treated effluent concentrations would be below those required by the POTW and the GWRS.

The ISCO portion of Alternative 6 would reduce the toxicity, mobility, and volume of COCs in OU2 groundwater. However, it could also increase the TMV of certain compounds/constituents (hexavalent chromium) in OU2 groundwater.

# Short-Term Effectiveness

Short-term effectiveness of Institutional Controls would be satisfactory to prevent human exposure to OU2 groundwater COCs and operation of Alternative 6 would minimize OU2 COC migration. Conversely, in areas where ISCO is applied there could be an increase compound/constituent concentration (hexavalent chromium) in OU2 groundwater and if these compounds/constituents are persistent and migrate outside the treatment zones this could be a complicating factor.

All construction activities would take place within developed areas and with minimal expected impacts to the environment. Alternative 6 has a small potential for short-term exposure of Site workers to COCs (and mixed chemical amendments where ISCO is applied) during installation and operation/monitoring of the treatment system components. However, the potential for shortterm exposure is reduced by using appropriate work procedures and controls. During remedy construction, noise and dust abatement along with appropriate traffic control would be required to protect the community during the remedy implementation. Standard and/or HAZWOPER OSHA requirements would be protective of workers during the construction.

### **Implementability**

Alternative 6 is implementable. Although application of Alternative 6 will be limited to nonsource site private properties and/or public ROWs, its implementability is considered relatively high. The resources and materials needed to construct, implement, and maintain this alternative are readily available.

### Cost

The following sections summarize the major scope elements associated with capital and OMM costs. Capital costs for this alternative include installation and testing of monitor wells (PDI), and design and construction of the remedy. Appendix D provides the detailed assumptions and cost estimates for this alternative.

PDI Monitor Well Installation and Testing: Monitor wells would be required as a component of Alternative 6 to monitor the effectiveness of this remedy and to ensure that remedy implementation does not significantly affect any nearby source site remedy(s). Figure 7-5 illustrates eight monitoring areas associated with Alternative 6: six of the areas encompass the alignments, and two of the areas are to further evaluate groundwater quality upgradient of alignments G-6 and G-7 illustrated on Figure 7-5.

Construction of Extraction Wells: Figure 7-5 illustrates seven alignments (identified as G-1 through G-7) where extraction wells would be installed along alignments as part of Alternative 6. The groundwater extraction rate and number of extraction wells are the same as the applicable alignments for Alternative 3 and summarized in the following table:



Extraction well capital costs were estimated based on the number of extraction wells along each alignment in each layer and the unit rate cost for extraction wells (Appendix D).

Construction of Injection Wells for ISCO: Figure 7-5 illustrates the conceptual alignments where ISCO would be applied as part of Alternative 6. The number of ISCO injection wells for



Alternative 6 was estimated using the same methods and assumptions that were described for Alternative 5.

Construction of Treatment Systems: Treatment systems would be required for Alternative 6 to provide filtration of extraction groundwater prior to discharge to the sewer. It is assumed that a total of eight filtration systems would be required: one for each of six conceptual groundwater containment alignments (G-1 through G-5 and G-7) and two for the G-6 alignment (one on each side of SR 55). Each filtration system would be located within the respective alignment and would consist of a fenced concrete pad area for cartridge or bag-filter housings, LGAC vessels, instrumentation and control, power drop/panel/distribution for each extraction well within the respective alignment, discharge flowmeter, and tie-in to local sewer lateral. Total treatment system costs are then estimated as the product of the number of treatment systems and the total cost per treatment system. Assumptions for groundwater treatment systems are provided in Appendix D.

Construction of Collection Piping: The collection piping cost estimate is based on the total length of the seven conceptual groundwater containment alignments, totaling 9,400 feet, with the treatment system assumed to be located within the respective alignment. The disposal piping length is assumed to be 800 feet based on an assumed distance of no more than 100 feet from the treatment system to the tie-in for the local sewer lateral. Assumptions for groundwater collection and disposal piping are provided in Appendix D.

OMM Treatment Systems: Alternative 6 treatment system OMM would include:

- Electrical power for well pumps,
- Filter bag/cartridge replacements,
- LGAC changeouts,
- Labor for extraction well treatment system operation and maintenance,
- Annual city license agreements for well sites and pipelines,
- Analytical costs and labor for discharge permit monitoring and reporting and permit renewal costs,
- Sewer discharge fees for the extracted groundwater, and
- Water replenishment assessment and basin equity assessment fees for extracted groundwater discharged to the sewer.

OMM ISCO Injections: One component of a portion of Alternative 6 O&M would include injection of persulfate on a periodic basis. Based on the results of source site ISCO applications and remediation monitoring and on professional judgement, the following were assumed in developing Alternative 6 injection O&M costs:

- ISCO injection wells would be constructed with one separate injection well for each targeted Layer along each of the injection alignments.
- The injection rate would equal the average estimated/observed injection rate per injection well specified above of 6 gpm.
- Approximately 2,600 gallons of amended water would be injected at each injection well.
- Approximately 3,400 pounds of PersulfOx activated persulfate would be injected at each injection well in each layer during each injection event.
- ISCO applications would occur on a frequency based on the estimated ambient groundwater flux through each 24-foot wide ISCO alignment (in the direction parallel to groundwater flow) using the calibrated groundwater model (Appendix E).

OMM Groundwater Monitoring, ISCO Groundwater Monitoring: Consistent with the assumptions and approach described for Alternative 5, the total number of WDR monitor wells required for this alternative was estimated as the product of the estimated number of injection wells and 0.2 monitor wells per injection well/point, which equals 68 monitor wells (the product of 338 and 0.2). Groundwater samples would be analyzed for VOCs, 1,4-dioxane, alkalinity, chloride, cations, sulfate, nitrogen, hexavalent chromium, metals, and total dissolved solids (Appendix D).

# OMM Groundwater Monitoring, Containment

Alternative 6 containment groundwater monitoring would include:

• Collection of groundwater samples from the number of monitor wells estimated in Table 7-1 on a semiannual frequency for analysis of VOCs using EPA Method 8260B, 1,4-Dioxane using EPA Method 8270, and field parameters.

Cost Estimate: Detailed cost estimates and the assumptions used to generate them for all remedial alternatives are provided in Appendix D. The total NPV costs associated with Alternative 6 are \$103,400,000 over an assumed 30-year project lifetime and are summarized as follows:

Cost Analysis for Alternative 6 – Containment and In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS



ISCO Cost Sensitivity Analysis

During the December 1, 2021 TAC meeting, the concept of performing a sensitivity analysis of the ISCO injection spacing was discussed (Appendices Q and S). It was agreed that costs for Alternative 6 would be developed for the ISCO portion of this alternative, assuming a radius-ofinfluence (ROI) of 25 feet (an injection spacing of 50 feet), which is the largest implemented asbuilt injection spacing that has been used for in-situ injections in the Study Area. The following were assumed in performing a cost sensitivity analysis of the ISCO portion of Alternative 6:

- ISCO injection wells would be constructed with one separate injection well for each targeted Layer along each of the injection alignments.
- The injection rate would equal the average estimated/observed injection rate per injection well specified above of 6 gpm.
- Approximately 11,600 gallons of amended water would be injected at each injection well.
- Approximately 14,800 pounds of PersulfOx activated persulfate would be injected at each injection well in each layer during each injection event.
- ISCO applications would occur on a frequency based on the estimated ambient groundwater flux through each 50-foot wide ISCO alignment (in the direction parallel to groundwater flow) using the calibrated groundwater model (Appendix E).

OMM Groundwater Monitoring, ISCO Groundwater Monitoring: Consistent with the assumptions and approach described for Alternative 5, the total number of WDR monitor wells required for this alternative was estimated as the product of the estimated number of injection wells and 0.2 monitor wells per injection well/point, which equals 32 monitor wells (the product of 162 and 0.2). Groundwater samples would be analyzed for VOCs, 1,4-dioxane, alkalinity, chloride, cations, sulfate, nitrogen, hexavalent chromium, metals, and total dissolved solids (Appendix D).

Since the ROI increased from 12 feet to 25 feet and the injection spacing increased from 24 feet to 50 feet, the treatment zone pore volume calculated to receive amended water at each injection location increased from approximately 17,100 gallons to 74,800 gallons. Since the main cost drivers for ISCO injections are the cost of the persulfate and the injection field labor, increasing

the ROI from 12 feet to 25 feet results in a cost increase of the ISCO portion of Alternative 6 of approximately \$5,200,000 (Appendix D):



#### **Alternative 6: Comparison of 24-feet on-center (OC) injection spacing (12-feet ROI) versus 50-feet OC injection spacing (25-feet ROI) for ISCO portion of remedy**

 $1 =$ Costs are based only on the ISCO portion of Alternative 6.

 $2 =$  Percent add ons include additions for permitting, project management, scope contingencies, and bid contingencies. Percentages applied can be found in Table D-6 and Table D-6a.

#### Sustainability Assessment

The SiteWise Tool for Green and Sustainable Remediation was used to evaluate and semiquantitatively rank the sustainability of each of the remedial alternatives (NAVFAC, 2018) (Appendix C). The overview of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  emissions, and total energy and electricity used for the construction (PDI and construction) and OMM components are summarized in the following table:



# **7.3 IRM Compatibility with Source Site Remedial Efforts**

The following sections discuss evaluation of the IRM compatibility with ongoing or planned source site remedial efforts.

#### $7.3.1$ **Alternative 1**

Alternative 1 is the No Action alternative which is compatible with source site remedial efforts.

#### $7.3.2$ **Alternative 2**

Alternative 2, Monitored Natural Attenuation, would include installation, monitoring, and maintenance of groundwater monitor wells and is compatible with source site remedial efforts.

#### $7.3.3$ **Alternatives 3 through 6**

The following subsections discuss the compatibility of Alternatives 3 through 6 with source site remedial efforts that are ongoing or planned in proximity to the conceptual IRMs associated with these alternatives. The compatibility of the groundwater containment portions of Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6 was evaluated by comparing model simulated changes in groundwater fluxes that may result from IRM groundwater extraction; and by comparing source site published groundwater level elevation contours and directions of groundwater flow with model-simulated particle tracks at and near source sites with ongoing or planned remedial actions that may result from implementation of these alternatives (Figures 7-2 through 7-19B). These figures illustrate the model-simulated particle tracks for all layers as a single color. Alternative 5 and the ISCO portion of Alternative 6 were evaluated by estimating the changes in geochemical conditions at and near source sites with ongoing or planned remedial actions that may result from implementation of these alternatives (Figures 7-4 and 7-5). In response to comments received from SoCo West, Inc., (SOCO) (Appendix V), the OU2 groundwater flow model grid spacing was refined to incorporate the approved SOCO source area remedy which has yet to be installed. This refined model was used to evaluate the change in groundwater flow direction and change in hydraulic gradient at the SOCO property to assess the influence of OU2 groundwater extraction in the vicinity of the SOCO source control remedy.

For Alternatives 3, 4, and 6, generally, there were relatively small changes in groundwater fluxes and flow directions in Layers 1 through 3 (the only layers where source site remedial actions are being or will be applied) at and near most of the source sites. Changes in groundwater flux are dictated by changes in horizontal hydraulic gradients. It is common to have changes in horizontal hydraulic gradients under ambient conditions. For example, water level elevation contours for the upper and lower portions of the Shallow Aquifer System within the Study Area published in the July 2020 South Basin Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report (H+A, 2020) indicated that horizontal hydraulic gradients under ambient conditions ranged from a high of 0.0028 to low of 0.002 and 0.0017 to 0.001, respectively. These variable ambient groundwater gradients represent changes in groundwater flux values ranging between a factor of 1.4 to 1.7. Therefore, simulated groundwater flux increases of less than a factor of 1.5 from ambient (non-IRM pumping conditions) are considered within ambient variability, negligible, and are not further discussed below. The potential effect that IRMs may have on the groundwater flow directions at and near source sites with ongoing or planned remedial actions was evaluated by comparing source site published groundwater level elevation contours and directions of groundwater flow with modelsimulated particle tracks and changes in groundwater flow directions that may result from IRM groundwater extraction. As further described below, there are several source sites where the simulated changes in groundwater flux and/or groundwater flow directions in Layers 1 and/or 2 resulting from IRM extraction were, respectively, higher than a factor of 1.5 and/or qualitatively different from localized groundwater flow conditions over limited areas.

For Alternative 5 and the ISCO portion of Alternative 6, it is anticipated that, except for the Cherry Aerospace source site described below, changes in geochemical conditions would be limited to the relatively narrow injection width of approximately 24 feet of each ISCO injection alignment parallel with the direction of groundwater flow, with some relatively small changes in geochemical conditions at relatively short distances downgradient of each alignment. With this exception, Alternative 5 and the ISCO portion of Alternative 6 are not anticipated to significantly affect ongoing or planned source site remedial efforts; however, potential generation of byproducts, such as hexavalent chromium (as described in Section 7.2.3.5, Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment) could affect source sites downgradient of the alignments if the byproduct is persistent. The risk of byproduct generation is greatest where source sites are relatively close to ISCO applications, most notably near Cherry Aerospace.

The following subsections discuss compatibility of Alternatives 3 through 6 with source site remedial efforts that are ongoing or planned in proximity to the conceptual IRMs. The subsections also correlate the individual source site hydrostratigraphic unit (HSU) designations with the OU2 hydrostratigraphic and model Layers 1 through 4 described in the SRI Report and herein.

# 7.3.3.1 Allen T. Campbell Trust

This source site may consider application of dual-phased extraction (DPE) with ERH in the A-Zone (Layer 1), and application of groundwater extraction to contain contaminants in the B1(50)- Zone and B1(60)-Zone (Layer 2) (BEC, 2020).

Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 assume groundwater extraction from Layers 1 through 3 along alignments G-2 and G-3, which are located approximately 1,000 and 1,200 feet south and southwest of this source site, respectively (Figures 7-2, 7-3, and 7-5). Groundwater model simulations indicate that groundwater extraction for Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would result in (Figures 7-6 and 7-7A through 7-7C):

- Layer 1: negligible changes in groundwater fluxes. This source site has published A-Zone groundwater elevation contours indicating that A-Zone groundwater flows radially inward toward and converges on monitor well MW10A (Figure 7-7A). This A-Zone groundwater flow direction appears to be an artifact of either the vertical well screen placement of MW10A relative to other A-Zone monitor wells, or of a gap or hole in aquitard materials in the area of this monitor well that could result in predominantly vertical downward flow converging on and near MW10A. The OCWD model simulated particle tracks are consistent with the southern direction of groundwater flow observed in shallow groundwater near this source site at the scale of the Study Area.
- Layer 2: an increase of the groundwater flux near this source site by a factor of approximately 1.6, with negligible changes in groundwater flow directions (Figures 7-7B and 7-7C).

Alternatives 5 and 6 ISCO injection alignments are located downgradient of this source site and would not affect remedial actions that may be implemented at this source site (Figures 7-4 and 7-5).

# 7.3.3.2 Gallade Chemical

This source site is implementing groundwater extraction and treatment using DPE and groundwater extraction wells (Integral, 2020). Groundwater is extracted from Shallow Zone Groundwater (Layer 1) and from Deep A Zone Groundwater (Layer 2).

Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 assume groundwater extraction from Layers 1 through 3 along alignments G-2 and G-3, which are located approximately 1,100 and 650 feet southeast and south of this source site, respectively (Figures 7-2, 7-3, and 7-5). Groundwater model simulations indicate that groundwater extraction for Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would result in (Figures 7-6 and 7-8A through 7-8D):

• Layers 1 and 2: negligible changes in groundwater fluxes. The OCWD model simulated particle tracks are consistent with the south/southwestern groundwater flow directions observed in these Layers throughout and at the scale of the Study Area and with the south/southwestern groundwater flow direction observed in Shallow Zone groundwater beneath roughly the southern half of the Gallade property (EA, 2021a) and in Deep A Zone Groundwater south of Deep A Zone monitor wells MW-32A and MW-25 near the southern property boundary of the Gallade property (Figure 7-8C).

Alternatives 5 and 6 ISCO injection alignments are located downgradient of this source site and would not affect remedial actions currently being implemented at this source site (Figures 7-4 and 7-5).

# 7.3.3.3 Embee Plating

This source site is implementing in-situ remediation by injecting/recirculating emulsified vegetable oil (EVO), sodium lactate, bicarbonate, surfactant, microbial nutrients, and calcium polysulfide into the A-Zone (Layer 1) and the C-Zone (Layer 2) (Stantec, 2020b).

Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 assume groundwater extraction from Layers 1 through 3 along alignments G-2 and G-3, which are located approximately 350 and 400 feet southeast and southwest of this source site, respectively (Figures 7-2, 7-3, and 7-5). Groundwater model simulations indicate that groundwater extraction for Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would result in (Figures 7-6, 7-9A and 7-9B):

- Layer 1: negligible changes in groundwater fluxes. The published A-Zone groundwater flow directions are different than the model-simulated particle tracks (Figure 7-9A). This difference appears to be a result of the perched groundwater conditions represented in the published A-Zone groundwater elevation contours, as stated by Embee's consultant: "The 9.5 to 48 feet bgs zone is dominated by clay with discontinuous sand stringers leading to perching of groundwater and variable flow direction and gradient" (Stantec, 2021). The OCWD model simulated particle tracks are consistent with the south/southwestern groundwater flow direction observed throughout and at the scale of the Study Area.
- Layer 2: an increase of the groundwater flux near this source site by a factor of approximately 1.6 and negligible changes in groundwater flow directions.

Alternatives 5 and 6 ISCO injection alignments are located downgradient of this source site and would not affect remedial actions currently being implemented at this source site (Figures 7-4 and 7-5).

# 7.3.3.4 Soco West, Inc., Former Service Chemical Facility

This source site reportedly is planning to implement a surface cap, MNA, slurry walls, and EISB into HSU 3 (Layer 2) using injection wells and a PRB north of Warner Avenue (Geosyntec Consultants, 2015).

Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 assume groundwater extraction from Layers 1 through 3 along alignments G-2 and G-3, which are located approximately 250 and 400 feet southeast and southwest of this source site, respectively (Figures 7-2, 7-3, and 7-5). In response to comments received by SOCO (Appendix V), the model grid was refined, and additional modeling was performed to further evaluate the potential effects of OU2 groundwater extraction on SOCOs approved source control remedy by reducing the grid spacing across the SOCO site. The revised OU2 groundwater flow model was modified by incorporating the slurry walls, flow gates and permeable reactive barriers (PRB[s]) into the model using the available SOCO design parameters (*Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan, Former Service Chemical Facility, 1341 East Maywood Avenue, Santa Ana, California*, prepared by Geosyntec Consultants, dated July 14, 2015 and *Remedial Design and Implementation Plan, Former Service Chemical Facility 1341 E. Maywood Avenue, Santa Ana, California*, prepared by Geosyntec Consultants, dated November 2016) in order to simulate OU2 FS pumping with the SOCO remedy in place (refer to Appendix V, Attachment 1). The model simulations indicated that the direction of groundwater flow within the SOCO treatment area was relatively unaffected by OU2 FS pumping. This indicates that OU2 FS pumping has a lesser effect on the change in groundwater flow direction through the SOCO source area than was presented in the April 2022 Draft OU2 FS Report. The hydraulic gradient within the SOCO treatment area was then calculated with and without OU2 FS pumping. Given the refinement of the OU2 groundwater flow model grid and incorporation of the SOCO source area remedy into the model, a more direct comparison of change in groundwater flux (amount of groundwater flow) through the SOCO source area remedy was evaluated. The groundwater flux through the SOCO treatment area was assessed using the refined OU2 groundwater flow model with and without OU2 FS pumping. The amount of water flowing through the SOCO treatment zone increased by approximately 1.7 with OU2 pumping as compared to the non-OU2 pumping condition. This change in flux through the SOCO source area remedy is smaller than was inferred based on the change in hydraulic gradient, indicating a lesser influence than was presented in the April 2022 Draft OU2 FS Report.

Groundwater model simulations indicate that groundwater extraction for Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would result in (Figures 7-6 and 7-10A and 7-10B):

- Layer 1: negligible changes in groundwater fluxes and directions of flow.
- Layer 2: an increase of the groundwater flux near this source site by a factor of approximately 1.7, and negligible changes in groundwater flow directions.

Alternatives 5 and 6 ISCO injection alignments are located downgradient of this source site and would not affect remedial actions currently being implemented at this source site (Figures 7-4 and 7-5).

# 7.3.3.5 Former Diceon Electronics Facility

This source site reportedly is planning to implement soil excavation and ISCR using S-MicroZVI, a sulfidated ZVI, into the lower portion of HSU A-Zone (Layer 1), B-Zone (Layer 2) and the upper portion of the C- Zone (Layer 2/3) using direct-push injection methods along an on-property alignment in the southern-central portion of and off-property alignment immediately south of the former Diceon property (see Figure 16 from Black Rock Geosciences, 2021).

Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 assume groundwater extraction from Layers 1 through 3 along alignments G-2 and G-3, which are located approximately 800 and 320 feet southeast and south of this source site, respectively (Figures 7-2, 7-3, and 7-5). Groundwater model simulations indicate that groundwater extraction for Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would result in (Figures 7-6 and 7-11A through 7-11D):

- Layer 1: negligible changes in groundwater fluxes. Diceon's consultant has published A-Zone groundwater elevation contours indicating that A-Zone groundwater flows radially inward toward and converges on monitor well MW4-A and possibly MW6-A (Black Rock Geosciences, 2021). This A-Zone groundwater flow direction appears to be an artifact of either the relatively deeper vertical well screen placement of MW4-A (MW4-A well screen is 5-feet vertically deeper that the well screens for MW3-A, 5-A and 6-A), or of a gap or hole in aquitard materials in the area of monitor wells MW4-A/MW6-A that could result in predominantly vertical downward flow converging on and near these wells. Additionally, if the ISCR injection alignments are meant to treat the lower portion of A-Zone groundwater beneath and downgradient of the Diceon source site (Figure 16 of Black Rock Geosciences, 2021 illustrates a vertical treatment interval that overlaps the lower portions of A-Zone monitor wells MW5-A and MW9-A well screens), they are not aligned perpendicular to Diceon's published A-Zone groundwater flow directions, which may limit A-Zone groundwater treatment effectiveness.
- Layer 2: an increase of the groundwater flux near this source site by a factor of approximately 1.6, and negligible changes in flow directions toward the south/southwest.
- Layer 3: negligible changes in the groundwater flux and flow directions at and near this source site.

Alternatives 5 and 6 ISCO injection alignments are located downgradient of this source site and would not affect remedial actions currently being implemented at this source site (Figures 7-4 and 7-5).

# 7.3.3.6 Cherry Aerospace

This source site is implementing and plans on expanding groundwater extraction and treatment using DPE wells and groundwater extraction wells (CDM Smith, 2020). Groundwater is to be extracted from the Shallow (Upper) Zone (Layer 1), from Sand A (Layer 2) and from Sand B (Layers 2 and 3).

Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 assume groundwater extraction from Layers 1 through 3 along alignments G-2, G-3, and G-8, which are located approximately 800 feet, immediately adjacent to, and 600 feet east, north, and southeast of this source site, respectively (Figures 7-2, 7-3, and 7-5). Groundwater model simulations indicate that groundwater extraction for Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would result in (Figures 7-6 and 7-12A through 7-12C):

• Layers 1, 2, and 3: negligible changes in groundwater fluxes and directions of flow.

Further, the conceptual OU2 IRM Alternatives 3, 4, and the containment portion of Alternative 6, may act to prevent or minimize upgradient COCs from continuing to migrate beneath the Cherry Aerospace property and/or into the Cherry Aerospace source site extraction well network, which would be beneficial for this source site's remedial actions.

Alternatives 5 and 6 ISCO injection alignments are located immediately north, east, and southeast of this source site (Figures 7-4 and 7-5). The potential changes in groundwater geochemistry that may result from implementation of these alternatives (generation of undesired byproducts) could negatively affect the ongoing and planned expansion of groundwater extraction and treatment for this source site. If selected, Alternative 5 and the ISCO portion of Alternative 6 must be implemented in a manner that allows for the detection and evaluation of potential negative effects on this source site's remedial actions, and for cessation or adjustment of the IRMs, if such negative effects were observed.

Based on the preceding, the conceptual OU2 IRM Alternatives 3, 4, and the containment portion of Alternative 6 may be beneficial to the ongoing and planned remedial actions at this source site. Alternative 5 and the ISCO portion of Alternative 6 have a relatively high potential to generate undesired byproducts, such as hexavalent chromium in close proximity to the Cherry Aerospace property and the existing or planned Cherry Aerospace source site extraction well network.

# 7.3.3.7 Steelcase Incorporated

This source site has implemented and continues to implement groundwater extraction and treatment using groundwater extraction wells in Zone B (Layer 1) on the source site property (ERM, 2020). This source site responsible party has recently informed the RWQCB about their plan to submit a work plan proposing mass removal for impacted soil and in-situ remediation of contaminated groundwater at this source site.

Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 assume groundwater extraction from Layer 1 along alignment G-4, which is located approximately 450 feet south of this source site (Figures 7-2, 7-3, and 7-5). Groundwater model simulations indicate that groundwater extraction for Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would result in (Figures 7-6 and 7-13A and 7-13B):

• Layers 1 and 2: negligible changes in groundwater fluxes and directions of flow.

Alternative 5 ISCO injection alignment I-4 is located approximately 450 feet downgradient of this source site and would not affect remedial actions that may be implemented at this source site (Figure 7-4).

# 7.3.3.8 Troy Computer

This source site has implemented EISB using Hydrogen Release Compound<sup>TM</sup> (HRC) and 3-D Microemulsion<sup>TM</sup> (3DMe) (Bryant Geoenvironmental, Inc., 2010). The RWQCB has directed Troy Computer to address the source of impacts in the vadose zone, which will be followed by a request for work plans to fully delineate the extent of VOCs (and potentially 1,4-dioxane) impacts in vadose zone soil and groundwater (RWQCB, 2021c). The RWQCB has indicated that the potential selection and implementation of a groundwater remedy is on hold, pending further groundwater investigation and a feasibility study (Appendix S).

Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 assume groundwater extraction from Layer 1 along alignment G-4, which is located approximately 50 feet south of this source site (Figures 7-2, 7-3, and 7-5). Groundwater model simulations indicate that groundwater extraction for Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would result in (Figures 7-6 and 7-14A and 7-14B):

• Layer 1: an increase of the groundwater flux near this source site by a factor of approximately 3.7 and negligible changes in groundwater flow directions.

Alternative 5 ISCO injection alignment I-4 is located downgradient of this source site and would not affect remedial actions that may be implemented at this source site (Figure 7-4).

# 7.3.3.9 GE Plastics

This source site has implemented and continues to implement on-property in-situ bioremediation using EVO and acetic acid-amended water and groundwater extraction and treatment using groundwater extraction wells in the First Water-Bearing Zone (Layer 1); and off-property in-situ bioremediation using perchlorate along biobarriers installed along Deere Avenue (First Water Bearing Zone and Second Water Bearing Zone) and Alton Parkway (Second Water-Bearing Zone (Amec, 2014; Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016; Wood, 2020, 2021a and 2021b).

Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 assume groundwater extraction from Layer 1 along alignment G-4, which is located approximately 500 feet north of this source site (Figures 7-2, 7-3, and 7-5). Groundwater model simulations indicate that groundwater extraction for Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would result in (Figures 7-6 and 7-15A and 7-15B):

• Layers 1 and 2: negligible to no changes in groundwater fluxes and directions of flow.

Alternative 5 ISCO injection alignment I-4 is located 500 feet upgradient of this source site and the modest conceptual ISCO injection effort in this area is not anticipated to affect remedial actions ongoing at this source site (Figure 7-4). The conceptual IRM at G-4 associated with Alternatives 3 through 6 would have a beneficial effect by reducing the potential for migration of COCs beneath the GE Plastics source site.

# 7.3.3.10 ITT Cannon

This source site is implementing near off-property groundwater extraction and treatment using groundwater extraction wells (Arcadis, 2020). Groundwater is extracted from the Intermediate Unit, which is further subdivided into Sand A (Layer 2) and Sand B (Layer 2); and has implemented and reportedly plans to implement additional far off-property ISB (Arcadis, 2020; RWQCB, 2021b).

Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 assume groundwater extraction from Layers 1 and 2 along alignment G-5, which is located immediately north/northeast of this source site and groundwater extraction from Layers 1 and 2 along alignment G-6, which is located approximately 1,150 feet south-southwest of the southern-most off-property in-situ remediation area implemented by this source site (Figures 7-2, 7-3, and 7-5). Groundwater model simulations indicate that groundwater extraction for Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would result in (Figures 7-6 and 7-16A through 7-16D):

- Layer 1 on- and off-Property and Layer 2 on-and near-property: negligible changes in groundwater fluxes and directions of flow.
- Layer 2 far off-property: an increase of the groundwater flux near the southern-most offproperty in-situ remediation area implemented by this source site by a factor of approximately 1.6, and negligible changes in groundwater flow directions.

The conceptual OU2 IRM Alternatives 3, 4, and the containment portion of Alternative 6, may act to prevent or minimize upgradient COCs from migrating beneath the ITT property and/or into the ITT site extraction well network, which would be beneficial for this source site's remedial actions.

Alternative 5 ISCO injection alignment I-5 is located immediately north/northeast of this source site (Figure 7-4). The potential changes in groundwater geochemistry that may result from implementation of this alternative (generation of undesired byproducts) could negatively affect the ongoing groundwater extraction and treatment at this source site. If selected, Alternative 5 must be implemented in a manner that allows for the detection and evaluation of potential negative effects on this source site's remedial actions, and for cessation or adjustment of the IRMs, if such negative effects were observed.

Based on the preceding, the conceptual OU2 IRM Alternatives 3, 4, and the containment portion of Alternative 6 may be beneficial to the ongoing and planned remedial actions at this source site. Alternative 5 has a potential to generate undesired byproducts, such as hexavalent chromium near the ITT property and their near off-property extraction well network.

# 7.3.3.11 Former Ricoh Electronics Facility

This source site has implemented ISCO using potassium permanganate (WPI., 2010) and reportedly planned to implement enhanced ISB pilot testing using lactate (WPI, 2019). The previous and planned injections were/will be into the Upper Zone (Layer 1 and Layer 2) and into the Lower Zone (Layer 3) on the property.

Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 assume groundwater extraction from Layers 1 and 2 along alignment G-6, which is located approximately 150 feet south of this source site (Figures 7-2, 7-3, and 7-5). Groundwater model simulations indicate that groundwater extraction for Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would result in (Figures 7-6 and 7-17A and 7-17B):

• Layer 1: negligible changes in groundwater fluxes and directions of flow.

- Layer 2: an increase of the groundwater flux near this source site by a factor of approximately 2.8. The Lower Zone groundwater level data from this source site does not appear to have been historically contoured; however, the published groundwater level elevations in the Lower Zone are similar to those in the Upper Zone, which implies Lower Zone groundwater flow directions are similar to those in the Upper Zone, and negligible changes in Lower Zone groundwater flow directions.
- Layer 3: an increase of the groundwater flux near this source site by a factor of approximately 1.6, and unknown changes in flow direction, since this source site has no groundwater level elevation contours for this HSU.

Alternative 5 ISCO injection alignment I-6 is located downgradient of this source site and would not affect remedial actions currently being implemented at this source site (Figure 7-4).

# 7.3.3.12 Baxter Healthcare

This source site has implemented ISCO using persulfate in the "underlying sand-dominated zone…" (Layer 2) (Arcadis, 2015) and has performed additional pilot scale ISCO groundwater remediation using activated persulfate into the intervals 28 to 38 feet bgs (Layer 1) and 40 to 50 feet bgs (Layer 2) on the property (BBJ Group, 2020 and 2021; RWQCB, 2020b).

Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 assume groundwater extraction from Layers 1 and 2 along alignment G-7, which is located approximately 450 feet south of this source site (Figures 7-2, 7-3, and 7-5). Groundwater model simulations indicate that groundwater extraction for Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would result in (Figures 7-6 and 7-18A and 7-18B):

• Layers 1 and 2: negligible changes in groundwater fluxes and directions of flow.

Alternative 5 ISCO injection alignment I-7 is located downgradient of this source site and would not affect remedial actions that may be implemented at this source site (Figure 7-4).

# 7.3.3.13 Bell Industries

This source site is implementing off-property groundwater extraction and treatment using groundwater extraction wells (Atlas Environmental Engineering, Inc., 2021). Groundwater is extracted from the Local Shallow Zone (Layer 1), the Local Intermediate Zone (Layer 2), and the Local Deep Zone (Layer 2/3).

Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 assume groundwater extraction from Layers 1 and 2 along alignment G-1, which is located approximately 1,200 feet south and downgradient of the southern-most extraction well associated with this source site (Figures 7-2, 7-3, and 7-5). Groundwater model simulations indicate that groundwater extraction for Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would result in (Figures 7-6 and 7-19A and 7-19B):

• Layers 1 and 2: negligible changes in groundwater fluxes. The OCWD model simulated particle tracks are consistent with the south/southwestern groundwater flow direction observed near this source site and throughout and at the scale of the Study Area.

Alternative 5 ISCO injection alignment I-1 is located approximately 1,200 feet downgradient of the southern-most extraction well associated with this source site and would not affect remedial actions that may be implemented at this source site (Figure 7-4).

# 7.3.3.14 Other Source Sites

The conceptual IRMs would have negligible changes in groundwater fluxes and/or groundwater flow directions in the vicinity of the following source sites with ongoing or planned remedial efforts (Figure 7-6):

- Dyer Business Park
- GE's downgradient remediation areas
- BFM Energy
- Astech

# **7.4 IRM Compatibility with Armstrong Channel**

In a letter dated March 25, 2021, the RWQCB transmitted their comments on the FSISE to OCWD (RWQCB, 2021a), one of which stated:

"Since the bottom of the channel is unpaved and its elevation is below the water table, please explain how this remedy [Alternative 5] could be implemented effectively. In addition, please explain how the release of ISCO reagent into the channel will be avoided."

Alternative 5 ISCO injection alignment I-7 is located approximately 50 feet north of the center of Armstrong Channel (Figure 7-4). Since the bottom of the channel is unpaved and its elevation is below the water table, there is a risk that ISCO reagents and/or undesired reaction byproducts that could be generated (hexavalent chromium) could migrate toward and flow into the channel. There does not appear to be a way to balance the likely relatively high volume and repeated applications of ISCO reagents that would be necessary for Alternative 5 along alignment I-7 to be effective in this area, while preventing potential and likely undesired discharge into the channel. This could result in negative environmental impacts to the surface water quality in the channel and ineffective groundwater treatment and remedy failure. For these reasons, implementability of Alternative 5 has lower relative Balancing Criteria rankings compared with Alternatives 3, 4, and 6.

# **8.0 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

Table 8-1 summarizes the general response actions and process options included in each of the six remedial alternatives.

Table 8-2 summarizes a relative comparison and ranking of the six remedial alternatives regarding the degree to which each one satisfies the two threshold criteria and the five balancing criteria. The six alternatives also are compared and relatively ranked in terms of the green or sustainable practices anticipated during IRM implementation. In general, the distinguishing factors that result in ranking certain alternatives more favorably than others are their ability to meet threshold criteria, their implementability and their cost effectiveness. Except for Alternative 1 (No Action), Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells process options would be a component of all applied IRMs, and they would all provide a similar measure of protectiveness to human health and the environment as a component of each alternative.

# **8.1 Alternatives – Comparative Analysis**

#### 8.1.1 **Threshold Criteria**

Comparing the overall Threshold Criteria of each alternative, Alternatives 3 and 4 rank highest, Alternative 6 ranks moderately high, Alternative 5 has modest ranking, Alternative 2 has a relatively low ranking and Alternative 1 is lowest in rank (Table 8-2).

Alternative 1 (No Action) does not meet the primary threshold criteria of protectiveness of human health and the environment. With excess risk present, this alternative was not retained for consideration as a preferred alternative because of its inability to meet the basic threshold criteria of protectiveness.

Alternative 2 (MNA) also does not meet the primary threshold criteria of protectiveness of human health and the environment with the exception of protection of human exposure to groundwater containing COCs through institutional controls (Table 8-2). Regarding MNA in OU2, the RWQCB stated: "Please be advised that we do not consider natural attenuation a 'cleanup action,' because it is a passive remedy" (RWQCB, 2021a) and thus they do not view MNA as a standalone remedial action for OU2 groundwater. However, MNA was evaluated as a potential standalone remedial action herein for the purposes of completeness and consistency with the NCP. In the context of an IRM and since there is no active remediation being implemented, there are no chemical-specific ARARs identified for Alternative 2; however, in context of transitioning an IRM to a final remedy, this alternative would not comply with the chemical-specific ARARs associated with the state and federal MCLs for OU2 groundwater COCs in a reasonable timeframe. Alternative 2 does meet the location- and action-specific ARARs.

Alternatives 3 and 4 (Containment with POTW/GWSRS and Local Treatment with Reinjection, respectively) meet the primary threshold criteria protectiveness of human health and the environment and compliance with ARARs (Table 8-2).

Alternative 5 (ISCO) might meet the threshold criteria for protectiveness of human health and the environment; however, the potential for generation of persistent undesirable byproducts, particularly near some source sites and in close proximity to the surface water channels in the
southern portion of the Study Area, are of concern (Table 8-2). The potential for generation of persistent undesirable byproducts along with potential for not complying with Basin Plan Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) due to repeated application of relatively large volumes of amendments to groundwater are also of concern when evaluating compliance with ARARs.

Alternative 6 (Containment and ISCO) is effectively a mix of Alternatives 3 and 5, with a smaller application area for ISCO, thereby reducing, but not eliminating protectiveness of human health and the environment and ARARs (Table 8-2).

#### 8.1.2 **Balancing Criteria**

Comparing the overall Balancing Criteria of each alternative, Alternative 3 ranks highest followed closely by Alternative 4, Alternative 6 ranks moderately high, Alternative 5 has a moderate ranking, Alternative 2 has a relatively low ranking, and Alternative 1 is lowest in rank (Table 8-2).

Alternative 1 (No Action) ranks low in long-term effectiveness, reduction of TMV, and short-term effectiveness, and high in implementability (Table 8-2). It was not ranked in cost.

Alternative 2 (MNA) ranks low in reduction of TMV and short-term effectiveness, relatively low in long-term effectiveness and high in implementability and cost (Table 8-2).

Alternative 3 (Containment with POTW/GWRS) ranks moderately high in cost and high in longterm effectiveness, reduction of TMV, short-term effectiveness and implementability (Table 8-2).

Alternative 4 (Containment with Reinjection) ranks moderately in cost, moderate to high in implementability and high in long-term effectiveness, reduction of TMV and short-term effectiveness (Table 8-2).

Alternative 5 (ISCO) ranks low in cost and moderately in long-term effectiveness, reduction of TMV, short-term effectiveness and implementability (Table 8-2).

Alternative 6 (Containment and ISCO) ranks relatively low in cost and relatively high in long-term effectiveness, reduction of TMV, short-term effectiveness and implementability (Table 8-2).

#### 8.1.3 **Green and Sustainable Practices**

Comparing the overall sustainability of each alternative, Alternative 2 ranked highest followed closely by Alternative 3, Alternative 4 has modest ranking, Alternative 6 has a relatively low ranking, and Alternative 5 has a low ranking (Table 8-2).

The SiteWise Tool for Green and Sustainable Remediation was used to evaluate and semiquantitatively rank the sustainability of each of the remedial alternatives (NAVFAC, 2018) (Appendix C). The overview of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  emissions, and total energy electricity used for the construction (PDI and construction) and OMM components for Alternatives 2 to 6 are summarized in the following table:



The following table provides a relative comparison of Alternatives 2 to 6, with relative ranking of Low to High, which indicates the level of impact. Low impacts are more desirable and indicate a higher level of sustainability than Medium and High impacts (Table 8-2).



#### 8.1.4 **Other Considerations**

The six remedial alternatives were evaluated relative to one another based on compatibility with source site remediation and the Armstrong Channel (Table 8-2). Alternatives 1 and 2 are compatible with source remediation systems and with Armstrong Channel. Alternative 5 is slightly more compatible with source site remediation systems when compared to Alternatives 3, 4 and 6; however, this alternative is not compatible with Armstrong Channel. Alternatives 3 and 4 are compatible with source site remediation and with Armstrong Channel, given the flexibility and reversibility of these remedial alternatives. In instances where these alternatives may not have negligible effects, the IRM containment alignments are located relatively close to the subject source site remedial areas. At these containment alignments, options for IRM implementation include not installing extraction wells or balancing extraction rates during implementation to moderate and minimize the effects that OU2 extraction may have on selected source site remedial efforts.

### **8.2 Conclusions and Recommendations**

This FS evaluated a broad set of remedial alternatives in detail. Comparing the overall Threshold Criteria of each alternative, Alternatives 3 and 4 rank highest, Alternative 6 ranks moderate to high, Alternative 5 has a moderate ranking, Alternative 2 has a low to moderate ranking and Alternative 1 is lowest in rank (Table 8-2).

Comparing the overall Balancing Criteria of each alternative, Alternatives 3 and 4 rank highest, Alternative 6 ranks moderate to high, Alternative 5 has a moderate ranking, and Alternatives 1 and 2 are ranked lowest (Table 8 2).

Comparing green and sustainability practices for active remediation alternatives (excluding MNA), Alternative 3 ranks highest, Alternative 4 ranks moderate, Alternative 6 ranks low to moderate, and Alternative 5 ranks lowest (Table 8-2).

It is recommended that these evaluations should be used to support selection of the OU2 IRM.

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**TABLES**



677 -- Bored, 4 inch --678  $1884^{(1)}$  Bored, 5 inch --679 1899 Hydraulic, 2 inch 180 680 | 1898 | Hydraulic, 2 inch  $180^{(1)}$ 681 -- Bored, 7 inch 200 682 - Bored, 7 inch 196 683 1892 Bored, 4 inch 53 684  $\vert$  --  $\vert$  Bored, 5 inch  $\vert$  200<sup>(1)</sup> 685 --  $50^{(1)}$ 686 1904 Hydraulic, 3 inch -- 687 | 1903 | Hydraulic, 2 inch | 210<sup>(1)</sup> 688 1904 Bored, 2 inch 212 689 | 1900 | Bored, 4 inch | 200<sup>(2)</sup> 691 1901 Hydraulic 3 inch 212 692 1902 Bored, 7 inch 220 693 -- Hydraulic, 2 inch  $200^{(2)}$ 694 1903 Driven, 2 inch 239 695 -- Bored, 4 inch 40 696 1904 Hydraulic, 2 inch 239

## **Table 1-1 Study Area Water Supply Well Inventory, United States Geological Survey 1904**

 $\frac{698}{699}$  -- Bored, 7 inch --<br>Hydraulic, 2 inch  $200^{(2)}$ 

701 -- Hydraulic, 2 inch 35 702 1900 Bored, 7 inch 214 703 1904 Hydraulic, 3 inch 196 704 1897 Hydraulic, 2 inch 194 705 1886 Bored, 4 inch 132

 $699$  -- Hydraulic, 2 inch

Г



## **Table 1-1 Study Area Water Supply Well Inventory, United States Geological Survey 1904**

Well <b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b> Completed	<b>Class of Well /</b> <b>Diameter</b>	<b>Well Depth</b> (feet bls)
665	1896	Bored, 7 inch	$380^{(2)}$
666	1888	Bored, 4 inch	$380^{(2)}$
667		Hydraulic, 2 inch	$260^{(1)}$
668		Hydraulic, 3 inch	$260^{(2)}$
669	1902	Bored, 7 inch	63
670	1903	Bored, 3 inch	265
744	1904	Bored 9.5 inch	114
745		Bored, 4 inch	
747		Bored, 4 inch	56
748		Dug, $5 \text{ by } 5 \text{ ft}$	3
828		Hydraulic 3 inch	
Proximal Legacy Wells Located East of the Study Area			
898		Bored, 8 inch	
904	1880	Bored, 4 inch	$120^{(2)}$
907		Hydraulic, 2 inch	200
984	1899	Hydraulic, 2 inch	150
1066	1903	Hydraulic, 4 inch	75
1128	1900	Bored, 7 Inch	284
1129	1900	Bored, 7 Inch	282

**Table 1-1 Study Area Water Supply Well Inventory, United States Geological Survey 1904**

Source:

From Table 2-1 Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report (Hargis, 2020)

Mendenhall, W. (1905). Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, Water-Supply and Irrigation Paper No. 137. Development of Underground Waters in the Eastern Coastal Plain Region of Southern California.

Current well status unknown. Approximate well locations illustrated on Figure 1-4.

#### Notes:

 $(1)$  = Value recorded as "doubtful"

 $(2)$  = Value recorded as "includes tank in column"

bls = below land surface





### **Table 1-2 Water Supply Wells in Vicinity of Study Area**



### **Table 1-2 Water Supply Wells in Vicinity of Study Area**



Source:

Data Source: Table 2-2 from Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report (Hargis, 2020)

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Upon further evaluation by OCWD, this well was determined to be a cathodic protection well

<sup>2</sup> TIC-91 based on WRMS database from Aquilogic (2015)















ISCO In-Situ Chemical Oxidation **Exercise 2018** ROW Right of Way **ROW Right of Way** VOC Volatile Organic Compound NDMA N-nitrosodimethylamine RWQCB Regional Water Quality Control Board ZVI Zero Valent Iron OCHCA Orange County Health Care Agency SVE Soil Vapor Extraction OCWD Orange County Water District SWRCB State Water Resources Control Board

IRM Interim Remedial Measures PCE Perchloroethylene or Tetrachloroethylene UV Ultraviolet

## **Table 7-1. Estimated Number of Monitor Wells for each Conceptual Remedial Alternative**



Notes:

MNA= Monitored Natural Attenuation

ISCO= In-situ chemical oxidation



# **Table 7-2 Monitored Natural Attenuation Monitoring Schedule**

### **reademarational extending**

r mobilizing Cr due to change in lown gradient of known Cr sources only.

 $OC$ ) is an indicator of continued

helphanel and products of reductive s; their presence indicates ing. Methane is and indicator of deep

### **Table 7-2 Monitored Natural Attenuation Monitoring Schedule**



Notes:

ORP = Oxidation Reduction Potential

DO = Dissolved Oxygen

VOC = Volatiale Organic Compound

 $Cr =$  Chromium

TOC = Total Organic Carbon

CVOC = Chlorinated Volatile Organic Compound

**Notes:**

1. "X" indicates that the remedial technology/process option is evaluated as a potential component of the identified remedial alternative.

2. Shaded cells indicate process options that are not considered for the identified remedial alternative(s).

3. Remedial technologies/process options are presented in Table 5-1.

#### **Alternatives:**

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Monitored Natural Attenuation



Alternative 3 – Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with discharge to POTW and GWRS

Alternative 4 – Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to Shallow Aquifer System

Alternative 5 – In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation

Alternative 6 – Containment and In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with discharge to POTW and GWRS

#### **Abbreviations:**

POTW = Publicly-owner treatment works

GWRS = Orange County Water District Groundwater Replenishment System Advanced Wastewater Purification Facility

### **Table 8-1 Remedial Technologies/Process Options Evaluated for OU2 Interim Remedial Measures Alternatives**

*January 2023 Page 1 of 1 Engineering Analytics, Inc.*




















## **Table 8-2. Threshold and Balancing Criteria Evaluation for OU2 Interim Remedial Measures Alternatives, Sustainability Assessment and Other Considerations**



I is understood that cross flow from the Shallow Aquifer System into the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells is difficult to address for any of the alternatives; however, alternatives that begin to m from the Shallow Aquifer System are given a moderate to high ranking.

- ARAR Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements
- BTU British Thermal Units 0 None/Not Applicable
- $\text{COCs}$  Chemical(s) of Concern 1 Low
- GWRS 2 Low to Moderate OCWD Groundwater Replenishment System Advanced Wastewater Purification Facility
- 
- IRM Interim Remedial Measures 3 Moderate 3 Moderate 3 Moderate 3 Moderate 3 Moderate 4 Moderate 6 High ISCO In-Situ Chemical Oxidation
- LGAC Liquid-phase granular activated carbon 5 High
- POTW Public Owned Treatment Works
- RAO Remedial Action Objectives
- WQO Water Quality Objectives from Santa Ana Basin Plan

### **Criteria Ranking**

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

#### **Table 8-2A. Summary of Reversibility and Potential Conflict and Contingency Action Evaluation for OU2 Interim Remedial Measures Alternatives**





Footnotes:

(a) All alternatives are subject to back diffusion, whether it is in areas upgradient of containment/treatment zones or within the immediate vicinity of the active technology.

**FIGURES**





Street South Main Street §¨¦**I 5** South Main **\*\*\*\*\* SANTA ANA SANTA FE CHANNEL Bristol Street** Bristol Street Edinger Avenue ю 1983 **an t-Grand Avenue** Grand Avenue  $\circledast$ West Warner Avenue Red Hill Avenue  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ **SANTA ANA DELHI CHANNEL** SANTA ANA DELHI CHANNEL East Dyer Road  $\begin{bmatrix} 1,500 & 3,000 \\ 0 & 1,500 & 3,000 \end{bmatrix}$ **BARRANCA CHANNEL \*\*\*\*\* Channel**<br>Channel **SANTA ANA GARDENS**  Feet**LANE CHANNEL ARMSTRONG CHANNEL** Barranca Parkway PETERS CANYON WASH **\*\*\*\*\* BARRANCA CHANNEL SANTA ANA DELHI CHANNEL** LHI CHANNEI **SANDIEGO CREEK \*\*\*\*\***¨¦§**I 405 AIRPORT SANTA ANA DEI SAN DIEGO**<br>CREEK O **STORM CHANNEL** CHAREE<del>L</del> **\*\*\*\*\***m **LANE CHANNEL** ¨¦§**I 405 SAN JORQUIN SAN DIEGO SAN DIEGO CREEK CHANNEL** Culver Drive **PAULARINO CHANNEL** NOTES: **BUILDING** Study Area Channels, Creeks, Washes Channel bottom elevation in viciniy of Study Area was estimated using LiDAR data. This was compared to approximate elevation of groundwater table based on Channel Bottom Below Water Table (estimated) water levels measured in upper portion of shallow aquifer system to assess whether Channel Bottom Above Water Table (Estimated) channel bottom was above or below channel bottom.

Portions of channels that are not indcated to be above or below channel were either too close to assess or not in Study Area.

**HARGIS + ASSOCIATES, INC** 

# FIGURE 1-3. SURFACE WATER FEATURES WITHIN VICINITY OF STUDY AREA



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▲ Grab Samples - Post-2010 (PRP, Aquilogic Database)





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FIGURE 1-6: Trichloroethylene in Layer 1 Groundwater **Orange County Water District South Basin** 







FIGURE 1-7: Trichloroethylene in Layer 2 Groundwater **Orange County Water District South Basin** 







FIGURE 1-8: Trichloroethylene in Layer 3 Groundwater **Orange County Water District South Basin** 







FIGURE 1-9: Trichloroethylene in Layer 4 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin





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FIGURE 1-10: Tetrachloroethylene in Layer 1 Groundwater **Orange County Water District South Basin** 







FIGURE 1-11: Tetrachloroethylene in Layer 2 Groundwater **Orange County Water District South Basin** 







FIGURE 1-12: Tetrachloroethylene in Layer 3 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-13: Tetrachloroethylene in Layer 4 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin





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FIGURE 1-14: 1,1-Dichloroethylene in Layer 1 Groundwater **Orange County Water District South Basin** 







FIGURE 1-15: 1,1-Dichloroethylene in Layer 2 Groundwater **Orange County Water District South Basin** 







FIGURE 1-16: 1,1-Dichloroethylene in Layer 3 Groundwater **Orange County Water District South Basin** 







FIGURE 1-17: 1,1-Dichloroethylene in Layer 4 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-18: 1,4-Dioxane in Layer 1 Groundwater **Orange County Water District South Basin** 







FIGURE 1-19: 1,4-Dioxane in Layer 2 Groundwater **Orange County Water District South Basin** 







FIGURE 1-20: 1,4-Dioxane in Layer 3 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-21: 1,4-Dioxane in Layer 4 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-22: Perchlorate in Layer 1 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-23: Perchlorate in Layer 2 Groundwater **Orange County Water District South Basin** 







FIGURE 1-24: Perchlorate in Layer 3 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-25: Perchlorate in Layer 4 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin

Feet **HARGIS + ASSOCIATES, INC HYDROGEOLOGY - ENGINEERING** 

 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{1$ 





Channels, Creeks, Washes

FIGURE 1-26. GROUNDWATER SAMPLE LOCATIONS NEAR/WITHIN LAYER 4 (BASAL SAND)

## NOTES:

Principal Compounds of Potential Concern either not detected or detected below 1 microgram per liter (volatile organic compounds and 1,4-dioxane) or 6 micrograms per liter (perchlorate) except red circled location. The red circled location had a detection of 1,4-dioxane at 6.3 micrograms per liter. See appendix for additional information.

Sample identifiers include top and bottom of sampled interval (feet below land surface).





Approximate distribution based on maximum concentration of principal chemicals of potential concern (COPCs) (tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, 1,1-dichloroethylene, perchlorate and 1,4-dioxane, micrograms per liter [ug/l]). See appendix for details.

Water level elevation based on upper shallow aquifer system water level measurements in first half of 2012 (see appendix), feet NAVD88 datum. Q1/Q2 2012 water level contours selected as the data set for this period was more extensive than other data sets.

> FIGURE 1-27. OVERVIEW OF EXTENT OF PRINCIPAL COMPOUNDS OF POTENTIAL CONCERN IN SHALLOW AQUIFER SYSTEM







FIGURE 1-28: cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene in Layer 1 Groundwater **Orange County Water District South Basin** 





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FIGURE 1-29: cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene in Layer 2 Groundwater **Orange County Water District South Basin** 





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FIGURE 1-30: cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene in Layer 3 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-31: cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene in Layer 4 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-32: Vinyl Chloride in Layer 1 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin






FIGURE 1-33: Vinyl Chloride in Layer 2 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-34: Vinyl Chloride in Layer 3 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-35: Vinyl Chloride in Layer 4 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-36: Hexavalent Chromium in Layer 1 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-37: Hexavalent Chromium in Layer 2 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-38: Hexavalent Chromium in Layer 3 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 1-39: Hexavalent Chromium in Layer 4 Groundwater Orange County Water District South Basin



- Conceptual capture area or property ----- boundary of source site currently operating GET system
- **Planned source site GET**
- Channels, below water table
- Channels, unspecified
- Channels, above water table
- **Immus** Study Area

**SOURCE SITES WITH CURRENTLY OPERATING OR PLANNED GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION AND TREATMENT (GET) SYSTEMS**

# Project No. 151099.220 **FIGURE 2-1 ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

## **EXPLANATION**

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### **Approximate extent of principal COPCs (micrograms per liter)**







- Source sites with current or planned in-situ remediation programs
- Channels, below water table
- Channels, unspecified
- Channels, above water table
- **mmm** Study Area



**SOURCE SITES WITH CURRENT OR PLANNED IN-SITU REMEDIATION PROGRAMS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

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## **EXPLANATION**

**Approximate extent of principal COPCs (micrograms per liter)**







Pro jec t No . 151099.220 **FIGURE 2-3 APPROXIMATE AREAS OF OU2 TARGETED FOR IRMs - ALTERNATIVES 3 AND 4: CONTAINMENT AND TREATMENT OF RELATIVELY HIGH CONCENTRATION AND LEADING-EDGE AREAS USING GROUNDWATER AND TREATMENT WITH DISCHARGE TO POTW/GWRS OR REINJECTION ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

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## **EXPLANATION**



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Project No. 151099.220 **FIGURE 2-4 APPROXIMATE AREAS OF OU2 TARGETED FOR IRMs - ALTERNATIVE 5: IN-SITU TREATMENT OF RELATIVELY HIGH CONCENTRATION AND LEADING-EDGE AREAS USING CHEMICAL OXIDATION ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**





ISCO = in-situ chemical oxidation GET = groundwater extraction and treatment IRM(s) = Interim Remedial Measure(s)



**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 

Project No. 151099.220 **FIGURE 2-5 APPROXIMATE AREAS OF OU2 TARGETED FOR IRMS - ALTERNATIVE 6: IN-SITU TREATMENT OF RELATIVELY HIGH CONCENTRATION AND LEADING-EDGE AREAS USING CHEMICAL OXIDATION COMBINED WITH GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION AND TREATMENT WITH DISCHARGE TO POTW AND GRWS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

## **EXPLANATION**





**FIGURE 7-1 GROUNDWATER MONITORING AREAS: ALTERNATIVE 2 - MONITORED NATURAL ATTENUATION ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**



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**FIGURE 7-2 GROUNDWATER MONITORING AREAS - ALTERNATIVE 3: CONTAINMENT AND TREATMENT OF RELATIVELY HIGH CONCENTRATION AND LEADING-EDGE AREAS USING GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION AND TREATMENT WITH DISCHARGE TO POTW AND GWRS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**





**FIGURE 7-3 GROUNDWATER MONITORING AREAS - ALTERNATIVE 4: CONTAINMENT AND TREATMENT OF RELATIVELY HIGH CONCENTRATION AND LEADING-EDGE AREAS USING GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION AND TREATMENT WITH INJECTION TO BASAL SAND ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**



**FIGURE 7-4 LEADING-EDGE AREAS USING CHEMICAL OXIDATION ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**



**FIGURE 7-5 GROUNDWATER MONITORING AREAS - ALTERNATIVE 6: CONTAINMENT AND IN-SITU TREATMENT OF RELATIVELY HIGH CONCENTRATION AND LEADING-EDGE AREAS USING CHEMICAL OXIDATION COMBINED WITH GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION AND TREATMENT WITH DISCHARGE TO POTW AND GWRS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**



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**FIGURE 7-6 MODEL SIMULATED CHANGES IN GROUNDWATER FLUX VALUES RESULTING FROM OU2 IRM EXTRACTION ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**





GET = groundwater extraction and treatment

Notes:

1) labeled source sites are those near conceptual OU2 IRMs with planned or ongoing GET or in-situ remediation programs.

2) the colored flux symbols are placed for figure clarity; however, the model-simulated monitor points for the flux comparison are indicated by black triangles.

Project No. 151099.220





**FIGURE 7-7A COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

Project No. 151099.220 **Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 



## **FIGURE 7-7B COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

**PUBLISHED B1(50)-ZONE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, ALLAN T. CAMPBELL TRUST SOURCE SITE**

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Project No. 151099.220 **Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 



**FIGURE 7-7C COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED B1(60)-ZONE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, ALLAN T. CAMPBELL TRUST SOURCE SITE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**





### **FIGURE 7-8A GALLADE CHEMICAL SITE MAP WITH MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**



## **FIGURE 7-8B COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED SHALLOW ZONE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, GALLADE CHEMICAL ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 

**EXPLANATION**

# **FIGURE 7-8C PUBLISHED DEEP A ZONE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, GALLADE CHEMICAL ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**



## **EXPLANATION**



## **FIGURE 7-8D COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED DEEP B ZONE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, GALLADE CHEMICAL ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**





**FIGURE 7-9A COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED A-ZONE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, EMBEE PLATING ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**





**FIGURE 7-9B COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED C-ZONE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, EMBEE PLATING ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**



## **FIGURE 7-10A COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

**PUBLISHED HSU 1 GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, SOCO WEST, INC., FORMER SERVICES CHEMICAL**

Project No. 151099.220

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**FIGURE 7-10B COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED HSU 3 GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, SOCO WEST, INC., FORMER SERVICES CHEMICAL ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

**FORMER DICEON ELECTRONICS PROPOSED GROUNDWATER INJECTION LOCATIONS AND MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS**



# **FIGURE 7-11A ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

Project No. 151099.220 **Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 



## **FIGURE 7-11B COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

**PUBLISHED A-ZONE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, FORMER DICEON ELECTRONICS FACILITY**





**FIGURE 7-11C COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**



**FIGURE 7-11D COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

**CHERRY AEROSPACE PROPOSED OFF-SITE MONITORING AND EXTRACTION WELLS AND OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS**



# **FIGURE 7-12A ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**



**FIGURE 7-12B COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED SAND A GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, CHERRY AEROSPACE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

**COMPARISON** 



**COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED SAND B GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, CHERRY AEROSPACE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**


# **COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED ZONE A GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, STEELCASE INCORPORATED ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**



### Project No. 151099.220 **FIGURE 7-13B COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED ZONE B GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, STEELCASE INCORPORATED ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

**TROY COMPUTER PROPOSED HORIZONTAL WELL DESIGN ISCO-ERD APPLICATION SECTIONS AND OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS**





**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 

# **FIGURE 7-14B COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS**



**PUBLISHED GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, TROY COMPUTER ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 

G-4



**Sight A** 

Project No. 151099.220<br>**FIGURE 7-15A**<br>**FIGURE 7-15A COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED FIRST WATER-BEARING ZONE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, GE PLASTICS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

## **EXPLANATION**

 $\frac{1}{2}$ 

IRM GET Alignment G-4 Model Simulated Groundwater Particle Track

Conceptual OU2 Containment Extraction Well Alignment

Source Sites

GE Plastics

IRM = OU2 Interim Remedial Measures GET = Groundwater Extraction and Treatment



NOTE: Groundwater elevation contours from Wood, 2021. Summary of Fourth Quarter 2020 Groundwater Monitoring Activities, Former LNP Site. January 15, 2021.



## **COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED SECOND WATER-BEARING ZONE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, GE PLASTICS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**





### **FIGURE 7-16A ITT CANNON MASTER SITE MAP AND MODEL-SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 





### **FIGURE 7-16B COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED SHALLOW UNIT GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, ITT CANNON ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

## **EXPLANATION**

 $\frac{1}{2}$ 

IRM GET Alignment G-5 Model Simulated Groundwater Particle Track

Conceptual OU2 Containment Extraction Well Alignment

Source Sites

ITT Cannon

IRM = OU2 Interim Remedial Measures GET = Groundwater Extraction and Treatment



NOTE: Groundwater elevation contours from Arcadis, 2021. Semiannual Groundwater Monitoring Report, Third and Fourth Quarters 2020, ITT LLC - Former Dyer Road Property April 23, 2021.



### Project No. 151099.220 **FIGURE 7-16C COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED INTERMEDIATE SAND A UNIT GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, ITT CANNON ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

### Project No. 151099.220<br>**FIGURE 7-16D COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED INTERMEDIATE SAND B UNIT GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, ITT CANNON ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**







## **RICOH PLOT PLAN AND OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**









**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 

### **FIGURE 7-18A COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED SHALLOW GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, BAXTER HEALTHCARE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

## **EXPLANATION**

 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ 

IRM GET Alignment G-7 Model Simulated Groundwater Particle Track

Conceptual OU2 Containment Extraction Well Alignment

Source Sites

Baxter Health Care

IRM = OU2 Interim Remedial Measures GET = Groundwater Extraction and Treatment



NOTE: Groundwater elevation contours from BBJ Group, 2021. Waste Discharge Requirements Monitoring Report, August 1, 2021.





## **FIGURE 7-18B COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED DEEP GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS, BAXTER HEALTHCARE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**



**COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED SHALLOW GROUNDWATER ZONE ELEVATION CONTOURS, BELL INDUSTRIES ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 



**FIGURE 7-19B COMPARISON OF OCWD MODEL SIMULATED GROUNDWATER PARTICLE TRACKS VERSUS PUBLISHED INTERMEDIATE GROUNDWATER ZONE ELEVATION CONTOURS, BELL INDUSTRIES ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN**

**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 

# **APPENDIX A DATA AND METHODS USED TO PREPARE OU2 GROUNDWATER COC PLAN VIEW FIGURES**

# **APPENDIX A DATA AND METHODS USED TO PREPARE OU2 GROUNDWATER COC PLAN VIEW FIGURES**

# **SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT**

*Prepared for:*

**Orange County Water District**

*Prepared by:*



9820 Willow Creek Rd., Suite 395 San Diego, CA 92131 (858) 221-0264

Project No. 151099

February 2022

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### **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**



### <span id="page-271-0"></span> $1.0$ **INTRODUCTION**

This appendix has been prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) on behalf of Orange County Water District (OCWD) to document the data and methods used to prepare the Chemicals of Concern (COC) maps of Operable Unit 2 (OU2) in the south-central portion of the Orange County Groundwater Basin in Orange County, California (Study Area).

### <span id="page-271-1"></span>2.0 **WATER QUALITY DATA**

Groundwater samples were collected from wells and temporary grab sample locations across the Study Area by various parties over the past decades. Sampling data was assembled using databases compiled and maintained by OCWD and its data management contractors, augmented with supplemental data for individual source sites that were downloaded from SWRCB's GeoTracker electronic data management system website.

### <span id="page-271-2"></span> $2.1$ **Chemicals of Concern**

There are ten Chemicals of Concern (COCs) for OU2 groundwater as described in the feasibility study. COC figures for 1,1-DCA, 1,2-DCA, and 1,1,2-TCA were not prepared for this document since the frequencies of detection and/or relative concentrations of these COCs were low and the distributions of these COCs were encompassed by the distributions of COCs illustrated herein.

### <span id="page-271-3"></span> $2.2$ **Screening Levels**

Screening levels used for COC analysis, were assigned based on standards outlined in the 2020 SRI Report (H+A, 2020). The screening levels for the mapped OU2 COCs were made up of Federal and State primary Maximum Containment Levels (MCLs) for drinking water and California notification limits for drinking water. The screening levels can be found below.



### <span id="page-271-4"></span>**HYDROSTRATIGRAPHIC DATA 3.0**

Hydrostratigraphic unit elevations for the sampling locations were assigned using the unit elevations in mean sea level (msl) that were identified using the four units identified SRI cross

sections that were in turn used to support the model layering in the numerical groundwater flow model described in Appendix E.

### <span id="page-272-0"></span>**METHOD OF EVALUATION** 4.0

The available data for the Study Area spans decades with multiple samples collected for many of the sample locations. The concentrations of COCs within the four units of interest was evaluated taking the following general principles into consideration:

- In situations where latitude/longitude or sample interval information for a sample location could not be identified, the sample location was removed from the dataset;
- Quality control samples were removed from the dataset and only primary samples were retained;
- Since multiple groundwater samples were taken from a majority of the sample locations the most recent sampled value for each COC at each location was used as the posted value;
- Due to the large span of data, the dataset was limited to samples collected after December 31, 2009
- The sample dates were categorized as Pre 2018 or Post 2017 to provide context as to samples collected more recently;
- Grab and screened samples were categorized and identified separately in the maps;
- Sample depths were initially identified in feet below land surface so the depths had to be converted to msl by subtracting the sample depths from the location's land surface elevation;
- In situations where a sampling location's screen interval was completed in multiple units, their values were posted on maps for all penetrated units;
- Multi-layer sampling intervals and were identified by including the phrase "and adjacent" layer" in the sample type description;
- In order to present context as to magnitude of COC concentrations, the final posted value was compared to the COC's screening level and was categorized under one of the following groups
	- o Over 100 times screening level
	- o 10 to 100 times screening level
	- o 1 to 10 times screening level
	- o Non-detect greater than screening level
	- o Detect less than screening level
	- o Non-detect less than screening level

### <span id="page-273-0"></span> $5.0$ **CONCLUSION**

Using the data and methods outlined in this appendix, source tables that identified the sample location, unit, COC, concentration, and sampled time period were created. This information was used to produce the Study Area COC maps.

### <span id="page-273-1"></span>**REFERENCES** 6.0

Hargis + Associates, Inc. (H+A), 2020. Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report, Orange County Water District South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2. May 6, 2020.

# **APPENDIX B POTENTIAL FEDERAL AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA APPLICABLE OR RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS (ARARs) FOR THE SBGPP**











Evaluation of the Federal Clean Water Act provided below

To be determined

Applicable to Surface Water Discharge

Applicable to POTW Discharge

Evaluation of the Water Quality Control Plan provided below































### **Acronyms/Abbreviations:**

- ARARs = Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements
- BACT = Best Available Control Technology
- BAT = Best Available Technology
- BMPs = Best management practices
- CAMU = Corrective Action Management Unit
- CCR = California Code of Regulations
- CFR = Code of Federal Regulations
- COCs = Contaminants of concern
- CWA = Clean Water Act
- DOT = Department of Transportation





*Orange County Water District*

### **TABLE B-1 POTENTIAL APPLICABLE OR RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate**



### **Acronyms/Abbreviations:**

- CCR = California Code of Regulations
- COC = Contaminant of concern
- MCLs = Maximum Contaminant Levels
- NLs = Notification Levels
- SWRCB = State Water Resources Control Board
	- TBC = To-be-considered





## **TABLE B-2 TO-BE-CONSIDERED DOCUMENTS SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**
# **APPENDIX C OU2 REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

# **Table C-1. SiteWiseTM Sustainable Remediation - Environmental Footprint Summary**

# **Alternative 2 - Monitored Natural Attenuation**

**Orange County Water District South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**



**Component 4** 

**Alt 2 OMM** 0.0E+00 0.0E +00 0.0E +0 **Component 3** 0.0E+00 0.0E +00 0.0E

**Total 2.4E+02 0.0E+00**

# **Table C-2. SiteWiseTM Sustainable Remediation - Environmental Footprint Summary Alternative 3 - Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS Orange County Water District South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**





# **Table C-3. SiteWiseTM Sustainable Remediation - Environmental Footprint Summary Alternative 4 - Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to the Basal Sand Orange County Water District South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**







**Orange County Water District South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**



**Alt 5 OMM** 0.0E+00 0.0E +00 **Component 3** 0.0E+00 0.0E 0.0 **Component 4** 0.0E+00 0.0E+00 0.0E+00 0.0E+00 0.0E+00

**Total 2.6E+03** 

**Table C-5. SiteWiseTM Sustainable Remediation - Environmental Footprint Summary Alternative 6 - Containment and In-Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS**

**Orange County Water District South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**







# **APPENDIX D DETAILED COST ESTIMATES FOR OU2 INTERIM REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES**

### **Table D-1. Alternatives Cost Summary**



Notes:

 $1 =$  The 2.5% discount rate is based on OCWD's financial personnel input and is the typical current discount rate used by OCWD for assessing longerterm projects.

GET = Groundwater Extraction and Treatment

ISCO = In-Situ Chemical Oxidation

MNA = Monitored Natural Attenuation

 $N/A = Not Applicable$ 

NPV = Net Present Value

OMM = Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring

PDI = Pre-Design Investigation

POTW = Public Owned Treatment Works

### **Table D-2. Alternatives Annual Cost and Net Present Value Summary**



Acronyms

 $\%$  = Percent

NPV = Net Present Value





*December 2022 Page 1 of 2 Engineering Analytics, Inc.*



Notes:

1. Southern California Contracted Unit Costs reflect actual contracted costs for similar work items at other Southern California environmental investigation/remediation sites.<br>
PDI = Pre-Design Investigation

 $MNA =$  Monitored Natural Attenuation<br>OC = Orange County

 $OMM =$  Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring

 $PVC = Polyvinyl Chloride$ <br> $ROM = Rough Order of Magnitude$ 







## **Table D-4. Alternative 3 - Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS**

### **WELL AND CONVEYANCE SYSTEM COSTS**

# **Table D-4. Alternative 3 - Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using**





## **Table D-4. Alternative 3 - Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS**







*December 2022 Page 3 of 4 Engineering Analytics, Inc.*

- 
- $PDI = Pre-Design Investigation  
\nPVC = Polyvinyl Chloride$
- 
- 
- hp = horsepower ROM = Rough Order of Magnitude<br>
kWh = kilowatt hours SPDP = Special Purpose Discharge I kWh = kilowatt hours<br>
1 ft = lineal feet SS = Stainless Steel<br>
SS = Stainless Steel
	- $SS = Stainless Steel$
- Mgal = Million Gallons VOC = Volatile Organic Compound
	-
- 1. Southern California Contracted Unit Costs reflect actual contracted costs for similar work items at other Southern California environmental investigation/remediation sites.<br>  $=$  Double Contained High Density Polyethylen
- $DCHDPE =$  Double Contained High Density Polyethylene<br>gpm = gallons per minute
	-
	- $GAC =$  Granular Activated Carbon
	-
	-
	-
	-
	- MNA = Monitored Natural Attenuation WW = Wire Wrap
	- $OC = \text{Orange County}$
	- OCSD = Orange County Sanitation District



Notes:



PDI Costs \$ 3,589,149 Capital Costs \$ 31,288,481

### **Table D-5. Alternative 4 - Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using**  Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to Basal Sand<sup>[1]</sup>





### Table D-5. Alternative 4 - Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using<br>Croundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to Basal Sand□ Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to Basal Sand<sup>[1]</sup>



Capital Costs

Permits  $2\%$  of Subtotal E  $\qquad$  \$ 64,551 Remedial Design and Project Management (Sliding scale based on total estimate) 13% of Subtotal E \$ 419,580



**\$ 5,196,336**

### Table D-5. Alternative 4 - Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to Basal Sand<sup>[1]</sup>





ne estimate, industrial property - 6/29/2021. ://commercialorangecounty.com/santa-ana-commercialestate-sale-lease/<br>1 Cost







### **OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND MONITORING (OMM)**

### Table D-5. Alternative 4 - Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using<br>Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to Basal Sand□ Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to Basal Sand<sup>[1]</sup>



Capital Costs



th Order of Magnitude ial Purpose Discharge Permit<br>re feet

he Discharge Requirements<br>
E Wrap









### **WELL AND CONVEYANCE SYSTEM COSTS**

### **Table D-6. Alternative 5 - In Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation**



PDI Costs

OMM Costs

Capital Costs \$

nern California Contracted Unit Costs<sup>1</sup>



## **Table D-6. Alternative 5 - In Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation**



### **MAINTENANCE**





*December 2022 Page 2 of 3 Engineering Analytics, Inc.*

# **Table D-6. Alternative 5 - In Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical**



Notes:

1. Southern California Contracted Unit Costs reflect actual contracted costs for similar work items at other Southern California environmental investigation/remediation sites.<br>  $\text{ROM} = \text{Rough Order of Magnitude}$ 

OC = Orange County<br>
OC = Orange County<br>
OMM = Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring<br>
OMM = Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring<br>
OMM = Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring  $OMM =$  Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring<br>PDI = Pre-Design Investigation

 $PVC = Polyvinyl Chloride$ 

 $ROM = Rough Order of Magnitude$ 

 $WDR =$  Waste Discharge Requirements<br>WW = Wire Wrap







### **WELL AND CONVEYANCE SYSTEM COSTS**

## **Table D-7. Alternative 6 - Containment and In Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS**

### **CAPITAL COSTS (Design and Construction)**





## **Table D-7. Alternative 6 - Containment and In Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS**









## **Table D-7. Alternative 6 - Containment and In Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS**



### **MAINTENANCE**









### **Table D-7. Alternative 6 - Containment and In Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS**

- hp = horsepower PDI = Pre-Design Investigation
- ISCO = In-Situ Chemical Oxidation POTW = Public Owned Treatment Works
- kWh = kilowatt hours PVC = Polyvinyl Chloride
	-
	-
	-
- l ft = lineal feet VOC = Volatile Organic Compound
- Mgal = Million Gallons WDR = Waste Discharge Requirements
	-



Notes:

1. Southern California Contracted Unit Costs reflect actual contracted costs for similar work items at other Southern California environmental investigation/remediation sites.

- DCHDPE = Double Contained High Density Polyethylene OCSD = Orange County Sanitation District
	-
	-
	-
	-
	- GAC = Granular Activated Carbon ROM = Rough Order of Magnitude
- GWRS = OCWD Groundwater Replenishment System Advanced Wastewater SPDP = Special Purpose Discharge Permit Purification Facility SS = Stainless Steel
	-
- 
- MNA = Monitored Natural Attenuation WW = Wire Wrap
- $OC = \text{Orange County}$

gpm = gallons per minute  $OMM =$  Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring

PDI Costs

 $\Gamma$ Capital Costs  $\left| \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \end{array} \right|$ OMM Costs \$ 109,186,284 Grand Total \$



**Table D-7a. Alternative 6a - Containment and In Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation with 50-Feet Injection Spacing Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with discharge to POTW and GWRS**

### **INVESTIGATION**











**CAPITAL COSTS (Design and Construction)**

### **WELL AND CONVEYANCE SYSTEM COSTS**



**Table D-7a. Alternative 6a - Containment and In Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation with 50-Feet Injection Spacing Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with discharge to POTW and GWRS**







### **TREATMENT PLANT**



**Table D-7a. Alternative 6a - Containment and In Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation with 50-Feet Injection Spacing Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment** 



# PDI Costs \$ 3,870,224 Capital Costs \$ 17,373,839 OMM Costs 5 Grand Total \$ 143,278,648 **Major System Component Quantity Unit Unit Cost Cost Cost Estimate Source with discharge to POTW and GWRS** Electricity (1hp extraction pumps, Annual Operation, 90% uptime) 13,051,599 kWh \$ 0.12 \$ 1,566,192 Data/internet Line (for 8 locations) 2,592 months \$ 100.00 \$ 259,200 Bag filters, 2 bags per month per system **1988 15.00 S** 15.00 **S** 15.00 **S** 15.00 **S** 15.00 **S** 15.00 **S** 15.00 **S** OCSD Special Purpose Discharge Permit (extraction volume, backwash, well development discharge) **OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND MONITORING (OMM) OPERATION Utilities Permits/Access Consumables**





Capital Costs \$ 17,373,839 OMM Costs 5 Grand Total \$

**Table D-7a. Alternative 6a - Containment and In Situ Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using Chemical Oxidation with 50-Feet Injection Spacing Combined with Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with discharge to POTW and GWRS**



- gpm = gallons per minute<br>WRS = OCWD Groundwater Replenishment System Advanced Wastewater <br>WRS = OCWD Groundwater Replenishment System Advanced Wastewater PDI = Pre-Design Investigation GWRS = OCWD Groundwater Replenishment System Advanced Wastewater Purification Facility **POTW** = Public Owned Treatment Works
	-
- ISCO = In-Situ Chemical Oxidation ROM = Rough Order of Magnitude
- 
- 
- 
- 
- OC = Orange County WW = Wire Wrap
- 
- 
- 
- 
- hp = horsepower PVC = Polyvinyl Chloride
	-
- kWh = kilowatt hours SPDP = Special Purpose Discharge Permit
- $\ln \theta = \ln \theta$  = lineal feet SS = Stainless Steel
- Mgal = Million Gallons VOC = Volatile Organic Compound
- MNA = Monitored Natural Attenuation WDR = Waste Discharge Requirements
	-



PDI Costs



Notes:

1. Southern California Contracted Unit Costs reflect actual contracted costs for similar work items at other Southern California environmental investigation/remediation sites.

DCHDPE = Double Contained High Density Polyethylene OCSD = Orange County Sanitation District



# **APPENDIX E NUMERICAL GROUNDWATER FLOW MODEL DEVELOPMENT, CALIBRATION AND MODELING RESULTS**

# **APPENDIX E, PART I NUMERICAL GROUNDWATER FLOW MODEL PART I – DEVELOPMENT AND CALIBRATION**

# **NUMERICAL GROUNDWATER FLOW MODEL PART I - DEVELOPMENT AND CALIBRATION**

# **South Basin Groundwater Protection Project Operable Unit 2**

*Prepared for:*

**Orange County Water District**

*18700 Ward Street Fountain Valley, California 92708*

**For Internal Use Only**

*Prepared by:*



9820 Willow Creek Road, Suite 395 San Diego, California 92131 (858) 221-0264

Project No. 151099

September 2021

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## **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A-Model Input and Output Files (Portable External Hard Drive)



## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

#### **1.0 SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PLAN GROUNDWATER FLOW MODELING**

This document describes the development and calibration of a numerical groundwater flow model to support the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being conducted by OCWD to address groundwater contamination in Operable Unit 2 (OU2) in the south-central portion of the Orange County Groundwater Basin (the Basin) in Orange County, California (Study Area) (Figure 1-1). OU2 is groundwater contamination in the Shallow Aquifer System (SAS) offproperty of numerous groundwater contamination source sites (source sites) located within the Study Area where groundwater contaminant plumes emanating from individual source sites have migrated and commingled (EA, 2021). The groundwater flow model is being developed to support OCWD's evaluation of remedial alternatives identified in the FS screening process that are intended to address groundwater contamination in OU2 within the SBGPP.

The numerical modeling is based on the current conceptual hydrogeologic model of the regional and local groundwater flow system. The current modeling incorporated aspects of prior modeling conducted by Hargis + Associates, Inc., (H+A). Specifically, the current model used the same model domain along with model layer elevation, hydraulic conductivities, and model boundaries for the upper portion of the Principal Aquifer System  $(PAS)$  (Layer 6).

The groundwater flow model is calibrated to transient conditions representative of the low and high potentiometric cycles observed in area monitoring wells. Calibration targets included groundwater levels, groundwater flow directions (estimated from potentiometric surface maps), and vertical hydraulic gradients. The model also includes historical, ongoing, and planned source site remedial system groundwater extraction.

#### **2.0 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

Objectives of the numerical model are to develop a representative simulation of groundwater conditions within the SBGPP Study Area that:

- replicates low and high potentiometric cycles observed in the Shallow Aquifer System;
- incorporates horizontal and vertical aquifer heterogeneity demonstrated from cone penetrometer testing (CPT) characterization and results of available aquifer testing;
- includes ongoing and planned source site remedial system groundwater extraction;
- provides an acceptable calibration to observed water level conditions; and
- is suitable for evaluation of remedial alternatives identified in the FS screening process for addressing OU2 groundwater contamination.

## **3.0 SITE CONCEPTUAL HYDROGEOLOGIC MODEL**

A Conceptual Hydrogeologic Model (CHM) for the Study Area was developed based primarily on RI field investigation results and is focused on the SAS and its relationship to the underlying PAS.

The SAS in the Study Area is characterized by various lenses, layers, interbeds, and mixtures of interfingered fine and coarse-grained material. Based on lithologic evaluation (H+A, 2020), the SAS, with increasing depth, was subdivided into the following four hydrostratigraphic units or layers:

- Layer 1: an uppermost fine-grained unit at and below the water table;
- Layer 2: a generally laterally continuous, predominantly coarse-grained upper sand unit;
- Layer 3: a mixed zone of sands and fine-grained materials; and
- Layer 4: a laterally continuous, relatively coarse-grained basal sand.

The overall thickness of the SAS within the Study Area increases from about 80 feet in the southernmost portion of the Study Area to about 160 feet in the northern portion of the Study Area. The SAS is separated from the upper portions of the underlying PAS by a sequence of predominantly fine-grained material of variable thickness that is laterally continuous across the Study Area and acts as an aquitard between the aquifer systems.

The lower portion of the SAS (Layer 4) is characterized by a basal sand unit of variable thickness that overlies the aquitard and appears to be relatively continuous across the Study Area. This basal sand unit occurs at depths ranging from approximately 67 feet below land surface (bls) in the southern portion of the Study Area to approximately 128 feet bls in the northern portion of the Study Area. The thickness of the basal sand unit ranges from approximately 9 feet in the southern portion of the Study Area, to approximately 62 feet in the northern portion of the Study Area.

The SAS within the Study Area is characterized by very shallow depths to the first occurrence of groundwater. Shallowest groundwater is encountered at depths of a few feet bls at most locations in the Study Area, with near-surface semi-perched groundwater conditions found in portions of the northern Study Area. Groundwater levels, horizontal directions of groundwater flow, and horizontal hydraulic gradients in the upper and lower portions of the SAS within the Study Area have remained fairly consistent over time, with horizontal hydraulic gradients ranging from approximately 0.001 to 0.003 ft/ft. Groundwater flow within the SAS across the Study Area is generally from north-northeast to south-southwest. The potentiometric surface of the uppermost portion of the SAS (Layer 1) for 2008, representing a period of low water level elevations, is shown in Figure 3.1. A potentiometric surface map for the Layer 1 during 2012, representing a period of high water level elevations, is shown on Figure 3.2. A 2016 potentiometric surface map for Layer 1, shown on Figure 3.3, represents a return to low water level conditions. Potentiometric surface maps for 2008, 2012 and 2016 for the lower portion of the SAS (Layer 4) are illustrated as Figures 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6, respectively. Differences in water level elevations between upper and lower portions of the SAS, at specific locations, range from negligible to about 3 to 6 feet overall; with vertical hydraulic gradients generally transitioning from downward in the northern portion of the Study Area to upward in the southern portion of the Study Area.

The overall integrity of the aquitard that separates the SAS from the underlying PAS is indicated by the steep downward vertical hydraulic gradients that are induced across the aquitard as a result of large-scale regional groundwater extraction from below the SAS, with differences in water level elevations between the SAS and the PAS often greater than 100 feet.

Spatial variability in the hydrogeologic properties of the SAS in the Study Area is reflected in the results of hydraulic testing of monitor wells and cone-penetrometer tests (CPTs) conducted as part of the RI field activities. Hydraulic conductivity values are generally lower in the finer-grained materials found near land surface, and relatively much higher in the coarser-grained basal sand unit (Layer 4) of the SAS.

There is an extensive network of drainage channels in and around the Study Area. Although not quantified, local groundwater/surface water interaction along unlined drainages within the Study Area does not appear to be a dominant factor affecting water levels or directions of groundwater flow in the SAS across the Study Area. A relatively small portion of groundwater in the uppermost portion of the SAS (Layer 1) within the Study Area may discharge into surface water channels.

Groundwater within the Study Area is discharged from the SAS through lateral and vertical movement between hydrologic units, to remedial extraction wells, and to surface water bodies and drainages.

Recharge to the SAS within the Study Area is primarily from infiltration of precipitation, lateral and vertical movement of groundwater between the hydrologic units, and leakage from the drainage channels.

#### **4.0 MODEL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **4.1 Model Codes**

The model code used to simulate flow conditions in and around the South Basin was MODFLOW-SURFACT (HydroGeoLogic Inc., Version 3.0, 1996). MODFLOW-SURFACT is a fully integrated groundwater flow and transport code that numerically solves the groundwater flow equation for a porous medium using a finite difference method. MODFLOW-SURFACT is based on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) code MODFLOW (McDonald and Harbaugh 1988). MODFLOW-SURFACT includes additional modules to MODFLOW to improve on the code's robustness and increase its simulation capabilities to include complex saturated-unsaturated subsurface flow analysis. Like MODFLOW, MODFLOW-SURFACT simulates groundwater flow using a blockcentered, finite-difference approach that is capable of a wide array of boundary conditions. The code can simulate aquifer conditions as unconfined, confined, or a combination of the two. MODFLOW-SURFACT supports variable thickness layers (i.e. variable aquifer bottom and top elevations). MODFLOW-SURFACT also includes packages (modules) developed by the USGS for later versions of MODFLOW, including MODFLOW-96 (Harbaugh and McDonald, 1996) and MODFLOW-2000 (Harbaugh et al, 2000). Documentation of all aspects of the MODFLOW-SURFACT code is provided in the user manual (HydroGeoLogic Inc., 1996).

The pre/post-processor Groundwater Vistas (Version 7.24), developed by Environmental Simulations, was used to assist with input of model parameters and output of model results. Groundwater Vistas provides an extensive set of tools for developing, modifying, and calibrating numerical models and allows for ease of transition between the groundwater flow and particle tracking codes. Full description of the Groundwater Vistas program is provided in the User's Guide to Groundwater Vistas, Version 7 (Environmental Simulations, Inc., 2017).

The parameter estimation code PEST (Doherty, 2010) was used to assist in the calibration of the model to observed data. The user's manual for PEST provides description of the methodology and software relevant to the use of the code for parameter estimation.

## **4.2 Model Domain, Grid and Layering**

The model domain encompasses an area of 31,000 feet by 31,000 feet and has cell dimensions ranging from 125 feet by 125 feet within the Study Area up to 500 feet by 500 feet on the model edges. The model consists of 159 rows and 135 columns. The Study Area is located in the central portion of the model domain, as shown on Figure 4.1. Projection of the southwest corner of the model is at 6,059,720 feet Easting and 2,188,680 feet Northing, NAD 1983 State Plane California VI FIPS 0406. The model domain was extended a distance of over one mile in all directions from the Study Area boundaries to minimize impacts of exterior boundary conditions on the model solution in the area of interest.

The model consists of six layers. The model layers within the study area were developed from cross sections presented in the Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report (H+A., 2020). The four uppermost layers simulate the SAS. Layer 1 generally represents the shallowest occurrence of groundwater (that is not perched) within the Study Area. Layer 4 represents the basal sand unit that is the lowest portion of the SAS. Layers 2 and 3 represent intermediate hydrostratigraphic units between the uppermost and lowermost units of the SAS. Layer 5 simulates the aquitard between the SAS and the PAS. Layer 6 represents the upper portion of the PAS. Figures 4.2 and 4.3 are north-south and west-east cross sections, respectively, through the center of the model that demonstrate the variable thickness of the layers.

The top of the model is consistent with the current topographic surface, as illustrated in Figure 4.4. The elevation of the base of Layers 1 through 5 are shown on Figures 4.5 through 4.9, respectively. The bottom of the model is 100 feet below the base of the aquitard (layer 5) that lies between the SAS and the PAS. The thickness of model Layers 1 through 5 are illustrated in Figures 4.10 through 4.14.

The overall thickness of the SAS (Layers 1 through 4) decreases toward the south end of the model domain. In some locations, the SAS may be entirely absent, or only a few feet thick. These areas have been identified as "mergence zones", where groundwater from the SAS may flow into or mix with groundwater in the PAS. The mergence zones are located in the southwest corner and south central boundary of the model domain. The thinning of the SAS was represented within the SBGPP model by gradually reducing the thickness of Layers 1 through 4 south of the Study Area to a minimal value of 2 feet per layer.

## **4.3 Simulation Period**

The SBGPP model was used to simulate groundwater flow conditions from February 15, 2007 to July 1, 2017, a duration of 3,788 days. This time period encompasses high and low potentiometric cycles observed in water level elevation data from Study Area monitoring wells. The model simulation was divided into 23 stress periods, ranging from 91 to 244 days in length. Table 4-1 summarizes the stress periods of the model. Boundary conditions around the perimeter of the model domain, discussed in the following section, were adjusted to simulate the observed fluctuation in potentiometric cycles.

## **4.4 Boundary Conditions**

Boundary conditions imposed on a numerical model define the external geometry of the groundwater flow system being studied as well as internal water sources and sinks. Boundary conditions assigned in the model were based on observed/measured conditions including water level and ground surface elevations and documented remedial well extraction rates. Descriptions of the types of boundary conditions that can be implemented with the MODFLOW and MODFLOW-SURFACT codes are found in McDonald and Harbaugh (1988), Harbaugh and McDonald (1996), and HydroGeoLogic Inc. (1996). Boundary conditions used to represent hydrologic conditions within the South Basin included the transient constant head (CHD), river, well, and areal recharge packages of MODFLOW and MODFLOW-SURFACT. The locations of those boundary conditions within the model are illustrated on Figure 4-15. Discussion of the placement and values for these boundary conditions is provided below.

The conceptualization of hydrologic conditions within the Study Area is that groundwater flow in the SAS is generally to the south-southwest. The CHD module is used to simulate groundwater flow into and out of the model domain along the edges of the model domain (Figure 4.15). The CHD module was used to simulate variability in water level conditions over time within the Study Area. CHD values for the SAS were projected from potentiometric surface maps (Figures 3.1 through 3.6) representing low and high water level conditions from 2008 (low), 2012 (high) and 2016 (low) data. The 2008, 2012 and 2016 potentiometric data are represented in model stress periods 3, 12 and 21, respectively. CHD values were interpolated for the stress periods between those low and high cycles.

Groundwater flow in the upper portion of PAS (Layer 6 of the SBGPP model) is consistent with the simulation developed by OCWD for the Basin Model, generally to the southsouthwest across the model domain.

The MODFLOW river module was used to represent the system of drainage channels that are present within the model domain (Figure 4.15). Parameters used to define the river cells in the model include elevation of the river stage (head) and bed, length and width of the river, and the thickness and hydraulic conductivity of the river bed. The river bed elevation was set equal to land surface and the stage of the river cells was set at 0.5 feet above the river bed. MODFLOW uses a conductance term to simulate the response of the river cell with the surrounding aquifer system. The conductance term is the product of the river cell length and width, and the thickness and hydraulic conductivity of the river bed. The conductance of the river cell was used as a variable in the calibration of the model.

The MODFLOW-SURFACT well package was implemented to represent source site SAS remedial extraction wells that were operating during the modeled time period (from early 2007 through mid 2017). Approximately 70 source site remedial extraction wells were identified from the California State Water Resources Board Control Geotracker website (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor website (https://dtsc.ca.gov/your-envirostor) and are summarized in Appendix 4-1. In some cases, the spacing between extraction wells was smaller than the minimum model cell width (125 feet). In other cases, the total extraction rate for several wells within a remedial groundwater extraction system was very small. For those conditions, multiple remedial wells were simulated as a single extraction well. Table 4-2 summarizes the wells and extraction rates that are utilized in the SBGPP model. Figure 4.15 indicates the locations of wells simulated in the SBGPP model. No PAS production wells were simulated in the SBGPP model.

Infiltration of precipitation to groundwater is represented using the recharge module of MODFLOW. Recharge is only applied to the uppermost active layer of the model. The SBGPP model utilized the same distribution of recharge that was incorporated in the OCWD Basin Model. Four zones of recharge were utilized, with rates ranging from 8.48

E-05 to 3.16 E-04 feet/day (Figure 4.16). The recharge values were not changed in the calibration of the SBGPP model from the original values developed from the Basin Model.

## **4.5 Aquifer Properties**

Input parameters used in the model to simulate aquifer properties are consistent with data derived from the source sites, where available. Key parameters utilized in the modeling to simulate aquifer properties included top and bottom elevation of the hydrologic units, hydraulic conductivity, storativity and porosity. Top and bottom elevations of the model layers were previously described in Section 4.2.

Zones of hydraulic conductivity were developed to calibrate the model. The zone delineation within the Study Area was based on the distribution of hydraulic conductivity estimated from hydraulic tests and CPT results. The locations of hydraulic tests and CPTs used for estimating the SBGPP model hydraulic conductivity are shown on Figure 4.17. Hydraulic conductivity values within the Study Area were assigned for Layers 1 through 4 that were within the general range estimated from hydraulic tests and CPTs. Hydraulic conductivity is calculated by dividing the transmissivity by the saturated thickness. Transmissivity is estimated directly from hydraulic test results.

Initial estimates of the distribution of hydraulic conductivity within the Study Area for model layers 1 through 4 are shown on Figures 4.18 through 4.21. In general, within the SAS, hydraulic conductivity values are lower for Layer 1, and higher for Layer 4 with more intermediate values in Layers 2 and 3.

Hydraulic conductivity zones outside of the Study Area, but within the model domain, were generally based on the OCWD Basin Model. Additionally, a buffer zone (approximately 600 feet wide) was placed between the zones estimated from the hydraulic test/CPT data and the zones carried over from the Basin Model to provide for a gradual transition of hydraulic conductivity values between the Study Area and surrounding model domain.

Hydraulic conductivity was the primary variable used to calibrate the model. The distribution and values for hydraulic conductivity were adjusted during the calibration process. The final calibrated hydraulic conductivity zonation and values for Layers 1 through 4 are shown in Figures 4.22 through 4.25, respectively. In general, the calibrated hydraulic conductivity zones were on the lower end of the range of values initially estimated inside the Study Area.

The hydraulic conductivity of the aquitard between the SAS and the PAS (Layer 5) was unchanged from the OCWD Basin model with the exception of the mergence zones in the south central boundary of the model domain (Figure 4.26). Hydraulic conductivity of Layer 5 in the vicinity of the mergence zone was increased to enhance flow between the SAS and the PAS, consistent with the recent conceptualization presented by OCWD that is based on the recently completed East Newport Mesa Groundwater Investigation (OCWD 2020). Hydraulic conductivity zones and values for Layer 6 (PAS) were generally based on the Basin Model and were not adjusted during calibration (Figure 4.27).

Specific storage is a measure of the water released from storage due to compaction of the aquifer and expansion of water in response to a decline in head. Specific storage is the storage term used for confined aquifers, where lowering of the potentiometric surface in response to pumping does not result in physical dewatering of the aquifer. Specific storage multiplied by the saturated thickness is referred to as storativity or storage coefficient. MODFLOW-SURFACT requires the input of specific storage, and calculates the storativity.

The SBGPP model includes porosity and specific yield values. Porosity is the percentage of void space within the total soil or rock volume. Porosity is used by the model codes in the calculation of groundwater velocity. Specific yield refers to drainable porosity and cannot be higher than the total porosity. Specific yield is the storage term utilized for unconfined groundwater systems, when lowering of the potentiometric surface results in physical dewatering of the aquifer.

The distribution of specific storage, specific yield and porosity for Layers 1 through 4 are shown on Figure 4.28. For Layer 6, the distribution of these parameters is shown on Figure 4.29. For Layer 5, the following values were used throughout the model domain; specific storage of 1 E-06, specific yield of 1 E-02, and porosity of 3 E-01.

## **5.0 MODEL CALIBRATION**

Model calibration is an integral component of groundwater modeling applications. Calibration of a numerical groundwater flow model is the process of adjusting model parameters to obtain a reasonable match between field measured (observed) values and model predicted (simulated) values of heads and fluxes (Woessner and Anderson, 1992). The calibration procedure is generally performed by varying the estimates of model parameters (hydraulic properties) and/or boundary condition values from a set of initial estimates until an acceptable match of simulated and observed water levels and/or fluxes are achieved. Calibration can be accomplished using trial and error methods or automated techniques (often referred to as inverse modeling). Both methods were employed in the calibration of the SBGPP model.

The SBGPP model was calibrated to water level elevations measured at key wells within and around the Study Area during the modeled time period (early 2007 to middle 2017). The adequacy of model calibration is judged by examining model residuals. A residual, as defined for use in this report, is the difference between the observed water level elevation at a specific well and time and the water elevation simulated by the model for the equivalent well and time. The objective of model calibration is the minimization of key calibration statistics including the residual mean, residual standard deviation, and residual sum of squares (RSS) (Duffield et al., 1990). The mean residual is the arithmetic average of all the differences between observed and simulated water levels. A positive residual indicates that the model has underpredicted the observed water level elevation level and a negative residual indicates overprediction. The residual standard deviation quantifies the spread of the differences between observed and predicted water level elevation around the mean residual. The ratio of residual standard deviation to the total head change across the model domain should be small, indicating the residual errors are only a small part of the overall model response (Woessner and Anderson 1992). The RSS is computed by adding the square of each residual and is another measure of overall variability. The overall objective during the calibration process is to minimize the residuals and the statistics based on the residual while maintaining hydraulic properties within the range of reasonably expected values.

The calibration statistics provide a quantitative assessment of the calibration effort. Additional methods were used to evaluate the calibration that are more qualitative in nature. These include demonstration that the model adequately replicates the potentiometric surface, in terms of flow direction and gradient, the transient nature of the potentiometric cycles, and the vertical hydraulic gradients that exist between the various hydrostratigraphic units.

## **5.1 Calibration Targets**

The model was calibrated to water level elevations measured from February 2007 to July 2017 at wells located within and around the Study Area. Water level measurements from 56 wells were used as calibration targets with 46 of those wells being located within the Study Area. The number of observations (water level measurements) per well ranged from 1 to 22. Some wells had multiple water level measurements within a single model stress period. In those cases, only the measurement that was closest to the start of a stress period was used in the calibration. A total of 888 observations were used as calibration targets. Appendix A-2 summarizes the wells used for calibration, the corresponding model layers where the wells are located, the observed and simulated water level elevations and model residuals. Several of the calibration targets located in the south portion of the study area are synthetic values that were derived from projections of potentiometric maps.

## **5.2 Calibration Process**

Initial calibration was conducted through trial and error methods to match the observed water levels to simulated values. Calibration was assisted through the use of PEST, a parameter estimation software that is commonly used in calibrating groundwater models (Doherty et al., 2010). The user's manual for PEST provides description of the methodology and software relevant to the use of the code for parameter estimation.

The objective function used to guide the calibration process was the successive reduction of the RSS. Lowering the RSS during the calibration process generally represents an overall improvement in the match between observed and simulated heads throughout the model.

Calibration was primarily accomplished by varying the hydraulic conductivity zone values within model layers 1, 2, 3 and 4. Both horizontal and vertical values were adjusted during calibration. However, the hydraulic conductivity values were maintained within the range of reasonably expected values throughout the calibration process. No adjustments were made to either Layer 5 or 6 hydraulic conductivity zones, with the exception of the area along the south central portion of the model that represents the mergence zone. In that area, the aquitard (Layer 5) was assigned relatively higher hydraulic conductivity values to provide a preferential pathway for groundwater in the SAS to move into the upper PAS.

Some adjustments were made to the river conductance values, but those adjustments had minimal impacts on the overall model calibration.

#### **5.3 Calibration Simulation Results**

As previously described, the model was constructed to simulate low water level conditions in 2008 and 2016, and high water level conditions in 2012. Results of the calibration simulation for the 2008 potentiometric surfaces are provided for model layers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 as Figures 5.1 through 5.5, respectively. Layer 5 represents the aquitard between the SAS and the PAS and is not shown. The simulated 2012 potentiometric surfaces for layers 1 through 4 and 6 are shown on Figures 5.6 through 5.10. Figures 5.7 through 5.15 depict the simulated 2016 potentiometric surfaces for those same layers.

The potentiometric surface maps for each model layer are consistent with the conceptual model of groundwater flow across the Study Area, demonstrating a general decrease in water level elevation moving from north-northeast to south-southwest.

Each of the potentiometric surface figures include the model residuals for applicable calibration targets. Water level elevations were not available for each stress period in the model for every well. In general, there were less calibration targets available in the earlier modeled time. Some of the calibration targets in the southern portion of the Study Area are based on synthetic water level elevations derived from projections of the potentiometric surface. Those calibration targets are indicated with an asterisk.

A plot of observed versus simulated water level elevations for all of the calibration targets is presented in Figure 5.16. Results of the calibration simulation indicate an acceptable fit between the observed and simulated data. The red line on the figure represents the projection a "perfect fit", i.e. where the residual between the observed and simulated values would all equal zero. The tight clustering and even distribution of points around the line of equal observed/simulated groundwater level elevations indicate that the model reasonably reproduces the calibration targets without consistently overpredicting or underpredicting the observed values.

A plot of observed water level elevations versus the residual for all of the calibration targets is presented in Figure 5.17. A negative residual indicates that the model has overpredicted the water level elevation for a calibration target, whereas a positive residual indicates the model has underpredicted the water level elevation. The redline on the plot highlights the zero residual value. The figure indicates a generally even distribution of model residuals across the model domain, relative to the zero residual line, indicating that the model is not overly biased toward overprediction or underprediction.

A plot of observed versus simulated water level elevations for Layer 1 is shown on Figure 5.18. A plot of observed water level elevations versus the residual for Layer 1 is shown on Figure 5.19. Similar plots are shown for Layer 2 (Figures 5.20 and 5.21), Layer 3 (Figures 5.22 and 5.23), Layer 4 (Figures 5.24 and 5.25), and Layer 6 (Figures 5.26 and 5.27).

The calibration statistics for the SBGPP model are presented in Table 5-1. The table breaks down the statistics for the entire model, and for individual layers. The residual mean, and absolute residual mean for the entire model and for layers 2, 3 and 4 have values less than 1.0 and 2.0 feet, respectively. These calibration statistics for Layers 1 and 6 are higher, but are still reasonable. Multiple factors could be affecting the quality of the calibration statistics of Layer 1 including: calibration targets from this layer may be from wells that are completed in perched systems that are not connected or continuous throughout the study area; may be from wells that are screened across multiple layers; or water levels at the wells used as calibration targets may be affected by localized remedial groundwater extraction systems. Regarding the calibration statistics for Layer 6, the focus of the SBGPP model is on the SAS, which comprises layers 1 through 4. No attempt was made to adjust the aquifer parameters associated with Layer 6 during the calibration process. However, the simulated potentiometric surface of Layer 6 is consistent with the conceptual hydrologic model.

Calibration was also assessed specifically for the Study Area. Calibration statistics for the calibration targets from wells located within the Study Area are presented in Table 5-2. These statistics exclude wells outside of the Study Area and all synthetic values.

Essentially, non-synthetic calibration targets within the Study Area were assigned a weighting factor of 1, whereas all other targets were assigned a weighting factor of 0. The calibration statistics were improved for Layers 2, 3 and 4, but showed little change for Layer 1.

The calibration of the model was further assessed by comparing the simulated and observed horizontal hydraulic gradients across the Study Area for the upper and lower SAS. The hydraulic gradients were calculated from potentiometric surface maps. Figure 5.28 shows the location of the upgradient (A) and downgradient (B) locations used to calculate the horizontal hydraulic gradient from both the simulated and observed potentiometric surfaces. The observed potentiometric surfaces of the upper SAS for 2008 (Figure 3.1), 2012 (Figure 3.2), and 2016 (Figure 3.3) were compared to the simulated potentiometric surface for Layer 1 for the same time periods (Figures 5.1, 5.6 and 5.11, respectively). The horizontal hydraulic gradient calculated from the simulated potentiometric surfaces range from 0.0021 to 0.0023 ft/ft, compared to 0.0022 to 0.0023 ft/ft for the observed data, as summarized in Table 5-3. Similarly, the observed potentiometric surfaces of the lower SAS for 2008 (Figure 3.4), 2012 (Figure 3.5), and 2016 (Figure 3.6) were compared to the simulated potentiometric surface for Layer 4 for the same time periods (Figures 5.4, 5.9 and 5.15, respectively). The horizontal hydraulic gradient calculated from the simulated potentiometric surfaces of Layer 4 range from 0.0016 to 0.0020 ft/ft, compared to 0.0016 to 0.0019 ft/ft for the observed data (Table 5-3).

Calibration of the model was also assessed qualitatively through the use of hydrographs for key wells (Figure 5.28). The hydrographs were used to verify that the model simulates the general fluctuations observed in the potentiometric cycles and the relative vertical gradients that exist between the hydrostratigraphic units (Layers) within the SAS. The conceptual hydrologic model includes a generally downward vertical hydraulic gradient in the northern portion of the Study Area that transitions to a more neutral to slightly upward gradient to the south. Figure 5.29 illustrates hydrographs of the observed and simulated water level elevations for wells 2SAM2-1 (screened in Layer 2) and 2SAM2-2 (screened in Layer 4). These wells are located in the northern portion of the Study Area. The figure demonstrates that the water level elevations in the shallower well (2SAM2-1) are consistently higher than the levels for the deeper well (2SAM2-2) for both the observed and simulated values. Figure 5.30 shows a similar relationship for wells 2SAM6-1 (screened in Layer 2) and 2SAM6-2 (screened in Layer 4) which are located slightly southwest of the 2SAM2 series wells. The vertical hydraulic gradient is downward throughout the modeled time period. Moving further south, there is a gradual transition to a more neutral and then slightly upward vertical gradient, as seen in the hydrographs for the 2SAM7 and 2SAM8 series wells (Figures 5.31 and 5.32, respectively). Wells 2SAM7A and 2SAM8A are screened in Layer 2, whereas 2SAM7D and 2SAM8D are screened in Layer 4. These wells had not yet been installed during the modeled time period and the comparison is between simulated and synthetic data. The synthetic data were developed from projections of potentiometric surface maps through the Study Area.

## **6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

A numerical groundwater flow model was developed to support the SBGPP RI/FS being conducted by OCWD to address groundwater contamination in OU2 in the south-central portion of the Basin in Orange County, California. The numerical modeling is based on the current hydrogeologic conceptual model of the regional and local groundwater flow system. The SBGPP model was generally based on the Basin Model previously developed by OCWD. Key modifications included the following:

- the SAS was divided into four Layers;
- the simulation period was  $3,789$  days, from February 15, 2007 to July 1, 2017;
- hydraulic conductivity values within the Study Area were based on data from aquifer tests and CPTs;
- Constant Head Boundaries along the model perimeter were derived from projection of potentiometric surfaces in the upper and lower portions of the SAS during low and high water level conditions observed in 2008 (low), 2012 (high) and 2016(low);
- simulation of extraction rates from remedial actions;
- incorporation of a "mergence zone" between the SAS and the PAS in the southwest corner and south central boundary of the model domain.

Model calibration was focused mainly on adjusting hydraulic conductivity values within the Study Area in the SAS. A total of 888 water level elevations from 56 wells were used as calibration targets.

The calibration of the SBGPP model appears reasonable across the simulated range of low and high potentiometric conditions. The simulated potentiometric surfaces reasonably reflect observed horizontal and vertical gradients and directions of groundwater flow within and between subunits of the SAS.

Based on the calibration results and simulated potentiometric conditions, the SBGPP model is suitable for the purpose of evaluating FS remedial alternatives to address OU2 groundwater contamination within the SAS

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**TABLES**



#### **Table 4-1. Simulation Time and Stress Periods, SBGPP Groundwater Model**

<b>Extraction Well</b>	${\bf X}^*$	$Y^*$	<b>Layer</b>	SP <sub>1</sub>	SP2	SP <sub>3</sub>	SP <sub>4</sub>	SP <sub>5</sub>	SP <sub>6</sub>	SP7
$E-13$	6073607.54	2208917.8		134.37	373.08	465.68	399.07	247.57	423.33	540.95
HEW-6	6074352.35	2208275.09		0.00	0.00	0.00	25.03	25.03	0.00	0.00
CEI-6	6077063.9	2206327.39		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
$EX-2$	6076907.82	2206343.93		847.04	1155.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	847.04	837.61
$W-2$	6075079.7	2208914.65		751.94	39.08	411.78	809.31	833.95	712.09	770.04
GWX-1	6077952.15	2210066.25		2161.12	1965.53	0.00	1516.40	2035.99	1847.33	2070.25
$MW-19B$	6077833.69	2209940.17		0.00	320.72	0.00	692.84	988.15	923.66	1035.13
$MW-26B$	6077841.94	2209838.5		0.00	320.72	0.00	692.84	988.15	923.66	1035.13
$OW-2B$	6077917.41	2209836.26		0.00	641.25	0.00	1385.49	1976.12	1847.33	2070.25
SSA-PZ1	6073489.56	2206760		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
$MW-22B$	6077419.73	2207574.1		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Trench	6077428.88	2207590.97		0.00	0.00	30.80	25.60	22.72	7.51	11.55
$MW-24$	6073732.07	2208911.19		9.63	26.57	33.30	28.49	17.71	30.22	38.69
$EX-1$	6075243.92	2202606.19		1653.66	1351.04	1424.57	1386.07	1090.95	606.41	1183.94
GWX-6	6077519.02	2209119.13		0.00	325.92	0.00	692.84	988.15	923.66	1035.13
$MW-23B$	6077741.52	2209639.18		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
$MW-25C$	6077624.35	2209512.32		0.00	325.92	0.00	692.84	988.15	923.66	1035.13
$RW-1$	6073031.2	2203985.97		0.00	0.00	0.00	1925.10	1925.10	1925.10	1925.10
$RW-2$	6073270.44	2203949.61	$\overline{2}$	0.00	0.00	0.00	1232.06	1232.06	1232.06	1232.06
$RW-3$	6073139.98	2203967.04		0.00	0.00	0.00	6064.07	6064.07	6064.07	6064.07
RMW-4D	6072371.14	2201261.32		703.43	632.78	715.37	806.23	779.86	730.38	375.20

**Table 4-2: Remedial Extraction Rates, by Stress Period, SBGPP Groundwater Model**

 $ft^3/d$  - cubic feet per day





 $ft^3/d$  - cubic feet per day

<b>Extraction Well</b>	<b>SP19</b>	<b>SP20</b>	<b>SP21</b>	<b>SP22</b>	<b>SP23</b>
$E-13$	254.31	304.17	284.14	0.00	0.00
HEW-6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CEI-6	4.04	5.78	5.78	12.51	19.25
$EX-2$	874.00	789.87	795.07	803.34	771.97
$W-2$	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
$GWX-1$	2847.99	2751.55	2808.91	1143.51	1416.49
$MW-19B$	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
$MW-26B$	1503.12	1316.00	1426.88	1143.51	1416.49
$OW-2B$	1503.12	1316.00	505.72	0.00	0.00
SSA-PZ1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
$MW-22B$	2119.54	2113.76	2113.76	1925.10	2111.83
Trench	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
$MW-24$	18.10	21.75	20.21	0.00	0.00
$EX-1$	997.78	972.18	1045.91	900.95	1400.51
GWX-6	1581.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
$MW-23B$	1582.24	1316.00	1426.88	1143.51	1416.49
$MW-25C$	1503.12	1316.00	1426.88	1143.51	1416.49
$RW-1$	1936.46	1907.77	1742.41	1595.14	1580.51
$RW-2$	368.85	359.03	311.87	293.58	192.51
$RW-3$	8279.28	7761.04	6706.09	6476.04	6868.76
RMW-4D	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Table 4-2: Remedial Extraction Rates, by Stress Period, SBGPP Groundwater Model**

 $ft^3/d$  - cubic feet per day



## **Table 5-1. Calibration Statistics, SBGPP Groundwater Model**

ft - feet

 $ft<sup>2</sup>$  - feet squared



## **Table 5-2. Calibration Statistics, Study Area, SBGPP Groundwater Model**

ft - feet

 $ft<sup>2</sup>$  - feet squared



#### **Table 5-3. Comparison of Observed vs Simulated Horizontal Hydraulic Gradients, Study Area, SBGPP Groundwater Model**

Points A and B are shown on Figure 5.28

Obs - observed

Sim - simulated

Head Diff - head difference between points A and B

Hyd Grad - hydraulic gradient between points A and B

ft amsl - feet above mean sea level

ft - feet

ft/ft - feet per foot

SAS - shallow aquifer system

# **FIGURES**

















Project No. 151099 Project No. 151099

SBGPP\_ModelDomain\_grid.srf (04/12/21) SBGPP\_ModelDomain\_grid.srf (04/12/21)




Project No. 151099

SBGPP\_Model\_\_WE\_XSection.srf (04/12/21)



















Project No. 151099 Project No. 151099



Project No. 151099 Project No. 151099





































**Figure 4.28. Specific Storage, Specific Yield and Porosity, Layer 1, SBGPP Model**



 $3.0E-1$ 

 $3.0E-1$ 

 $3.0E-1$ 





**Figure 5.1. Simulated 2008 Potentiometric Surface and Calibration Residuals, Layer 1-SBGPP Model**









**Figure 5.3. Simulated 2008 Potentiometric Surface and Calibration Residuals, Layer 3-SBGPP Model**





## **Figure 5.4. Simulated 2008 Potentiometric Surface and Calibration Residuals, Layer 4-SBGPP Model**





**ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT South Basin Groundwater Protection Plan**

SBGPP\_Potsurf\_Residuals\_2008\_L6.srf (04/12/21) SBGPP\_Potsurf\_Residuals\_2008\_L6.srf (04/12/21)



**Figure 5.6. Simulated 2012 Potentiometric Surface and Calibration Residuals, Layer 1-SBGPP Model**





**Figure 5.7. Simulated 2012 Potentiometric Surface and Calibration Residuals, Layer 2-SBGPP Model**



**Figure 5.8. Simulated 2012 Potentiometric Surface and Calibration Residuals, Layer 3-SBGPP Model**



**Figure 5.9. Simulated 2012 Potentiometric Surface and Calibration Residuals, Layer 4-SBGPP Model**


**Figure 5.10. Simulated 2012 Potentiometric Surface and Calibration Residuals, Layer 6-SBGPP Model**





**Figure 5.11. Simulated 2016 Potentiometric Surface and Calibration Residuals, Layer 1-SBGPP Model**





**Figure 5.12. Simulated 2016 Potentiometric Surface and Calibration Residuals, Layer 2-SBGPP Model**



**Figure 5.13. Simulated 2016 Potentiometric Surface and Calibration Residuals, Layer 3-SBGPP Model**





**Figure 5.15. Simulated 2016 Potentiometric Surface and Calibration Residuals, Layer 6-SBGPP Model**



## **Figure 5.16. Observed vs. Simulated Water Level Elevations All Layers, SBGPP Model**



**All Layers, SBGPP Model**



## **Figure 5.18. Observed vs. Simulated Water Level Elevations Layer 1, SBGPP Model**



## **Figure 5.19. Observed Water Level Elevations vs Residuals Layer 1, SBGPP Model**



## **Figure 5.20. Observed vs. Simulated Water Level Elevations Layer 2, SBGPP Model**



## **Figure 5.21. Observed Water Level Elevations vs Residuals Layer 2, SBGPP Model**



## **Figure 5.22. Observed vs. Simulated Water Level Elevations Layer 3, SBGPP Model**



## **Figure 5.23. Observed Water Level Elevations vs Residuals Layer 3, SBGPP Model**



## **Figure 5.24. Observed vs. Simulated Water Level Elevations Layer 4, SBGPP Model**



## **Figure 5.25. Observed Water Level Elevations vs Residuals Layer 4, SBGPP Model**

45



## **Figure 5.26. Observed vs. Simulated Water Level Elevations Layer 6, SBGPP Model**



## **Figure 5.27. Observed Water Level Elevations vs Residuals Layer 6, SBGPP Model**



Project No. 151099 Project No. 151099

> SBGPP\_HydGradAssess.srf (04/12/21) SBGPP\_HydGradAssess.srf (04/12/21)





Well 2SAM2‐2 is screened in Layer 4

## **Figure 5.29. Hydrographs of Simulated and Observed Water Level Elevations, 2SAM2-1 and 2SAM2-2**





**Water Level Elevations, 2SAM6-1 and 2SAM6-2**





Well 2SAM7A is screened in Layer 2 Well 2SAM7D is screened in Layer 4 \*Note that there are no observed datafor the 2SAM7 series wells over the modeled time.Synthetic data developed from potentiometric surface maps are presented.

## **Figure 5.31. Hydrographs of Simulated and Synthetic Water Level Elevations, 2SAM7A and 2SAM7D**





Well 2SAM8A is screened in Layer 2 Well 2SAM8D is screened in Layer 4 \*Note that there are no observed datafor the 2SAM8 series wells over the modeled time.Synthetic data developed from potentiometric surface maps are presented.

## **Figure 5.32. Hydrographs of Simulated and Synthetic Water Level Elevations, 2SAM8A and 2SAM8D**

# **APPENDIX A-1 SUMMARY OF REMEDIAL EXTRACTION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE SBGPP STUDY AREA**












































# **APPENDIX A-2 CALIBRATION TARGETS, SBGPP GROUNDWATER MODEL**











- \* Group 1 Targets are within Study Area and are actual observations<br>55 Targets are within Study Area and are synthetic data based on potentiometric surface map projections<br>66 Targets area outside of Study Area and ar
- 





<sup>\*</sup> Group 1 - Targets are within Study Area and are actual observations<br>55 - Targets are within Study Area and are synthetic data based on potentiometric surface map projections<br>66 - Targets area outside of Study Area and ar



- \* Group 1 Targets are within Study Area and are actual observations<br>55 Targets are within Study Area and are synthetic data based on potentiometric surface map projections<br>66 Targets area outside of Study Area and ar
- 









<sup>\*</sup> Group 1 - Targets are within Study Area and are actual observations<br>55 - Targets are within Study Area and are synthetic data based on potentiometric surface map projections<br>66 - Targets area outside of Study Area and ar



# **ATTACHMENT A MODEL INPUT AND OUTPUT FILES (PORTABLE EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE)**

# **APPENDIX E, PART II NUMERICAL GROUNDWATER FLOW MODEL PART II – REMEDIAL SIMULATIONS**

## **NUMERICAL GROUNDWATER FLOW MODEL PART II - REMEDIAL SIMULATIONS**

# **South Basin Groundwater Protection Project Operable Unit 2**

*Prepared for:*

## **Orange County Water District**

*18700 Ward Street Fountain Valley, California 92708*

**For Internal Use Only**

*Prepared by:*



9820 Willow Creek Road, Suite 395 San Diego, California 92131 (858) 221-0264

Project No. 151099

April 1, 2022

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## **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A-Model Input and Output Files-Remedial Simulations (Portable External Hard Drive)

## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**



## <span id="page-464-0"></span>**1.0 SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PLAN GROUNDWATER FLOW MODELING-REMEDIAL SIMULATIONS**

A numerical groundwater flow model was developed to support the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being conducted by Orange County Water District (OCWD). The RI/FS is being conducted to address groundwater contamination in Operable Unit 2 (OU2) in the southcentral portion of the Orange County Groundwater Basin (the Basin) in Orange County, California (Study Area) (Figure 1.1). OU2 is groundwater contamination in the Shallow Aquifer System (SAS) off-property of numerous groundwater contamination source sites (source sites) located within the Study Area where groundwater contaminant plumes emanating from individual source sites have migrated and commingled.

The groundwater flow model is being utilized to support OCWD's evaluation of remedial alternatives identified in the Feasibility Study (FS) screening process that implement groundwater containment as a General Response Action (GRA). Specifically, the model is used to evaluate groundwater extraction as a remedial technology to mitigate groundwater contamination in OU2 within the SBGPP. Results of the modeling are incorporated into the Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation (FSDE) (Engineering Analytics [EA], 2021a).

The numerical modeling is based on the current site hydrogeologic conceptual model of the regional and local groundwater flow system. The groundwater flow model is calibrated to transient conditions representative of the low and high potentiometric cycles observed in area monitoring wells. The SBGPP model includes historical, ongoing, and planned source site remedial system groundwater extraction. Development and calibration of the flow model is described in the document "*Numerical Groundwater Flow Model- Part I-Development and Calibration, South Basin Groundwater Protection Plan, Operable Unit 2*" that is in Appendix E of the FSDE (EA, 2021b).

The calibrated SBGPP model is used to simulate groundwater extraction alternatives identified in the FS screening process that are intended to address OU2 groundwater contamination within the SAS. The model is also used to simulate disposal of extracted water (following treatment) via injection into the Basal Sand of the SAS.

This report describes the following:

- setup of the remedial extraction and reinjection simulations;
- results of the extraction (and reinjection) simulations;
- evaluation of the effectiveness of the conceptual OU2 interim remedial measure (IRM) groundwater extraction in achieving hydraulic containment of OU2 groundwater contamination (using flowpath analysis);
- assessment of potential impacts to groundwater flux and groundwater flow direction at existing and planned source site remediation systems; and
- sensitivity analysis of key model parameters on remedial extraction simulation results.

## <span id="page-465-0"></span>**2.0 MODEL SETUP**

The calibrated SBGPP model is used to simulate groundwater extraction alternatives identified in the FS screening process. MODFLOW-SURFACT, Version 3 (HydroGeologic 1996) is the model code used to simulate groundwater extraction from OU2. Pre- and post-processing of model input and output was performed using Groundwater Vistas, Version 7 (Environmental Simulations, Inc. 2020). Model output figures were generated using Surfer-Surface Mapping System, Version 16.0 (Golden Software 2019).

The following modifications were incorporated into the calibrated SBGPP model to facilitate simulation of groundwater extraction from OU2.

- The calibrated SBGPP model was converted from transient to steady-state groundwater flow conditions. The high potentiometric condition was used to represent steady-state groundwater flow conditions. This is considered a conservative approach because the high potentiometric condition represents a period of maximum groundwater flux through the SBGPP Study Area and requires the maximum extraction rate for hydraulic containment of OU2 contaminated groundwater.
- Eight locations (identified as G-1 through G-8) are included as conceptual groundwater extraction alignments for addressing OU2 groundwater contamination within the SBGPP (Figure 2.1). These conceptual OU2 IRM groundwater extraction alignments are referred to in this document as Feasibility Study Extraction Sites (FSES).
- Active source site groundwater extraction systems were simulated using the most current available extraction rates downloaded from the California State Water Resources Board Control Geotracker website (as of May 2021). Table 2-1 provides a summary of the extraction rates used as model input for the source site extraction systems.
- Planned source site groundwater extraction systems that are not yet active were estimated and included in the steady state simulation.

Figure 2.1 shows the location of the active and planned source site groundwater extraction systems that are included in the model simulations. Table 2-1 provides a summary of the extraction rates used as model input for those groundwater extraction systems. The locations of source site in-situ remedial systems are also shown on the figure. The in-situ sites are not explicitly modeled in the groundwater extraction simulations; however, the model-simulated hydraulic effects of extraction at each FSES potentially impacting source sites with ongoing or planned in-situ programs is evaluated.

Monitor areas and locations were placed in the model to evaluate the potential hydraulic effects from operation of the FSES that could influence the performance of source site remedial systems. The monitor areas are used to evaluate potential effects of the FSES on groundwater flux through source site areas, and the monitor locations are used to assess potential effects on groundwater flow direction in those same areas. The monitor areas are generally positioned near the downgradient edge of each source site. Those monitor areas and locations are shown on Figure 2.2 and listed in Table 2-2.

The SAS is characterized by various lenses, layers, interbeds, and mixtures of interfingered fine and coarse-grained material. Based on detailed lithologic evaluation and Figures 5- 17A through 5-17N in the SRI Report (Hargis + Associates, Inc, 2020), the SAS, with increasing depth, is subdivided into the following four layers:

- Layer 1: an uppermost fine-grained portion at and below the water table;
- Layer 2: a generally laterally continuous predominantly coarse upper sand zone;
- Layer 3: a mixed zone of sands and fine-grained materials; and
- Layer 4: a laterally continuous and relatively coarse-grained basal sand (Basal Sand).

Water quality data presented in the FSDE (EA, 2021a) indicate that OU2 groundwater contamination is generally limited to Layers 1, 2 and 3 of the SAS model. Details of the simulation of the FSES are provided in the following section.

## <span id="page-467-0"></span>**3.0 GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION SIMULATIONS**

### <span id="page-467-1"></span>**3.1 Baseline Conditions**

The modified SBGPP model was initially used to run a Baseline Simulation. The Baseline Simulation incorporates the high potentiometric groundwater flow condition, the most recently documented source site extraction rates, and planned source site extraction rates (Table 2-1). The Baseline Simulation was run as a steady state model that does not include operation of the FSES (G-1 through G-8). The potentiometric surface for model Layers 1, 2, and 3 of the Baseline Simulation are shown in Figures 3.1 through 3.3, respectively. Groundwater generally flows from the northeast to the southwest across the SBGPP. Localized drawdown resulting from operation of source site groundwater extraction systems is evident, particularly in Layers 1 and 2.

Simulated groundwater flux and groundwater flow direction at each of the source site remedial systems without extraction from the FSES are summarized in Table 3-1. The monitor areas used to calculate groundwater flux from the Baseline Simulation, and the monitor locations used to estimate groundwater flow direction, are shown on Figure 2.2. Groundwater flux and groundwater flow direction are calculated separately for Layers 1, 2 and 3 for each monitor area and monitor location, respectively. Groundwater flux values in Table 3-1 are presented as the groundwater flow rate through the model cross-sectional area at each monitor area illustrated on Figure 2-2. These data provide a baseline for comparison to the simulations with extraction from the FSES.

## <span id="page-467-2"></span>**3.2 Feasibility Study Groundwater Extraction Simulation**

Extraction from the eight FSES is included in the FS Groundwater Extraction Simulation. Extraction rates were iteratively adjusted until hydraulic containment was achieved in the vicinity of each of the FSES. All other conditions from the Baseline Simulation are unchanged. The simulated potentiometric surface for 2006, 2012 and 2016 for model Layers 1, 2, and 3 for the FS Groundwater Extraction Simulation are shown in Figures 3.4 through 3.6, respectively.

Table 3-2 summarizes the model-simulated number of wells and extraction rates for each of the FSES (G-1 through G-8) in the FS Groundwater Extraction Simulation. The model structure limits the spacing of the simulated extraction well locations, which are therefore different than the number of extraction wells identified in the FSDE (EA, 2021a). However, the extraction rate from each FSES and the total combined extraction rate from the FSES in the model simulations are equal to those calculated and identified in the FSDE and associated cost elements. Total extraction rates for the individual FSES range from 1.3 to 12.9 gallons per minute (gpm). All FSES are simulated as operating concurrently for this simulation to confirm that well interference between the FSES does not compromise hydraulic containment at any of the individual FSES. The combined extraction rate for the eight FSES is 343.3 gpm.
#### **3.3 Hydraulic Containment Assessment**

Hydraulic containment for each FSES is assessed using capture zone analysis of groundwater flowpaths. The particle tracking code MODPATH Version 3 (Pollack 1994) is used to evaluate the capture zone for each FSES. MODPATH was utilized because it readily incorporates information collected from the groundwater flow model and provides computations of groundwater seepage velocities and groundwater flow direction along flowpaths. The code is capable of calculating particle velocity changes over time in three dimensions. Full documentation of the MODPATH code is provided in the MODPATH users guide (Pollock, 1994).

To evaluate hydraulic containment (defined as the capture of groundwater as it reaches the FSES, preventing further downgradient migration), particles are placed along each FSES and are tracked in reverse. This methodology indicates the flowpaths of groundwater that is captured by the extraction well(s). Particles are placed within each layer that require hydraulic containment (based on water quality data), and are tracked for a period of 10 years. Figures 3.7 through 3.14 illustrate the capture zones for the individual FSES. Flowpaths are color coded based on which Layer they reside in at a specific location. In many cases, particles move vertically from one layer into another in response to the hydraulic stresses (drawdown) caused by extraction.

The capture zone for the simulated extraction rate of 29.1 gpm at FSES G-1 is shown on Figure 3.7. Based on review of available water quality data, it is determined that hydraulic containment in the vicinity of G-1 is only necessary for Layers 1 and 2. Extraction wells were placed in Layers 1 and 2 at G-1. The particle tracking indicates that hydraulic containment is exhibited in Layers 1 and 2. The figure also illustrates that groundwater upgradient of G-1 initially in Layer 1 (flowpaths shown in blue), migrates downward into Layer 2 in response to the drawdown associated with G-1 extraction and is eventually captured at G-1.

The capture zone for the simulated extraction rate of 28.6 gpm at FSES G-2 is shown on Figure 3.8. Extraction wells are completed in Layers 2 and 3 at this location. Hydraulic containment is exhibited for Layers 1 through 3. Particles in Layer 1 rapidly move downward into Layer 2 in response to the drawdown caused by extraction from Layer 2. The longer flowpath length for Layer 2 compared to Layer 3 is primarily a result of the higher hydraulic conductivity in Layer 2 relative to Layer 3 at G-2.

The capture zone for the simulated extraction rate of 68.6 gpm at FSES G-3 is shown in Figure 3.9. Hydraulic containment is exhibited for Layers 1 through 3. Extraction wells are included in all three model layers at G-3. The 10-year particle tracking indicates relatively short travel distances within Layer 1 over that period, generally less than 200 feet. Several factors cause the shorter travel distance, including: the hydraulic conductivity associated with Layer 1 is much lower than in Layers 2 and 3 at this location; the extraction rates assigned to Layer 1 extraction wells are much lower than for the other layers; and many of the particles in Layer 1 move downward toward Layer 2 in response to the extraction.

The capture zone for the simulated extraction rate of 1.3 gpm at FSES G-4 is shown on Figure 3.10. Available water quality data suggest that hydraulic containment in the vicinity of G-4 is only necessary for Layer 1. Hydraulic containment is exhibited for Layer 1.

The capture zone for the simulated extraction rate of 21.6 gpm at FSES G-5 is shown on Figure 3.11. Extraction wells are only simulated in Layer 2 for G-5. Hydraulic containment is exhibited for Layers 1 and 2 from a total extraction rate of 21.6 gpm. Available water quality data suggest that hydraulic containment in the vicinity of G-5 is not necessary for Layer 3 (although some groundwater from Layer 3 travel vertically into Layer 2 and are captured at G-5. Particles within Layer 1 in the vicinity of G-5 move rapidly downward into Layer 2 in response to the extraction and are not visible on the figure.

The capture zone for the simulated extraction rate of 102.9 gpm at FSES G-6 is shown on Figure 3.12. Extraction wells are only simulated in Layer 2 at G-6. Hydraulic containment is exhibited for Layers 1 through 3. Groundwater within Layers 1 and 3 in the vicinity of G-6 moves into Layer 2 in response to the extraction and is captured at the extraction wells.

The capture zone for the simulated total extraction rate of 83.1 gpm at FSES G-7 is shown on Figure 3.13. Extraction wells are simulated in model Layers 2 and 3 at G-7. Hydraulic containment is exhibited for Layers 1 through 3. Groundwater within Layer 1 in the vicinity of G-7 moves downward into Layer 2 in response to the extraction.

The capture zone for the simulated total extraction rate of 8.1 gpm at FSES G-8 is shown on Figure 3.14. Extraction wells are simulated in model Layers 2 and 3 at G-8. Hydraulic containment is exhibited for Layers 1 through 3.

Based on flowpath analysis of the FS Remedial Extraction Simulation, hydraulic containment (hydraulic capture of impacted groundwater) was demonstrated for each FSES. The total simulated extraction rate to achieve hydraulic containment, using the calibrated SBGPP model, was 343.3 gpm.

#### **3.4 Potential Hydraulic Effects on Existing/Planned Source Site Remedial Systems**

Operation (groundwater extraction) of the FSES may result in changes to the groundwater flux and/or groundwater flow direction in the vicinity of nearby existing and planned source site remedial systems. The SBGPP model is used to assess changes in groundwater flux and groundwater flow direction within Layers 1, 2 and 3 at the source sites in response to simulated extraction from the FSES. The locations where the simulated groundwater flux and groundwater flow direction are monitored are shown on Figure 2.2.

Table 3-3 summarizes the change in simulated groundwater flux at each of the source sites in response to operation of the FSES. Groundwater flux values in Table 3-3 are presented as the groundwater flow rate through the model cross-sectional area at each monitor area illustrated on Figure 2-2.The table also provides a cross reference for each modelsimulation monitoring location to the source site identifier. A scaling factor is calculated for each source site. The scaling factor is the ratio of the groundwater flux when the FSES is operating to the flux when the FSES is not operating. In the vast majority of the cases, groundwater flux across a source site increases in response to operation of the FSES. This is primarily because of the increased hydraulic gradients induced by drawdown at the FSES in response to groundwater extraction. The average scaling factor for the 72 monitored sites is 1.26. In other words, the groundwater flux across the source sites increased by an average of 26 percent in response to FSES operation. Twelve sites saw an increase of over 50 percent (scaling factor greater than 1.5). Groundwater flux more than doubled at seven of the source sites. Figure 3.15 graphically presents the scaling factor for each of the model monitor sites.

Table 3-4 provides a summary of the change in simulated groundwater flow direction resulting from operation of the FSES. The simulated groundwater flow direction is calculated at the downgradient edge of each source site, as illustrated on Figure 2.2. Flow vectors were calculated at the model-simulated monitoring locations at each source site for the baseline conditions and for FSES operating conditions. The flow direction is reported on the table as degrees. Due east is zero degrees and increases counter clockwise. Simulated groundwater flow direction changed by less than 10 degrees at 55 of the 72 source site monitor points in response to FSES operation. Eight source site monitor points recorded a change in groundwater flow direction of greater than 20 degrees and two of those were greater than 40 degrees. In most cases, the changes in groundwater flow direction at the source sites in response to FSES operation were toward the south. The change in groundwater flow direction for Layers 1, 2 and 3 at each of the source sites is shown of Figure 3.16.

#### **3.5 Reinjection of Extracted Groundwater**

The SBGPP model was also used to evaluate potential disposal capacity of the Basal Sand unit of the SAS (Layer 4 in the model) for groundwater that conceptually would be captured by the FSES, treated, and reinjected into the Basal Sand. A simulation was run wherein the volume of water equivalent to the total flux recovered from the FSES (approximately 343 gpm) was injected into ten wells that are completed in the Basal Sand unit (Layer 4). The injection rate was equally divided between the ten wells. The orientation of the injection wells is shown in Figure 3.17. The net difference (increase) in the potentiometric surface within Layer 4 resulting from the simulated reinjection, is also shown on Figure 3.17. A recharge mound develops within the immediate vicinity of the injection wells with an overall increase in the potentiometric surface of 1 to 2 feet.

The maximum net change in the potentiometric surface in Layer 4 in response to the injection of 343 gpm is an increase of approximately 2.8 feet. Overall, the net rise is small as a result of the relatively high estimated transmissivity of the Basal Sand unit (4,800 to 22,400 square feet per day). Based on the simulation results, reinjection of water recovered from the FSES appears to be a hydraulically feasible alternative for disposal.

#### **4.0 SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS**

Sensitivity analysis of key model parameters or conditions was conducted using the SBGPP model. Parameters/conditions that are included in the sensitivity analyses are: low potentiometric versus high potentiometric condition, aquifer recharge, horizontal and vertical hydraulic conductivity, and extraction rate of the source sites. The sensitivity analysis was limited to evaluation of hydraulic containment under the various simulated scenarios. Hydraulic containment is assessed through capture zone analysis that incorporates reverse particle tracking to each FSES extraction well for a simulated period of 10 years.

With the exception of the parameter being evaluated, each sensitivity analysis simulation was run with the same parameter values as the FS Remedial Extraction Simulation previously described. Except for the low potentiometric condition simulation, all sensitivity analysis simulations were run under the high potentiometric condition. Table 4- 1 lists the multiplier for each parameter that was assessed in the sensitivity analysis simulations.

#### **4.1 Low versus High Potentiometric Condition**

The FS groundwater extraction simulation was rerun using the SBGPP model under the low potentiometric condition. All extraction rates and parameter values were unchanged with the exception of the boundary condition (constant heads) located along the perimeter of the model. The low potentiometric condition is simulated by implementing lower hydraulic heads at those boundaries. Figure 4.1 illustrates the capture zone simulated at FSES G-1 through G-5, and G-8 for the low and high potentiometric conditions. The particle tracks represent 10-year groundwater flowpaths. There are some differences in the simulated capture zones at distance from the FSES. However, within a few hundred feet upgradient of the FSES, the capture zone exhibited by the flowpaths is almost identical between the low and high potentiometric conditions. The simulated capture zone for FSES G-6 and G-7, presented on Figure 4.2, also shows minimal difference between the low and high conditions. Hydraulic containment is simulated under both low and high potentiometric conditions.

#### **4.2 Aquifer Recharge**

The sensitivity of aquifer recharge on hydraulic containment was evaluated by increasing and decreasing the base recharge value by a factor of two (Table 4-1). Figures 4.3 and 4.4 show the capture zones from these simulations. Differences between the capture zones are negligible. Hydraulic containment is not sensitive to the simulated range of aquifer recharge.

#### **4.3 Horizontal Hydraulic Conductivity**

The sensitivity of the SBGPP model to horizontal hydraulic conductivity  $(K_h)$  on simulated hydraulic containment was evaluated by increasing and decreasing the base value by a factor of three (Table 4-1). The  $K<sub>h</sub>$  of model Layers 1 through 3 was simulated independently as described below. Only the  $K_h$  zones that are within the SBGPP study area were modified.

Figures 4.5 and 4.6 present the simulated capture zones when  $K_h$  of Layer 1 is increased and decreased by a factor of three. Changes in the  $K_h$  of Layer 2 result in the simulated capture zones shown on Figures 4.7 and 4.8. Simulated capture zones for changes in  $K<sub>h</sub>$  of Layer 3, are shown on Figures 4.9 and 4.10. The model is generally more sensitive to changes in  $K_h$  of Layer 2 than for the other layers because most of the extracted water is derived from Layer 2.

Although there is some variability in the maximum capture distance (over the 10-year travel period) in response to changes in  $K_h$ , hydraulic containment is maintained throughout the simulated ranges in each of the model Layers.

#### **4.4 Vertical Hydraulic Conductivity**

The sensitivity of the SBGPP model to vertical hydraulic conductivity  $(K_v)$  on simulated hydraulic containment was evaluated by increasing and decreasing the base value by a factor of three (Table 4-1). The  $K_v$  of each model Layer (1, 2 and 3) was simulated independently and only the  $K_v$  zones that are within the SBGPP study area were modified.

Figures 4.11 and 4.12 present the simulated capture zones when  $K_v$  of Layer 1 is modified. Changes in the  $K_v$  of Layer 2 result in the simulated capture zones shown on Figures 4.13 and 4.14. Simulated capture zones for changes in  $K_v$  of Layer 3, are shown on Figures 4.15 and 4.16. The model is generally insensitive to changes to  $K_v$  in Layers 1 and 2. Increasing the  $K_v$  of Layer 3 by a factor of three resulted in longer capture distance upgradient of the FSES. However, hydraulic containment is maintained throughout the simulated ranges of  $K_v$  in each of the model layers.

#### **4.5 Source Site Groundwater Extraction Rates**

The sensitivity of source site groundwater extraction rates on hydraulic containment of the proposed FSES was evaluated by increasing and decreasing the extraction rate of all source site groundwater extraction systems by a factor of two (Table 4-1).

Figures 4.17 and 4.18 show the capture zones from these simulations. The capture zones show minimal difference between the increased and decreased source site extraction rates. Hydraulic containment is demonstrated under the range of simulated source site extraction rates.

#### **5.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

A numerical groundwater flow model was developed to support the SBGPP RI/FS being conducted by OCWD to address groundwater contamination in OU2 in the south-central portion of the Basin in Orange County, California. The numerical modeling is based on the current hydrogeologic conceptual model of the regional and local groundwater flow system. Development and calibration of the flow model is described in a separate report (EA, 2021b).

The calibrated SBGPP model is used to simulate remedial groundwater extraction alternatives identified in the FS screening process with the following modifications.

- The model was converted from transient to steady-state groundwater flow conditions.
- The high potentiometric condition was used to represent steady-state groundwater flow conditions.
- Active source site remediation systems are simulated using the most current available extraction rates.
- Planned source site remediation extraction systems that are not yet active are estimated and included in the steady state simulation.
- Eight FSES locations (G-1 through G-8) are included as conceptual groundwater extraction sites for addressing OU2 groundwater contamination within the SBGPP.

The FS Groundwater Extraction Simulation is assessed for hydraulic containment in the immediate area of each FSES. Hydraulic containment for each FSES is assessed using capture zone analysis of groundwater flowpaths. Based on flowpath analysis of the FS Groundwater Extraction Simulation, hydraulic containment was demonstrated for each FSES. The total simulated extraction rate to achieve hydraulic containment, using the calibrated SBGPP model, was 343.3 gpm.

The SBGPP model is used to assess changes in groundwater flux and groundwater flow direction within Layers 1, 2 and 3 at the source sites in response to simulated extraction from the FSES. Groundwater flux across the source sites increased by an average factor (multiplier) of 1.26 in response to FSES operation. The increased groundwater flux primarily results from increased hydraulic gradients induced by drawdown at the FSES in response to groundwater extraction.

Flow vectors were calculated for each source site for the baseline conditions and for FSES operating conditions. Simulated groundwater flow direction changed by less than 10 degrees at 55 of the 72 source site monitor points in response to FSES operation. Eight source site monitor points recorded a change in groundwater flow direction of greater than 20 degrees. In most cases, the changes in groundwater flow direction at the source sites were toward the south.

Simulation of reinjection of water recovered from the FSES into the Basal Sand indicates minimal hydraulic impacts to the Basal Sand unit of the SAS. The model results suggest that reinjection of water extracted from the FSES is a hydraulically feasible alternative for disposal.

Results of the sensitivity analysis simulations indicate that hydraulic containment can be achieved at each of the proposed FSES under a wide range of site conditions.

#### **6.0 REFERENCES**

- California State Water Resources Board Control Geotracker (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov)
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor (https://dtsc.ca.gov/your-envirostor)
- Engineering Analytics 2021a. Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2. Prepared for Orange County Water District, July 2021.
- Engineering Analytics, 2021b. Numerical Groundwater Flow Model-Part I- Development and Calibration, South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2. Prepared for Orange County Water District, July 2021
- Environmental Simulations, Inc. 2020. Guide to Using Groundwater Vistas, Version 7. pp 213. Prepared by Environmental Simulations, Inc., Reinholds, VA.
- Hargis + Associates, Inc., 2020. Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report, Orange County Water District, South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2. July 1, 2020.

Golden Software, Inc., 2019. Surfer, Version 16. Surface Mapping System.

HydroGeoLogic Inc. 1996. MODFLOW-SURFACT Software (Version 3.0), Herndon, VA.

**TABLES**





Notes:

<sup>a</sup>- average extraction rate for 13 wells divided into 4 model wells

<sup>b</sup> - combined extraction rate of 7 wells

<sup>c</sup> - combined extraction rate of MW22B and MW23B

<sup>d</sup> - combined extraction rate EX-1 and EX-2

SBGPP - South Basin Groundwater Protection Project

gpm - gallons per minute

 $ft<sup>3</sup>/d$  - cubic feet per day



#### **Table 2-2. Model Monitor Areas and Locations for Source Site Remedial Systems, SBGPP Model**

Notes:

a-Monitor Areas and Locations are shown on Figure 2.2

SBGPP - South Basin Groundwater Protection Project

FSES - Feasibility Study Groundwater Extraction Site









Notes:

a = Groundwater flux values are presented as the groundwater flow rate through the model cross-sectional area at each monitor area illustrated on figure 2.2

b = Groundwater flow direction calculated at the monitor location indicated on Figure 2.2 degrees measured counterclockwise from due east equal to zero degree





Notes:

SBGPP - South Basin Groundwater Protection Project

gpm - gallons per minute







Average Scaling Factor  $\begin{bmatrix} 1.26 \end{bmatrix}$ 

Notes:

a Groundwater flux values are presented as the groundwater flow rate through the model cross-sectional area at each monitor area illustrated on Figure 2.2

<sup>b</sup> Scaling Factor - ratio of groundwater flux with FSES operating to groundwater flux without FSES

FSES = Feasibility Study groundwater extraction site









Notes:

<sup>a</sup> Groundwater flux values are presented as the groundwater flow rate through the model cross-sectional area at each monitor area illustrated on Figure 2.2

SBGPP = South Basin Groundwater Protection Project

 $FSES = Feasibility Study groundwater extraction site (G-1 to G-8)$ 

degrees - measured counterclockwise with due east equal to zero degrees



#### **Table 4-1. Model Parameter Multipliers for the Sensitivity Analysis Simulations, SBGPP Model**

Notes:

SBGPP = South Basin Groundwater Protection Project

- \* Base value used in original calibrated SBGPP Model and Feasibility Study Groundwater Extraction Simulation
- K<sup>h</sup> Horizontal Hydraulic Conductivity

K<sub>v</sub> Vertical Hydraulic Conductivity

- <sup>a</sup> Parameter multiplier only applied to  $K_h$  zones within Study Area
- $^{\rm b}$  Parameter multiplier only applied to  ${\rm K}_{\rm v}$  zones within Study Area

<sup>c</sup> Parameter multiplier applied to each source site extraction well

# **FIGURES**















# **Figure 3.1 Simulated Potentiometric Surface, Layer 1 Baseline Conditions, SBGPP Model**





# **Figure 3.2 Simulated Potentiometric Surface, Layer 2 Baseline Conditions, SBGPP Model**





# **Baseline Conditions, SBGPP Model**















# **ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT Feasibility Study Extraction Sites, SBGPP Model**

**South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**



## **Figure 3.7 Capture Zone Analysis Feasibility Study Extraction Site G-1, SBGPP Model**



## **Figure 3.8 Capture Zone Analysis Feasibility Study Extraction Site G-2, SBGPP Model**


# **Engineering Analytics, Inc.**

## **Figure 3.9 Capture Zone Analysis Feasibility Study Extraction Site G-3, SBGPP Model**

**ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**



**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 

Project No. 151099

Project No. 151099

SBGPP\_SourceSiteLocations.srf (06/11/21)

SBGPP\_SourceSiteLocations.srf (06/11/21)

## **Figure 3.10 Capture Zone Analysis Feasibility Study Extraction Site G-4, SBGPP Model**

**ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**



**Figure 3.11 Capture Zone Analysis Feasibility Study Extraction Site G-5, SBGPP Model**

> **ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**

**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 





**South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**



**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 

## **Figure 3.14 Capture Zone Analysis Feasibility Study Extraction Site G-8, SBGPP Model**

**ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**



Project No. 151099 Project No. 151099

SBGPP\_SourceSiteLocations.srf (06/11/21) SBGPP\_SourceSiteLocations.srf (06/11/21)











SBGPP\_SourceSiteLocations.srf (06/11/21) SBGPP\_SourceSiteLocations.srf (06/11/21)





































# **ATTACHMENT A MODEL INPUT AND OUTPUT FILES – REMEDIAL SIMULATIONS (PORTABLE EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE)**

# **APPENDIX F SOURCE SITE HYDROSTRATIGRAPHIC UNIT AND EXTRACTION RATE SUMMARY INFORMATION**





Notes:

a = From BEC Addendum Conceptual Site Model and Remedial Completion Decision Analysis Report, October 23, 2020

bls = below land surface

bot = bottom

DPE = Dual-phase extraction

EW = Extraction well

gpm = gallons per minute

HSU = Site-specific hydrostratigraphic unit

### **Table F2. Summary of Astech Source Site-Specific Hydrostratigraphic Units Correlated with OU2 Model/Hydrostratigraphic Layers**



Notes:

a = From Worley Semi-Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report and Site Remediation Status Report, July through December 2020. 03-15-21

bls = Below land surface

bot = bottom

DPE = Dual-phase extraction

EW = Extraction well

gpm = Gallons per minute

HSU = Site-specific hydrostratigraphic unit



c = Corporation, I.V., Systems Division; 17511 Armstrong Avenue, Irvine, California (Global Id# SL188053851; PCA# 1880500). July 16, 2020. California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), 2020b. Discharge Authorization and Monitoring & Reporting Program No. R8-2018-0092-0017 for Implementation of a Pilot-Scale In-Situ Chemical Oxidation Study at baxte



Notes:

a = From Arcadis Updated Conceptual Site Model and Groundwater Remedial Action Plan, February 9, 2015

b = BBJ Group, 2020. Report of Waste Discharge and Standard Form 200, Baxter Healthcare Corporation. February 28, 2020.

bls = below land surface

bot = bottom

DPE = Dual-phase extraction

EW = Extraction well

gpm = gallons per minute

HSU = Site-specific hydrostratigraphic unit

#### **Table F4. Summary of Bell Industries Source Site-Specific Hydrostratigraphic Units Correlated with OU2 Model/Hydrostratigraphic Layers**



Notes:

a = From URS Revised Remedial Action Plan 02-04-2008

b = Atlas Environmental Engineering, Inc., 2021. Former Bell Industries, Inc., 1831 Ritchey Street, Santa Ana, California, Semi-Annual Status Report, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020, SARWQCB Case #SLT8r1104088. March 30, 2021.

bls = Below land surface

bot = bottom

DPE = dual-phase extraction

EW = Extraction well

gpm = Gallons per minute

HSU = Site-specific hydrostratigraphic unit





Notes:

a = From CDM Smith Interim Remedial Measures Work Plan 04-30-2015

b = From CDM Smith Interim Measure Design Implementation Workplan 10-16-2020

bls = Below land surface

bot = bottom

DPE = Dual-phase extraction

EW = Extraction well

gpm = Gallons per minute

HSU = unit

Site-specific hydrostratigraphic



#### **estimate Ongoing or planned remedial activities b**

his source site reportedly is planning to implement in-situ chemical reduction (ISCR) sing S-MicroZVI, a sulfidated zero valent iron ZVI), into the lower portion of HSU A-Zone Layer 1), B-Zone (Layer 2) and the upper portion of the C- Zone (Layer 2/3) using directpush injection methods along an on-property ignment in the southern-central portion of and ff-property alignment immediately south of the ormer Diceon property (see Figure 16 from lack Rock Geosciences, 2021).



Notes:

a = From Black Rock Geosciences Supplemental Off-Site Groundwater Investigaton October 2015

b = Black Rock Geosciences, 2021. Draft Interim Remedial Action Plan, Former Diceon Electronics, Inc., Facility. Revised March 2021.

bls = Below land surface

 $bot = bottom$ 

DPE = Dual-phase extraction

 $EW =$  Extraction well

gpm = Gallons per minute

HSU = Site-specific hydrostratigraphic unit
## **Table F7. Summary of Embee Source Site-Specific Hydrostratigraphic Units Correlated with OU2 Model/Hydrostratigraphic Layers**

a = Stantec Q4 2019 Status & 2019 Annual Report 03-02-20



Notes:

b = Stantec, 2020. Second Quarter 2020 Waste Discharge Requirements Monitoring Report, Embee Processing, LLC, 2136 South Hathaway, Santa Ana, California. July 27, 2020.

bls = Below land surface

bot = bottom

DPE = Dual-phase extraction

EW = Extraction well

gpm = Gallons per minute

HSU = Site-specific hydrostratigraphic unit

## **Table F8. Summary of Gallade Source Site-Specific Hydrostratigraphic Units Correlated with OU2 Model/Hydrostratigraphic Layers**



Notes:

a = From Integral Q1/Q2 2019 Semiannual GW Monitirng and Remediation Report 02-07-2020

b = From CDM Integral Evaluation of the Capture Zone of Gallade Chemical, Inc.'s Remediation System 09-12-2013

bls = Below land surface

bot = bottom

DPE = Dual-phase extraction

EW = Extraction well

gpm = Gallons per minute

HSU = Site-specific hydrostratigraphic unit

## **estimate ongoing or planned remedial activities**  $b,c,d,e,f$

has implemented and continues to implement onpremediation using emulsified vegetable oil (EVO) and ed water and groundwater extraction and treatment extraction wells in the First Water-Bearing Zone ff-property in-situ bioremediation using perchlorate installed along Deere Avenue (First Water Bearing Parkway (Second Water-Bearing Zone (Amec, 2014;  $\text{eller}, 2016; \text{Wood}, 2020 \text{ and } 2021).$ 





Notes:

a = From AMEC Updated Remedial Investigation Report 07-30-2010

b = From AMEC Performance Progress Report for Interim Remedial Measure. Novenber 27, 2013

c = Amec, 2014. Second Performance Progress Report for Interim Remedial Measure, Adjacent Property at 2321 South Pullman Street (ACD, LLC Property), Former LNP Site. July 16, 2014.

d = Amec Foster Wheeler, 2016. Second Addendum to the 2015 Off-Site Remedial Action Plan, Former LNP Site. 1831 East Carnegie Avenue, Santa Ana, California. April 1, 2016.

e = Wood, 2020. Summary of Second Quarter 2020 Groundwater Monitoring Activities, Former LNP Site. July 15, 2020.

f = Wood, 2021. Summary of Second Quarter 2021 Groundwater Monitoring Activities, Former LNP Site. July 14, 2021.

bls = Below land surface

 $bot = bottom$ 

DPE = Dual-phase extraction

EW = Extraction well

gpm = Gallons per minute

HSU = Site-specific hydrostratigraphic unit





Notes:

a = From Semiannual Groundwater Monitoring Report, First and Second Quarters 2020 08-13-2020

b = Arcadis, 2020. Semiannual Groundwater Monitoring Report, Third and Fourth Quarters 2019, ITT LLC Dyer Road Property, 666 East Dyer Road, Santa Ana, California. March 27, 2020.

 $c = 25, 2021.$ 

bls = Below land surface

bot = bottom

EW = Extraction well

gpm = Gallons per minute

HSU = Site-specific hydrostratigraphic unit

## **Table F11. Summary of Ricoh Source Site-Specific Hydrostratigraphic Units Correlated with OU2 Model/Hydrostratigraphic Layers**



Notes:

a = From Wayne Perry from WORKPLAN FOR IN SITU BIOREMEDATION PILOT STUDY 10-05-2018

b = From Wayne Perry Remedial Action Report, December 28, 2010

c = Wayne Perry, Inc., 2019. Application/Report of Waste Discharge Permit for In-Situ Bioremediation Pilot Test, Former Ricoh Electronics Facility 17482 Pullman Avenue Irvine, California. March 15, 2019.

bls = Below land surface

 $bot = bottom$ 

DPE = Dual-phase extraction

EW = Extraction well

gpm = Gallons per minute

HSU = Site-specific hydrostratigraphic unit

MSL = Mean sea level

*December 2022 Page 1 of 1 Engineering Analytics, Inc.*





Notes:

a = From Geosyntec FS & RAP 07-14-2015

bls = Below land surface

bot = bottom

EW = Extraction well

gpm = Gallons per minute

HSU = Site-specific hydrostratigraphic unit





## **Table F13. Summary of Steelcase Source Site-Specific Hydrostratigraphic Units Correlated with OU2 Model/Hydrostratigraphic Layers**



Notes:

a = From ERM Annual Report 2019, July 2020

bls = Below land surface

EW = Extraction well

 $gpm =$  Gallons per minute

HSU = Site-specific hydrostratigraphic unit

## **Table F14. Summary of Troy Computer Source Site-Specific Hydrostratigraphic Units Correlated with OU2 Model/Hydrostratigraphic Layers**



Notes:

## **estimate Ongoing or planned remedial activitiesa,b**

te has implemented EISB using HRC and 3DMe vironmental, Inc., 2010) and reportedly is planning to persulfOx and ISB using 3DI emplaced using a horizontal well targeting a from 17 to 25 feet bgs (Layer 1) on the source site nesis,  $2017$ ).

a = Regenesis Proposal No. CrS56989, May 23, 2017

b = Bryant Geoenvironmental, Inc. Project Status, Corrective Action Plan - Groundwater Remediation, May 10,2010

bls = Below land surface

DPE = Dual-phase extraction

EW = Extraction well

MSL = Mean sea level

HSU = hydrostratigraphic unit

**APPENDIX G SUMMARY OF DATA GAPS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT – ORANGE COUNTY SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2 (GRANT AGREEMENT NO. D1712505)**





JARED BLUMENFELD SECRETARY FOR<br>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 21, 2019

Mr. David Bolin Principal Hydrogeologist **Orange County Water District** 18700 Ward Street Fountain Valley, CA 92708 (DBolin@ocwd.com)

## SUMMARY OF DATA GAPS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL REMEDIAL **INVESTIGATION REPORT - ORANGE COUNTY SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER** PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2 (Grant Agreement No. D1712505)

Dear Mr. Bolin:

As previously discussed in our July 11, 2019 letter, the Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report (Report) dated April 25, 2019, did not identify if further investigation is necessary in the project area prior to the development of the Feasibility Study (FS). The Regional Board maintains that there are a number of areas where data is missing downgradient (or off-site) from sources of contamination and, at a public technical meeting to go over our comments to the Report, offered to summarize those for Hargis. Addressing these data gaps would improve the analysis of the Study Area (i.e. final Report and FS). In order for the Report and subsequent FS to be comprehensive, this data is necessary and should be evaluated. Given the ongoing litigation involving the Report and proposed remedies, this communication highlights areas where little to no investigation has occurred, by either Orange County Water District (OCWD) or Responsible Parties (RPs).

- 1. Location and identification of historic production wells (i.e. municipal, domestic, industrial, agricultural, etc.):
	- a. Wells that may act as vertical conduits from the Shallow Aquifer into the Principal Aquifers remain a data gap. As previously discussed, the former production wells in the vicinity of the Study Area may continue to act as a primary mechanism for the transport of contaminants of concern (COCs) into the Principal Aquifer until they are properly assessed.

WILLIAM RUH, CHAIR | HOPE SMYTHE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

3737 Main St., Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana

- **b.** If the identification of such wells is not feasible, the Report should include:
	- i. An analysis of all possible pathways into the Principal Aquifer and recommendations for future investigations that will support datadriven conclusions.
	- **ii.** Analysis of exceedances at IRWD-3, and an explanation of whether any actions by OCWD, or the RPs resulted in that well being placed back in service.
	- iii. Analysis of hydraulic gradients (communication) between the Shallow and Principal Aquifer throughout the project Study Area. with specific consideration near operational production wells.

## 2. Bell Industries off-site

- a. Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally near MW-24 and 24C stepping out laterally to the west, and downgradient to the southwest.
- **b.** Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally to the northwest and upgradient of the property near E St Andrew Place. There may be upgradient contributions from unidentified potentially responsible parties (PRPs).
- c. Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally south of Bell Industries and adjacent to the 55 Freeway near CPT-15, 114, 17, and 111. Since 2012, no data has been collected, therefore, the extent of the comingled COC plume may have migrated beyond the contour boundary and may be impacting Sites south of the 55 Freewav.

## 3. Engineering Plating off-site

a. Further delineation is needed downgradient of the Site both vertically and laterally. There are potential future impacts to operational production well SA-26/1 and destroyed well W-14831. The influence of SA-26/1 operation (i.e. vertical downward gradient and lateral capture zone) and its influence on contaminant migration remains a data gap.

## 4. Steelcase off-site

**a.** Further delineation is needed north of the Site, located adjacent to 55 Freeway between Bell Avenue and Valencia Avenue. The upgradient and on-site monitoring well MW-29B (50-60 ft below ground surface [bgs]) has detectible concentrations of 1,1-Dichloroethylene (1,1-DCE) and 1,4dioxane which may indicate plume comingling from upgradient sources.

## 5. Holchem and Circuit One off-site

a. Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally near CPT-100, 206, 104, and 180. This area is bounded to the west by Holchem/Embee Plating, to the south by E Warner Avenue, to the east by Circuit One, and to the north by Barlen Enterprises. There has been comingling of the plume in this area; however, no data has been obtained since 2012 to substantiate how the plume boundaries are currently defined for all COCs.

## 6. Gallade Chemical off-site

a. Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally to the north of the Site, upgradient of CPT-91 and E-7. Concentrations of Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) have been detected in well E-7 from 5-20 ft bgs, which may indicate an upgradient source. In addition, no data has been collected from 0-31 ft bgs near CPT-91.

## 7. Area Bounded by S. Grand Avenue, E. Warner Avenue and the 55 Freeway.

a. Since 2012, no data has been collected in the area near CPT-115, 116B, and 117, therefore, this area needs further delineation vertically and laterally. The upgradient contributions have not been fully defined for target COCs, especially for Trichloroethylene (TCE), 1,1-DCE and 1,4dioxane. Therefore, the depicted plume boundaries may have merged and/or migrated vertically and laterally since its initial assessment.

### 8. Cherry Aerospace off-site

- a. CPT data has been collected in 2012 and 2015; however, no data has been collected since. Further delineation is needed both vertically and laterally for the following locations:
	- i. West of Cherry Aerospace and north of SAM-4.
	- ii. Southwest of Cherry Aerospace, west of IRWD-3.
- **b.** There are potential future impacts to operational production well IRWD-3 through abandoned/destroyed/inactive production wells (i.e. municipal. domestic, industrial, agricultural etc.). The influence of IRWD-3 operation is causing vertical downward gradient according to monitoring well SAM-4. Therefore, these production wells may be a continued migration pathway and remain a data gap.

## 9. ITT Cannon off-site

a. Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally between SAM-5 and SAM-6, and near CPT-123, 124, and 190. Nearby monitoring wells MW-45B (44.3-59.3 ft bgs) and MW-17A/B (5-25 and 30-35 ft bgs) do not fully capture the shallow contamination from approximately 0-60 ft bgs and to a lesser extent do not capture the leading edge of the COCs plume from approximately 60 ft bgs-basal sand as depicted in the figures.

## 10. Dver Business Park off-site

- a. Since 2012, no data has been collected southwest of Dyer Business Park and north of SAM-7, therefore, the extent of the comingled COC plume may have migrated beyond the contour boundary since the time the groundwater grab samples were obtained.
- b. In addition, data gaps exist in the vicinity of SAM-7. TCE concentrations in SAM-7A (39.5-49.5 ft bas) have fluctuated from approximately 32.1 ug/l to 49 ug/L. No data exists from 0-39.5 ft bgs and step-out borings in all directions have not delineated nor identified an upgradient source/potential downgradient impacts.

### 11. Intersection of 55 Freeway and East Dyer Road

- a. Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally in the vicinity of SAM-6, CPT-168, CPT-171, and west of 7-MW-5.
	- i. Approximatively 0-60 ft bgs:
		- 1. The eastern extent of the TCE and PCE plumes near CPT-171 have not been defined.
		- 2. The leading edge of the 1,1-DCE and 1,4-dioxane plume
		- near CPT-168 has not been delineated. There is the potential for the 1.1-DCE and 1.4-dioxane plumes emanating

from the general areas of Holchem, Universal Circuits/Bell Industries and Steelcase to have comingled since the collection of water quality samples in 2012.

- ii. Approximately 60 ft bas-basal sand:
	- 1. The leading edge of the 1,1-DCE and 1,4-dioxane plume near CPT-168 has not been delineated. There is the potential for the 1,1-DCE and 1,4-dioxane plumes emanating from the general areas of Holchem, Universal Circuits/Bell Industries and Steelcase to have comingled since the collection of water quality samples in 2012.

## 12. Northeast of the intersection of Redhill Avenue and Deere Avenue

a. Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally for all COCs to the northeast of SAM-11 and south of Barranca Pkwy. In addition, SAM-11A (47.5-52.5 ft bgs) does not provide water quality data from 0-47.5 ft bgs and remains a data gap.

## 13. West of the intersection of Redhill Avenue and Alton Parkway

a. Further delineation is needed vertically and laterally for all COCs in between CPT-141 and CPT-186. This data gap is also related to item 11. above.

## 14. South of the intersection of Redhill Avenue and Gillette Avenue

- a. The eastern edge of the plume between Gillette Avenue and Armstrong Avenue (near SAM-10 and north of Baxter Healthcare) has not been delineated for all COCs. The Former Standard Screw Products Site (1712) Langley Avenue, Irvine, CA 92714) will provide some groundwater monitoring data; however, further delineation is necessary and this area remains a data gap.
- b. In addition, no data exists from 0-36.5 ft bgs in the vicinity of SAM-10A (36.5-46.5 ft bgs) and step-out borings have not delineated potential downgradient impacts. CPT-170 (18-22 and 27-31 ft bgs) had detectable concentrations of all COCs within this shallow zone.

## 15. South of the 55 Freeway and MacArthur Blvd

- a. The southern edge of the plume has not been fully delineated vertically and laterally and presents a data gap. Since 2012, no data has been collected south of the intersection of MacArthur and the 55 Freeway. therefore, the extent of the comingled COC plume may have migrated beyond the contour boundary since the time the groundwater grab samples were obtained. Data gaps exist at the leading edge of the plume near CPT-147, 148, 160, 159, and 157.
- b. In addition, SAM-8A is screened from 33-43 ft bgs and does not address shallow contamination from 0-33 ft bgs.

## 16. Baxter Healthcare and Edwards Lifesciences off-site

- a. Further delineation of the leading edge of the plume is needed vertically and laterally located to the west of MacArthur Blvd, bounded by Redhill Avenue and Main Street, and in the general vicinity of CPT-174.
- b. Further delineation of the plume is needed vertically and laterally to the east of MacArthur Blvd, bounded by Redhill Avenue and Main Street, and in the general vicinity of CPT-156, 175, 176, and 184. The leading edge of

the plume has not been delineated for all COCs. In addition, SAM-9A (37.5-42.5 ft bgs) does not address shallow contamination from 0-37.5 ft bgs. The sites at the southern edge of the project Study Area include Olen Properties (2031 Main Street, Irvine, CA 92714) and Deft Chemical Coating, Inc. (17451 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, CA 92714) which have groundwater monitoring data that may further define the downgradient extent of the contaminants.

If you have any questions, contact Chad Nishida at (951) 782-3252 or by e-mail at: chad.nishida@waterboards.ca.gov, or you may contact Nick Amini, Chief of the Site Cleanup Program, at (951) 782-7958 or by e-mail at: nick.amini@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Chad Nishida Water Resources Control Engineer Site Cleanup Program

cc: Bill Hunt - OCWD (whunt@ocwd.com) Roy Herndon - OCWD (rherndon@ocwd.com) Chris Ross - Hargis + Associates (cross@hargis.com) Kevin Coons - Hargis + Associates (kcoons@hargis.com) Julie Macedo - SWRCB, OE (julie macedo@waterboards.ca.gov) Robert Reeves - SWRCB, DFA (robert.reeves@waterboards.ca.gov) Aparieet Rangi - SWRCB, DFA (aparieet.rangi@waterboards.ca.gov)

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**APPENDIX H 03/25/21 RWQCB COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY INITIAL SCREENING EVALUATION FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2 (GRANT AGREEMENT NO. D1712505)**





## Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 25, 2021

Mr. Bill Leever Principal Hydrogeologist **Orange County Water District** 18700 Ward Street Fountain Valley, CA 92708 (wleever@ocwd.com)

## **COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY INITIAL SCREENING EVALUATION** FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, **OPERABLE UNIT 2 (GRANT AGREEMENT NO. D1712505)**

Dear Mr. Leever,

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board) staff have completed our review of the "Feasibility Study Initial Screening Evaluation" (FSISE) for the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project Operable Unit 2 (OU2) submitted on February 3, 2021, by your consultant Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA). The document was submitted for our technical review as part of the reporting requirements listed in the Proposition 1 Grant Agreement (No. D1712505) for the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) between the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Division of Financial Assistance (DFA). This letter provides Santa Ana Water Board staff comments on the FSISE.

## **Comments:**

- 1. General The authors of the report, statement of qualifications and signature(s) and seal(s) of the registered professional(s) responsible for the work should be included in the final document, to be consistent with section C-26 of the Grant Agreement.
- 2. General Attachment 1 in our letter titled "Comments on Revised Draft Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report...," dated February 3, 2020, depicts the off-property areas that we had excluded from analysis of the Feasibility Study (FS). Portions of remedial alternatives 3 through 6 include application of in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) or extraction well containment within this exclusion area and should be removed.
- 3. Section 1.0 Introduction "Operable Unit 1 is being addressed by others separately and ..." Please revise to read: "Operable Unit 1 is being addressed by responsible parties for the source sites under the oversight of the State of California and ..."
- 4. Section 1.2 Remedy Status The text states, "Five-year remedy reviews would be performed to track the progress and effectiveness of the interim remedy. The five-year

LANA ONG PETERSON, CHAIR | HOPE SMYTHE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

remedy reviews also would evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the source site remedial efforts as they pertain to preventing off-property migration of Chemicals of Concern (COCs)." It should be noted that if a remedial action is selected that results in hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining at the site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure, such action should be reviewed no less often than every five years after the initiation of the selected remedial action. Given the complexity of the South Basin comingled plume and the various potentially responsible parties (PRPs) that are or will be implementing on-site and off-site assessment/remediation, it is prudent to frequently monitor the remedial action. This is to ensure that human health and the environment are being protected by the remedial action, and that changes are implemented expeditiously as needed.

- 5. Section 1.3.1 Geologic and Hydrogeologic Framework The referenced upper, middle, and lower portion of the Shallow Aquifer system and the attributed depth intervals have not been discussed in the FSISE. The investigation reports for many of the source sites within the Orange County South Basin have included the terms "A and B" (or 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>) water-bearing zones. In the absence of any definition or explanation, the correlation between the upper, middle, and lower portions of the Shallow Aquifer with A/B zones at sources sites under our oversight remains unclear.
	- a. There are also inconsistencies in naming of the stratigraphic layers as presented in the FSISE and the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report (i.e. Layers 1-4 versus upper, middle, lower Shallow Aquifer). We recommend that you provide full definitions and explanations in the text and plume figures, so as to be consistent with the terminology in the RI Report. Depending on the location within the Study Area, the depth of each hydrostratigraphic unit (HSU) may vary significantly. Therefore, the detailed analysis of alternatives in the FS can greatly benefit from updated figures with location-specific plume contours and location-specific HSU labels that can be correlated with nearby source sites that are also being investigated.
- 6. Section 1.3.5.2 Active Water Supply Wells The table that lists the eight active water supply wells within the Study Area has a caption that is not referenced within the table. Please identify the corresponding cathodic protection well with a superscript.
- 7. Section 1.7.1 Potential Human Health Risk The text states, "The remaining [contaminants of potential concern] COPCs were not retained as COCs, based on the following criteria: Did not appear to be related to sites (for example, dioxins, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS], and fluoride)." Eight or more facilities within the South Basin study area were listed in the State Water Board Order WQ 2019-0045-DWQ for the determination of the presence of PFAS at chrome plating facilities. Pending additional site-specific data, the presence of PFAS may become more evident and may be of potential concern to the proposed remedial alternatives.
- 8. Section 1.7.2 Potential Human Health Risk Please explain why Freon-113, which has been detected in groundwater at concentrations above its maximum contaminant level (MCL) for drinking water in at least one source site within the Study Area, has not been listed as a groundwater COC for further evaluation.
- 9. Section 2.0 Remedial Action Objectives "In order to be compatible with remediation at source sites, the [interim remedial measures] IRMs would be implemented to avoid substantially negatively affecting groundwater quality ... at or near the source sites with

ongoing or planned remedial actions." Please note that it is our staff's position that any substantial effect on groundwater quality or flow near the source sites could potentially complicate the ongoing or planned execution of remedial actions by the responsible parties.

- 10. Section 2 Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs)
	- a. (RAOs-1 and 2), the terms "decreasing" as well as "to the extent practicable" and "to the extent practical" have been used for the lateral and vertical extent of COC impacts to lower concentration areas and the Principal Aquifer: "1. Protect groundwater resources from further degradation by decreasing lateral and vertical migration of high concentration COCs into zones with lower concentrations of COCs within OU2, to the extent practicable; 2. Protect groundwater resources by decreasing potential for vertical migration of high concentration COCs from the upper/middle portions of the Shallow Aquifer System to the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells, to the extent practical." We ask that the term "preventing" in the RAOs be used with "to the extent practicable/practical."
	- b. RAO-5: The text states: "Minimize discharge of COC exceeding ecological riskbased concentration from the Shallow Aquifer System to surface water channels." It is unclear how this objective is achievable using Alternative 5 (i.e. application of ISCO).
	- c. We understand that OCWD is planning to implement an in-situ remediation barrier along the Armstrong Channel in the area south of the Baxter Healthcare and Edwards Lifesciences sites (Figure 2-4). Since the bottom of the channel is unpaved and its elevation is below the water table, please explain how this remedy could be implemented effectively. In addition, please explain how the release of ISCO reagent into the channel will be avoided.
	- d. RAO-6: "Prevent unacceptable human exposure to groundwater contaminated by COCs." The wording should be revised to "Prevent human exposure to contaminated groundwater with COC concentrations exceeding drinking water MCLs or any other applicable regulatory levels."
- 11. Section 4.1 General Response Actions Monitored natural attenuation (MNA) has been listed under "In-situ Treatment Cleanup Actions." Please be advised that we do not consider natural attenuation a "cleanup action," because it is a passive remedy. MNA is more fitting under the "Monitoring" category in this section and throughout the FSISE.
- 12. Section 4.2 Identification of Remedial Technologies and Process Options Treated Water Discharge or End Use Options have been listed under "Remedial Technology" within the table under this section. "End use options" for treated water are not considered remedial technologies for cleanup of contaminated groundwater.
- 13. Section 5.1 Effectiveness In the screening of remedial technologies, the short- and long-term effectiveness and reduction achieved should include discussion regarding toxicity, mobility and volume for all technologies that were considered. The short-term effectiveness refers to the construction and implementation period, and the long-term effectiveness refers to the period after the remedial action is completed.
- 14. Section 5.4.4.1 Groundwater Extraction The document refers to two publications by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and states that pump and treat

(P&T) "is a common method for cleaning up groundwater and other aqueous media contaminated with dissolved chemicals, including industrial solvents, metals, and fuel oil." P&T technologies must often operate for an extended period of time (decades) to meet aquifer cleanup goals, and in many cases may fail to achieve those goals. Limitations and concerns with this technology are evident when an assessment of remaining contaminant concentrations indicates an asymptotic curve, or when concentrations rebound after system shutdown. The residual mass of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in groundwater tends to adsorb to organic materials in less permeable soils, and may later migrate back into the groundwater via back-diffusion, thus acting as a long-term source of contamination.

- 15. Section 5.4.5.1.3 Membrane Processes The text states, "the rejected concentrate/brine solution is typically 85-95% of the influent flow for nanofiltration and 80-90% of the influent flow for [reverse osmosis] RO and would require discharge to a [publicly owned treatment works] POTW." The ratio of permeate flow (product water) to feed flow is often referred to as a percent recovery. Rejected water can range from 20% to 50% of the feedwater, and is dependent on the number of stages in which the membranes are configured and the feed pressure. Please verify that the text is accurately defining the rejected concentrate/brine solution, recovery and their respective percentages.
- 16. Section 5.4.6.1 Injection "State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 92-49 prohibits degradation of groundwater used for potable uses." The correct citation for the State Water Resources Control Board's Anti-Degradation Policy is Resolution 68-16.
- 17. Section 5.4.7.1 Monitored Natural Attenuation
	- a. "If applied at appropriate locations, with an adequate monitoring network and analytical schedule. MNA is effective..." Please explain the proposed method for selecting appropriate locations for MNA. The occurrence and continued success of natural attenuation is interdependent on the geophysical and geochemical characteristics of the subsurface, as well as the physical and chemical characteristics of the contaminant(s) that are present. As such, the concept of "applying MNA at appropriate locations" appears to be misguided.
	- b. "However, as a stand-alone remedial action, MNA would require a substantial number of monitor wells and ..." Please replace 'remedial action' with 'process option.'
- 18. Section 5.4.7.3 Chemical Processes The text states that the "potential challenges" associated with ISCO in OU2 include an inability to reduce COC concentrations before they cross flow from the Shallow Aquifer System into the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells in part because the locations of these wells are not precisely known and the remedy duration." The challenge in having limited knowledge of the locations of legacy water supply wells pertains to any type of remedial action within the South Basin. The ISCO remedy can typically be utilized for COC mass destruction, thereby preventing further degradation of groundwater quality by decreasing the migration of high concentrations of COCs into zones with lower concentrations of COCs, especially in areas of the plume that are derived from multiple sources (comingled). We recommend either removing the statement quoted above, or applying it to all general response actions, with the exception of the "no action" alternative.
- 19. Section 5.5 Retained Remedial Technologies and Process Options "The Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells process options are not considered stand-alone remedial alternatives." We recommend adding MNA to this list.
- 20. Section 6.2.3 Alternative 3 "Groundwater would be extracted in higher concentration areas to: decrease lateral ...; and begin to treat and reduce the concentrations of COCs in groundwater." We recommend replacing 'concentrations' with 'mass' in the quoted sentence. The same sentence is repeated under the descriptions of Alternatives 5 and 6, and should also be revised.
- 21. Section 6.2.5 Alternative 5 Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using In-Situ Chemical Oxidation - The text proposes a Pre-Design Investigation (e.g. target contaminants, lithology, hydrogeology, and other sitespecific conditions) if the selected alternative is ISCO (Persulfate activation). The Pre-Design Investigation should not be limited to Alternative 5 and it should be applied to other alternatives that also involve containment and MNA.
	- a. It would be prudent to conduct additional investigations with respect to data gaps, lithology, hydrogeology and site-specific conditions (e.g. geochemical data, bench scale testing, pilot studies, etc.), in order to optimize the design of OCWD's interim remedy. Improper design may result in remedy ineffectiveness (i.e. limited reduction in COC concentrations and extended cleanup timeframe), the inability to scale treatment of the IRM to a full scale remedy, and/or interference with current source site remedies or proposed future remedies (i.e. generating unfavorable byproducts, causing unwanted plume migration, altering groundwater geochemical conditions, dewatering monitoring wells). Periodic post-implementation monitoring will aid in confirming the remedy's effectiveness and performance.
	- b. The text states, "Persulfate activation is required to convert the persulfate into the highly reactive persulfate radical, ..." For further clarification, please insert 'anion' after the second 'persulfate' in the quoted sentence.
- 22. Section 6.2.6 Alternative 6 "As conceptually illustrated on Figure 2-5, ... and accessible locations within a selected high concentration area with OU2, ..." It seems that 'in' is missing between 'with' and 'OU2.'
- 23. Figure 1-5 The monitoring well locations for the Former Standard Screw Products facility should be shown in the figure, and should be consistent with the information presented in Figure 5-1 in the RI Report.
- 24. Figure 1-14 The extent of perchlorate impacts originating from the former LNP site within the upper portion of the shallow aquifer system as depicted for concentration ranges of 6 to 60 µg/L is not consistent with our records for perchlorate impacts originating from the referenced site in the A and B water-bearing zones (also refer to comment 5, above).
- 25. Figures 1-18 through 1-23 The figures depict cis-1,2-dichloroethene (cis-1,2-DCE) and hexavalent chromium detections throughout the study area. Please address the following:
	- a. Provide plume contours for cis-1,2-DCE and hexavalent chromium.
- b. The figure legend and icons should be revised to be consistent with Figures 1-6 through 1-15 as presented in the RI Report.
- c. The vertical depth intervals should be revised to be consistent with other related figures (i.e. Upper and Middle portions of the shallow aquifer versus Layers 1-4).
- 26. Figure 2-4 and Figure 2-5 The figures include implementation of "Alternative 5- ISCO" and "Alternative 6- groundwater extraction and treatment combined with ISCO" immediately downgradient of the Embee Plating facility. The Santa Ana Water Board has authorized discharges of amendment at the Embee site, in accordance with the General Waste Discharge Requirements for In Situ Groundwater Remediation (Order No. R8-2018-0089), since 2016. Groundwater treatment has been ongoing at the site, using bioremediation and in-situ chemical reduction for treatment of VOCs, perchlorate, and hexavalent chromium. It appears that implementation of Alternative 5, downgradient of Embee Plating, may not be compatible with the efforts of the responsible party (RP) to create oxygen-reducing conditions in the subsurface, and thereby remediate the hexavalent chromium contamination attributable to the Embee facility. Application of extraction activities per Alternative 6 may potentially impact groundwater flow around the Embee site. This effect should be evaluated to ensure that capture zones of the extraction wells and implementation of ISCO will not have negative effects on in-situ remediation efforts that are based on reducing geochemical conditions. Specifically, remediation of the hexavalent chromium plume that originated from the referenced site may negatively be impacted by implementation of ISCO.
- 27. Figure 2-4 Please remove the proposed application area next to the ITT Cannon's planned in-situ remediation area. We have already discussed the expansion of the planned remedy with the RP to include areas further to the south.
- 28. Appendix A Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) Santa Ana Water Board staff have provided comments to the ARARs in a letter dated July 25, 2018. Please ensure these comments are addressed.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this deliverable. If you have any questions, please contact me at (951) 782-7958, or by email at nick.amini@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Afshin Nick Afshin Nick Amini Amini Date: 2021.03.25 10:01:47 -07'00'

A. Nick Amini, Ph.D., P.E. Chief, Site Cleanup Section

Roy Herndon - OCWD (rherndon@ocwd.com) CC. Chris Ross - Engineering Analytics (CRoss@enganalytics.com) Ken Puentes - Engineering Analytics (KPuentes@enganalytics.com) Julie Macedo - SWRCB, OE (julie.macedo@waterboards.ca.gov) Robert Reeves – SWRCB, DFA (robert.reeves@waterboards.ca.gov) Meghan Tosney-SWRCB, DFA (meghan.tosney@waterboards.ca.gov) Aparjeet Rangi - SWRCB, DFA (aparjeet.rangi@waterboards.ca.gov)

Yolanda Garza - DTSC (yolanda.garza@dtsc.ca.gov)<br>Emad Yemut - DTSC (emad.yemut@dtsc.ca.gov)

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## **APPENDIX I 03/29/21 STATE WATER BOARD DFA COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY INITIAL SCREENING EVALUATION**



Good Afternoon Bill,

Thank you for submitting the Feasibility Study Initial Screening Evaluation (FSISE) Report on February 11, 2021 for the Orange County Water District (OCWD) – South Basin (SB) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Proposition 1 Grant Agreement (D1712505) project.

Staff from the State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) has the following comments on the FSISE Report. Additionally, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) provided comments on the FSISE Report. Comments provided by the DFA and the Regional Water Board should be addressed in revisions to the FSISE Report. Alternatively, these comments could be addressed in the Feasibility Study Report, which is due June 30, 2021.

### **Comments:**

- **1. Specific Recommended Remedial Action Objectives (RAO), Page 12–** The RAOs do not include proposed groundwater cleanup goals, the area that would be addressed by the groundwater cleanup activities and, estimated timeframe for achieving the groundwater cleanup goals. The RAOs should be updated to include groundwater cleanup goals, the area addressed by groundwater cleanup activities and estimated timeframes for achieving the proposed groundwater cleanup goals.
- **2. Geologic and Hydrogeologic Framework, Page 20:** The description of hydrogeologic zones in the Project area appears to be inconsistent with the description provided in the Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report (Supplemental RI Report), dated July 1, 2020. The description of the Shallow Aquifer System, which ranges from near land surface to a depth of approximately 162 ft below ground surface (bgs), was divided into the four layers (Layer 1 through 4). No explanation or justification was provided in the FSISE Report describing why this change was made. Furthermore, inconsistencies between the Supplemental RI and FSISE Report raises concern that contaminant plume maps provided for the Shallow Aquifer System may not be consistent with the contaminant distribution and data gaps described in the RI Report (i.e. extent of groundwater contamination and data gaps) and the development and evaluation of feasible remedial alternatives provided in the FSISE Report. The interpretation of the Shallow Aquifer System layer provided in the FSISE Report should be revised to be consistent with the hydrogeologic interpretation provided in the Supplemental RI Report, or the FSISE Report should be updated to justify these changes. In addition, if changes to the hydrogeologic interpretation are made, the FSISE Report should include updated groundwater plume maps that incorporate changes to the Shallow Aquifer System layer.

Thanks Aparjeet

Aparjeet Rangi, P.E. Water Resource Control Engineer State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Financial Assistance [Aparjeet.Rangi@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Aparjeet.Rangi@Waterboards.ca.gov) Ph: (916) 319-8255

**From:** Leever, Bill <wleever@ocwd.com> **Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 3:51 PM **To:** Amini, Nick@Waterboards <Nick.Amini@waterboards.ca.gov>; Sturdivant, Ann@Waterboards <Ann.Sturdivant@waterboards.ca.gov>; Chris Ross <CRoss@enganalytics.com>; Law, Jessica@Waterboards <Jessica.Law@Waterboards.ca.gov>; KPuentes@enganalytics.com; Tosney, Meghan@Waterboards <Meghan.Tosney@waterboards.ca.gov>; Behrooz, Mehrnoosh@Waterboards <Mehrnoosh.Behrooz@Waterboards.ca.gov>; Nishida, Chad@Waterboards <Chad.Nishida@Waterboards.ca.gov>; Rangi, Aparjeet@Waterboards <Aparjeet.Rangi@Waterboards.ca.gov>; Reeves, Robert@Waterboards <Robert.Reeves@waterboards.ca.gov>; Herndon, Roy <rherndon@ocwd.com> **Subject:** Draft Feasibility Study Initial Screening Evaluation (FSISE)

## EXTERNAL:

All,

DFA has asked that the Draft Feasibility Study Initial Screening Evaluation (FSISE) also be submitted to the TAC via a direct email (as opposed to an attachment in the MS Teams meeting invitation that was sent on February 3, 2021). Please let me know if you have any questions.

> **Bill Leever** Principal Hydrogeologist



**Orange County Water District** 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 tel: (714) 378-3245 fax: email: [wleever@ocwd.com](mailto:wleever@ocwd.com)



### **Confidential Communication**

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## **APPENDIX J 04/07/21 OCWD SOUTH BASIN TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (D1712505)**

# **MINUTES**

## **OCWD South Basin Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (D1712505)**

**April 7, 2021 10:00 am – 11:50 am**

## **MS Teams Link [click here](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZGRmNWY3OWItMjgzMC00NDA4LTgxMTQtYjZiMDdiMTU0NWU4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221b493111-28b3-412b-a80d-006fa3bf5258%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228e981da5-c554-4bc0-ba3c-df0817711a00%22%7d)**

**Phone only: +1 (916) 535-3094, Phone Conference ID: 878 968 773#**

## **Attendees:**



**10:00-10:05 Roll Call/Introduction** Bill Leever

Bill identified attendees (marked above) and reviewed the agenda.

**10:05-10:15 Groundwater Model and Overview of CSM/Model Laying**

Chris Ross

Chris provided an overview (with slides) of the groundwater model layering, conductivity, and water levels observed vs. simulated. The model calibration is complete. The model TM will be part of the detailed alternatives evaluation TM. Robert Reeves asked if any information will be provided on the statistical analysis of observed vs. simulated water level data. Chris indicated that the observed vs. simulated water level analysis will be part of the model TM. Mona asked if the model included a solute transport component, and Chris responded it did not. Nick asked if the model incorporated source site remediation well extraction, and Chris responded that it does.

**10:15-11:10 TAC Comments & OCWD/EA Discussion of Initial Screening Evaluation TM**

Bill initiated the discussion with the introduction of the TAC draft FSISE comments and the focus on General Comment 2. Nick provided an explanation of the Board's comments related to the FSISE alternatives, as follows:

Alternative 5: ISCO IRM south of the ITT: ITT has committed to investigating and remediating the contaminant plume south of its site near the draft FSISE ISCO alternative along Daimler. As such, the draft FSISE proposed ISCO alignment at this location is not needed. Roy asked how far south ITT is willing to investigate and remediate. Jessica indicated that she does not know specifically how far south ITT will remediate, but that ITT will be responsible for cleanup of contamination that the Regional Board deems their responsibility. They are currently planning two new off-site monitoring wells. They will evaluate new data and refine their remedial alternatives accordingly.

Regional Board does not have an issue with the Dyer Road or MacArthur Blvd. remedial alternative alignments.

Nick and Mona discussed concerns regarding proximity of the ISCO alternative alignment to the OCFCD's flood control channel south of Armstrong Ave., Baxter Healthcare, and Edwards Lifesciences. Concerns include, as identified in the draft FSISE comments, potential daylighting of ISCO amendments in the channel bottom and potential chemical interference with onsite efforts by Baxter. Chris asked if the concern is just with ISCO or does it also apply to groundwater extraction. Mona indicated it was primarily ISCO, but if groundwater extraction were to show significant changes in groundwater gradients that impact source site remediation, then that would be a concern. Bill asked about elevated TCE and PCE (14,000 micrograms per liter [µg/L]) concentrations in a Hydropunch sample reported by Baxter. Mona is aware of the elevated concentrations and believes they are related to disturbances in the detection limit of all analytes due to very high Freon-113 concentrations (210,000 ug/L) within the sample collected in Armstrong Avenue, close to former Edwards source area. However, Mona also indicated there may be additional investigation by DRSS near the Kaiser site located upgradient of Baxter. The Kaiser and the former BFM Energy sites may be contributing sources of VOCs and 1,4-dioxane observed at the Baxter site. OCWD and EA indicated their appreciation for receiving these comments from the RWQCB, as it identifies issues that will be addressed during the detailed remedial alternatives evaluation process.

Robert discussed his concern, as well as the Regional Board's concern, related to the hydrostratigraphic nomenclature within the SRI and draft FSISE (Upper, Middle, Lower vs. Layers 1- 4). Robert and Chad indicated they prefer to see plume concentration contour maps vs. dot plot maps. After some discussion, it was determined that dot plots of the COPCs would be prepared by layer and submitted with the draft detailed remedial alternatives evaluation memo. The detailed alternatives evaluation, and ultimately the remediation implementation, will take into consideration the site specific hydro-stratigraphy, well screens and target aquifers when it comes to evaluating potential impacts to planned or existing source site remedial actions. Chad indicated that the layering system should be thoroughly explained, as mentioned in the comments. RB may request plume maps in the detailed evaluation in higher density areas where an interim remedy may likely be implemented. The TAC agreed that the detailed evaluation of remedial alternatives could move forward.

**11:10-11:40 DTSC Site updates, New RB Site updates** Chad Nishida

Chad provided the below updates on DTSC sites based on multiple meetings he and Nick have had with DTSC.

Soco West: Nick noted that the site has some of the highest groundwater VOC concentrations in the South Basin area. Chad indicated that there is a DTSC approved remedial action plan and Remedial

Design Implementation Plan (RDIP) and listed the four remedial activities proposed (flow control gates, enhanced in-situ remediation along Maywood, perimeter slurry wall to 70 feet bgs; however, this component still needs to be optimized and approved by DTSC, and ISCR permeable reactive barrier using ZVI at the Diesel Logistics site). Implementation has been paused since DTSC/SOCO-West is not certain with the remediation strategy OCWD will be implementing. DTSC agreed that SOCO-West will not implement their remedy until legal issues are resolved. According to DTSC, they have been in talks with OCWD. Roy asked Chad if any of these remedial actions were south of Warner Ave, and he said no, not to his knowledge. With respect to the proposed remedial alternative alignments in the draft FSISE memo, DTSC is concerned about potential impacts on the proposed RDIP due to changes in groundwater velocity and its impact on residence time. There is less concern with ISCO/ZVI interferences provided that the remedies are complimentary; however, the concerns include impacts from the radius of influence and impacts from hexavalent chromium (Cr+6) detected near the alignment. OCWD responded that we appreciate this input and will make sure that the upcoming detailed remedial alternative evaluation will include the appropriate analysis and findings to address these concerns.

Cherry Aerospace: Groundwater is monitored semi-annually (April) to coincide with Diceon and Embee Plating. Target COCs include VOCs and 1,4-dioxane (1,1-DCA, 1,1,1-TCA) and Freon-113. They have done plating at the site. Groundwater has been impacted by on-site activities but also from upgradient sources north of Dyer Road; DTSC staff indicated that the proposed extraction well remedial alternative alignment to the north of the site on east Warner Avenue may be beneficial in addressing contamination coming onto Cherry. DTSC also commented on potential impacts (i.e. altering groundwater flow direction, velocity and production of unfavorable byproducts through injection) of proposed remedial alternatives east of the Cherry site and recommended that a 2017 report on the conceptual site model and groundwater flow modeling by Cherry's consultant (CDM) be reviewed to ensure there are no substantial negative impacts to existing or planned remedial actions by responsible parties. Additionally, the Interim Remediation Workplan Approved in 2018 includes extraction wells at depths ranging from 35-72 feet bgs with design flows ranging from 0.5-4 gpm and a total design flow of 50 gpm. This low flow rate may be easily influenced by nearby remedial action. The PRP is still working through on-site permitting and off-site access and is expected to be implemented in Q3 of 2021. Chad also mentioned that the hydrostratigraphic unit (HSU) layering system is similar to SOCO-West and is more robust than that presented by OCWD. Roy replied that OCWD and EA will review and consider the information in this report during the detailed remedial alternatives evaluation.

Diesel Logistics: There is an approved work plan for installation of groundwater monitoring wells to be implemented this year (2021), including subsequent monitoring. There is ongoing quarterly SVE; no groundwater remedial actions planned.

Embee: The in-situ biological enhancement is occurring on-site and no off-property remediation. Embee will be implementing 19 direct push injection points (Sodium lactate, emulsified vegetable oil, calcium polysulfide, sodium bicarbonate and nutrients) at four locations on-site and is focused on targeting Cr+6 which has migrated downgradient of the injection well barriers. It appears that the deeper 50-60 foot zones may be acting as the main migration pathway for contaminants (laterally continuous and high groundwater velocity). DTSC is concerned about draft FSISE memo's ISCO alignment along Warner that could convert Cr+3 to Cr+6, thus this should be evaluated in addition to its radius of influence. Cr+6 may already be present in the proposed injection area. OCWD responded that, again, this is good input which will be addressed in the detailed remedial alternatives evaluation. Being a chrome plating facility, Embee was included in the State Board order to perform PFAS groundwater testing. DTSC indicated that EP-16C detected concentrations of PFOS at 15,000 ng/L and the occurrence of PFAS compounds should be evaluated in the FS.

Diceon: Sulfidated ZVI injection is proposed on-site and immediately off-site; a new type of ZVI is proposed, so RWQCB limited injections to pilot scale along an intermediate barrier. RWQCB noted 1,4-dioxane is coming onto north side of site and suspects it is coming from Gallade; RB/DTSC are concerned that proposed ISCO remedial alternative could counter the effectiveness of the ZVI which is to reduce and dechlorinate the VOCs, just 200 feet north. DTSC is currently reviewing interim measures to remediate sources of releases and control the migration of VOCs in groundwater (37,000 ug/L of TCE [16 on-Site and 14 off-site wells]). It should be noted that increasing concentrations of TCE are observed in their southern MW-9C C-Zone wells (48-60 feet bgs). OCWD responded that we appreciate this input and will make sure that the upcoming detailed remedial alternative evaluation will include the appropriate analysis and findings.

Gallade: Remedial action plan approved by waterboard (two excavations) and according to the consultant have contained the VOC GW plume. The site is continuing with SVE, and dual phase extraction since the 1990s.



Bill provided an update on the schedule. No changes to schedule distributed with 2/11/2021 TAC meeting minutes.

There was discussion related to how TAC comments on the draft FSISE memo will be addressed. It was agreed that TAC comments will be addressed in a stand-alone response to comments document. DFA prefers to receive the meeting minutes first when they are ready, since the discussion and recollection for everyone is fresh. Response to comments to the draft FSISE will be submitted at a later date when they are ready.

**11:50 Walk-in Items, Action Item Recap, Adjourn**

None

**Action Items:**

- **1. Path forward on the FSISE TM?**
- **2. Mona to provide map showing Embee's proposed 19 DPT onsite injection points.**
- **3. Chad to provide Diesel Logistics (DTSC Site) monitoring well installation workplan.**
- **4. Chad/Nick to provide their DTSC meeting notes.**

**APPENDIX K 05/20/21 RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY INITIAL SCREENING EVALUATION FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT**



## *Technical Memorandum*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Draft Feasibility Study Initial Screening Evaluation (FSISE) was prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) on behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) in support of the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being conducted by OCWD to address groundwater contamination in Operable Unit 2 (OU2) in the south-central portion of the Orange County Groundwater Basin (the Basin) in Orange County, California (Study Area) (EA, 2021). OU2 is groundwater contamination in the Shallow Aquifer System off-property of numerous groundwater contamination source sites (source sites) located within the Study Area where groundwater contaminant plumes emanating from individual source sites have migrated and commingled.

The purpose of the FSISE is to evaluate and screen remedial technologies and process options that will be retained for the development of remedial alternatives to address groundwater contamination in OU2. The remedial alternatives that were identified in the FSISE will be further evaluated as part of the Draft Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation (FSDE). OCWD is conducting the SBGPP RI/FS in cooperation with California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (Santa Ana Water Board) to develop an interim remedy for OU2 groundwater contamination.

On February 3, 202[1](#page-572-0), the FSISE was submitted to the SBGPP Technical Advisory Committee<sup>1</sup> (TAC) for their review as part of the reporting requirements listed in the Proposition 1 Grant Agreement (No. D1712505) for the RI/FS between OCWD and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Division of Financial Assistance (DFA). In a letter dated March 25,

<span id="page-572-0"></span> $\overline{a}$ <sup>1</sup> The Technical Advisory Committee comprises the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance.

2021, the Santa Ana Water Board transmitted their comments on the FSISE to OCWD (Santa Ana Water Board, 2021). The DFA provided comments in an e-mail to OCWD dated March 29, 2021. On April 7, 2021, a meeting was convened between representatives of the Santa Ana Water Board, DFA, OCWD, and EA to discuss the Santa Ana Water Board and DFA comments on the FSISE. The following responses to Santa Ana Water Board and DFA comments incorporate information that was discussed during the April 7, 2021 meeting.

OCWD is preparing the FSDE and plans to include the sections of the FSISE in the FSDE, excepting Section 7.0 – Recommendations for Detailed Evaluation. OCWD will include revisions in red-line/strikeout format to Sections 1 to 6 of the FSDE (from the FSISE) as outlined in the below responses to Santa Ana Water Board and DFA comments. Therefore, revisions to the draft FSISE will be incorporated into the FSDE and there is no need to prepare another version of the FSISE.

## **2.0 RESPONSE TO SANTA ANA WATER BOARD COMMENTS**

## **Comment 1**

General – The authors of the report, statement of qualifications and signature(s) and seal(s) of the registered professional(s) responsible for the work should be included in the final document, to be consistent with section C-26 of the Grant Agreement.

## EA's Response to Comment 1

The author of the report, statement of qualifications and signature and seal of the registered professional responsible for the work will be included in the Final FS which will incorporate both the FSISE and FSDE.

## **Comment 2**

General – Attachment 1 in our letter titled *"Comments on Revised Draft Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report…,"* dated February 3, 2020, depicts the off-property areas that we had excluded from analysis of the Feasibility Study (FS). Portions of remedial alternatives 3 through 6 include application of in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) or extraction well containment within this exclusion area (Santa Ana Water Board Exclusion Area) and should be removed.

## EA's Response to Comment 2

There are two areas identified in the FSISE related to ISCO and one area related to groundwater containment as a potential interim remedy that exist within the Santa Ana Water Board Exclusion Area. The area located south of the southern-most ITT Cannon in-situ injection wellfield along McGaw Avenue and Daimler Street (Area 1) was related to ISCO (Alternative 5, Figure 2-4 from the FSISE). The area located near Armstrong Channel, south of the Baxter Health Care (Area 2) source site is related to both ISCO and groundwater containment (Alternatives 3 to 6, Figures 2-2 to 2-5 from the FSISE). The Santa Ana Water Board indicated that ITT Cannon will be responsible for applying additional groundwater remedial action in Area 1 above. The potential ISCO remediation area at this location will be removed in the FSDE. Regarding Area 2 above, it was agreed that it would remain on the figures and be evaluated as part of the FSDE.

## **Comment 3**

Section 1.0 Introduction – *"Operable Unit 1 is being addressed by others separately and …"* Please revise to read: "Operable Unit 1 is being addressed by responsible parties for the source sites under the oversight of the State of California and …"

## EA's Response to Comment 3

The subject sentence in the FSDE will be revised to read as requested.

## **Comment 4**

Section 1.2 Remedy Status – The text states, "*Five-year remedy reviews would be performed to track the progress and effectiveness of the interim remedy. The five-year remedy reviews also would evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the source site remedial efforts as they pertain to preventing off-property migration of Chemicals of Concern (COCs).*" It should be noted that if a remedial action is selected that results in hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining at the site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure, such action should be reviewed no less often than every five years after the initiation of the selected remedial action. Given the complexity of the South Basin comingled plume and the various potentially responsible parties (PRPs) that are or will be implementing on-site and off-site assessment/remediation, it is prudent to frequently monitor the remedial action. This is to ensure that human health and the environment are being protected by the remedial action, and that changes are implemented expeditiously as needed.

## EA's Response to Comment 4

The reference to five-year remedy reviews is not meant to imply that more frequent monitoring and adjustments to remedy would not occur, rather it was meant to indicate that formal remedy reviews would be conducted no less frequently than every 5 years to formally document performance of the remedies and ensure that protection of human health and the environment is maintained. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

## **Comment 5**

Section 1.3.1 Geologic and Hydrogeologic Framework – The referenced upper, middle, and lower portion of the Shallow Aquifer system and the attributed depth intervals have not been discussed in the FSISE. The investigation reports for many of the source sites within the Orange County South Basin have included the terms "A and B" (or  $1<sup>st</sup>$  and  $2<sup>nd</sup>$ ) water-bearing zones. In the absence of any definition or explanation, the correlation between the upper, middle, and lower portions of the Shallow Aquifer with A/B zones at sources sites under our oversight remains unclear.

a. There are also inconsistencies in naming of the stratigraphic layers as presented in the FSISE and the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report (i.e., Layers 1-4 versus upper, middle, lower Shallow Aquifer). We recommend that you provide full definitions and explanations in the text and plume figures, so as to be consistent with the terminology in the RI Report. Depending on the location within the Study Area, the depth of each hydrostratigraphic unit (HSU) may vary significantly. Therefore, the detailed analysis of alternatives in the FS can greatly benefit from updated figures with location-specific plume contours and location-specific HSU labels that can be correlated with nearby source sites that are also being investigated.

## EA's Response to Comment 5

It was agreed that the FSDE would retain the evaluation and description of the stratigraphic layers 1 through 4 as presented in Section 1.2.1 of the FSISE text which is based on the Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report (SRI Report, Hargis + Associates, Inc., 2020) cross sections (SRI Report Figures 5-16 through 5-17N). The FSDE will also indicate which HSUs are being remediated at nearby source sites, where appropriate.

## **Comment 6**

Section 1.3.5.2 Active Water Supply Wells – The table that lists the eight active water supply wells within the Study Area has a caption that is not referenced within the table. Please identify the corresponding cathodic protection well with a superscript.

## EA's Response to Comment 6

The subject table will be revised in the FSDE to add a superscript "<sup>1</sup>" to the corresponding cathodic protection well.

## **Comment 7**

Section 1.7.1 Potential Human Health Risk – The text states, *"The remaining* [contaminants of potential concern] *COPCs were not retained as COCs, based on the following criteria: Did not appear to be related to sites (for example, dioxins, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS], and fluoride)."* Eight or more facilities within the South Basin study area were listed in the State Water Board Order WQ 2019-0045-DWQ for the determination of the presence of PFAS at chrome plating facilities. Pending additional site-specific data, the presence of PFAS may become more evident and may be of potential concern to the proposed remedial alternatives.

## EA's Response to Comment 7

There was a brief description of PFAS and the results presented in the SRI Report. PFAS are not COCs identified in the FSISE; however, it is understood that PFAS and other emergent compounds may require evaluation during implementation of the Interim Remedy and at sites that are sources of these compounds. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

## **Comment 8**

Section 1.7.2 Potential Human Health Risk – Please explain why Freon-113, which has been detected in groundwater at concentrations above its maximum contaminant level (MCL) for drinking water in at least one source site within the Study Area, has not been listed as a groundwater COC for further evaluation.

## EA's Response to Comment 8

As directed by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the 95-percent upper confidence limit of the mean concentration in groundwater (95% UCL) for each COPC was the assumed exposure point concentration (EPC) in the Revised Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHRA) (The Fehling Group, 2020). The 95% UCL for Freon 113 is 169.2 micrograms per liter (ug/l), which is well below the Freon 113 drinking water maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 1,200 ug/l. Therefore, Freon-113 was not listed as an OU2
groundwater COC for further evaluation. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

#### **Comment 9**

Section 2.0 Remedial Action Objectives – *"In order to be compatible with remediation at source sites, the* [interim remedial measures] *IRMs would be implemented to avoid substantially negatively affecting groundwater quality … at or near the source sites with ongoing or planned remedial actions."* Please note that it is our staff's position that any substantial effect on groundwater quality or flow near the source sites could potentially complicate the ongoing or planned execution of remedial actions by the responsible parties.

EA's Response to Comment 9 Comment noted.

#### **Comment 10**

Section 2 Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) –

- a. (RAOs-1 and 2), the terms "decreasing" as well as "to the extent practicable" and "to the extent practical" have been used for the lateral and vertical extent of COC impacts to lower concentration areas and the Principal Aquifer: "*1. Protect groundwater resources from further degradation by decreasing lateral and vertical migration of high concentration COCs into zones with lower concentrations of COCs within OU2, to the extent practicable; 2. Protect groundwater resources by decreasing potential for vertical migration of high concentration COCs from the upper/middle portions of the Shallow Aquifer System to the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells, to the extent practical.*" We ask that the term "preventing" in the RAOs be used with "to the extent practicable/practical."
- b. RAO-5: The text states: "*Minimize discharge of COC exceeding ecological risk-based concentration from the Shallow Aquifer System to surface water channels*." It is unclear how this objective is achievable using Alternative 5 (i.e., application of ISCO).
- c. We understand that OCWD is planning to implement an in-situ remediation barrier along the Armstrong Channel in the area south of the Baxter Healthcare and Edwards Lifesciences sites (Figure 2-4). Since the bottom of the channel is unpaved and its elevation is below the water table, please explain how this remedy could be implemented effectively. In addition, please explain how the release of ISCO reagent into the channel will be avoided.
- d. RAO-6: "*Prevent unacceptable human exposure to groundwater contaminated by COCs*." The wording should be revised to "Prevent human exposure to contaminated groundwater with COC concentrations exceeding drinking water MCLs or any other applicable regulatory levels."

#### EA's Response to Comment 10a

In the FSDE, the term "preventing" in the RAOs will be used with "to the extent practicable."

#### EA's Response to Comment 10b

Conceptually, ISCO could be applied to shallow groundwater in areas upgradient of where it is discharging into surface water channels at concentrations above surface water toxicity benchmarks identified in the HHRA (Appendix to SRI Report), with the goal of in situ reduction of groundwater COC concentrations before entering the channels to levels below the surface water toxicity benchmarks. As discussed during the meeting, the ISCO chemicals and treatment byproducts will also be evaluated as part of the FSDE. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

#### EA's Response to Comment 10c

OCWD is not planning to implement an in-situ remediation barrier along the Armstrong Channel in the area south of the Baxter Healthcare and Edwards Lifesciences sites. However, the FSDE will evaluate the feasibility of implementing an in-situ remediation barrier along the Armstrong Channel in the area south of the Baxter Healthcare and Edwards Lifesciences sites. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

#### EA's Response to Comment 10d

The wording of the FSDE will be revised to "Prevent human exposure to contaminated groundwater with COC concentrations exceeding drinking water MCLs or other Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)."

#### **Comment 11**

Section 4.1 General Response Actions – Monitored natural attenuation (MNA) has been listed under "In-situ Treatment Cleanup Actions." Please be advised that we do not consider natural attenuation a "cleanup action," because it is a passive remedy. MNA is more fitting under the "Monitoring" category in this section and throughout the FSISE.

#### EA's Response to Comment 11

Comment noted. The USEPA considers MNA to be a cleanup action, which can be applied as a sole remedy, as part of a combined remedial action, or as a finishing step. For example, the USEPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Directive 9283.1-36, Use of Monitored Natural Attenuation for Inorganic Contaminants in Groundwater at Superfund Sites (states:

*"In addition, MNA, whether selected as the sole remedial action or as a finishing step, may be appropriate when it can achieve a site's remedial action objectives in a reasonable timeframe; thus, MNA remedies should not extend over very long timeframes, and the anticipated timeframes should be reasonable compared with other potential alternatives being considered. However, the document acknowledges that longer timeframes may be needed for some contaminants that degrade or decay over a long time period."* 

OSWER Directive 9200.4-17P, Use of Monitored Natural Attenuation at Superfund, RCRA Corrective Action, and Underground Storage Tank Sites states:

*"EPA does not consider MNA to be a "presumptive" or "default" remedy-it is merely one option that should be evaluated with other applicable remedies. EPA does not view MNA to be a "no action " or "walk-away" approach, but rather considers it to be an alternative means of achieving remediation objectives that may be appropriate for specific, welldocumented site circumstances where its use meets the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements."* 

*"As there is often a variety of methods available for achieving remediation objectives at any given site, MNA may be evaluated and compared to other viable remediation methods (including innovative technologies) during the study phases leading to the selection of a remedy."*

*"In the majority of cases where MNA is proposed as a remedy, its use may be appropriate as one component of the total remedy, that is, either in conjunction with active remediation or as a follow-up measure."* 

*"Use of MNA does not signify a change in OSWER's remediation objectives. These objectives (discussed in greater detail under the heading "Implementation") include*  control of source materials, prevention of plume migration, and restoration of *contaminated groundwaters, where appropriate. Thus, EPA expects that source control measures (see section on "Remediation of Sources") will be evaluated for all sites under consideration for any proposed remedy. As with other remediation methods, selection of MNA as a remediation method should be supported by detailed site-specific information that demonstrates the efficacy of this remediation approach."* 

*"When relying on natural attenuation processes for site remediation, EPA prefers those processes that degrade or destroy contaminants. Also, EPA generally expects that MNA will only be appropriate for sites that have a low potential for contaminant migration."* 

We understand the Santa Ana Water Board's perspective on MNA and believe that the designation of MNA as a remedial alternative could be grouped under a monitoring category. The FSISE classifies MNA as a process option within the In-Situ Groundwater Treatment remedial technology. This classification of MNA will not affect the analysis of MNA in the FSDE. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

#### **Comment 12**

Section 4.2 Identification of Remedial Technologies and Process Options – Treated Water Discharge or End Use Options have been listed under "Remedial Technology" within the table under this section. "End use options" for treated water are not considered remedial technologies for cleanup of contaminated groundwater.

#### EA's Response to Comment 12

The subject table column header will be revised in the FSDE to "Remedial Technology  $\&$ Discharge or End Use".

#### **Comment 13**

Section 5.1 Effectiveness – In the screening of remedial technologies, the short- and long-term effectiveness and reduction achieved should include discussion regarding toxicity, mobility and volume for all technologies that were considered. The short-term effectiveness refers to the construction and implementation period, and the long-term effectiveness refers to the period after the remedial action is completed.

#### EA's Response to Comment 13

The short- and long-term effectiveness and expected reductions achieved, including discussion regarding toxicity, mobility and volume for retained technologies identified in the FSISE will be evaluated in detail in the FSDE. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

#### **Comment 14**

Section 5.4.4.1 Groundwater Extraction – The document refers to two publications by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and states that pump and treat (P&T) *"'is a common method for cleaning up groundwater and other aqueous media contaminated with dissolved chemicals, including industrial solvents, metals, and fuel oil."* P&T technologies must often operate for an extended period of time (decades) to meet aquifer cleanup goals, and in many cases may fail to achieve those goals. Limitations and concerns with this technology are evident when an assessment of remaining contaminant concentrations indicates an asymptotic curve, or when concentrations rebound after system shutdown. The residual mass of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in groundwater tends to adsorb to organic materials in less permeable soils, and may later migrate back into the groundwater via back-diffusion, thus acting as a long-term source of contamination.

#### EA's Response to Comment 14

Comment noted. All remedial technologies retained in the FSISE are subject to the potential treatment limitations and concentration rebound posed by matrix back-diffusion. It is likely that, if selected, ISCO also would need to be applied for a relatively extended period of time. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

#### **Comment 15**

Section 5.4.5.1.3 Membrane Processes – The text states, *"the rejected concentrate/brine solution is typically 85-95% of the influent flow for nanofiltration and 80-90% of the influent flow for*  [reverse osmosis] *RO and would require discharge to a* [publicly owned treatment works] *POTW."*  The ratio of permeate flow (product water) to feed flow is often referred to as a percent recovery. Rejected water can range from 20% to 50% of the feedwater, and is dependent on the number of stages in which the membranes are configured and the feed pressure. Please verify that the text is accurately defining the rejected concentrate/brine solution, recovery and their respective percentages.

#### EA's Response to Comment 15

The text of the FSDE will accurately define the rejected concentrate/brine solution, recovery, and their respective percentages.

#### **Comment 16**

Section 5.4.6.1 Injection – "*State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 92-49 prohibits degradation of groundwater used for potable uses.*" The correct citation for the State Water Resources Control Board's Anti-Degradation Policy is Resolution 68-16.

EA's Response to Comment 16

Comment noted and the FSDE text will be revised to reflect the correct citation.

#### **Comment 17**

Section 5.4.7.1 Monitored Natural Attenuation *–* 

- a) *If applied at appropriate locations, with an adequate monitoring network and analytical schedule, MNA is effective…"* Please explain the proposed method for selecting appropriate locations for MNA. The occurrence and continued success of natural attenuation is interdependent on the geophysical and geochemical characteristics of the subsurface, as well as the physical and chemical characteristics of the contaminant(s) that are present. As such, the concept of "applying MNA at appropriate locations" appears to be misguided.
- b) *However, as a stand-alone remedial action, MNA would require a substantial number of monitor wells and ...* " Please replace 'remedial action' with 'process option.'

#### EA's Response to Comment 17a

Performance monitoring generally is more important for MNA than for other types of remedies as a consequence of the potentially longer remediation timeframes, potential for ongoing contaminant migration, and other uncertainties associated with using MNA. MNA monitoring programs should specify the location, frequency, and type of samples, analyses, and measurements required to evaluate whether the remedy is performing as expected and is capable of achieving the remedial objectives. Thus, MNA monitoring programs should be designed to accomplish the following:

- Demonstrate that natural attenuation is occurring as expected;
- Detect changes in environmental conditions (e.g., hydrogeologic, geochemical, microbiological, or other conditions) that may reduce the efficacy of any of the natural attenuation processes;
- Identify any potentially toxic and/or mobile transformation products;
- Verify that the plume(s) is not expanding (either laterally or vertically);
- Verify no unacceptable impact to downgradient receptors;
- Detect new releases of contaminants to the environment that could negatively alter the effectiveness of the MNA remedy;
- Demonstrate the efficacy of institutional or other controls that may be applied to protect potential receptors; and
- Verify attainment of remediation objectives.

The preceding items will be evaluated in the FSDE in the context of the OU2 groundwater plumes, including the source sites and the existing monitor well networks, sampling frequencies, analytical schedules, and groundwater parameter measurements to determine where MNA might be appropriately or effectively applied. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

#### EA's Response to Comment 17b

The term 'remedial action' in the FSDE will be replaced with 'process option.'

#### **Comment 18**

Section 5.4.7.3 Chemical Processes – The text states that the *"potential challenges associated with ISCO in OU2 include an inability to reduce COC concentrations before they cross flow from the* *Shallow Aquifer System into the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells in part because the locations of these wells are not precisely known and the remedy duration."* The challenge in having limited knowledge of the locations of legacy water supply wells pertains to any type of remedial action within the South Basin. The ISCO remedy can typically be utilized for COC mass destruction, thereby preventing further degradation of groundwater quality by decreasing the migration of high concentrations of COCs into zones with lower concentrations of COCs, especially in areas of the plume that are derived from multiple sources (comingled). We recommend either removing the statement quoted above, or applying it to all general response actions, with the exception of the "no action" alternative.

#### EA's Response to Comment 18

The likelihood of Legacy Water Supply Wells acting to reduce the effectiveness of remedial actions or process options other than ISCO was stated in the FSISE for Groundwater Extraction, Physical Barriers, Monitored Natural Attenuation, Active In-Situ Bioremediation, and Groundwater Injection end use. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

#### **Comment 19**

Section 5.5 Retained Remedial Technologies and Process Options – *"The Institutional Controls, Monitoring, and Sealing Legacy Water Supply Wells process options are not considered standalone remedial alternatives."* We recommend adding MNA to this list.

#### EA's Response to Comment 19.

While MNA may not be selected as a stand-alone OU2 interim remedy, it was classified as such in the FSISE to allow for further detailed evaluation in the FSDE. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE

#### **Comment 20**

Section 6.2.3 Alternative 3 – *"Groundwater would be extracted in higher concentration areas to: decrease lateral …; and begin to treat and reduce the concentrations of COCs in groundwater."*  We recommend replacing 'concentrations' with 'mass' in the quoted sentence. The same sentence is repeated under the descriptions of Alternatives 5 and 6, and should also be revised.

#### EA's Response to Comment 20.

Concentration data are what is generated by laboratory analysis of groundwater samples and provides a quantifiable physical measure that can be mapped and trended. For the purposes of the quoted sentences identified in comment 20, the term 'concentration' can be understood to be synonymous with 'mass,' as it represents mass per a standard volume, and the FSDE text will be revised to address this comment.

#### **Comment 21**

Section 6.2.5 Alternative 5 Containment and Treatment of Relatively High Concentration and Leading-Edge Areas Using In-Situ Chemical Oxidation – The text proposes a Pre-Design Investigation (e.g., target contaminants, lithology, hydrogeology, and other site-specific conditions) if the selected alternative is ISCO (Persulfate activation). The Pre-Design Investigation should not be limited to Alternative 5 and it should be applied to other alternatives that also involve containment and MNA.

- a) It would be prudent to conduct additional investigations with respect to data gaps, lithology, hydrogeology and site-specific conditions (e.g. geochemical data, bench scale testing, pilot studies, etc.), in order to optimize the design of OCWD's interim remedy. Improper design may result in remedy ineffectiveness (i.e. limited reduction in COC concentrations and extended cleanup timeframe), the inability to scale treatment of the IRM to a full scale remedy, and/or interference with current source site remedies or proposed future remedies (i.e. generating unfavorable byproducts, causing unwanted plume migration, altering groundwater geochemical conditions, dewatering monitoring wells). Periodic post-implementation monitoring will aid in confirming the remedy's effectiveness and performance.
- b) The text states, "Persulfate activation is required to convert the persulfate into the highly reactive persulfate radical, …" For further clarification, please insert 'anion' after the second 'persulfate' in the quoted sentence.

#### EA's Response to Comment 21a

As discussed during April 7, 2021 TAC meeting, a Pre-Design Investigation would be implemented for ISCO and other potential remedial alternatives. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

#### EA's Response to Comment 21b

The FSDE will incorporate the requested change.

#### **Comment 22**

Section 6.2.6 Alternative 6 – *"As conceptually illustrated on Figure 2-5, … and accessible locations within a selected high concentration area with OU2, …"* It seems that 'in' is missing between 'with' and 'OU2.'

#### EA's Response to Comment 22

The subject sentence in the FSDE will be revised to read: *"As conceptually illustrated on Figure 2-5, … and accessible locations within a selected high concentration area within OU2, …"*

#### **Comment 23**

Figure 1-5 – The monitoring well locations for the Former Standard Screw Products facility should be shown in the figure, and should be consistent with the information presented in Figure 5-1 in the RI Report.

#### EA's Response to Comment 23

The FSDE will incorporate the requested change.

#### **Comment 24**

Figure 1-14 – The extent of perchlorate impacts originating from the former LNP site within the upper portion of the shallow aquifer system as depicted for concentration ranges of 6 to 60  $\mu$ g/L is not consistent with our records for perchlorate impacts originating from the referenced site in the A and B water-bearing zones (also refer to comment 5, above).

### EA's Response to Comment 24

Comment noted. We understand that there may be differences in the way that perchlorate distributions are illustrated by different parties, using different HSUs and different datasets. We also understand that the perchlorate plume originating from the LNP source site will be managed and remediated by the responsible party and as such, the FSDE will not consider interim remedial actions in this area. However, perchlorate is an OU2 COC, and figures illustrating the distributions of perchlorate will be included in the FSDE (also see EA's response to Comment 25a).

#### **Comment 25**

Figures 1-18 through 1-23 – The figures depict cis-1,2-dichloroethene (cis-1,2-DCE) and hexavalent chromium detections throughout the study area. Please address the following:

- a) Provide plume contours for cis-1,2-DCE and hexavalent chromium.
- b) The figure legend and icons should be revised to be consistent with Figures 1-6 through 1- 15 as presented in the RI Report.
- c) The vertical depth intervals should be revised to be consistent with other related figures (i.e., Upper and Middle portions of the shallow aquifer versus Layers 1-4).

#### EA's Response to Comment 25a

It was agreed during the April 7, 2021 TAC meeting that the FSDE would include figures illustrating color-coded symbols classified by concentration ranges ('color dot maps') for each COC, for each of Layers 1 through 4; that contours for individual COCs would not be prepared; and that additional figures may be considered after the TAC reviews these figures in the draft FSDE.

#### EA's Response to Comment 25b

The FSDE figures will be prepared consistent with EA's response to Comment 25a.

#### EA's Response to Comment 25c

It was agreed that the vertical depth intervals for these figures would remain as-is: this provides consistency with the cross sections in the SRI Report, with the groundwater flow model, and with the figures that will be prepared as part of the FSDE. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

#### **Comment 26**

Figure 2-4 and Figure 2-5 – The figures include implementation of "Alternative 5- ISCO" and "Alternative 6-groundwater extraction and treatment combined with ISCO" immediately downgradient of the Embee Plating facility. The Santa Ana Water Board has authorized discharges of amendment at the Embee site, in accordance with the General Waste Discharge Requirements for In Situ Groundwater Remediation (Order No. R8- 2018-0089), since 2016. Groundwater treatment has been ongoing at the site, using bioremediation and in-situ chemical reduction for treatment of VOCs, perchlorate, and hexavalent chromium. It appears that implementation of Alternative 5, downgradient of Embee Plating, may not be compatible with the efforts of the responsible party (RP) to create oxygen-reducing conditions in the subsurface, and thereby remediate the hexavalent chromium contamination attributable to the Embee facility. Application of extraction activities per Alternative 6 may potentially impact groundwater flow around the Embee site. This effect should be evaluated to ensure that capture zones of the extraction wells

and implementation of ISCO will not have negative effects on in-situ remediation efforts that are based on reducing geochemical conditions. Specifically, remediation of the hexavalent chromium plume that originated from the referenced site may negatively be impacted by implementation of ISCO.

#### EA's Response to Comment 26

The FSDE will include evaluations to determine whether extraction well capture zones and/or implementation of ISCO will likely or potentially have substantial negative impacts on in-situ remediation efforts at the Embee Plating facility source site that are based on reducing geochemical conditions. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

#### **Comment 27**

Figure 2-4 – Please remove the proposed application area next to the ITT Cannon's planned insitu remediation area. We have already discussed the expansion of the planned remedy with the RP to include areas further to the south.

#### EA's Response to Comment 27

The FSDE will be revised to incorporate the requested change per Santa Ana Water Board Comment 2.

#### **Comment 28**

Appendix A Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) – Santa Ana Water Board staff have provided comments to the ARARs in a letter dated July 25, 2018. Please ensure these comments are addressed.

#### EA's Response to Comment 28

The FSDE will include updated ARARs, which will incorporate the Santa Ana Water Board comments on the ARARs in their referenced letter.

#### **3.0 RESPONSE TO DFA COMMENTS**

**Comment 1. Specific Recommended Remedial Action Objectives (RAO), Page 12–** The RAOs do not include proposed groundwater cleanup goals, the area that would be addressed by the groundwater cleanup activities and, estimated timeframe for achieving the groundwater cleanup goals. The RAOs should be updated to include groundwater cleanup goals, the area addressed by groundwater cleanup activities and estimated timeframes for achieving the proposed groundwater cleanup goals.

#### EA's Response to Comment 1

Interim Remedial Actions do not require numeric cleanup goals as part of RAOs, nor do they provide an estimate for cleanup times (USEPA, 1991 and 1999b). In accordance with the USEPA guidance, OCWD intends to implement IRMs that will be consistent with and transition to a final remedy. Revisions to respective portions of the FSISE are not needed, as such, no changes to these sections will be indicated in the FSDE.

**Comment 2. Geologic and Hydrogeologic Framework, Page 20:** The description of hydrogeologic zones in the Project area appears to be inconsistent with the description provided in the Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report (Supplemental RI Report), dated July 1, 2020. The description of the Shallow Aquifer System, which ranges from near land surface to a depth of approximately 162 ft below ground surface (bgs), was divided into the four layers (Layer 1 through 4). No explanation or justification was provided in the FSISE Report describing why this change was made. Furthermore, inconsistencies between the Supplemental RI and FSISE Report raises concern that contaminant plume maps provided for the Shallow Aquifer System may not be consistent with the contaminant distribution and data gaps described in the RI Report (i.e. extent of groundwater contamination and data gaps) and the development and evaluation of feasible remedial alternatives provided in the FSISE Report. The interpretation of the Shallow Aquifer System layer provided in the FSISE Report should be revised to be consistent with the hydrogeologic interpretation provided in the Supplemental RI Report, or the FSISE Report should be updated to justify these changes. In addition, if changes to the hydrogeologic interpretation are made, the FSISE Report should include updated groundwater plume maps that incorporate changes to the Shallow Aquifer System layer.

#### EA's Response to Comment 2

As discussed during the April 7, 2021 TAC meeting, the geologic and hydrogeologic framework used in the FSISE is consistent with the SRI Report. Also refer to our responses to Santa Ana Water Board Comments 5 and 25a above for additional clarification.

#### **4.0 REFERENCES**

- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (Santa Ana Water Board, 2021. Letter from N. Amini, Santa Ana Water Board, to B. Leever, Orange County Water District re: Comments on the Draft Feasibility Study Initial Screening Evaluation for the Orange County South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2. March 25, 2021.
- Engineering Analytics, Inc., 2021. Draft Feasibility Study Initial Screening Evaluation, South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2. February 3, 2021.
- Hargis + Associates, Inc., 2020. Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report, Orange County Water District, South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2. July 1, 2020.
- USEPA, 1991. Guide to Developing Superfund No Action, Interim Action, and Contingency Action RODs. April 1991.
- USEPA, 1999a. Use of Monitored Natural Attenuation at Superfund, RCRA Corrective Action, and Underground Storage Tank Sites. April 1999.
- USEPA, 1999b. A Guide to Preparing Superfund Proposed Plans, Records of Decision, and Other Remedy Selection Decision Documents. July 1999.
- USEPA, 2015. Use of Monitored Natural Attenuation for Inorganic Contaminants in Groundwater at Superfund Sites. August 2015.

### **APPENDIX L 05/26/21 OCWD SOUTH BASIN TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (D1712505)**

### **MINUTES**

### **OCWD South Basin Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (D1712505)**

**May 26, 2021 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

#### **MS Teams Link [click here](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NmE2NzMwYjEtYmYwOS00ZTg0LWFmZWMtYzcyNzRjZWY4ZWEw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221b493111-28b3-412b-a80d-006fa3bf5258%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228e981da5-c554-4bc0-ba3c-df0817711a00%22%7d)**

**Phone only: +1 (916) 535-3094, Phone Conference ID: 943 955 973#**

#### **Attendees:**



**2:30-2:35 Roll Call/Introduction** Bill Leever

#### **2:35-3:25 Groundwater Model and Overview of CSM/Model Laying**

Errol Lawrence/Chris Ross

Errol used the PowerPoint slides attached to these minutes to present the SBGPP numerical flow model development and calibration. The top of Layer 1 is ground surface derived from LIDAR data. There is a muted water level response shown in hydrographs in the Shallow aquifer system (Layers 1- 4) relative to Principal aquifer system (Layer 6). Coloration of K values and orientation of K zones are influenced by depositional environment. 56 well point calibration targets were used in the model. Roy mentioned that a separate hydrogeologic investigation by OCWD south of the 405 freeway identified aquifer mergence zones on either side of the Orange County Airport, near the southern model domain boundary. RMSE calibration values are included in the analysis and will be included in the detailed remedial alternatives evaluation tech memo. The "Basin Model" Errol referred to during the presentation is OCWD's regional model groundwater flow model that covers the entire Orange County Groundwater Basin. The calibration period (2007 to 2017) was selected to include a range of hydraulic conditions (both high and low water levels) where high quality regional groundwater level data was available. The older non-District wells in the southern part of the Study Area were used in the calibration and new SAM wells (SAM 7 to SAM 13) were assigned synthetic values, or projections of

potentiometric surface and both were extrapolated backwards in time. Vertical gradients representative of both the north and south parts of the Study Area were captured in the model. The calibration is reasonable, and the TM will include calibration hydrographs for all target wells. The model cell size is 125'x125' throughout the Study Area. Chad asked whether MCAS Tustin has a groundwater flow model and if so whether any analysis was done to evaluate and compare the results to the SGBPP model, specifically near SAM-11 and the MCAS boundary. The SGBPP model was not compared to any MCAS Tustin model, if available, and it is unknown if the model layering and calibration is comparable. All source area extraction wells were used in model calibration. All the extraction well data was obtained through online sources, including Geotracker, and will be summarized in the detailed remedial alternatives evaluation TM. Responding to a question, Chris said a model is typically updated based on new information collected during pre-design and within a year of operation of a remedial system.



No changes to the current schedule submitted during the February 2021 TAC meeting are currently projected.

**3:27-3:30 Walk-in Items, Action Item Recap, Adjourn**

None.

#### **Action Items:**

**1. Bill to provide copy of model presentation to TAC and upload to Geotracker with final meeting minutes.**

# GROUNDWATER MODEL STATUS UPDATE

### SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT May 26, 2021

### SBGPP MODEL OBJECTIVES

- Groundwater flow modeling is developed in support of the SBGPP RI/FS being conducted by OCWD to address groundwater contamination in the south-central portion of the Orange County Groundwater Basin.
- The modeling is developed to support OCWD in evaluation of groundwater extraction and insitu remedial alternatives identified in the FS screening process.
	- The remedial alternatives are intended to address groundwater contamination in OU2 within the SBGPP.

### KEY FEATURES OF THE SBGPP MODEL

- The SBGPP Groundwater flow is based on the current site conceptual hydrogeologic model (SCHM). The numerical model:
- replicates low and high potentiometric cycles observed in the Shallow Alluvial Aquifer System;
- incorporates horizontal and vertical aquifer heterogeneity demonstrated from extensive aquifer testing;
- includes ongoing and historic source site remedial extraction systems;
- is calibrated to observed water level conditions and hydraulic gradients; and
- is suitable for evaluation of remedial alternatives identified in the FS for OU2 groundwater contamination.

### MODEL DOMAIN, GRID and CODE

- Model Domain is 31,000 ft x 31,000 ft
- Finite Difference Grid
	- 159 Rows and 135 Columns
	- Variable Grid Spacing 125 ft to 500 ft
- Model Code is MODFLOW–SURFACT



## MODEL LAYERING

- Six Layers based on Basin Model-updated/revised (and SRI cross sections)
	- Layer 1 to 4 = Shallow Aquifer System
	- Layer 5 = Aquitard
	- Layer 6 = Upper Principal Aquifer (100 ft)





### Simulation Period-Feb 15, 2007 to July 1, 2017

### Encompasses regional low and high potentiometric cycles 23 Stress Periods covering 3789 days, SPs ranging from 91 to 244 days long

Upper Principal L6 Shallow L1 to L4



# BOUNDARY CONDITIONS (I)

Constant Head Boundaries assigned around perimeter of the model in Layers 1, 2 and 4 (Shallow), and Layer 6 (Upper Principal)

- Shallow Aquifer Layers
	- Water Levels originally exported from Basin Model Layer 1 (Shallow)
	- Revised to reflect 2008 (Low), 2012 (High) and 2016 (Low) Potentiometric Conditions
	- CHs are interpolated between Stress Periods
- Upper Principal
	- Derived from Basin Model -projected Principal Aquifer water levels corrected using a ratio based on observed water levels at Shallow SAM-4/2, Upper Principal SAM-4/3, and Principal IRWD-3



## BOUNDARY CONDITIONS (II)

- Surface channels simulated using the river boundary condition
- River BC allows water to flow into or out of the model
- Model Inputs:
	- Channel bottom elevation-land surface (Lidar)
	- Stage =0.5 ft above channel bottom
	- Channel bed conductance
		- Calculated from channel length, width, bed thickness, and hydraulic conductivity,
	- Only conductance was varied during calibration



## BOUNDARY CONDITIONS (III)

- Source Site Extraction Systems simulated using the well package of MODFLOW
- Model Inputs:
	- Model Layer
	- Stress Period of Operation
	- Extraction Rate (average during Stress Period)
	- At some source sites, multiple wells are combined due to proximity to each other or to very low pumping rates.



### STUDY AREA - INITIAL HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY ESTIMATE

- Calculated thickness weighted average conductivity within each layer at each cell using published SBT-K relationship (Robertson, 2000) (used the geometric mean of range).
- Kriged the layer weighted hydraulic conductivity for each layer independently, using a distance weighting (5 times at 70 degrees) and setting conductivities at about half log scales between 1 and 300 feet per day



### CALIBRATED HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY ZONES LAYERS 1 & 2



#### DRAFT

# MODEL CALIBRATION

- Calibration Targets
	- Observed Water Level Elevations for Key Wells from RI
	- Synthetic values derived for wells 2Sam-7 through 2Sam-13
	- Vertical gradients between upper and lower shallow aquifers (qualitative)
- Achieved through combination of manual (trial and error) and inverse modeling (PEST)
- Additional model validation through particle tracking (flowpaths)



### SBGPP MODEL CALIBRATION (3/05/21)





Wtd\* - Weighted values exclude synthetics, observations outside of Study Area and in Layer 6

### Observed vs Simulated Heads (All Targets)



### Observed vs Residuals (All Targets)



Simulated Potentiometric Surface-Layer 2



# Simulation of the "Mergence Zone"



•Revised conceptual model suggests the presence of mergence zones near the southern model boundary

- •These are areas where the confining unit between the Shallow and Upper Principal Aquifers may be absent
- •Groundwater may flow from the Shallow to the Upper Principal Aquifer at those locations
- •Mergence zones were incorporated into the numerical model by increasing Simulated Potentiometric Surface-Layer 4 hydraulic conductivity in Layer 5

### Vertical Hydraulic Gradients



2Sam 2-1 and 2-2 2Sam 6-1 and 6-2

## Summary

- SBGPP Model was developed based on the Basin Model and current conceptual hydrogeologic site model
	- Changes in layering, BCs, K zones, extraction wells, added mergence zone
- Calibration appears reasonable across the simulated time period
- Calibration match is very good within Study Area for Layers 2, 3 and 4
- Simulated Potentiometric surfaces reasonably reflect observed gradients within and between subunits of the Shallow Aquifer
- The calibrated model is suitable for evaluation of remedial alternatives developed from feasibility study screening.

# Next Steps

- Currently conducting remedial simulations
- Focus on
	- Capture zone along groundwater extraction transects
	- Groundwater flux through insitu transects
	- Changes in velocity and direction of groundwater flow in vicinity of active and planned source site remedial measures
- Simulation results to be included in the Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation Tech Memo

### **APPENDIX M 06/17/21 RWQCB COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT FSISE FOR OCWD SOUTH BASIN**

#### **Nishida, Chad@Waterboards**



Hi Bill,

The following is our comments to the EA's response to our comments on the Draft FSISE for the South Basin:

1. **EA Response to Comment 5 (Section 1.3.1 Geologic and Hydrogeologic Framework:** The response should indicate: "*additional figures may be considered after the TAC reviews these figures in the draft FSDE.*" This is consistent with the meeting minutes dated April 7, 2021.

FSISE indicates that Layers 1-4 typically correspond to the Upper/Middle/Lower portions of the aquifer. The FSDE will need more detailed descriptions of the layering system with respect to vertical depth intervals since several of the correlations between Upper/Middle/Lower portions of the aquifer and Layers 1-4 are "*sometimes included… depending on location within the Study area*" which is not detailed enough to provide informed decisions making. As discussed in the meeting minutes, this is where Study area specific figures will be beneficial in defining vertical boundaries. We indicated that the layering system should be thoroughly explained, as mentioned in our comments and we may request plume maps in the detailed evaluation in higher density areas where an interim remedy may likely be implemented.

- **2. EA Response to Comment 7 (Section 1.7.1 Potential Human Health Risk):** This comment remains unaddressed. The quoted text and explanation have no basis when data suggests PFAS concentrations are related to source Sites within the Study Area. PFAS should be included as a COC and may have an impact on the design and implementation.
- **3. EA Response to Comment 10c (Section 2 Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs)):** It should be noted that the alternative for implementation of ISCO has been illustrated around the Armstrong channel. Considering the structure of the channel and hydrogeology of the area, applicability and potential negative impacts of any in-situ remedial actions on the water quality in the channel or reduction of effectiveness of the remedy should be evaluated and discussed in detail in the FSDE.
- 4. **EA Response to Comment 11 (Section 4.1 General Response Actions):** MNA is a general response action and is not a process option under treatment. Treatment is its own general response action that does not have MNA as a process option. MNA ICs should be evaluated as its own general response action and have monitoring as a process option.

Monitoring is already an IC to be implemented under all process options. Though MNA does not meet the RAOs by themselves, they may be used in conjunction with other technologies as part
of alternative development. We still recommend this change be made as to not misinterpret MNA as a treatment.

#### **5. EA Response to Comment 13 (Section 5.1 Effectiveness):**

Guidance for conducting RI/FS under CERCLA indicate, information available at the time of screening should be used primarily to identify and distinguish any differences among the various alternatives and to evaluate each alternative with respect to its effectiveness, implementability, and cost.

The analysis should be conducted at this phase, since some of the screened technologies did not have enough detail to support their screening with respect to effectiveness. It is understood that the purpose of the screening is to reduce the number of alternatives that will undergo more thorough analysis; however, evaluations should provide enough detail to distinguish it among other alternatives and justify the screening determination. The detailed evaluation should reevaluate the effectiveness, and the analysis should be conducted with sufficient detail so that decisionmakers understand the significant aspects of each alternative and any uncertainties associated with the evaluation.

During the detailed analysis, the alternatives brought through screening are further refined, as appropriate, and analyzed in detail with respect to the evaluation criteria. Alternatives may be further refined and/or modified based on additional site characterization or treatability studies conducted as part of the RI (i.e. geochemical analysis). The detailed analysis should be conducted so that decision-makers are provided with sufficient information to compare alternatives with respect to the evaluation criteria and to select an appropriate remedy.

Thanks,

**Nick** 

# **APPENDIX N 10/26/21 OCWD SOUTH BASIN TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (D1712505)**

# **MINUTES**

## **OCWD South Basin Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (D1712505)**

**October 26, 2021 9:00 am – 10:00 am**

#### **MS Teams Link [click here](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDNhYTgyNTctNjAwZi00MWU5LWIxNDgtY2Q3MjBmYmIyNTRh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221b493111-28b3-412b-a80d-006fa3bf5258%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228e981da5-c554-4bc0-ba3c-df0817711a00%22%7d)**

**Phone only: +1 (916) 535-3094, Phone Conference ID: 298 887 2#**

#### **Attendees:**



#### **9:00-9:05 Roll Call/Introduction** Bill Leever

#### **9:05-9:45 Discussion - Incorporation of FSISE comments into FSDE** All

A summary of the FS-related documents and review process that has occurred to date was provided for the new TAC members (Alex Hwang and Nicholas Ta). The TAC then discussed the June 17, 2021 RB response to EA's responses to the March 2021 TAC comments on the FSISE. The following numbered items correlate with the five June 17, 2021 RB comments:

- 1) Chris provided an explanation of how the conceptual hydrogeologic model layers are consistent with the numerical model and how EA prepared water quality dot-maps to represent CoCs in each layer (Layers 1 to 4). Following Chris's explanation, Chad indicated the RB will continue to review the FSDE and have no additional comments at this time. As discussed before, RB will likely request additional figures with more details for remedial design.
- 2) The RB commented that PFAS is an emerging compound and should be included as a CoC. Chris explained that PFAS was not included as a CoC because of the relatively low concentrations observed at the time the HHERA was being prepared and that there are no regulatory cleanup standards for PFAS. There was discussion by the group that some source sites in the South Basin have PFAS

detections, including a site north of Warner Ave. Chris asked the TAC if any sites in the SB have PFAS as a CoC, and Nick Ta responded that to his knowledge they do not<sup>1</sup>. Chris suggested PFAS and other emergent compounds be addressed, as necessary, during the 5-year remedy review. Nick Ta indicated that was a good approach as the DTSC and OEHHA have not promulgated any PFAS remediation standards. RB recommended sampling and analysis of the PFAS compounds in the preliminary design investigation (PDI).

Nick Amini indicated that MCAS Tustin has a significant PFAS plume that is moving off its site and that any SB remedy have a safety factor built in to address potential impacts on the remedy from offsite PFAS migration from MCAS Tustin. Nick Ta stated that he was the PM for the MCAS Tustin site and that their treatment system currently uses GAC and that it is effective at removing PFAS during treatment. Nick Amini stated that the PFAS plume from MCAS Tustin has already migrated off site and that on-site remedies will not capture the off-site plume.

DFA commented that City of Santa Ana drinking water wells also have PFAS contamination and because of that there are significant PFAS occurrences within the Basin. Hence, DFA recommends including PFAS evaluation in the FSDE or at least consider it during the pre-design phase.

- 3) The ISCO alignment along Armstrong Channel is a concern of the RB because of the groundwater/surface water connection in Armstrong Channel. Chris indicated that this is addressed in the FSDE. Nick Amini asked if those alignments that are within the RB's exclusion zone were scored lower than those outside of the exclusion zone. Chris indicated the only ISCO alignment within the exclusion zone, the Armstrong Channel alignment, was scored lower because of its proximity to Armstrong Channel and its potential for negative impacts. One other alignment, the alignment south of ITT, was removed from the FSDE in response to RB comments on the FSISE. However, Figure 2-4 of the FSDE erroneously showed the alignment south of ITT and would be corrected.
- 4) The FSISE and FSDE designated MNA as an in-situ technology process option and not a general response action. Roy stated that OCWD's goal is to handle MNA in the feasibility study consistently with CERCLA guidance. Chris indicated that he would research this further and revise the designation of MNA as needed. Nick Amini said he would research this issue further as well.
- 5) This RB comment is related to the level of detail needed to screen the alternatives in the FSISE. Chris indicated that the level of detail in the FSDE will be sufficient to evaluate remedial alternatives.

Aparjeet stated he would like the June 17, 2021 RB comment letter and a RTC table included in the FSDE. It was agreed that the letter and RTC table would be included in the FS report.

#### **9:45-9:55 Schedule Update** Bill Leever

Bill provided an updated schedule that shows the draft TAC comments on the FSDE will be received in mid-November 2021 and the draft FS will be submitted for TAC review by mid to late January 2022. Schedule attached.

#### **9:55-10:00 Walk-in Items, Action Item Recap, Adjourn**

Chad asked how EA established the 1.5x flux factor from ambient (non-IRM pumping) in the FSDE that was used to establish a significant water flow below which groundwater fluxes are considered negligible. Chris indicated there is no established standard for this type of evaluation and in his professional opinion, a change in flow velocity less than 1.5x would be insignificant in evaluating impact to source site remedial measures. He also

<span id="page-615-0"></span> $1$  After the TAC meeting, Nick Ta provided an email to Bill Leever stating that Embee detected PFAS in soil and groundwater during a November 2020 investigation.

noted that natural conditions can change the groundwater gradient, and in-situ remediation methods are typically driven and dictated by the delivery and consumption of amendments.

Chad and Aparjeet had questions on the groundwater modeling and backward particle tracking. Chad asked why a 10-year particle track was used instead of a 30-year, as was used in the cost analysis. Chris indicated the 10-year particle tracks analysis was sufficient to show hydraulic influence and the most impact to the source sites and therefore could be used to analyze flow direction changes; extending the particle track analysis beyond 10 years would result in particles following the ambient groundwater flow direction. Aparjeet asked why reverse particle tracking was used in the impact analysis. Chris indicated reverse particle tracking was preferred over forward tracking because it was better at showing groundwater flow direction changes. Forward particle tracking was better at showing capture zones, which becomes more important during remedial design. The FSDE indicated that the PDI will refine the design of the remedial action.

#### **Action Items:**

**1. OCWD and RB will independently review CERCLA guidance on clarification of MNA as an institutional control or general response action**

**2. Bill to set next TAC meeting for 2-weeks after receipt of TAC comments on FSDE**

**APPENDIX O 11/10/21 & 11/15/21 DTSC REVIEW OF DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY DETAILED EVALUATION, SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2, IRVINE, CALIFORNIA**



**Department of Toxic Substances Control** 



**Jared Blumenfeld** Secretary for **Environmental Protection** 

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director 8800 Cal Center Drive Sacramento. California 95826-3200

# **M E M O R A N D U M**

- TO: Nicholas Ta Project Manager Site Mitigation and Restoration Program Cypress Office FROM: Jesse Negherbon, Ph.D., P.E. Senior Hazardous Substances Engineer Engineering and Special Projects Office
- $\rightarrow$ REVIEWER: Perry Myers, P.E. Unit Chief, Engineering Services North Engineering and Special Projects Office
- SUBJECT: REVIEW OF DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY DETAILED EVALUATION, SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2, IRVINE, CALIFORNIA (Site Code: dtsc401983)

\_

DATE: November 10, 2021

### **DOCUMENT REVIEWED**

*Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation (Draft), South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2*; dated September 2021 and prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc for Orange County Water District.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Engineering and Special Projects Office (ESPO) of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has completed its review of the above-referenced draft feasibility study detailed evaluation ("FSDE") for Operable Unit (OU) 2 of the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project in Orange County, California. If you have any questions, please contact me at 916-255-6577, or via email at [Jesse.negherbon@dtsc.ca.gov.](mailto:Jesse.negherbon@dtsc.ca.gov)





**NO. 85988** 11/15/2021

Nicholas Ta Orange County Water District South Basin OU-2 FS Detailed Evaluation Review November 10, 2021

#### **COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. General Comment 1. The document does not contain conclusions or recommendations for the remedial alternatives and should be clearly marked "Draft".
- 2. General Comment 2. The FSDE includes cost estimates associated with civil infrastructure and should thereby be signed and stamped by a California licensed civil engineer with current registration, in accordance with the California Business and Professional Code Section 6735.
- 3. Section 54.4.73, Chemical Processes, Screening Determination. It's not clear why the FSDE identifies activated sodium persulfate as the recommended in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) oxidant at this stage of the evaluation process, beyond the observation that is has been used with some success for groundwater treatment at source areas located within OU-2. It may be more appropriate to include costs for a more comprehensive bench-scale study to evaluate multiple oxidants, and perhaps a pilot test, to identify the most suitable oxidant(s) and oxidant delivery methods for the conditions present across OU-2.
- 4. Section 7.2 Scope of Alternatives and Common Elements. The FSDE allocates \$50,000 per year to address activities associated with sealing legacy water supply wells within the OU. The basis for annual allocated sum is not clear, and it is not apparent that it is appropriate for the money allocated for this work to be distributed equally across each year of work included in the cost estimate. Given that these legacy wells may serve as continuing vertical conduits for contaminant transfer within OU-2, it may be of value to frontload the estimate with the money for this work to identify and seal these wells on a more expeditious schedule.
- 5. Figure 1-8, Trichloroethylene in Layer 3 Groundwater. This figure doesn't show any TCE data on it. It is unclear if TCE data is not available for Layer 3, or if the data was simply not shown on the figure. Please revise as necessary.
- 6. Appendix D, Detailed Cost Estimates for OU2 Interim Remedial Alternatives.
	- a. Table D-1 indicates that a discount rate of 2.5% was used for the net present value (NPV) evaluation. The NPV should be based on the applicable Real Discount Rate from the most current White House Office of Management and Budget Circular for 2020 A-94 Appendix C.
	- b. The cost estimate incorporates varying contingency factors across different elements of the remedial alternatives, with a maximum contingency of 35%. We consider this to be too low of a contingency for this FSDE and recommend that it is increased to align more closely with the US EPA and US Army Corps of Engineers guidance for

Nicholas Ta Orange County Water District South Basin OU-2 FS Detailed Evaluation Review November 10, 2021

> developing and documenting cost estimates during the feasibility study (EPA 540-R-00-002, July 2000).

c. The remedial alternative cost estimates include costs for investigation activities that range between \$1,000,000 and \$1,500,000 with the note that they are rough-order-of-magnitude estimates. The estimated investigation costs should be further substantiated for each individual remedial alternative.

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director 5796 Corporate Avenue Cypress, California 90630

### MEMORANDUM

- TO: Nicholas Ta Senior Environmental Scientist Site Mitigation and Restoration Program - Cypress
- FROM: Paul Pongetti, P.G. Senior Engineering Geologist Geological Services Branch – Cypress
- DATE: November 15, 2021
- SUBJECT: FEASIBILITY STUDY DETAILED EVALUATION, SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT OPERABLE UNIT 2

#### PCA 11018 SITE CODE 401983 WP 11 MPC RIFS WR# 20079420

As requested, the Geological Services Branch (GSB) reviewed the "Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation, South Basin Groundwater protection Project, Operable Unit 2." The Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation (FSDE) is dated September, 2021 and was prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) for Orange County Water District (OCWD).

The FSDE was prepared in in support of the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being conducted by OCWD to address Operable Unit 2 (OU2) groundwater contamination in the southcentral portion of the Orange County Groundwater Basin. OCWD is conducting the SBGPP RI/FS in cooperation with Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to develop an interim remedy or remedies to address groundwater contamination. The SBGPP Study Area is approximately five square miles and is located within the southeastern portion of the city of Santa Ana, the western portion of the city of Irvine, and the southwestern portion of











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the city of Tustin. The Shallow Aquifer System of the SBGPP Study Area is impacted by chemical contaminants derived from multiple industrial source sites. Most prevalent contaminants are volatile organic compounds, 1,4-dioxane, perchlorate, and hexavalent chromium (Cr6) which have been identified as constituents of concern (COCs).

The FSDE proposed the following Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) for interim remedial measures (IRMs).

- 1. Protect groundwater resources from further degradation by preventing lateral and vertical migration of high concentration COCs) into zones with lower concentrations of COCs within OU2, to the extent practicable;
- 2. Protect groundwater resources by decreasing potential for vertical migration of high concentration COCs from the upper/middle portions of the Shallow Aquifer System to the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells, to the extent practical;
- 3. Protect groundwater resources from further degradation by preventing the spread of COCs exceeding MCLs in the Leading-Edge areas of the plume, to the extent practicable;
- 4. Implement a reliable interim groundwater remedy(s) that is compatible with ongoing and planned remediation at source sites and associated off-property locations, where applicable;
- 5. Prevent discharge of COCs exceeding ecological risk-based concentrations from the Shallow Aquifer System to surface water channels; and
- 6. Prevent human exposure to contaminated groundwater with COC concentrations exceeding MCLs or other ARARs.

General Response Actions were identified as remedial technology categories that can achieve the RAOs for OU2 groundwater. The General Response Actions were used as a basis for identification and screening of groundwater remedial technologies and process options against three performance criteria: effectiveness, implementability, and cost. Based on their relative performance against the three criteria, some of the remedial technologies and process options were retained for assembly into remedial alternatives and further evaluation. The retained remedial technologies were developed into candidate remedial alternatives and then underwent a detailed evaluation.

Six candidate remedial alternatives were evaluated against performance criteria defined by the National Contingency Plan (NCP). The criteria consisted of threshold criteria and primary balancing criteria. The remedial alternatives were then compared and ranked based on the findings of the detailed analysis. The NCP modifying criteria, Regulatory

agency acceptance, and Community acceptance were not included and will be evaluated and documented later.

The six remedial alternatives were ranked according to the two threshold criteria, the five balancing criteria, and overall sustainably. Remedial alternatives were also evaluated for compatibility with source site remediation and the surface water channel in the study area (Armstrong Channel). The remedial alternative recommendation will be provided in the FS following Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) review of detailed evaluation of alternatives.

#### Comments and Recommendations

- 1. Executive Summary: "In response to DFA comments on the FSISE, it is noted that Interim Remedial Actions do not include numeric cleanup goals as part of RAOs, nor do they provide an estimate for cleanup times." 30 year project lifetime costs were presented for all alternatives. GSB understands there is significant uncertainty with cleanup time estimates given the unspecific numeric cleanup goals and variable source site remedial efforts; however, GSB recommends relative cleanup timeframes for remedial alternatives be provided in the FS to evaluate alternatives and associated cost more accurately.
- 2. Executive Summary: "Consistent with the preceding USEPA guidance, OCWD intends to implement IRMs that will be consistent with any final remedy, if required." GSB recommends the FSDE include a discussion of possible final remedy RAOs to evaluate consistency of the IRMs with a future final remedy. For example, it would be useful to understand if the final remedy RAOs are expected to include restoration of groundwater to its designated beneficial use.
- 3. Section 1.5, Conceptual Site Model: "There are numerous contaminant source areas within the Study Area. Some of the VOC source areas contain dense nonaqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) or residual DNAPL (Aquilogic, 2015) that will continue to act as long-term sources of contamination to off-property groundwater if not contained or removed." GSB agrees that DNAPL is a longterm source for dissolved-phase groundwater contamination and identifying DNAPL source zones is an important component of the conceptual site model and critical to the selection of IRMs. GSB recommends that boundaries of suspected DNAPL source zones be identified in the FS and investigated further, if necessary. Additionally, GSB recommends phasing the construction of monitoring wells in these areas so information obtained from initial drilling and well installation informs the Conceptual Site Model (CSM) and decisions about siting subsequent monitoring, extraction and/or injection wells.

- 4. Section 1.5, Conceptual Site Model: "Remediation of source areas is expected to be conducted by potential responsible parties in tandem with the interim remedy resulting from this RI/FS." Source removal is the most effective way to prevent further degradation of groundwater resources (RAO 1) and source removal is relevant to the effectiveness, reliability, and cost of the interim and final remedies selected for OU2. For the interim and final remedies to be successful, groundwater upgradient of the treatment areas must make progress towards consistent RAOs. GSB recommends the remedial design include standardized advisory RAOs and performance goals for source site remedial efforts to ensure compatibility with the selected IRMs for OU2.
- 5. Section 1.6.1, Potential Human Health Risk. This Section explains that Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) did not appear to be related to sites and were not retained as COCs. GSB is concerned about the representativeness of PFAS sampling results used for this evaluation and GSB recommends OCWD provide more explanation as to how their evaluation was completed. It's not clear how many source sites were sampled for PFAS and GSB recommends PFAS be retained as a COC until more sites are sampled. GSB notes that Embee Plating is located within OU2 and completed a preliminary investigation for PFAS in 2021. The PFAS investigation included collection of 15 soil samples from five soil borings and groundwater samples from 13 wells. PFAS was detected in both soil and groundwater. Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) was detected in 10 of the 13 groundwater samples with the highest concentration of 15,200 ng/L reported at EP-16C. Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) PFBS was also detected. DTSC has requested a workplan for additional PFAS investigation. Details can be found on Envirostor:

https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/final\_documents2?global\_id=30340013 &doc\_id=60484984.

- 6. Section 5.4.3, Monitoring: This Section describes long-term groundwater monitoring as a component of containment and in-situ response actions and explains how monitoring data will be used. GSB recommends groundwater monitoring data also be used to demonstrate continued IRM compatibility with ongoing and planned remediation at source sites. GSB recommends the groundwater monitoring objectives be better aligned to the RAOs as follows:
	- a. GSB recommends monitoring data be used to provide an interpretation of upgradient groundwater conditions and trends in contaminant concentrations (RAO1, RAO4). For example, identify rebounding concentrations from a previous source site remedial effort.
- b. GSB recommends monitoring include surface water sampling results, if needed, to determine exceedance of ecological risk-based concentrations or other ARARs (RAO 5).
- c. Groundwater monitoring should include a discussion of the any water supply well COC concentrations exceeding drinking water MCLs or other ARARs (RAO 6).
- d. For in-situ technologies, GSB recommends that groundwater monitoring data be used to evaluate treatment byproducts detrimental to source site remedial efforts (RAO 4).
- e. For groundwater extraction and treatment (GET), GSB recommends that groundwater monitoring data be used to evaluate changes in groundwater fluxes and directions of flow near source sites that may affect their remedial efforts (RAO 4).
- 7. Discharge to the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) publicly owned treatment works (POTW) Reclamation Plant No. 1 in Fountain Valley was retained in the FSDE as a discharge option for groundwater extraction and treatment (GET), and included in Remedial Alternatives 3 and 6. GSB recommends the discharge standards be included in the FSDE and compared to the expected GET effluent concentrations. In the event that discharge standards are modified or exceeded, or unanticipated concentrations of COCs are encountered in extracted groundwater, contingency groundwater treatment costs should be provided and discussed.
- 8. The screening of remedial technologies and process options in Section 5 indicates that perchlorate and Cr6 have not been identified as significant contaminants in the areas that may be considered for OU2 IRMs, although they were designated as OU2 groundwater COCs. Membrane processes were retained as a response action related to the injection of treated groundwater for Remedial Alternative 4, while ion exchange was not. GSB recommends retaining these two technologies and comparing the costs. Additionally, GSB recommends including the costs for perchlorate and Cr6 analysis in the cost estimates due to their designation as OU2 groundwater COCs.
- 9. Groundwater extraction and in situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) transects located south of East Warner Avenue, north of Dyer Road and east of Cherry Aerospace are presented as alternatives (e.g., Remedial Alternative 5). On October 12, 2021 DTSC participated in a meeting with SOCO West consultants (Geosyntec) to discuss potential locations for a replacement monitoring well which was installed in 2016 at 1312 East Warner Avenue. The general location of the well

> is south of East Warner Avenue and east of Cherry Aerospace and Geosyntec reported difficulty in obtaining site access for a replacement well. This property is currently owned by Calpine Corporation (Calpine) and used as a battery energy storage project. Southern California Edison (SCE) operates an electrical substation to the South. Access for well installation purposes may be challenging at these two properties and GSB recommends OCWD explore accessibility with Calpine and SCE as soon as possible and incorporate the findings into the FSDE.

If you have any questions, please telephone me at (714) 484-5481 or e-mail me at Paul.Pongetti@dtsc.ca.gov.

Peer Reviewed by: Natasha DiPietro, P.G.

**APPENDIX P 11/24/21 RWQCB COMMENTS ON FEASIBILITY STUDY DETAILED EVALUATION FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2 (GRANT AGREEMENT NO. D1712505)**





# Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 24, 2021

Bill Leever Principal Hydrogeologist Orange County Water District 18700 Ward Street Fountain Valley, CA 92708 [\(wleever@ocwd.com\)](mailto:wleever@ocwd.com)

#### **COMMENTS ON FEASIBILITY STUDY DETAILED EVALUATION FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2 (GRANT AGREEMENT NO. D1712505)**

Dear Mr. Leever,

We have completed our review of the "*Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation*" (FSDE) for the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project Operable Unit 2 (OU2) submitted on September 20, 2021. The FSDE was prepared by your consultant Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) and was submitted for our technical review as part of the reporting requirements listed in the Proposition 1 Grant Agreement (No. D1712505) for the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) between the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Financial Assistance (DFA). This letter provides our comments on the FSDE.

#### *Comments:*

- 1. General The U.S. EPA *Guidance on Feasibility Studies under* [Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act] *CERCLA* and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Part 300) do not reference a sustainability assessment. Please explain how this assessment impacts the remedy selection.
- 2. Section 2.2 Screening Levels The text states, "*The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted the same 50* [micrograms per liter] *µg/L standard for total chromium, but in 1991 raised the federal* [maximum contaminant level] *MCL to 100 µg/L. California did not follow US EPA's change and stayed with its 50 µg/L standard.*" We recommend using the hexavalent chromium MCL as soon as it is established. Please note, at the time of this letter the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) proposed adopting and implementing a regulation that establishes an MCL for hexavalent chromium in drinking water provided by public water systems in California. The State Water Board is considering adopting and implementing 1 of 17 proposed MCLs ranging from 1 to 15, 20, and 25 μg/L.

LANA ONG PETERSON, CHAIR | JAYNE JOY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

3. Section 5.3 Relative Cost – A sensitivity analysis should be conducted to assess the variations in specific assumptions associated with design, implementation, operation, discount rate and the effective life an alternative can have on the costs estimated. The results of the analysis can be used to identify upper and lower limits of cost estimates and will allow for more accurate contingencies or reserve funds. For projects with high operations and maintenance costs extending over a 30-year lifecycle or more, it is encouraged to include a sensitivity analysis with different discount rates.

#### 4. Section 7.2.2 Incorporation of RWQCB Data Gap Analysis –

This comment and associated sub-sections (a-k) reiterate areas where data is missing downgradient (or off-site) from sources of contamination, as stated in our November 21, 2019 letter titled, "*Summary of Data Gaps for The Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report – Orange County South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2 (Grant Agreement No. D1712505)*". The following were either not mentioned or not fully addressed in the FSDE.

*Alternative 2 Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA):*

- a. Bell Industries Off-Site (2) We do not believe that the data gaps identified apply only to Alternative 2. The same consideration of data gaps should also apply to Alternatives 3-6. The Area 2 G/I-1 alignment near Warner Avenue and the 55 freeway (55FWY) is located downgradient of MW-24, -24C, cone penetrometer test (CPT)-15, -114, -17, and -111. Additional sampling in this area is necessary for determining the lateral and vertical extent of contamination, since the existing CPT data (collected in approximately 2012) are outdated and are not representative of current conditions. In addition, this information will be useful in defining the extent of migration of contaminants of concern (COCs) across the 55FWY and the adjacent alignment length (G/I-1). This information will be beneficial to the development and effective implementation of an interim remedy.
- b. Holchem and Circuit One (5) We do not believe that the data gaps identified apply only to Alternative 2.and the same consideration of data gaps should also apply to Alternatives 3-6 below. The data gaps are directly related to Area 1 G/I-2. Specifically, CPT-100, -206, -104, and -180 were referenced, since the plume has comingled with historical discharges from other facilities in this area (bounded to the west by Holchem and Embee Plating sites, to the south by East Warner Avenue, to the east by Circuit One, and to the north by Barlen Enterprises). Investigation of this area will establish baseline conditions with respect to OU2, and provide vertical characterization of the subsurface zones that may benefit most from an interim remedy. Please note, Circuit One will be performing CPT/membrane interface probe (MIP) profiling, and will be collecting groundwater grab samples. The data from these efforts may contribute to the pre-design investigation (PDI) (e.g. used in the monitoring well installation and design).
- c. Cherry Aerospace Off-Site (8) For Alternative 2, we recommend this area encompass drinking water production well IRWD-3, since COCs were detected in nearby monitoring well, SAM-4. IRWD-3 was previously identified as the impaired drinking water source and is one reason for implementing interim remedial measures.

*Alternative 3-6 Proposed Interim Remedial Measures:*

d. Steelcase off-Site (4) – Our comments indicated the need for additional delineation adjacent to the 55 FWY between Bell Avenue and Valencia Avenue, since comingling of 1,1-dichloroethylene (1,1-DCE) and 1,4-dioxane have been

detected upgradient of Steelcase (MW-29B). More recent data that have been obtained since our issuance of that letter further support the need for the additional delineation. Results of additional groundwater investigation upgradient of the on-site source are available in the Second Half 2020 report prepared by Environmental Resources Management. Information in the report may be useful in your efforts to determine the extent of contaminant migration across the 55 FWY and the adjacent alignment length (Area 2 G/I-1).

- e. Area Bounded by South Grand Avenue, East Warner Avenue and the 5 FWY (7) - This area extends south and downgradient of Area 2 G/I-1 and the eastern edge of Area 1 G/I-2. Please revise the associated Areas in the figures.
- f. Cherry Aerospace  $(8)$  Our comments  $(8.a)$  also discussed the area southwest of Cherry Aerospace and west of drinking water production well IRWD-3; please include the area as per our request, or provide justification as to why this area was not included. Data from this area may be beneficial for designing the western edge of alignment Area 4 G/I-5. Similarly, comment (8.b) suggested future impacts to IRWD-3 and the possibility that pumping from IRWD-3 could cause vertical downward migration in monitoring well SAM-4. We recommend this area be further investigated if impacts to drinking water production well IRWD-3 remain a concern.
- g. Not included as a data gap within the FSDE: ITT Cannon (9) This comment was included for Alternative 2 only; however, we recommend this also be included for Alternatives 3-6. Our comment discussed the data gaps between SAM-5 and SAM-6 and CPT-123, -124, and -190. These data gaps are near Dyer Road and will apply to design and implementation of Alternatives 3-6, more specifically Area 1 G-8/I-10&11 and Area 4 G/I-5.
- h. Not included as a data gap within the FSDE: Dyer Business Park off-site (10) One of our comments was not included for both Alternative 2 and Alternatives 3- 6, with respect to Area 7 G/I-6. The omitted comment states, *"a. Since 2012, no data has been collected southwest of Dyer Business Park and north of SAM-7, therefore, the extent of the comingled COC plume may have migrated beyond the contour boundary since the time the groundwater grab samples were obtained. b. In addition, data gaps exist in the vicinity of SAM-7.*  [trichloroethylene] *TCE concentrations in SAM-7A (39.5-49.5* [feet below ground surface] *ft bgs) have fluctuated from approximately 32. 1µg/I to 49 µg/L. No data exists from 0-39.5 ft bgs and step-out borings in all directions have not delineated nor identified an upgradient source/potential downgradient impacts."* Data from the Dyer Business Park would be relevant to help design G/I-6 near SAM-7. Without additional monitoring points in the area, SAM-7 will be the only monitoring well north of the intersection of West MacArthur Blvd and the 55 FWY. Please include the omitted comment in the discussions for Alternative 2 and Alternatives 3-6.
- i. South of the intersection of Redhill Avenue and Gillette Avenue (14) Please explain why Area 6 and Area 8 for Alternative 2 (MNA alternative) have more extensive coverage when compared to Area 6 and Area 8 of Alternatives 3-6. We recommend that Area 6 and Area 8 be consistent for both Alternative 2 and Alternatives 3-6. Data from Areas 6 and 8 will aid in the design of Area 8 G/I-7, since those areas are upgradient of the proposed remedial action.
- j. South of the 55 FWY and MacArthur Blvd (15) The data gap analysis did not address our comment (15.b), which states, "*In addition, SAM-8A is screened from 33-43 ft bgs and does not address shallow contamination from 0-33 ft bgs.*" Shallow groundwater grab samples ranged from 25-30 ft bgs, and monitoring

wells near MacArthur Blvd. are screened from ~10-20 ft bgs with depth to water of approximately 10 ft. Please include/address this data gap.

- k. Baxter Healthcare and Edwards Lifesciences off-site (16) The data gap analysis did not address our comment (16.a), which states, "*Further delineation of the leading edge of the plume is needed vertically and laterally located to the west of MacArthur Blvd, bounded by Redhill Avenue and Main Street, and in the general vicinity of CPT-174.*" Contaminants may have migrated beyond the locations where groundwater grab samples were collected in approximately 2012. The extent of contamination is not delineated. Updated and complete information and clear delineation of the extent of contamination will benefit the design and optimization of G/I-7 alignment, which may need to be extended westward across MacArthur Blvd.
- 5. Section 7.2.3.2 Alternative 2 Monitored Natural Attenuation The text states, "*Biodegradation of 1,4-dioxane has been observed to occur under aerobic conditions at many other sites but not all. Although slightly aerobic conditions exist in the shallow*  aquifer, the length of the 1,4-dioxane plumes (greater than several thousand feet) *indicates the 1,4-dioxane plumes are not being controlled by natural biodegradation or any other destructive process…*". The statement is inaccurate, since anaerobic conditions are typically observed in the subsurface of the South Basin; however, it is true that appropriate microorganisms that degrade 1,4-dioxane are neither native nor dominant in the South Basin. Aerobic conditions have been seen at some, but not the majority of sites. Similarly, other prevalent COCs in the South Basin (such as 1,1 dichloroethene at concentrations as low as 5 µg/L) are shown to inhibit the destruction of 1,4-dioxane. Please remove, or provide justification for, the statement that biodegradation of 1,4-dioxane has been observed to occur under aerobic conditions at many sites.
- 6. Section 7.2.3.5 Alternative 5 The text states, "*Based on an average injection* [radius of influence] (*ROI*) *of 12 feet, injection wells would be installed on 24-foot spacings.*" There is a large variation in hydraulic conductivity with depth and location within the study area; therefore, it is unlikely that an "average" ROI can be realistically applied to the entire study area. The summary table of source site injection spacing should be dependent on its location within the study area and the targeted vertical intervals, which may be significantly more or less transmissive. We recommend proposing appropriate values for ROI in the different and varying hydrogeologic conditions that exist in the study area. Alternatively, please provide sufficient technical details to justify the selection of the average 12 ft ROI and its application to Layers 1, 2, and 3.
	- a. Please note, this generalized ROI assumption is likely to influence costs associated with Alternative 6 and its overall ranking, not the overall ranking of Alternative 5. Alternative 6 incorporates fewer injection wells compared to Alternative 5 (In-situ Chemical Oxidation [ISCO] only), but still assumes an average 12 ft ROI, even though the injections are located within Area 1 as opposed to spanning the entire study area. A more careful assessment of realistic ROI values, based on local lithology and horizontal and vertical extent of COCs, may identify portions of the study area that would benefit from targeted injection instead of implementing a full injection alignment.
- 7. Section 7.3.3. Alternatives 3 through 6 The text states, "*For the purposes of this evaluation, simulated groundwater flux increases of less than a factor of 1.5 from ambient (non-IRM pumping conditions) are considered negligible and are not further*

*discussed below.*" Please provide justification for determining that a flux factor of 1.5 from ambient conditions is negligible.

- 8. Section 7.3.3.7: Steelcase Incorporated Please note that the RP has recently informed us about their plan to submit a work plan proposing mass removal for impacted soil and in-situ remediation of contaminated groundwater at this source site.
- 9. Section 7.3.3.8: Troy Computer The responsible party for this site is no longer planning to perform groundwater remediation; please update this section and associated sections. Please refer to our September 20, 2021 comment letter, which discusses source zone impacts. The potential selection and implementation of a groundwater remedy is on hold, pending further groundwater investigation and a feasibility study.
- 10. Section 7.3.3.9: GE Plastics The downgradient in-situ bioremediation of perchlorate has been conducted through the use of biobarriers installed along Deere Avenue in both the first and second water-bearing zones, and in Alton Parkway in the second waterbearing zone. Please refer to the "*off-site biobarrier*" Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) monitoring reports from 2018 to the present for details.
- 11. Section 7.3.3.12: Baxter Healthcare The text states that the site "*is planning to perform additional ISCO using activated persulfate into the intervals 28 to 38 feet bgs (Layer 1) and 40 to 50 feet bgs (Layer 2) on the property.*" The Site has already implemented pilot scale remediation using persulfate activated with sodium hydroxide. Please refer to the WDRs monitoring reports from February 2020 to the present for details.
- 12. Tables 7-1 and 7-2 Operations, maintenance and monitoring (OM&M). We recommend the addition of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as monitoring parameters, using U.S. EPA Method 537.1 for chemical analysis. This information will benefit the PDI by determining the current extent of PFAS. In addition, this information will be required in the monitoring and reporting plan established by the WDRs.
- 13. Table 8-2 This table indicates the degree to which the treatment process is irreversible and states, "*Once COCs are removed from groundwater, the process is irreversible.*" It should be expected that treatment processes are irreversible; however, the analysis should be done with respect to the remedial action (i.e. extraction and injection [E&I]). Please identify and evaluate any expected adverse effects of remedial construction and operation to the groundwater basin and state whether the effects are reversible or irreversible (i.e. modification to extraction frequency and rates; response to inducing unfavorable gradients; contingencies if higher than expected contaminant concentrations must be treated; conflicts with implementation of a final remedy, and the potential for back-diffusion to occur).
	- a. If any alternative appears to have significant irreversible effects, the user should state the mitigative measures (i.e. reduction in E&I flow rates, halt E&I in all or portions of the alignments) to be taken in conjunction with the alternative. If success of the remedial alternative may be compromised by the mitigative measures, this should also be explained.
	- b. Please explain to what extent the operation of extraction and injection alternatives can be modified (extraction/injection rates reduced or halted in the event that unfavorable gradients may be induced).
	- c. The footnotes for Criteria Ranking do not match Alternatives 1-6; please revise.
- 14. Figure Series 1 Figures depicting the Former Standard Screw products site are inaccurate. The figures inconsistently identify well screens in either Layer 2, Layer 3, or the wells are omitted when they should have been included. In addition, hexavalent chromium data were included, yet it has not been identified as a COC for the site, nor has it been quantified via laboratory analysis of samples from the site's monitoring wells. Conversely, 1,4-dioxane has been identified at the site, but the analytical data for this constituent were omitted from the figures.
- 15. Figure 1-8 Layer 3 was not populated for TCE; please correct the figure.
- 16. Figure 2-4 Alternative 5 Please remove the OU2 ISCO alignment along Daimler street.
- 17. Figure Series 7 We recommend adding a satellite view base map, which will help reviewers visualize nearby facilities and features with respect to particle tracks.
- 18. Appendix B: Potential Federal and State of California Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) - This section did not address the comments provide in our July 25, 2018 letter titled "*Comments on Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Deliverable…*".
	- a. Please include a response to comments table addressing our July 25, 2018 comments.
	- b. Page 3 indicates, "*potentially relevant and appropriate.*" We recommend changing the category to "to be considered" (TBC).
	- c. State Water Resources Control Board Notification Levels (NLs) California Health and Safety Code §116455 and §116271. NLs are advisory levels. not enforceable standards that potable water suppliers must comply with. If a chemical is detected above its notification level in a drinking water source, certain requirements and recommendations apply. We recommend that NLs be categorized as TBC.
	- d. Order No. R8-2002-0033, as amended by Order Numbers R8-2003-0085 and R8-2013-0020. These Orders establish General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Reinjection/Percolation of Extracted and Treated Groundwater Resulting from the Cleanup of Groundwater Polluted by Petroleum Hydrocarbons, Solvents and/or Petroleum Hydrocarbons Mixed with Lead and/or Solvents for the Santa Ana Region. This State ARAR should be listed in Appendix B as relevant and appropriate.
	- e. Please include General Waste Discharge Requirements for In‐Situ Groundwater Remediation at Sites within the Santa Ana Region, Order No. R8-2018-0092. This Order applies to the discharge of chemical and biological amendments into the subsurface to perform cleanup of groundwater and soil contamination within defined "treatment zones." This State ARAR should be listed as relevant and appropriate.

#### 19. Appendix D Detailed Cost Estimates for OU2 Interim Remedial Alternatives –

- a. General Please provide more details for "*Southern California Unit Costs*" references.
- b. Please provide a reason for variations in rough order of magnitude (ROM) cost for testing: sampling, hydraulic testing and documentation for Alternatives 2-4. Alternative 2 (installation of 187 monitoring wells) has a cost of \$1M while Alternative 3 (installation of 94 monitoring wells) has the same Cost of \$1M. On the contrary Alternative 4 (installation of 84 monitoring wells) has a cost of

\$1.5M. We recommend the explanation be added to the footnotes or in the Cost Estimate Source column.

- c. Please describe how the estimated number of "*Permit/Access Well Easements*" were calculated.
- d. For several Alternatives under Monitoring and Reporting "*sampling year 4*" there appear to be 4 years of annual sampling proposed at each monitoring well. Please explain why the quantity of sampling is doubled for years 5-8 when this covers the same 4-year time span. The quantity is also doubled for reporting; please correct and/or clarify.
- e. Table D-6, Alternative 6 This alternative contains the same number of 4" PVC extraction wells as Alternatives 3 and 4, although extraction alignment G-8 is not included. The number of extraction wells is expected to be lower when implementing partial injection alignments; please explain and/or correct this table.
- 20. Appendix E: Part I Model Construction Calibration Report
	- a. Figure 4.10 Please explain the negative model layer thickness.
	- b. Appendix A-1 Summary of Remedial Extraction wells and Appendix A-2 Calibration Targets – For each well we recommend including columns for upper bound and lower bound of each corresponding layer above mean sea level (amsl). This is intended to help visualize the vertical layer interval at individual wells.
- 21. Appendix E: Part II Model Simulation Results
	- a. The modeled residuals of Layer 1 are more positively skewed and indicate an underprediction of water level elevations. The text further states, "*Multiple factors could be affecting the quality of the calibration statistics of Layer 1 including: calibration targets from this layer may be from wells that are completed in perched systems that are not connected or continuous throughout the study area; may be from wells that are screened across multiple layers; or water levels at the wells used as calibration targets may be affected by localized remedial groundwater extraction systems.*" Please elaborate on how this calibration is "*still reasonable*" in terms of the level of detail necessary in the FSDE. In addition, please discuss whether the proposed PDI monitoring wells are intended to increase the calibration of Layer 1, or to focus on the more transmissive units in Layer 2.
	- b. Figure 5.28, Locations for Assessing Horizontal and Vertical Hydraulic Gradients, SBGPP Model – Please explain the determination of "*Key wells*" (SAM-2, -6, -7, - 8) used to qualitatively assess calibration in the fluctuations of potentiometric cycles and relative vertical gradients between Layers. As part of the remedial investigation, several other multi-completion monitoring wells were analyzed, including existing or newly installed wells (i.e. SAM-1, -3, -4, -5, -9, -10, -11, -13). Including additional wells is expected to improve calibration of the study area; please revise the figure to include the appropriate wells, or explain why these monitoring points were excluded.
	- c. Section 4.0 Sensitivity Analysis The text states, "*Hydraulic containment is assessed through capture zone analysis that incorporates reverse particle tracking to each* [Feasibility Study Groundwater Extraction Site] *FSES extraction well for a simulated period of 10 years.*" (1) Please explain why forward particle tracking was not performed and if it will be performed in the future when PDI data are available. After forward particle tracking is performed, reverse particle tracking simulations are usually performed to validate the forward run. (2)

Forward particle tracking results are generally considered a better way to assess the three-dimensional (3D) capture zone and are more representative than reverse particle tracking. In addition, the 2008 U.S. EPA guidance document, "*A Systematic Approach for Evaluation of Capture Zones at Pump and Treat Systems*" states the following: "*Tracking particles in reverse from initial locations around the extraction wells, to define the capture zone, is a commonly used approach. However, it can lead to erroneous interpretations in two and three dimensions*..." The guidance further states that with reverse particle tracking, the capture is highly dependent on the number of particles released and their location (horizontal/vertical). In addition, the results may not show contributions to the well from aquifers above and/or below the screened interval. As such, in Section 3.3 Hydraulic Containment Assessment, please explain item (1) and provide justification for item (2) since forward particle tracking results are generally considered a better tool for assessing 3D capture zone.

d. Table 3-1 and 3-3 – This appendix defines flux as cubic feet per day or gallons per minute (gpm), a flow rate. Flux is defined as a volume per area per unit of time. Please revise and explain that the flux is the flow rate per unit crosssectional area of the cell or alignment of cells.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this deliverable. If you have any questions, please contact Chad Nishida at (951) 782-3252, or by e-mail at [chad.nishida@waterboards.ca.gov,](mailto:chad.nishida@waterboards.ca.gov) or you may contact me at (951) 782-7958, or by email at [nick.amini@waterboards.ca.gov.](mailto:nick.amini@waterboards.ca.gov)

Sincerely,

A. Nick Amini, Ph.D., P.E. Chief, Site Cleanup Section

cc: Roy Herndon – OCWD [\(rherndon@ocwd.com\)](mailto:rherndon@ocwd.com) Chris Ross – Engineering Analytics [\(CRoss@enganalytics.com\)](mailto:CRoss@enganalytics.com) Ken Puentes – Engineering Analytics [\(KPuentes@enganalytics.com\)](mailto:KPuentes@enganalytics.com) Julie Macedo – SWRCB, OE [\(julie.macedo@waterboards.ca.gov\)](mailto:julie.macedo@waterboards.ca.gov) Alex Huang – SWRCB, DFA [\(alex.huang@waterboards.ca.gov\)](mailto:alex.huang@waterboards.ca.gov) Aparjeet Rangi – SWRCB, DFA [\(aparjeet.rangi@waterboards.ca.gov\)](mailto:aparjeet.rangi@waterboards.ca.gov) Nicholas Ta – DTSC [\(Nicholas.ta@dtsc.ca.gov\)](mailto:Nicholas.ta@dtsc.ca.gov) Yolanda Garza – DTSC [\(yolanda.garza@dtsc.ca.gov\)](mailto:yolanda.garza@dtsc.ca.gov) Emad Yemut – DTSC [\(emad.yemut@dtsc.ca.gov\)](mailto:emad.yemut@dtsc.ca.gov)

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# **APPENDIX Q 12/01/21 OCWD SOUTH BASIN TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (D1712505)**

# **MINUTES**

## **OCWD South Basin Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (D1712505)**

**December 1, 2021 9:00 am – 11:00 am**

# **MS Teams Link [click here](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTEyNjI1NTItNmY1Yy00YWY0LWFlMDItNTA1Mjc4OGM1NjA3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221b493111-28b3-412b-a80d-006fa3bf5258%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228e981da5-c554-4bc0-ba3c-df0817711a00%22%7d)**

**Phone only: +1 (916) 535-3094, Phone Conference ID: 526 187 225#**

#### **Attendees:**



#### **9:00-9:05 Roll Call/Introduction** Bill Leever

Bill Leever conducted roll call and introductions

#### **9:05-10:45 Discussion – TAC FSDE Review Comments and FSDE/PDI data cut-off date**

All

Chris Ross provided a summary of the Feasibility Study (FS) document compilation process. The draft Feasibility Study Initial Screening Evaluation (FSISE), including redline-strikeout (RLSO) revisions associated with Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) review comments, were incorporated into the draft Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation (FSDE) that was circulated for TAC review and comment. Now that TAC comments have been received on the draft FSDE, the plan is to: 1) accept previously circulated RLSO changes and 2) make new RLSO revisions in response to the recent TAC comments on the draft FSDE. The resultant document will become the draft FS and will include a table summarizing TAC review comments and responses to comments received on the draft FSDE. As such, final versions of the FSISE and FSDE tech memos are unnecessary and will not be prepared. The draft FS will be submitted to the TAC for review and comment, and when all TAC comments have been addressed a draft final FS will be submitted for Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) review and comment. Upon incorporation of SAG comments into the draft final FS, the post-SAG review FS will be submitted for final TAC review.

The TAC then reviewed comments from TAC members in the order they were received by the Orange County Water District (OCWD), including the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Engineering and Special Projects Office (ESPO), DTSC Geologic Services Branch (GSB), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RB), and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Financial Assistance (DFA).

DTSC ESPO 1 - Chris noted the comment.

DTSC ESPO 2 - Chris Ross stated that a professional civil engineer or geologist with at least 5-yrs experience in RI/FS type work will sign and stamp the FS.

DTSC ESPO 3 - Chris Ross stated that 1,4-dioxane requires an aggressive oxidizer for effective remediation and that is why sodium persulfate was specified in the FSDE. He also expects some bench and/or pilot testing of various oxidizers during the preliminary design investigation (PDI) phase, depending on the interim remedy selected.

DTSC ESPO 4 - Chris Ross stated the locations of abandoned wells are unknown and therefore the District cannot accurately front-load the costs of sealing legacy supply wells. The \$50,000/year estimate is conservative in that it is unlikely that a legacy supply well will be discovered and properly destroyed/sealed every year for the next 30 years.

DTSC ESPO 5 - Roy Herndon stated the revised figure was sent to the TAC on 10/13/2021. The revised figure will be incorporated into the FS.

DTSC ESPO 6 - Roy Herndon stated the District uses a net present value (NPV) of 2.5%. The District will clarify the selection of the NPV used in the FSDE in the response to TAC FSDE comments.

DTSC GSU 1 - Chris Ross stated that the FSDE evaluated interim remedies and that the 30-year operating period used for cost comparison is an estimate and that extending the time period would not change the perspective. Paul Pongetti commented that the question was raised to show the relative differences between the alternatives. Chris stated that groundwater extraction and ISCO would require about the same remediation time. MNA would be longer. Chris stated the FS can incorporate these items in the text, but the 30-year remediation period used for costing would remain the same.

DTSC GSU 2 - Chris Ross stated the remedial action objectives (RAOs) were for the interim remedy not the final remedy. Paul Pongetti stated the RAOs would help support the justification for the remedy and the RAOs typical of a final remedy should be described in the FS. Chris indicated that the text will be revised to indicate that the final RAOs will likely incorporate restoration of the groundwater to the designated beneficial use to the extent practical.

DTSC GSU 3 - Chris Ross stated DNAPL is not a component of the OU2 contamination and is not expected to be encountered during the PDI or remedial system installation. Paul Pongetti asked that the FS explicitly state that DNAPL is not expected in OU2.

DTSC GSU 4 - Chris Ross stated that he agreed with the comment. Paul Pongetti asked if it was worth including advisory RAOs in the FS, which establish some standard of cleanup at the source sites that are needed to successfully implement the OU2 remedy. Roy Herndon responded that it may not be appropriate to list RAOs for source sites in this FS. Chris stated that the same objectives as to the status of source site remediation can be achieved through the 5-year remedy review process, with integrated OU1 and OU2 remedy reviews.

DTSC GSU 5 - Chris Ross stated there are low concentrations of PFAS in groundwater, but there is no basis for it to be a chemical of concern (COC). Chad Nishida asked if PFAS testing will be conducted during the PDI. Chris responded it would and that the waste discharge requirements would also require PFAS testing of groundwater, depending on the interim remedy selected. Paul Pongetti asked if the Orange County Sanitation District would require sampling for PFAS. Chris responded there are no such requirements at present and added that the Groundwater Replenishment System treats for PFAS.

DTSC GSU 6 - Chris Ross stated that upgradient monitoring would be conducted by the source site(s).

#### DTSC GSU 7 - This was addressed in a previous comment

DTSC GSU 8 - Chris Ross stated that the principal perchlorate groundwater contamination area is carved out of the FS as it is being addressed by others (i.e., source sites) and indicated that hexavalent chromium was not widespread within OU2. Ion exchange was not included in the FSDE for targeted inorganic constituent treatment because the membrane technology outlined in Alternative 4 was used to reduce a broader suite of inorganic constituents (total dissolved solids). Paul Pongetti asked that this be addressed in the FS text.

#### DTSC GSU 9 - Noted

RB 1 - Chris Ross stated that the Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) likes to include a sustainability assessment (SA) in the alternatives analysis. A SA may have more benefit if the remedial alternatives were ranked more closely based on evaluation criteria or during the remedy design phase, but it is still useful in the FS stage as a secondary (i.e., non-regulatory) comparison metric. Chad Nishida asked that the FS elaborate on the need for the SA and explicitly state that it is a secondary consideration, as the draft FSDE provided more detail in the SA sections than some of the other required evaluation criteria which is based upon applicable U.S. EPA guidance.

#### RB 2 - Noted

RB 3 - Chris Ross stated that a cost sensitivity analysis would likely have little impact on how the alternatives are ranked based on the large range in costs and similar uncertainties between alternatives. Chad Nishida asked that this be explained in the FS text considering the long remediation durations for each alternative.

RB 4 - Chris Ross indicated the Data Gap Analysis was meant to address the data gaps identified by the RB that may be, in part or whole, addressed during the PDI and through ongoing monitoring associated with each alternative, where applicable. The RB requested that all the data gaps be maintained and revisited during the PDI for the selected alternative. The data gaps will be included in an appendix of the FS and will be retained for further consideration during the PDI.

RB 5 - Chris Ross acknowledged the RB's comment on biodegradation and indicated the statement was a generalized statement that was not specific to OU2. This will be revised in the FS to clarify this and incorporate appropriate references.

RB 6 - Chris Ross stated that the average 12-foot radius of influence used for ISCO wells in the draft FSDE was based on literature review of source sites and that it would need to be refined during PDI work, depending on the interim remedy. After discussion, and as indicated in the comment, it was agreed that given the large cost differences between Alternative 5 and other alternatives a sensitivity analysis was not required for Alternative 5. The RB indicated that a sensitivity analysis for Alternative 6 - combined ISCO and pump and treat - would be beneficial. Injection may be proposed in specific areas for the interim remedy or future full-scale remedies. A sensitivity analysis for Alternative 6 will be conducted using a varied radius of influence dependent on and supported by subsurface geology of specific layers near the proposed alignments (radius of influence increases in more transmissive zones).

RB 7 - Chris Ross stated there is no published standard for a 1.5x change in groundwater flux as a metric for significant groundwater change. Further explanation and justification of the 1.5x value will be provided in the FS.

#### RB 8 through RB 11 - Noted

RB 12 - Chris Ross stated this will be addressed in the PDI water quality assessment as discussed in DTSC GSU comment 5. Roy Herndon indicated that PFAS sampling would be conducted to identify current conditions, but the sampling frequency may be reduced in subsequent events.

Nick Amini raised a question about the cut-off date for incorporating new information into the FS/PDI. Specifically, he wanted to know at what point in the District's efforts to implement OU2 remediation would the District revise its remedial plan if a source site remedy has been implemented by the responsible party in an area that may have a conflict with the District's plan.

Roy Herndon responded that the District intends to use the same data cut-off date for the RI and FS. The District will consider new information including issues raised by the Regional Board through the design phase of the interim remedy.

RB 13 - Chris Ross indicated that the table can include information/ranking on the level of control and adequacy/reliability of the technologies. Nick Amini stated the interim remedy must have the flexibility for modifications (i.e., reducing pumping rates of extraction wells or halting the remedy if adverse conditions are observed). Chad Nishida noted that some water treatment systems require a certain volume of influent to operate which may limit the ability to halt extraction entirely. Therefore, these variables and contingencies should be thoroughly explained and should not rely solely on a ranking level (Please see comment for requested details).

RB 14 - Chris Ross stated the figures will be updated.

RB 15 - See DTSC EPSO comment 6.

RB 16 - Chris stated the OU2 ISCO alignment along Daimler street has been removed (Complete).

RB 17 - Chris Ross stated the figures were developed using images of existing published source site figures and the images would obscure an underlying aerial photo. Chad Nishida asked for the aerial photos to be added even though they would be obscured by the source site images. Chad stated the intent of this comment is to capture existing features near the site being analyzed to help identify particle tracking paths relative to adjacent sites.

RB 18 - Roy Herndon said he'd check with legal to address using "relevant and appropriate" vs. "TBC."

RB 19 - Chris Ross stated the unit costs in the FSDE are based on experience at other sites in Southern California and professional experience and are consistent across alternatives.

#### DFA Comments

Due to the lack of time remaining, the TAC just addressed critical DFA comments. The response to comments (RTC) will be included in a separate RTC document, which will be circulated to the TAC by December 17, and following TAC review will be incorporated into the FS.

DFA 10 - Chris Ross stated that reverse particle tracking is best suited for the screening analysis presented in the FS and forward particle tracking is appropriate when the exact locations of groundwater extraction wells are known. Chad Nishida indicated that U.S. EPA guidance documents specify forward particle tracking be used in this type of analysis and verified with reverse particle tracking. Chris responded that forward particle tracking would be used during the design phase. Aparjeet stated that DFA still recommends adding forward particle tracking in addition to the reverse particle tracking in the FS. Additional discussion regarding Appendix E was requested.

#### **9:45-9:55 Schedule Update** Bill Leever

Bill Leever provided a schedule update that includes moving back the submittal of the FS and public outreach documents to February 2020. Bill with work with Aparjeet on processing a submittal schedule modification.

#### **9:55-10:00 Walk-in Items, Action Item Recap, Adjourn**

None

#### **Action Items**

- **1. Bill Leever to send all TAC review comments to all TAC members**
- **2. RB and District to discuss the need for a sensitivity analysis on the ROI of ISCO wells**
- **3. RB and DFA to further discuss the particle tracking analysis**
- **4. Roy Herndon to check with legal about using "relevant and appropriate" vs. "TBC"**
- **5. Bill to prepare a document submittal schedule extension request and send to Aparjeet**
- **6. District to provide RTCs to the TAC by December 17, 2021**
- **7. Bill to send South Basin Geotracker link to Nick Ta**

# **APPENDIX R 12/15/21 OCWD SOUTH BASIN TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (D1712505)**

# **MINUTES**

## **OCWD South Basin Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (D1712505)**

**December 15, 2021 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

#### **MS Teams Link [click here](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Yzg0NDBhNjctZjUzNS00MjEyLThkMGItY2ZkMTYxMGZkM2Yz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221b493111-28b3-412b-a80d-006fa3bf5258%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228e981da5-c554-4bc0-ba3c-df0817711a00%22%7d)**

**Phone only: +1 (916) 535-3094, Phone Conference ID: 718 087 500#**

#### **Attendees:**



#### **3:00-3:05 Roll Call/Introduction** Bill Leever

Bill Leever conducted roll call and introductions

#### **3:05-4:00 Discussion – Continuation from 12/1/2021 TAC Meeting** All

This meeting was held to address the below action items from the 12/1/2021 TAC meeting:

- **RB and District to discuss the need for a sensitivity analysis on the ROI of ISCO wells** The District will include, in the FS, a sensitivity analysis by increasing the ROI for ISCO injections for Alternative 6. A ROI of 25 feet (the maximum used at any source site in OU2) will be used and the associated costs will be developed and presented in the FS.
- **RB and DFA to further discuss the particle tracking analysis** The District will run forward particle tracking at a single alignment and compare the results with previously completed reverse particle tracking. The District and TAC will then meet to discuss the results and determine the most appropriate particle tracking approach for the FS.

#### **Action Items**

**1. Bill Leever to set meeting in mid-January 2022 to review forward particle tracking results.**

**APPENDIX S 12/16/21 RESPONSES TO THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEW COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY DETAILED EVALUATION, SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2 (PROP. 1 GRANT AGREEMENT NO. D1712505). REVISED JANUARY 2022**

#### **(ponse to Comment**

*<u>I* The sustainable in potential remedial alternative numerically</u> sustainable). The sustainability assessment **with the National Oil and Hazardous I** (NCP) (40 Code of Federal Regulations **[CFR], Part 300), commonly referred to as the National Contingency Plan or NCP. Specifically, Solid Waster and Emergency Response (OBFER)** was referenced, which states **nsider these Principals for Greener** cluding site investigation, evaluation of **c** design, implementation, and operation of **new or existing text was revised to indicate that the sustainability** ancing Criteria, should be used in the ray be considered in some instances to be a **findary Threshold and Balancing Criteria. More** be conducted during the design phase to rall processes.

ased on the large spread in costs and **ng the Remedial Alternatives, a sensitivity and that the relative cost estimates and c** develop or support reserve estimates. **The cost estimate is settimed after PDI data** design process.





#### **(ponse to Comment**

Analysis was meant to address the data gaps i part or whole, addressed during the PDI and ith each alternative, where applicable. **The** rel of effort to select specific locations and **depths of data and is reserved for the selected a** phase of work. The level of effort to **n** in the FS for each alternative does not comparison and selection of an alternative. antial number of monitor wells as outlined ion alternatives, extraction well monitoring antially increases the monitoring data for **tified by the RWQCB that were not incorde into the interpretent with the reviewed prior to conducting PDI to** tive. The information developed during the aps for the selected alternative, and there **parent during implementation of the** *f* **s** year remedy reviews.

**RWQCB November 21, 2019 letter titled, Examplemental Remedial Investigation Report – Protection Project, Operable Unit 2** re added to Appendix G of the FS.

#### **Responses to the Technical Advisory Committee Review Comments on the Draft Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation, South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2 (Prop. 1 Grant Agreement No. D1712505)**





#### **Responses to the Technical Advisory Committee Review Comments on the Draft Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation, South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2 (Prop. 1 Grant Agreement No. D1712505)**










#### **(ponse to Comment**

**<u>ISSENT AND INCOMEDIATE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS Of increasing the ROI </u> for ISCO inferential Exco in Fig. 3. A ROI of 25-feet (the maximum used at any istent with our discussion on December 15,** eloped and presented.

**Prime text in all angles in groundwater flux are dictated by nts.** It is not uncommon to have changes in **hominations. For example, water and index levation contributions of the Shallow Aquifer Statem With the Suly 2020 South Basin Report indicated that horizontal hydraulic gradient comparison as high of 0.0028 to low of 0.002 and 0.0001 and 0.0001 and 0.000 respectively. The variable ambients discussed as a represent changes in groups in groundware in groundware in 1.4 to 1.7. Thus, is a factor of a factor of the factor of the factor of 1.5 appears reasonable and technically supported.** 















#### **(Propose to Comment**

**Prediction table foot to indicate that the cost reference to** actual contracted costs for similar work ironmental investigation/remediation sites.

**The Roman cost is estimate as the name implies. The placeholder include to include the include to the is a general cach alternative. Alternatives 2 and 3 do** wever, injection technologies (ISCO and re**indigection** ost for Alternatives 4 through 6.

**tells is based on costs obtained from similar where** as a surrogate for OU2 work that may be

sampling volume and sampling/reporting **costs between and within alternatives are: 1) the sampling frequencies vary by ifference in laboratory analyses between INA Alt 2 has small analyte list years 1-4, then larger repeated every 5-years).** Table D-6, ction wells for this alternative, versus 75 n well for Alignment G-8) that are specified

in Layer 1 and potential causes, however, flow and hydraulic gradients are close to those ulic conductivity of this layer, it is not nt migration pathway (lateral) and the model urposes of the FSDE/FS. However, future monitor wells, and data from these wells the data analysis during Remedial Design

























**TABLES**





# **TABLE 1 RESPONSE TO RWQCB COMMENTS ON APPLICABLE OR RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

# **TABLE 1 RESPONSE TO RWQCB COMMENTS ON APPLICABLE OR RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**





**FIGURES**



FIGURE 1 Layer 1 Forward Particle Tracks and Groundwater Sample Results Orange County Water District South Basin







FIGURE 2 Layer 2 Forward Particle Tracks and Groundwater Sample Results Orange County Water District South Basin

#### **PIPER Groundwater Sample Point** • Non-Detect less than MCL/NL  $\bullet$  Detect less than MCL/NL  $\circ$  Non-Detect greater than or equal to MCL/NL • MCL/NL to 10x MCL/NL  $\bullet$  >10x MCL/NL to 100x MCL/NL  $\bullet$  >100x MCL/NL Forward Particle Track Layer 3 Groundwater Extraction Transect !? OU2 Extraction Well Screened within Layer **EIII** Study Area Source Sites 0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet NOTES: MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level NL = Notification Level  $>$  = greater than  $x = times$ Groundwater sample points represent the maximum result relative to MCLs of any compound of concern at that location and depth Particle paths are only illustrated for this layer of model, in some cases the particle path migrates vertically into other layer(s), in these instances, the particle path is illustrated on other layer figures.





FIGURE 3 Layer 3 Forward Particle Tracks and Groundwater Sample Results Orange County Water District South Basin

# **APPENDIX T 01/10/22 OCWD SOUTH BASIN TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (D1712505)**

# **MINUTES**

# **OCWD South Basin Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (D1712505)**

**January 10, 2022 11:00 pm – 12:00 pm**

#### **MS Teams Link [click here](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YjYwZGZiNmYtNGZmZS00NDJjLWExYWUtZWQ2NGJiZjNmZjU0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221b493111-28b3-412b-a80d-006fa3bf5258%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228e981da5-c554-4bc0-ba3c-df0817711a00%22%7d) Phone only: +1 (916) 535-3094, Phone Conference ID: 122 807 879#**

#### **Attendees:**



#### **11:00-11:05 Roll Call/Introduction** Bill Leever

Bill Leever conducted roll call and introductions

#### **11:05-12:00 Discussion – Comparison of Forward Particle Tracking to Reverse Particle Tracking**

All

This meeting was held to address the below action items from the 12/1/2021 TAC meeting and 12/15/2021 meeting of a sub-group of the TAC:

• **RB and DFA to further discuss the particle tracking analysis**

Engineering Analytics (EA) performed forward particle tracking at each groundwater extraction alignment and compared the results with previously completed reverse particle tracking (10-year period). Particle tracks were placed 250-500ft upgradient of each proposed extraction well alignments with approximately 100ft of horizontal spacing, which is intended to demonstrate containment of a certain amount of groundwater. Vertically, particles were placed in the middle of Layers 1 and 2, and the upper one-third of layer 3 The following summarizes the results of the analysis:

Alignment G-1: The draft FSDE included extraction in Layers 2 and 3. Extraction in Layer 2 captures groundwater in both Layers 1 and 2, and extraction in Layer 3 captures groundwater from this layer. Layer 3 extraction was erroneously omitted from the forward particle tracking analysis and the District will add extraction from Layer 3 in this analysis to be consistent with the simulations included in the draft FS. The forward particle tracking analysis in Layers 1 and 2 shows containment of particles and confirmed the results of the reverse particle tracking.

Alignments G-2 and G-3: Extraction in Layers 2 and 3 in G-2, and in Layers 1, 2, and 3 in G-3. It was noted that particles released in Layer 1, upgradient of alignment G-2 accounted for groundwater extraction at the Gallade site. For G-2, extraction in Layer 2 captures groundwater in both Layers 1 and 2. Some particles between the two alignments G-2 and G-3 escape capture, but they are captured by alignment G-5 to the south. It was noted the gap between these two alignments was to not influence the SOCO West remedy. The forward particle tracking analysis shows containment of particles and confirmed the results of the reverse particle tracking.

Alignment G-4: Extraction in Layer 1 only. The forward particle tracking analysis shows containment of particles and confirmed the results of the reverse particle tracking.

Alignment G-5: Extraction in Layer 2 only. Layer 2 extraction captures groundwater in both Layers 1 and 2. The forward particle tracking analysis shows containment of particles and confirmed the results of the reverse particle tracking.

Alignment G-6: Extraction in Layer 2 only. Layer 2 extraction captures groundwater in Layers 1, 2 and 3. The forward particle tracking analysis shows containment of particles and confirmed the results of the reverse particle tracking.

Alignment G-7: Extraction in Layers 2 and 3. Layer 2 and 3 extraction captures groundwater in Layers 1, 2 and 3. The forward particle tracking analysis shows containment of particles and confirmed the results of the reverse particle tracking.

Alignment G-8: Extraction in Layers 2 and 3. Layer 2 and 3 extraction captures groundwater in Layers 1, 2 and 3. The forward particle tracking analysis shows containment of particles and confirmed the results of the reverse particle tracking.

Aparjeet requested the forward particle tracking analysis be included in the FSDE response to comments and that it includes the methods and assumptions used in the analysis.

Chad asked if the results of the analysis changed any of the FSDE conclusions and Chris responded they did not change any of their conclusions. Chad also said he had sent a few comments on the draft response to comments to the TAC in an email and would resend to the group today.

#### **Action Items**

- **1. District to include forward particle tracking analysis in the response to comments on the FSDE, including the methods and assumptions used in the analysis.**
- **2. District will include the Layer 3 extraction in Alignment G-1 (erroneously omitted) in the modeling analysis and in the draft FS.**

# **APPENDIX U 11/08/22 OCWD SOUTH BASIN TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (D1712505)**

# **MINUTES**

# **OCWD South Basin Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (D1712505)**

**November 8, 2022 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

#### **MS Teams Link [click here](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MGI3ZWZkYWItZmUyNS00YTFlLWFhM2EtNDZjZmUwMTY2OTVh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221b493111-28b3-412b-a80d-006fa3bf5258%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228e981da5-c554-4bc0-ba3c-df0817711a00%22%7d)**

**Phone only: +1 (916) 535-3094, Phone Conference ID: 667 284 882#**

#### **Attendees:**



#### **2:00-2:05 Introduction** Bill and Chad

Bill welcomed the group and provided an overview of the agenda. Chad introduced Eric Lindberg who is taking over for Ann Sturdivant, and Mona Behrooz who is taking over for Nick Amini.

#### **2:05-2:25 Review of Feasibility Study SAG Comments and RTCs** All

Bill opened the discussion to the TAC to address any specific comments and/or RTCs of concern. Chad started the discussion with RWQCB comments on the RTCs, including:

- 1) SOCO Comment 8-02 (Page 33 of 112): There is duplicate wording in the referenced comment that should be removed.
- 2) DRSS Comment 1-01 (Page 91 of 112): Chad stated that the two DRSS remediation alignments have not been implemented at full scale. Mona indicated that only ~20 feet of the ~100-foot onsite DRSS remediation alignment had been implemented as a pilot test, pending a proposal at full scale. Additionally, the offsite pilot test alignment was not fully successful and that a new pilot test has been implemented in the offsite injection wells. No changes to the RTC were suggested.
- 3) All other RTCs on the DRSS comments were satisfactory to the RWQCB.
- 4) Chad stated all RTCs on the SOCO comments were satisfactory to the RWQCB, but wanted to solicit input from Nick Ta, as SOCO is under DTSC oversight.

Nick Ta stated all RTCs on the SOCO comments were satisfactory to the DTSC. Nick also stated that SOCO concerns on the impacts of OCWD remedies on the SOCO remedy should be addressed during the remedial design phase.

There were no additional discussion items from the TAC on the RTCs.

#### **2:25-2:35 Schedule Update and Walk-in Items** TAC

Bill suggested the following FS finalization process and tentative schedule, to which the TAC agreed was appropriate:

- 1) The District will issue a RLSO of the FS to the TAC for review
- 2) TAC will have approximately 2 weeks to review the RLSO FS
- 3) TAC will meet in early to mid-December to discuss issues related to the RLSO FS, and, pending no additional changes to the FS, District will issue to the public a Final FS with RTCs attached.

#### **Action Items:**

- **1. District/EA to incorporate changes identified in the RTCs into a RLSO FS and submit for TAC review by 11/22**
- **2. District to schedule next TAC meeting for early to mid-December**

# **APPENDIX V 11/28/22 RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT, SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2**

# *Technical Memorandum*



# **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This response to comments document has been prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) on behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) in support of the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP).

The purpose of this document is to provide responses to comments received from the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) on the Draft Operable Unit 2 (OU2) Feasibility Study (FS) report for the SBGPP prepared by EA dated April 5, 2022. Comments made on the Draft OU2 FS Report were received from five entities during the comment period (April 8, 2022 to July 6, 2022). Comments were also received from an additional entity after the public comment period had closed.

During the comment period, OCWD received comments from the following: a letter from the Irvine Ranch Water District dated June 27, 2022; a letter from Geosyntec Consultants on behalf of Soco West, Inc. (SOCO) dated June 30, 2022 with supplement provided by Geosyntec Consultants on July 5, 2022; a letter from Newmeyer Dillion on behalf of DRSS-I, LCC (DRSS) dated July 5, 2022; an e-mail from CDM Smith on behalf of Textron dated July 5, 2022; an e-mail from Carl Benninger dated July 6, 2022. In addition, the California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) transmitted comments prepared on June 16, 2022 within an e-mail to OCWD on July 11, 2022. All of the comment documents will be included in the Administrative Record.

## **2.0 RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

There were numerous comments received from two of the six entities, many of these comments had common topics and/or were repetitive and do not require revision of the Draft OU2 FS Report. The comments, associated response and need to revise Draft OU2 FS Report are presented in the Attachments to this Technical Memorandum (Attachments 1 to 6).

The Draft OU2 FS Report will be revised in response to several comments as well as additional considerations as outlined in the following.

### **2.1 Updated Cost Estimate for Alternatives**

The cost estimates presented in Appendix D in the Draft OU2 FS Report are being revised to incorporate: a response to comment; include a pre-treatment process for selected Alternatives; and correct several errors identified in the Draft OU2 FS Report cost estimates as described below.

As indicated in response to SOCO comment 11 (Attachment 1), the Replenishment Assessment (RA) and Basin Equity Assessment (BEA) costs have been removed from the cost estimates for Alternatives 3, 4 and 6. This revision reduces the estimated cost for Alternatives 3, 4 and 6/6a by approximately \$9.6, \$1.9 and \$9.4 million dollars (not accounting for net-present value [NPV]), respectively.

The Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) has ordinances with respect to industrial discharges to sanitary sewers. In the past, OCSD had allowable concentrations of total toxic organic  $(TTO)^1$  compounds in water discharged to the sewer system. TTO includes many of the volatile organic compound chemicals of concern (COC) for OU2. The current OCSD standard does not include a reference to  $TTO<sup>2</sup>$ . Since TTO are no longer referenced in OCSD ordinance, the Draft OU2 FS Report has been updated to include use of liquid phase granular activated carbon (LGAC) as a pre-treatment for Alternatives 3 and 6 prior to sewer discharge. This revision increases the estimated cost for Alternatives 3 and 6/6a by approximately \$3.8 and \$3.5 million dollars (not accounting for NPV), respectively.

The equations in the Draft OU2 FS cost estimate spreadsheet were incorrectly linked with respect to permitting costs for operations and maintenance (O&M) for Alternatives 3 and 6. This correction increased the cost estimate for Alternative 3 by approximately \$2.8 million dollars, decreased the estimated cost Alternative 6 by approximately \$4.9 million dollars and decreased the estimated cost of Alternative 6a by approximately \$4.3 million dollars (not accounting for NPV).

<sup>1</sup> OCSD Ordinance OCSD-39 https://records.ocsan.gov/WebLink/Browse.aspx

<sup>?</sup>id=89699&dbid=0&repo=OrangeCountySanitationDistrict&cr=1

<sup>2</sup> OCSD Ordinance OCSD-53 https://records.ocsan.gov/WebLink/Browse.aspx

<sup>?</sup>id=89699&dbid=0&repo=OrangeCountySanitationDistrict&cr=1

The above revisions change the estimated cost for Alternatives 3, 4 and 6; however, individually and collectively they do not change the cost ranking presented in the Draft OU2 FS Report. The following table provides a revised summary of the estimated cost of each Alternative.



<sup>a</sup> The 2.5% discount rate is based on OCWD's financial personnel input and is the typical current discount rate used by OCWD for assessing longer-term projects.

MNA = monitored natural attenuation

GET = groundwater extraction and treatment

ISCO = In-situ chemical oxidation

POTW = Publicly owned treatment works  $N/A$  = not applicable

The above revised cost estimates will be reflected in the next revision to the Draft OU2 FS Report, which will be referred to as the Final Draft OU2 FS Report. The Final Draft OU2 FS Report will also be revised to incorporate the LGAC as a pre-treatment process for Alternatives 3 and 6/6a.

## **2.2 Evaluation of OU2 Groundwater Extraction Influence on SOCO Source Remedy**

As indicated in response to SOCO comment 2, the OU2 groundwater flow model grid spacing was refined to incorporate the approved SOCO source area remedy which has yet to be installed (refer to response 2-03 in Attachment 1). The Draft OU2 FS Report evaluated change in groundwater flow direction and change in hydraulic gradient at the SOCO property to assess the influence of OU2 groundwater extraction in the vicinity of the SOCO source control remedy. The evaluation presented in the Draft OU2 FS Report did not include the SOCO source control remedy in the model due to practical limitations described below. The results of the additional evaluation are also summarized below.

The groundwater flow model presented in the Draft OU2 FS Report did not incorporate the design of the SOCO source control remedy because the SOCO remedy has low permeability slurry walls that are much thinner than the OU2 model grid spacing (refer to response 2-03 in Attachment 1). As indicated in the Draft OU2 FS Report, refinement of the yet to be selected OU2 remedial alternative will occur during the design process. However, in response to SOCOs comment, the OU2 FS groundwater flow model grid spacing has been refined to further evaluate the potential effects of OU2 groundwater extraction on SOCO's approved source control remedy by reducing the grid spacing across the SOCO site.

The revised OU2 groundwater flow model was modified by incorporating the slurry walls, flow gates and permeable reactive barriers (PRB[s]) into the model using the available SOCO design

parameters (*Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan, Former Service Chemical Facility, 1341 East Maywood Avenue, Santa Ana, California*, prepared by Geosyntec Consultants, dated July 14, 2015 and *Remedial Design and Implementation Plan, Former Service Chemical Facility 1341 E. Maywood Avenue, Santa Ana, California*, prepared by Geosyntec Consultants, dated November 2016) in order to simulate OU2 FS pumping with the SOCO remedy in place (refer to response 2-03 in Attachment 1). The model simulations indicated that the direction of groundwater flow within the SOCO treatment area was relatively unaffected by OU2 FS pumping. This indicates that OU2 FS pumping has a lesser effect on the change in groundwater flow direction through the SOCO source area than presented in the Draft OU2 FS Report. The hydraulic gradient within the SOCO treatment area was then calculated with and without OU2 FS pumping. Given the refinement of the OU2 groundwater flow model grid and incorporation of the SOCO source area remedy into the model, a more direct comparison of change in groundwater flux (amount of groundwater flow) through the SOCO source area remedy could be evaluated. The groundwater flux through the SOCO treatment area was assessed using the revised OU2 groundwater flow model with and without OU2 FS pumping. The amount of water flowing through the SOCO treatment zone increased by approximately 1.7 with OU2 pumping as compared to the non-OU2 pumping condition. This change in flux through the SOCO source area remedy is smaller than was inferred based on the change in hydraulic gradient, indicating a lesser influence than was presented in the Draft OU2 FS Report.

The Final Draft OU2 FS Report will be revised to include a brief description of the additional groundwater flow modeling as summarized above and described in more detail in response 2-03 in Attachment 1. The associated tables and alternatives compatibility relative to the SOCO site will also be revised.

## **2.3 Typographical and Minor Editorial Revisions**

In addition to the revisions described in Sections 2.1 and 2.2, typographical and/or minor editorial revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are being implemented in response to comments and additional review as described below.

In response to SOCO comment 5 (Attachment 1), the term Land Use Covenants (LUC) will be removed from tables to be consistent with the Draft OU2 FS Report text which explicitly states that LUC's will not be part of institutional controls.

In response to DRSS comment 1 (Attachment 2), in-situ treatment areas associated with the DRSS property will be labeled on associated figures in the Final Draft of OU2 FS Report.

The definition for "OU2" has been revised to be consistent with the definition presented in the Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report (*Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report, Orange County Water District South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, Operable Unit 2*, prepared by Hargis + Associates, Inc., dated May 6, 2020).

## **2.4 Signature**

As indicated in the DTSC response to comments (Attachment 4), the Final Draft OU2 FS Report will be signed by a California Professional Geologist or Professional Civil Engineer with relevant experience.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (858) 883-3710.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher G. A. Ross. P.G. 4594, CHG 221 Senior Professional Hydrogeologist

# **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**



# **ATTACHMENT 1 RESPONSE TO SOCO WEST, INC COMMENTS, DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT, SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2**

# *ATTACHMENT 1 RESPONSE TO SOCO WEST, INC COMMENTS, DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT, SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2*

This response to comments document has been prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) on behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) in support of the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP).

This attachment is in response to Geosyntec Consultants' June 30, 2022 comments and July 5, 2022 supplement (Subject Comment Document) regarding the April 5, 2022 SBGPP OU2 Feasibility Study report (Draft OU2 FS Report) prepared by EA. Geosyntec Consultants provided these comments on behalf of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) member Soco West, Inc. (SOCO).

## **ORGANIZATION**

Comments in the Subject Comment Document were divided into selected categories developed by the author. These categories included comment topics, some of which were repeated between the selected categories. Given the number of comment topics within the individual selected categories, this Attachment organizes the responses to comment topics as follows:

- The selected category developed by the author of the Subject Comment Document is used as major sections in this attachment
- The text from the Subject Comment Document is presented under the "Comment" subsection to the respective major section of this attachment. Each "Comment" heading incorporates the major section information (Subject Comment Document Comment ID, e.g., 1,2,3, etc.) and the sequence of the respective comment within the major section (1 to n). For example, the resultant "Comment" identifier for the second major section (e.g., Subject Comment Document comment 2) and the third comment topic would be "Comment 2-03".
- A response is presented to each comment immediately following the "Comment" subsection; and
- A statement as to whether the Draft OU2 FS Report is being revised with respect to the subject comment.
# **COMMENTS PRESENTED IN INTRODUCTION**

There was an introductory section presented in the June 30, 2022 document, portions of which are restated in following comment subsections.

# **Comment 0-01:**

*"Soco developed a Feasibility Study and Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Holchem property in compliance with the NCP, which was approved as a final remedy by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Soco's RAP was prepared and submitted to DTSC in accordance with a Corrective Action Order (CAO) issued by DTSC to Soco on April 1, 2014.2 Soco's RAP addresses contamination at Holchem (identified in OCWD's Draft FS as part of its Operable Unit [OU] 1) and the groundwater plume south of Warner Avenue (identified in OCWD's Draft FS as part of Area 1 within OU2, as shown on Figure 7-2 of the Draft FS). Soco's RAP consists of a permeable reactive barrier to treat chlorinated solvents in groundwater, enhanced in-situ biodegradation (EISB) for 1,4-dioxane in groundwater, and contingency injection wells along Warner Avenue in case the OU-1 remedy does not meet remedial goals (collectively referred to as the "Soco remedy"). Soco's RAP for the commingled plume downgradient from Holchem consists of groundwater management, which is comprised of monitored natural attenuation (MNA) and engineering and/or land use controls to manage any potential exposure risks posed by contaminants in hydrostratigraphic unit (HSU) 3, as defined in Soco's RAP, which corresponds with Layer 2 as defined by OCWD.*

*DTSC also approved a November 2015 Remedial Design and Implementation Plan (RDIP) for the Holchem Site. As noted in both the FS/RAP and the RDIP, the Soco remedy was designed to reduce concentrations of chlorinated solvents to California Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) at OU1. Similarly, the EISB remedy for 1,4-dioxane will be optimized through bench-scale and field-scale pilot testing to reduce concentrations to the notification level. Implementation of the DTSC-approved Soco remedy was simulated with a groundwater flow and solute fate and transport model. Geosyntec's modeling results indicate that: (1) the existing plume in OU2 would begin to shrink in fewer than 20 years; and (2) in 50 years from implementation of the OU1 remedy, the leading edge of the plume of trichloroethene (TCE) in OU2 groundwater with concentrations above 200 micrograms per liter (µg/L) would travel approximately 3,000 feet downgradient from the Holchem property, or approximately to Dyer Road. Thus, following implementation of OU1 remedies at the Holchem property and other source sites associated with the plume, natural attenuation would be a dominant process in OU2 that would reduce contaminant concentration and migration."*

# **Response 0-01A:**

SOCO states that their remedy relies on applied remedial technologies at and immediately downgradient of their property (north of Warner Avenue) and monitored natural attenuation (MNA) in a downgradient area (south of Warner Avenue). For the purposes of this document, the applied remedial technologies near the SOCO property will be referred to as the SOCO source control remedy. They also state that should their remedy (the combined source control and downgradient MNA) not meet remediation goals they have a "contingency" plan to address this

failure. As stated in their comment, the contingency plan would be applied at Warner Avenue approximately 150 feet downgradient of their source control remedy, while their furthest downgradient monitor well<sup>[1](#page-685-0)</sup> is over 2,100 feet downgradient of Warner Avenue. In essence, SOCO's contingency plan is focused on failure of their source control remedy and, if implemented as described, would not address the majority of SOCO's plume area which extends well south of Warner Avenue. In addition, SOCO's contingency plan will not address the large volume of downgradient groundwater contamination originating from their source site if MNA does not perform as they forecast, and they are proposing a contingency action which is the same as the original source control action that will have failed if the contingency action is required<sup>2</sup>.

## **Response 0-01B:**

SOCO claims that MNA will result in a shrinking trichloroethylene (TCE) 200 microgram per liter (ug/l) plume emanating from their property in about 17 years after they construct their source control remedy. In their comment, they clearly stated that the SOCO source control remedy was designed to achieve California Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) in groundwater for chlorinated solvents. The California MCL for trichloroethylene (TCE), one of SOCOs chlorinated solvents, is 5 ug/l. There are multiple issues with the assumption that their source control remedy will effectively meet the California MCL remediation goal, some of which are highlighted in the following:

- The SOCO FS model and associated assumptions indicate that without effective source remediation at the SOCO site the TCE 200 ug/l plume will continue to expand. As of the date of this document, almost seven years have elapsed since DTSC approved the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and SOCO has not implemented the remedy, allowing for continued expansion of the SOCO plume. The SOCO FS model and associated assumptions also indicate that, even with effective source remediation at the SOCO site, the TCE 200 ug/l plume will continue to expand for approximately 17 years. Expansion of the TCE 200 ug/l plume is not consistent with the OU2 FS Remedial Action Objectives (RAO[s]) 1 or 2.
- The SOCO FS model and associated assumptions did not evaluate expansion of the leading edge of the SOCO plume. SOCO used the term "leading edge" when referencing the 200 ug/l TCE plume. This concentration is 40 times higher than the MCL for TCE and clearly does not address the "leading edge". As such, the SOCO FS/RAP does not address the OU2 FS RAO 3.
- The starting conditions for the TCE 200 ug/l plume in the SOCO FS model were less extensive than observed field conditions. The location of the 200 ug/l plume boundary is shown near SOCO monitor well MW-45B; however, the concentration of TCE in this

<span id="page-685-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> SOCO monitor well MW-45B is the furthest downgradient monitor well based on the direction of groundwater flow in SOCO hydrostratigraphic unit (HSU) HSU3, which is generally consistent with the direction of groundwater flow in OU2 Layer 2.

<span id="page-685-1"></span><sup>2</sup> SOCO's source area remedy is relying on Enhanced In Situ Biodegradation (EISB) for treatment of 1,4-dioxane. It is a bit of circular logic that the contingency technology used to "remedy the failure" is the same technology that could have resulted in the failure.

monitor well was  $1,300 \text{ ug/l}^3$  $1,300 \text{ ug/l}^3$  $1,300 \text{ ug/l}^3$  indicating that the TCE 200 ug/l plume was more extensive than initial conditions presented in the SOCO FS.

The SOCO FS Model, like any groundwater flow model, is a simplified version of real-world systems<sup>[4](#page-686-1)</sup>. Appropriately constructed groundwater flow models provide estimated flow; however, there is always some degree of uncertainty. Solute transport models rely on the groundwater flow model and the underlying input assumptions and factors, including advection, dispersion and chemical reactions (including but not limited to. contaminant degradation), with each having their own set of uncertainties. The SOCO FS/RAP model incorporated a single SOCO contaminant, TCE, and a single degradation half-life for this contaminant based on treatability study results<sup>[5](#page-686-2)</sup>. The soil and groundwater samples collected to support the microcosm studies presented in the referenced treatability study report were collected from locations north of Warner Avenue<sup>6</sup> and as such are not representative of conditions within the MNA area downgradient (south) of Warner Avenue. Furthermore, the treatability study report concluded that one of the SOCO contaminants of potential concern, 1,4-dioxane<sup>7</sup>, did not exhibit any degradation<sup>8</sup>. The concentration of 1,4-dioxane in the furthest downgradient SOCO monitor well was over 50 times<sup>[9](#page-686-6)</sup> greater than California's drinking water Notification Level and over 100 times<sup>10</sup> greater than the USEPA Regional Screening Level for tap water. Matrix diffusion is another factor adding to uncertainties in solute transport simulations. Predictive sensitivity analysis is normally done to quantify the effect of uncertainty in parameter values on model simulation results<sup>11</sup>. Given the number and complexity of parameters used in the SOCO FS Model, predictive sensitivity analysis should have been conducted on the flow and transport parameters including but not limited to reduction or elimination of the TCE/degradation product halflives and incorporation of 1,4-dioxane into model simulations.

<span id="page-686-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> From a sample collected in October 2017, Geosyntec Consultants Fourth Quarter 2017 Groundwater Monitoring Report for SOCO.

<span id="page-686-1"></span><sup>4</sup> Jacob Bear, Milovan S. Beljin and Randall R. Ross (EPA/540/S-92/005) indicated that "no model is unique to a given ground-water system".

<span id="page-686-2"></span> $\frac{5}{5}$  Section 1.3 of Appendix A to the SOCO FS/RAP dated July 14, 2015 prepared by Geosyntec Consultants.

<span id="page-686-3"></span><sup>6</sup> Section 5.2 of the Remedial Action Plan prepared by Geosyntec Consultants dated October 12, 2012 indicates microcosm samples were collected from MW-27 and MW-22. Sirem Treatability Study indicated groundwater microcosm sample was also obtained from MW 11 as indicated in Section 1 of Sirem Treatability Study dated September 21, 2012.

<span id="page-686-4"></span><sup>7</sup> Section 5.2 of SOCOs FS/RAP states that 1,4-dioxane is a SOCO COPC, Geosyntec Consultants, July 14, 2015.

<span id="page-686-5"></span><sup>8</sup> Conclusion point number 4 presented in Sirem Treatability Study dated September 21, 2012, stated "As expected, the anerobic degradation of 1,4-dioxane was not observed in any of the control or treatment microcosms",

<span id="page-686-6"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> As stated previously in this attachment, monitor well MW-45B is the furthest downgradient of SOCOs monitoring wells which is located approximately 2,100 feet south of Warner Avenue. 1,4-dioxane was detected at a concentration of 55 ug/l in a groundwater sample collected on October 9, 2017 as indicated in Table 2 of the Fourth Quarter 2017 Groundwater Monitoring Report prepared by Geosyntec Consultants dated December 29, 2017. The California drinking water Notification Level is 1ug/l ( https:/[/www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/14-](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/14-) Dioxane.html#:~:text=The%20drinking%20water%20notification%20level,greater%20than%20its%20notification  $%20level.$ )

<span id="page-686-7"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The USEPA Tap Water Regional Screening Level for 1,4-dioxane is 0.46 ug/ (USEPA Regional Screening Level (RSL) Residential Table (TR=10E-06; HQ=1) May 2022)

<span id="page-686-8"></span> $11$  Applied Groundwater Modeling, Simulation of Flow and Advective Transport, Mary P. Anderson and William W. Woessner 1992.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

As indicated in above responses (0-01A and 0-01B), the SOCO FS does not meet OU2 FS RAO 1 or 2 and does not evaluate RAO 3. The Draft OU2 FS Report addresses these RAOs, and revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### **Comment 0-02**

*"Geosyntec reviewed OCWD' s Draft FS and below is the summary of the Geosyntec comments identifying the errors, inconsistencies, and/or deviations from the NCP, followed by a detailed discussion of the comments ........ "* 

#### **Response 0-02:**

See detailed responses to comments presented in the remaining portions of this attachment. Note that comments 10 and 11 were presented in attachments to the SOCO comment letter.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

See revisions to Draft OU2 FS Report following the respective response to comments presented in the remaining portions of this attachment.

#### **COMMENT 1: INADEQUATE EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE 1, "NO ACTION"**

#### **Comment 1-01**

*"The Draft FS inaccurately defines the "No Action" alternative and does not evaluate this alternative sufficiently. This flawed evaluation of the "No Action" alternative stems from the Draft FS' inaccurate definitions of OU1 and OU2. Specifically, the Draft FS assumes that remedies being implemented by the source site responsible parties "under the oversight of the State of California" only address "vadose zone and groundwater contamination in the Shallow Aquifer System directly beneath source properties," which the Draft FS defines as OU-1 (Draft FS, page 1). Likewise, the Draft FS states in Section 6.2.1 that "the lateral and vertical remediation or containment of the OU2 groundwater plumes downgradient of the source sites are not objectives of these source site remedial actions". Both of those assumptions and statements are incorrect. For Soco, the CAO issued by DTSC applies to the Property located at 1341 East Maywood Avenue in Santa Ana "and the areal extent of contamination that resulted from activities on the Property." DTSC also listed the site on the Cortese*  List, which is the California Superfund List. The remedy approved by DTSC pursuant to the NCP, in *turn, also applies to the Property "and the areal extent of contamination that resulted from activities on the Property. This off-property area-which OCWD includes within its definition of OU2-is therefore covered by the DTSC order and DTSC-approved remedy for Soco. In order to approve Soco's remedy in the off-property, downgradient area, the DTSC determined that the remedy was the appropriate remedy for the entire plume emanating from the Holchem property. "*

# **Response 1-01:**

The SOCO comment states that the SOCO remedy (the combined source control and downgradient MNA) "applies to the… 'areal extent of contamination that resulted from activities on the Property'". However, the SOCO FS/RAP did not define the extent of contamination from SOCO property, but only evaluated the 40x MCL (TCE at 200 ug/l) concentration area (refer to response 0-01B). In addition, the RAP only provided a contingency plan that includes an EISB within 150 feet of SOCO's source control remedy, located north of Warner Avenue (refer to response 0-01A). This contingency did not address the remaining portion of the plume to the south of Warner Avenue, which extends over well over  $10 \text{ times}^{12}$  $10 \text{ times}^{12}$  $10 \text{ times}^{12}$  this distance. Moreover, TCE was detected in the most downgradient SOCO monitoring well MW-45B at a concentration of 1,300 ug/l (over 250 times the MCL), which was outside of the 40x MCL (200 ug/l) concentration plume delineated in the SOCO FS Model (refer to response 0-01B).

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

SOCO has not defined the extent of the contamination that resulted from releases on their property, so they cannot reasonably claim that their remedy will address it. As indicated in above responses 0-01A and 0-01B, the SOCO FS does not meet the OU2 FS RAO 1 or 2 and does not evaluate RAO 3. The Draft OU2 FS Report addresses these RAOs, and revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## **Comment 1-02:**

*"For this off-property area, the groundwater modeling presented in Soco's FS/RAP shows that MNA coupled with effective source site remediation will shrink the plume with time."*

### **Response 1-02:**

Refer to response 0-01B.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

As indicated in responses 0-01A/0-01B, the SOCO FS does not meet the OU2 FS RAO 1 or 2 and does not evaluate RAO 3. The Draft OU2 FS Report addresses these RAOs, and revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

<span id="page-688-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> As stated previously in this attachment, SOCO monitor well MW-45B had concentrations of TCE over 250 times the MCL at a location approximately 2,100 feet south of Warner Avenue, based on sample collected on October 9, 2017 as indicated in Table 2 of the Fourth Quarter 2017 Groundwater Monitoring Report prepared by Geosyntec Consultants dated December 29, 2017.

# **Comment 01-03:**

*"Further, in the evaluation of the "No Action" alternative in Section 7.2.3.1, the Draft FS states that "The No Action Alternative does not include any Institutional Controls to prevent exposure to the contaminated site groundwater, and there is no way to monitor migration of the OU2 contaminant plumes." Again, that is incorrect. The Draft FS fails to evaluate Soco's DTSC approved remedy for the area within OU 2 south of the Holchem property, which includes a monitoring program, institutional controls, and coordination with well permitting agencies"*

## **Response 1-03:**

SOCO's FS/RAP includes institutional controls (ICs), monitoring program and coordination with well permitting agencies in a portion of OU2; a portion that does not cover the full extent of the SOCO plume<sup>13</sup>. These measures would not achieve the OU2 RAO 1 or 2 and did not address RAO 3 for reasons stated in responses 01-01A, 01-01B, and 1-01.

In addition, the SOCO FS/RAP does not address potential for discovery of former water wells within the footprint of their plume and whether they would properly destroy the wells should they be discovered in the future, which would help address OU2 FS RAO 2.

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

For the reasons stated in responses 01-01A, 01-01B, 1-01, and 1-02, revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

### **Comment 1-04:**

*"Thus, the Soco remedy, which was approved by DTSC, addresses both impacts at the source property as well as contaminants in the Shallow Aquifer System that have migrated from the Holchem property (i.e., south of Warner Avenue). In this area, OCWD's remedy is duplicative, redundant, and unnecessary. By virtue of already being subject to oversight by DTSC and a remedy approved pursuant to the HSAA, this area should be excluded from OCWD's interim remedy."*

### **Response 1-04:**

OU2 FS Alternatives 3 to 6 have application of active remedial technologies in transects along Warner Avenue with a gap near SOCO to avoid duplication of the proposed SOCO source control remedy should SOCO install it. These same OU2 FS Alternatives address high concentration groundwater south of Warner Avenue which SOCO's own analysis indicates will continue to expand without a SOCO source remedy and will also expand for almost two decades following

<span id="page-689-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> The institutional controls referenced in the SOCO FS/RAP are limited to the SOCO and Diesel Logistics properties. The area of monitoring was indicated in Figure 5 of the FS/RAP. It does not encompass the SOCO MW-45B to the west nor does it extend to the south of Dyer Road.

initiation of SOCO's source remedy. Also refer to responses 01-01A, 0-01B, 1-01, 1-02, and 1- 03).

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

As indicated above, the OU2 FS Alternatives are not duplicative of SOCO's remedy. Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## **Comment 1-05:**

*"The "No Action" alternative evaluation should acknowledge the planned remedial activities outlined in the NCP-compliant and DTSC-approved Soco RAP, which would result in a more accurate and realistic evaluation. When properly evaluated, the "No Action" alternative is the appropriate alternative for the area off of the Holchem Property to which contaminants from the property have migrated."*

## **Response 1-05:**

The Draft OU2 FS Report assumes that SOCO will implement their proposed source control remedy and further assumes that the source control will be effective. Also, refer to responses 01- 01A, 0-01B, 1-01, 1-02, and 1-03.

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## **COMMENT 2: ALTERNATIVES 3 AND 4 ARE NOT COMPATIBLE WITH SOURCE SITE REMEDIES AND, THEREFORE, DO NOT SATISFY RAOS**

### **Comment 2-01:**

*"RAO #4 (Draft FS, page 16) is "Implement a reliable interim groundwater remedy(s) that is compatible with ongoing and planned remediation at source sites and associated off-property locations, as appropriate. The Draft FS quantified the allowable magnitude of groundwater flux increase that was considered to be within the range of natural (i.e., without pumping) variability and, therefore, negligible (page ES-8): "For the purposes of this evaluation, simulated groundwater flux increases less than a factor of 0.5 ... are considered negligible."*

### **Response 2-01:**

The Draft OU2 FS Report defined negligible with respect to changes in groundwater gradient and/or flow direction but did not indicate that these conditions were "not allowable". For context, the entire sentence and following sentence from the above referenced portion of the Draft OU2 FS Report have been provided as follows:

"For the purposes of this evaluation, simulated groundwater flux increases less than a factor of 0.5 and changes in groundwater flow directions less than 20 degrees from ambient (non-IRM pumping conditions) are considered negligible. As further described in Section 7, there are several source sites where the simulated changes in groundwater flux and/or the direction of groundwater flow in Layers 1 and/or 2 resulting from IRM pumping were higher than these screening criteria over limited areas."

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

### **Comment 2-02:**

*"However, per OCWD's modeling summarized in Appendix E of the Draft FS, the implementation of the IRM will result in "an increase of the groundwater flux near this source site by a factor of approximately 2.4" (i.e., 240% of the natural groundwater flux) in HSU 3 (Model Layer 2) at the Holchem property (page 95).6 OCWD considers this impact to be "moderate" (Table 8-2) and concludes, without providing rationale in the Draft FS, that its proposed IRM is compatible with source site remedies, which includes the DTSC-approved Soco remedy (e.g., page 104)"*

### **Response 2-02:**

The Draft OU2 FS Report is a means of comparing different remedial alternatives and thus provides conceptual aspects for the implementation of the various alternatives, but is by no means a remedy design. As such, the OU2 FS groundwater flow model (OU2 FS Model) is a tool used only for the evaluation of the listed alternatives. For Alternatives 3, 4, and 6, the potential effects of well field operation in the vicinity of active or planned remedies will be further assessed during the pre-design investigation to minimize potential negative effects on source area remedies. This additional evaluation would be used to refine the design of the alternatives prior to their implementation.

The Draft OU2 FS Report outlined potential negative effects to SOCO planned remediation in Table 8-2. The table indicated that the "Adjacent extraction alignment, affects groundwater flow direction and moderate influence on groundwater flux". The Draft OU2 FS Report also identifies potential steps that can be taken to mitigate the negative effects on the SOCO planned remediation during wellfield operation. These potential contingency actions include "reducing/relocating extraction locations and/or reducing extraction rates can mitigate this condition". As stated previously, potential negative effects and corresponding mitigation measures will be evaluated during the pre-design evaluation, prior to implementation.

The Draft OU2 FS Report groundwater flow model is not intended for remedy design and did not incorporate the design of the SOCO source control remedy because the SOCO remedy has low permeability slurry walls that are much thinner than the OU2 model grid spacing. The condition made it difficult to simulate the design of the SOCO source control remedy with the OU2 groundwater flow model. As such, the change in the direction of groundwater flow and gradient in the SOCO planned treatment area is based on the coarser model grid that does not include the

low permeability slurry walls. In practice, these low permeability walls would help control the groundwater flow direction within the SOCO treatment area, so the Draft OU2 FS Report overstates the actual groundwater flow changes should SOCO implement their source area remedy. In response to this comment and in order to further evaluate the potential groundwater flow changes within the SOCO treatment area from the OU2 groundwater extraction alternatives, the OU2 FS Model was modified to fine up the grid spacing in the vicinity of SOCO and incorporate the slurry walls (refer to response 2-03 below).

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

The Draft OU2 FS Report was revised by including documentation of model grid refinement, additional simulations, and results, as explained in response to comment 2-03.

### **Comment 2-03:**

*"The increased groundwater flux at the Holchem property that would be caused by the IRM corresponds to a reduced hydraulic residence time (HRT) within the PRB and within the active treatment zone of the in-situ biodegradation remedy for 1,4-dioxane at the Holchem property. HRT is a critical parameter in the design of both remedies and increasing the groundwater flux by a factor of 2.4 is significant. The PRB guidance published by the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) notes (emphasis added) "the primary physical function of the PRB is to capture the targeted groundwater (and plume) and provide it with sufficient residence time in the reactive media to achieve the desired cleanup goals."*

*The change in flow direction will also impact Soco's remedy. To optimize the HRT in the PRB, the design includes flow control gates at the upgradient (north) boundary of the Holchem property. The gates were designed based on natural groundwater conditions and altering the groundwater flow direction by pumping will impact the groundwater flux across the flow control gates with implications for the performance of the Soco remedy. Soco's network of groundwater monitoring wells was also designed and constructed based on natural groundwater conditions. If the groundwater flow directions are altered as predicted following implementation of one of OCWD's pump and treat alternatives, Soco's existing network of monitoring wells, which was designed with DTSC's input and approval, would become obsolete."*

### **Response 2-03:**

As indicated in response 2-02, the Draft OU2 FS Report groundwater flow model is not intended for remedy design and did not incorporate the design of the SOCO source control remedy because the SOCO remedy has low permeability slurry walls that are much thinner than the OU2 model grid spacing (Figure 1). As indicated in the Draft OU2 FS Report, refinement of the yet to be selected OU2 remedial alternative will occur during the design process. However, in response to SOCO's comment, the OU2 FS groundwater flow model grid spacing was refined to further evaluate the potential effects OU2 groundwater extraction on SOCO's approved source control remedy. This additional evaluation incorporated the modification of the OU2 FS model to reduce the grid spacing across the SOCO site (Figures 2 and 3). The extent of the model was reduced to encompass the OU2 Study Area (Figure 4) using the Telescoping Mesh Refinement (TMR) option

available in Groundwater Vistas. Following refinement to the model, the simulated water level elevations across Layer 1 and Layer 2 were compared to the original calibrated model (Figures 5a/5b and 6a/6b). Additionally, the refined grid model was used to simulate OU2 FS Alternative 3 groundwater extraction wells (Figures 7a/7b and 8a/8b). The direction of groundwater flow and elevations in both Layers 1 and 2 matched well with the previous larger OU2 FS model grid indicating the model revisions did not substantially affect the hydraulic properties throughout the model domain.

The revised OU2 groundwater flow model was then modified by emplacing the slurry walls, flow gates and permeable reactive barriers (PRB[s]) for the configuration presented in the SOCO  $FS^{14}$ and the configuration presented in SOCO remedial design  $(RD)$  and implementation plan<sup>15</sup> into the OU2 groundwater flow model using the available SOCO design parameters (Figures 9a/9b). The resulting model simulations indicated that the installation of the SOCO FS Alternative 2 and the SOCO RD would significantly affect and change the direction of groundwater flow in the vicinity of the PRB (Figures 10a/10b and 11a/11b). The revised OU2 groundwater flow model then was used to simulate OU2 FS pumping with the SOCO PRB in place. The direction of groundwater flow within the SOCO treatment area, which consists of the area within the slurry wall from the upgradient flow control gates to the downgradient PRB for the SOCO FS and RD configurations was relatively unaffected by OU FS pumping under the given conditions (Figures 12a/12b and 13a/13b). As part of the OU2 FS, changes in hydraulic gradient near source site remedies caused by operation of OU2 groundwater extraction systems was used as a simple surrogate to evaluate potential increases in groundwater flux due to operation of the OU2 groundwater extraction alternatives. The hydraulic gradient from the monitoring point for the SOCO site selected in the OU2 FS Model, which is within the SOCO treatment area to the south end of the SOCO treatment area was then calculated with and without OU2 FS pumping for the SOCO FS and RD configurations (Figures 14a/14b and 15a/15b). The hydraulic gradient for Layer 1 under non-OU2 FS pumping and OU2 FS pumping for the SOCO FS configuration was 0.00043 and 0.00078, respectively and the hydraulic gradient for Layer 2 under non-OU2 pumping and OU2 pumping was 0.00020 and 0.00067, respectively (Figures 14a and 15a). The hydraulic gradient for Layer-1 under non-OU2 FS pumping and OU2 FS pumping for the SOCO RD configuration was 0.00027 and 0.00067, respectively and the hydraulic gradient for Layer 2 under non-OU2 pumping and OU2 pumping was 0.00021 and 0.00065, respectively (Figures 14b and 15b). Given the refinement to the OU2 groundwater flow model grid and incorporation of the SOCO source area remedy into the model, a more direct comparison of change in groundwater flux (amount of groundwater flow) through the SOCO source area remedy was evaluated. The groundwater flux through the SOCO treatment area was evaluated using the model with and without OU2 FS pumping for the SOCO FS and RD configurations (Tables 1a/1b). The amount of water flowing through the SOCO treatment zone for both the FS and RD configurations increased by approximately 1.7 with OU2-pumping as compared to the non-OU2 pumping condition. This change in flux through the SOCO source area remedy is smaller than was inferred based on the change in hydraulic gradient presented in the OU2 FS, indicating a lesser influence

<span id="page-693-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Appendix A to the SOCO FS and RAP prepared by Geosyntec on July 14, 2015 provided model simulations for Alternative 2 which included two rows of PRBs

<span id="page-693-1"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Remedial Design and Implementation Plan prepared by Geosyntec on November 28, 2016 provided designs for Alternative 5 which included one row of PRBs coupled with EISB injection.

than was presented in the Draft OU2 FS Report. The Draft OU2 FS Report will be updated to reflect this refined estimate in change in groundwater flux.

It is acknowledged that there is uncertainty in the OU2 FS model simulations as it is not meant for design purposes; however, the model shows that the OU2 FS pump and treat has less impact to direction of groundwater flow and hydraulic gradient within the SOCO treatment area given the general design of the SOCO source area remedy. In addition, the placement of the SOCO slurry walls appears to have a more pronounced effect in the change in direction of groundwater flow in the vicinity of the SOCO property as compared to the OU2 FS groundwater pump and treat options. This indicates that any future required changes to monitor well placement for the SOCO remedy would more likely be a result of the installation of the PRB slurry walls rather than hydraulic changes associated with OU2 FS pumping.

In addition to the above considerations, the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) reference cited by SOCO also explicitly states that flow problems may arise with PRB despite detailed site characterization and a thorough design process due to uncertainties in subsurface installations<sup>16</sup>. The uncertainties exist with and without the OU2 FS pump and treat system. Some of these uncertainties can be mitigated through minor PRB design modifications.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

The Draft OU2 FS Report will be revised to include a description of the additional groundwater flow modeling described above. The associated tables and compatibility for the SOCO site will also be revised.

### **Comment 2-04:**

*"DTSC also communicated to OCWD its concern over OCWD's pump and treat remedy impacting Soco's remedy in a letter dated October 21, 2015; refer to Comment 8 for details."*

### **Response 2-04:**

Comment noted. DTSC is part of the South Basin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which reviewed and provided comments to the Draft OU2 FS Report. The TAC approved distribution of the Draft OU2 FS Report to the Stakeholder Advisory Group.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per responses 2-02 and 2-03.

### **Comment 2-05:**

*"The Draft FS did not include a sensitivity analysis to evaluate the effect of this increased groundwater flux and change in flow direction on the DTSC-approved Soco remedy, nor was Soco*

<span id="page-694-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> From page 39 of ITRC reference.

*contacted by OCWD to perform such an evaluation. The Draft FS acknowledges that the preferred alternatives Nos. 3 & 4 will impact the Soco remedy, but it characterizesthat impact as "moderate" without providing any basis for doing so or even defining "moderate impact." Moreover, there is no basis for OCWD's conclusion that the proposed IRM is compatible with the Soco remedy."*

### **Response 2-05:**

Refer to responses 2-02 and 2-03 regarding modifications to and additional simulations using the groundwater model, as well as additions to the Draft OU2 FS Report.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per responses 2-02 and 2-03.

### **Comment 2-06:**

*"In addition, the Draft FS contradicts itself as to the compatibility of various Alternatives with remedies at source sites. Table 8-2 states that Alternatives 1, 2, and 5 are compatible with the Soco remedy, but Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 have "moderate influence on groundwater flux." Notably, Table 8-2 does not state that preferred Alternatives 3 and 4, or Alternative 6, are compatible with the Soco remedy. However, the Draft FS states in the Executive Summary (page ES-11) and in Section 8 .1.4 (page 104) that Alternatives 3 and 4 are compatible with source sites, presumably including the Holchem property:*

*"Alternatives 3 and 4 are compatible with source site remediation and with Armstrong Channel, given the flexibility and reversibility of these remedial alternatives."*

*In both sections, the preceding statement is contradicted by the sentences that follow:* 

*"In instances where these alternatives may not have negligible effects, the IRM containment alignments are located relatively close to the subject source site remedial areas. At these containment alignments, options for IRM implementation include not installing extraction wells or balancing extraction rates during implementation to moderate and minimize the effects that OU2 extraction may have on selected source site remedial efforts. "*

*The Draft FS concluded that the proposed IRM is compatible with source sites despite acknowledging that its analysis suggests some source sites will experience non-negligible effects (e.g., the Holchem property, where the groundwater flux impact will be "moderate" per Table 8- 2).*

### **Response 2-06:**

Refer to Responses 2-01, 2-02, and 2-03. As indicated in response 2-03, the estimated groundwater flux through the SOCO treatment area increased by a factor 1.7 which is less than the factor of 2.4

estimated in the Draft OU2 FS Report based on the hydraulic gradient change without the SOCO source area remedy in place. The Draft OU2 FS Report and associated tables will be updated to reflect this lesser impact by changing "moderate" impact for the Holchem property to "low" impact.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per responses 2-02 and 2-03 including the revision to relative change in groundwater flux at the Holchem Property in Table 8-2.

## **Comment 2-07:**

*"The Draft FS is thus inconsistent and incomplete, and the RAO of compatibility with remedies at source sites (page 16) is not met."*

### **Response 2-07:**

Refer to Responses 2-01, 2-02, and 2-03.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per responses 2-02 and 2-03.

## **COMMENT 3: THE EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTABILITY OF ALTERNATIVES 3 AND 4 IS FLAWED**

### **Comment 3-01:**

*"The implementability evaluations of Alternative 3 in Section 7.2.3.3 (Draft FS, page 69) and of Alternative 4 in Section 7.2.3.4 (page 74) fail to actually evaluate technical feasibility (i.e., the relative ease of undertaking the remedial action under consideration) at the proposed extraction locations. For both alternatives, the Draft FS notes that containment has been implemented elsewhere in California and at several source sites, and concludes without any support that implementability is moderate to high (Alternative 3) or moderate (Alternative 4)."*

### **Response 3-01:**

Table 8-2 in the Draft OU2 FS Report summarizes the threshold and balancing criteria, which include the technical and administrative feasibility as well as the availability of services and materials for each alternative.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

# **Comment 3-02:**

*"Implementability The evaluation does not consider technical feasibility, such as each alternative's expected impact on remedies at source sites like the Holchem property, which is documented in the Draft FS (see Comment 1 above for details). In fact, the proposed IRM as described in the Draft FS is not implementable given that it is predicated on effective remedy implementation at source sites (Table 8-2), yet OCWD's own analysis shows its proposed IRM will negatively impact some source site remedies."*

### **Response 3-02:**

Refer to responses 2-01, 2-02, and 2-03.

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per responses 2-02 and 2-03.

# **COMMENT 4: ALTERNATIVE 3 FAILS TO EVALUATE THE OVERALL PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

### **Comment 4-01:**

*"The selected Alternative 3 fails to meet the NCP's threshold criterion of Overall Protectiveness of Human Health and Environment. The alternatives evaluation did not consider the vapor intrusion pathway as a result of discharging groundwater containing volatile contaminants into the public sewer system. The vapor intrusion (VI) into the buildings via the sewer lines is an established pathway, as noted by DTSC and the California Water Resources Control Boards in their Draft Supplemental VI Guidance: "A growing body of evidence is highlighting the importance of sewer lines as potentially significant preferential pathways for VF' (Attachment 3). The Draft Supplemental VI Guidance recommends sampling inside sewers and other vapor conduits concurrently with indoor air and sub-slab sampling to determine if such preferential pathways are increasing exposure to VI. These recommendations are being considered by the State Water Board for inclusion in its overall policies (Attachment 2).*

*Alternative #3 in the Draft FS proposes to extract 344 gallons per minute (GPM) of groundwater from wells screened in Layers 1 through 3 (page 70). The extracted groundwater would be filtered to reduce sediment loads-but not treated for volatile organic compounds (VOCs)-and then discharged into sanitary sewer pipes set in shallow soils. The contaminated groundwater would then be conveyed several miles to the Orange County Sanitation District's (OCSD's) POTW and from there to OCWD's Ground Water Replenishment System (GWRS).*

*When water containing chemicals of concern (COCs) is inside sewer lines, volatile COCs in the water will partition to the vapor phase and the sewer gas containing volatile COCs traveling in the sewer system can subsequently impact indoor air. Specific pathways into buildings can*

*include cracked or punctured pipes, loose fittings, degraded toilet gaskets (e.g., wax rings), and dry plumbing traps (e.g., p-traps). Not considering the dilution effect, tetrachloroethene (PCE), TCE, and vinyl chloride (VC) concentrations of 20 microgram per liter (µg/L) each in groundwater could produce concentrations of 11,580 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m3), 6,700 ug/m3, and 19,620 ug/m3 in sewer gas, respectively." These concentrations are significantly higher than the regulatory indoor air environmental screening levels published by DTSC for protection of the residents, which are 0.46 µg/m3, 0.48 g/m', and 0.0095 g/m' for PCE, TCE, and VC, respectively. Because VOC-impacted groundwater would be conveyed in sewer pipes for several miles through a densely populated area, many buildings would be at risk for vapor intrusion. Buildings at risk would include residential buildings and businesses, as well as sensitive receptors such as day care facilities, schools, healthcare centers, and retirement communities. Figure 1 (Attachment 3) shows the potential sewer line routes to the POTW, identifying the large area that may potentially experience VI and the sensitive receptors along the sewer trunk line.*

*Additionally, because sewer pipes commonly leak, discharge of contaminants into soil and groundwater would likely occur, resulting in a widespread environmental contamination problem. Shallow soil contamination would be an additional potential source for vapor intrusion. Additionally, workers could be exposed to volatilized contaminants at the treatment facilities, as well as when conducting sewer repair and maintenance along the several miles of sewer piping used for contaminated groundwater conveyance."*

## **Response 4-01:**

The Draft OU2 FS Report did not "select" an alternative, rather it provided a comparison and ranking of alternatives, for which Alternatives 3 and 4 ranked highest (Section 8.2 of the Draft OU2 FS).

The documents referenced in SOCO's comment more precisely consider the pathway for vapor forming chemicals (VFCs), also referred to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that "enter sewer pipes that intersect contaminated soil or groundwater".

The Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) has ordinances with respect to discharges to industrial sewers. In the past, OCSD had allowable concentrations of total toxic organic  $(TTO)^{17}$ compounds in water discharged to the sewer system. TTO includes many of the VOC chemicals of concern (COC) for OU2. Subsequent to preparation of the Draft OU2 FS Report, it was found that the current OCSD standard does not include a reference to  $TTO<sup>18</sup>$ . Since  $TTO$  are no longer referenced in OCSD ordinance, the Draft OU2 FS Report has been revised to include use of liquid phase granular activated carbon (LGAC) as a pre-treatment for Alternatives 3 and 6 prior to sewer discharge. The addition of LGAC to these alternatives addresses the comment regarding vapor intrusion from extracted groundwater that is not treated for VOCs.

<span id="page-698-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> OCSD Ordinance OCSD-39 <https://records.ocsan.gov/WebLink/Browse.aspx><br>?id=89699&dbid=0&repo=OrangeCountySanitationDistrict&cr=1 . .

<span id="page-698-1"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> OCSD Ordinance OCSD-53 https://records.ocsan.gov/WebLink/Browse.aspx ?id=89699&dbid=0&repo=OrangeCountySanitationDistrict&cr=1 .

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report**

The Draft OU2 FS Report will be revised to include LGAC treatment for extracted groundwater for Alternatives 3 and 6.

### **Comment 4-02**

*"Also, as described in the Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report, the results of testing groundwater in the Shallow Aquifer System within the Study Area indicated the presence of multiple inorganic constituents, including chloride, sulfate, nitrate, and selenium. These constituents are included in OCWD's Producer/User Water Recycling Requirements and have maximum discharge concentrations. By extracting these constituents and conveying them to the OCSD's POTW and then ultimately to OCWD's GWRS facility, the proposed alternative will increase the influent load of these constituents. The POTW's ability to receive increased levels of inorganic constituents and meet discharge requirements was not discussed in the Draft FS."*

### **Response 4-02:**

Selenium is the only constituent of those specified in the comment which is listed in Table 1 of Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) discharge limits [19](#page-699-0) . The estimated background concentration of selenium in the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project was approximately 0.0517 milligrams per liter<sup>20</sup> compared with the 3.9 milligrams per liter in OCSD discharge limits. Additionally, the referenced documents presented in SOCO's comment address standards for discharge of treated groundwater from the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) into seawater intrusion barrier and recharge basins in Orange County, not the POTW which is applicable to OU2 remedial alternatives. The GWRS produces highly treated wastewater that meets the California Division of Drinking Water requirements. The GWRS treatment process includes reverse osmosis (RO) to reduce wastewater concentrations of constituents, including those referenced in SOCOs comment, to meet concentration thresholds specified in the permits referenced in the above comment and subsequent updates. The Draft OU2 FS Report clearly states that the extracted groundwater that would be pumped to the sewer would be treated by the GWRS prior to ultimate discharge in compliance with the discharge standards.

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

# **Comment 4-03:**

*"The Draft FS describes the NCP criterion of Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment as follows (page 53):*

<span id="page-699-1"></span><span id="page-699-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Table 1 of OCSD-53 https:/[/www.ocsan.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/28457/637014653105430000](http://www.ocsan.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/28457/637014653105430000) <sup>20</sup> Table 8-1 of the Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report, Hargis + Associates, Inc dated June 19, 2020

*"This criterion assesses whether each alternative provides and maintains adequate protection of human health and the environment. Alternatives are assessed to determine whether they can adequately protect human health and the environment from unacceptable short- and long-term risks posed by OU2 COCs."*

*As explained above, Alternative 3 is not protective of human health by potentially complete exposure pathways, including vapor intrusion, and thus does not comply with the threshold criterion of Overall Protectiveness of Human Health and Environment. The NCP states that "Overall protection of human health and the environment and compliance with ARARS ... are threshold requirements that each alternative must meet in order to be eligible for selection" (40 C.F.R. Section 300.430(f)(i)(A), which OCWD acknowledges (Draft FS, page 53). Thus, Alternative 3 is not eligible for selection as a remedy."*

#### **Response 4-04:**

Refer to responses 4-01 and 4-02.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

As described in response 4-01, the Draft OU2 FS Report will be revised to include treatment of groundwater using LGAC prior to discharge to sewer for Alternatives 3 and 6.

## **COMMENT 5: ALTERNATIVE 3 FAILS TO SATISFY THE NCP REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT-TERM EFFECTIVENESS**

### **Comment 5-01:**

*"The selected Alternative 3 fails to meet the NCP's short-term effectiveness criteria. The effectiveness of the alternative in protecting human health and the environment during construction and implementation is assessed under the short-term effectiveness criterion. As explained in Comment 4, the implementation of the selected Alternative 3 could cause widespread vapor intrusion issues, spread COC contamination in shallow soil along the sewer lines, increase exposure by sewer maintenance workers to volatile contaminants in sewer gas, and increase the loading of inorganic constituents at the POTW and OCWD's treatment facilities. A relate to discharge of treated groundwater from the response Revisions to the draft FS Report are not necessary. The short-term effectiveness assessment for Alternative 3 (Draft FS, page 69) is incomplete, and the conclusion "Short-term effectiveness of Institutional Controls would be satisfactory to prevent human exposure to OU 2 groundwater COCs..." is incorrect and lacks proper evaluation."*

#### **Response 5-01:**

Refer to responses 4-01 and 4-02.

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

As described in response 4-01, the Draft OU2 FS Report will be revised to include treatment of groundwater using LGAC prior to discharge to sewer for Alternatives 3 and 6.

### **Comment 5-02:**

*"The Draft FS defines "Institutional Controls" as including "Land Use Covenants/Deed Restrictions/Water Well Permit, Notification, Design and Coordination Requirements." (Draft FS, page ES-5). The Draft FS does not discuss how OCWD, which is not a landowner in this area nor a regulatory agency, will negotiate and achieve "Land Use Covenants" or "Deed Restrictions" in order to achieve the claimed short-term effectiveness criteria."*

#### **Response 5-02:**

The Draft OU2 FS Report Table 5-1 and Section 5.4.2. indicate that Land Use Covenants (LUC) will not be part of the ICs.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

To minimize confusion, the Draft OU2 FS Report will be revised to modify tables that describe specific ICs for alternatives and remove the term "LUC".

## **COMMENT 6: THE MNA EVALUATION IS BASED ON UNREPRESENTATIVE CONDITIONS AND IS THEREFORE INVALID**

### **Comment 6-01:**

*"Alternative 2, MNA, is evaluated in Section 7.2.3.2 of the Draft FS. This evaluation: (1) incorrectly characterizes MNA in OU 2 as a stand-alone remedy; (2) relies on historical and unrepresentative data to evaluate potential effectiveness following remedy implementation at the source sites; and (3) evaluates MNA throughout the entire OU 2 rather than smaller subareas, thus overlooking spatial heterogeneity in potential MNA effectiveness.*

*First, the third paragraph states "MNA is often used as a follow up or combined remedy with other treatment technologies. MNA is seldom used as a stand-alone remedy for individual plumes, especially with the combination and concentrations of COCs in OU 2 groundwater."*

*These statements suggest that MNA would be a stand-alone remedy if it were selected for OU 2, but this ignores source site remediation that is either in progress or planned for future implementation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) guidance document referenced in the Draft FS discusses the applicability of MNA and notes "Removal, treatment, or containment of [non-aqueous phase liquids] NAPLs may be necessary for MNA to be a viable remedial option or to decrease the time needed for natural processes to attain site-specific*

*remediation objectives." The COC concentrations present in OU 2 are not indicative of NAPL, and elevated COC concentrations at source sites are being or will be addressed by source site remediation. It is, in fact, a rather common approach to treat the source areas and manage the exposure risk in the relatively lower concentration downgradient plume with MNA."*

### **Response 6-01:**

The OU2 FS Model does integrate and consider source area remediation $21$  in the evaluation of the MNA Alternative (2). Section 5.4.7.1 of the Draft OU2 FS Report describes MNA and the lines of evidence typically used to evaluate MNA effectiveness and the summary presented in Section 7.2.3.2 indicates that the lines of evidence do not support use of MNA for OU2 groundwater. The SOCO comment references an EPA document and implies that if non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) is removed, MNA can work and then states that there is no NAPL in OU2 groundwater further implying MNA is effective<sup>22</sup>. However, EPA guidance also states that "the hydrologic and geochemical conditions favoring significant biodegradation of chlorinated solvents sufficient to achieve remediation objectives within a reasonable timeframe are anticipated to occur only in limited circumstances<sup> $23$ </sup>. As indicated in Section 8.1.1, Alternative 2 (MNA) does not meet the threshold criteria of protectiveness of human health and the environment with the exception of protection of human exposure to groundwater through institutional controls. MNA Alternative 2 would not achieve the Draft FS Report RAOs 1, 2, 3, and 5.

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

### **Comment 6-02:**

*"Second, the MNA evaluation is based on historical data that are reflective of contributions from source sites where remedies have not yet been implemented. The Draft FS states that the first and second lines of evidence (historical mass reduction and hydrogeologic/geochemical data, respectively) have not been met (page 64). This is a meaningless evaluation because not all source sites have finished implementing remedies, so OU 2 continues to be impacted by adjacent COC sources. "*

### **Response 6-02:**

The SOCO comment fails to account for the OU2 FS RAOs. The RAOs presented Section 2.0 of the Draft OU2 FS Report are meant to be protective of further degradation of groundwater which includes, but is not limited to, "preventing lateral and vertical migration of high concentration

<span id="page-702-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Section 1.5 of the draft FS, which is excerpted from the SRI states: remediation of source areas is expected to be conducted by potential responsible parties in tandem with the interim remedy; and given the extent and concentrations of TCE, PCE, 1,1-DCE and 1,4-dioxane detected in groundwater downgradient of source area properties, it is expected that intrinsic biodegradation (a process that is integral to MNA), is not a dominant process.

<span id="page-702-1"></span><sup>22</sup> EPA OSWER Directive 9200.4-17P dated April 1999 has the following statement on page 11: MNA should not be considered a default or presumptive remedy at any contaminated site.

<span id="page-702-2"></span><sup>23</sup> EPA OSWER Directive 9200.4-17P dated April 1999, page 7

COCs into zones with lower concentrations of COCs within OU2, to the extent practicable". SOCO's comment suggests that it is acceptable for COC concentrations to increase until all source sites have implemented remedies, regardless of the length of time it takes for implementation. Waiting for all source control remedies to be finalized, implemented and verified can be a very long process. Using the SOCO site and SOCOs assumptions regarding MNA as an example, the following provides an indication of the potential time elapsed between source area remedy selection and verification of source area remedy effectiveness. The SOCO groundwater remedy was approved by DTSC on July 23, 2015<sup>24</sup>. SOCO's FS indicates that their 200 ug/l plume will continue to expand for almost two decades after they implement their remedy (refer to response 0-01B), allowing for further plume expansion even after the source control remedy has been implemented. Optimistically, if SOCO were to implement their source remedy in 2023 and their FS model assumptions were correct, their 200 ug/l TCE groundwater plume would be stabilized in about 2040, which is 25 years after remedy selection. Thus, waiting until all source sites, including SOCO, to implement and complete their source control remedies only serves to allow OU2 groundwater contamination to further spread and migrate downgradient, which bolsters the need to implement the OU2 interim remedy well before all source site remedies have been completed.

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

### **Comment 6-03:**

*"Current groundwater conditions in OU 2 are not representative of conditions that will exist after implementation of source site remedies. For example, the Draft FS discusses evidence of dechlorination downgradient from the Holchem property but notes that concentrations of degradation products such as cis-DCE and vinyl chloride remain high. The dechlorination rates for cis-DCE and vinyl chloride are typically slower than for PCE and TCE, so as long as the sources of PCE and TCE are uncontrolled the concentrations of degradation products will remain elevated. Historical concentration trends are not indicative of the potential effectiveness of MNA following implementation of source site remedies."*

### **Response 6-03:**

Refer to response 6-02.

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

<span id="page-703-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Section 1 of the Remedial Design and Implementation Plan, Former Service Chemical Facility prepared by Geosyntec dated November 28, 2016.

# **Comment 6-04:**

*"Third, the Draft FS evaluated the feasibility of MNA throughout OU 2, an area of approximately 5 square miles, rather than within the individual areas shown on Figure 7. Evidence of dechlorination of some chlorinated solvents downgradient from the Holchem property was noted in the Draft FS, which indicates appropriate conditions for dechlorination including the presence of the appropriate microorganisms. As documented in the DTSC-approved RAP for the Holchem property, MNA is a potentially effective technology for the commingled chlorinated solvent plume downgradient from the Holchem property (i.e., Area 1 on Figure 7). The assessment in the Draft FS that MNA is not appropriate for all of OU 2, and therefore not appropriate for any area within OU 2, is a flawed conclusion that overlooks spatial heterogeneity within OU 2 with respect to potential MNA effectiveness."*

### **Response 6-04:**

The SOCO FS/RAP treatability study report<sup>[25](#page-704-0)</sup> concluded the following regarding appropriateness of conditions for the SOCO Site: "*The rate and extent of intrinsic degradation of chlorinated ethenes and chlorinated ethanes in Site groundwater is limited by the lack of available nutrients (e.g., electron donors) and the absence of suitable strains of bacteria capable of promoting complete dechlorination of the chlorinated ethenes and chlorinated ethanes at the Site*." In addition, refer to responses 0-01A, 0-01B, 6-01, and 6-02.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## **COMMENT 7: THE EVALUATION OF LONG-TERM EFFECTIVENESS IS INSUFFICIENT AND INCOMPLETE**

### **Comment 7-01:**

*"The Draft FS contains several statements affirming the long-term effectiveness of the proposed IRM without providing any support. First, OCWD ranks Alternatives 3 and 4 high in long-term effectiveness (pages ES-10, 68, and 74; and Table 8-2), but its ranking is based on flawed premises. Section 5.4.4.1 and Table 8-2 explain that pump and treat is a proven technology, yet not a single example is provided of pump and treat reducing groundwater concentrations to state and federal MCLs (i.e., IRM RAO #6, pages ES-4 and 16), as OCWD claims its IRM will do (pages 68 and 72). Appendix F of the Draft FS lists six source sites that are implementing pump and treat, and none of them have yet reached cleanup levels. The National Research Council (1994, page viii) noted "Unfortunately, and some would say not surprisingly, the effectiveness of this technology [pump and treat] to restore contaminated aquifers seems quite limited." The*

<span id="page-704-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Conclusion point number 1 presented Sirem Treatability Study dated September 21, 2012, which is presented in Appendix B of the SOCO Remedial Action Plan prepared by Geosyntec Consultants dated October 12, 2012.

*assertion in the Draft FS that pump and treat is an appropriate technology for treating groundwater to MCLs is not supported."*

### **Response 7-01:**

As indicated in Section 1.1 of the Draft OU2 FS Report, the USEPA recommends performance standards for Interim Remedial Actions that focus on stabilizing the operable unit and/or preventing further migration of contaminants. As stated in response 6-02, the Draft OU2 FS Report RAOs address preventing further migration of contaminants, to the extent practical, as part of the IRM. SOCO's comment ignores the OU2 FS RAO (see response 6-02). However, Section 1.1 of the Draft OU2 FS Report provides a brief comparison on the duration of potential remedial operations for groundwater extraction and treatment (GET), in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO), and MNA. This high-level comparison identified GET and ISCO as having similar durations and MNA as having the longest duration of the three.

As indicated in Table 8-2 of the Draft OU2 FS Report, RAO 6 is maintained through ICs for Alternatives 2 through 6.

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## **Comment 7-02:**

*"The RWQCB previously commented that the effectiveness of the selected pump and treat technology was questionable due to matrix diffusion, stating: "P&T technologies must often operate for an extended period of time (decades) to meet aquifer cleanup goals, and in many cases may fail to achieve those goals. Limitations and concerns with this technology are evident when an assessment of remaining contaminant concentrations indicates an asymptotic curve, or when concentrations rebound after shutdown. The residual mass of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in groundwater tends to adsorb to organic materials in less permeable soils, and may later migrate back into the groundwater via back-diffusion, thus acting as a long-term source of contamination." (Draft FS, Appendix H [RWQCB Comments on Draft Feasibility Study Initial Screening], Comment #14.)"*

### **Response 7-02:**

The Draft OU2 FS Report indicates that matrix back diffusion is expected to prolong conditions that result in elevated COC concentrations in groundwater. This is true for GET Alternatives (3, 4 and 6), the MNA Alternative (2) and the ISCO Alternatives (5 and 6) as summarized in

Table 8-2a of the Draft OU2 FS Report. As indicated in response 7-01, the interim remedy focuses on stabilizing and/or preventing further migration of contaminants in OU2.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

### **Comment 7-03:**

*Even without considering matrix diffusion, a pump and treat system will run for a long time. Extraction well transect G-8 (shown in Figure 3.14 of Draft FS Appendix E is south (downgradient) of Warner Avenue Transect G-2 and will capture groundwater downgradient from Transect G-2. The distance between those transects, along with the width and thickness of capture, define one pore volume for each layer. The particle tracks in Appendix A, Figure 3 .14 indicate that 10 years of pumping will capture groundwater in Layer 2 up to 1,000 feet upgradient from the extraction wells, which does not quite reach to Warner Avenue. Therefore, the pump rate is less than 0.1*  pore volumes per year. A review of groundwater treatment technologies by the National *Research Council noted the following:*

- *(1) "Attainment of cleanup criteria at most sites under the most favorable of circumstances can be expected to take decades with extraction rates of less than one pore volume per year."*
- *(2) "The time required for a pump and treat system to extract one pore volume of ground water from the contaminated zone is a fundamental system parameter that should be documented for all pump and treat systems."*
- *(3) "Assessments of ground water cleanup time should include estimates of the number of pore volumes that must be extracted to attain cleanup goals"*

*The proposed extraction rate for transect G-8 is less than 10% of one pore volume, so the system should be expected to operate for many decades. A rough estimate using a batch flushing model that does not account for matrix back diffusion indicates a minimum operation period of more than 50 years, calculated as follows:*

- *(1) # pore volumes required to cleanup from initial concentration (CO) to final concentration (Cf)= Rx ln(C0/Cf), where R is assumed to be approximately 1.01 in Layer 2, CO is 1,000 ug/L, and Cf is 5 ug/L*
- *(2) # pore volumes= 5.3*
- *(3) At 0.1 pore volume per year, an optimistic estimate of the time required for cleanup by pump and treat is 53 years.*

*GSI' s matrix diffusion tool, which provides a more realistic estimate of cleanup times as compared to the batch flush model, indicates cleanup to MCLs will not be achieved within 80 years. The Draft FS notes "in general, relatively lengthy operations are required," but does not* *provide either cleanup goals or an estimate of operation duration. Similar to Alternatives 3 and 4, Alternative 2 (MNA) would require multiple decades to clean up OU 2. The Draft FS considered this to be unreasonable time, so it is unclear why the time for Alternatives 3 and 4 was scored differently and deemed "reasonable." The incomplete assessment of required times for operation makes it impossible to compare the likely duration of operation for Alternatives 3 and 4 versus Alternative 2.*

#### **Response 7-03:**

The IRM focus on stabilizing OU2 groundwater and/or preventing further migration of contaminants in OU2, without specifying numeric cleanup goals or estimating time for groundwater cleanup (refer to response 7-01). As indicated in response 7-01, the relative clean up times for pump and treat and ISCO are expected to be significantly faster than MNA.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### **COMMENT 8: THE REQUIREMENT FOR REGULATORY AGENCY ACCEPTANCE HAS NOT BEEN SATISFIED**

#### **Comment 8-01:**

*"Regulatory agencies provided comments on the proposed IRM during the Feasibility Study Initial Screening Evaluation (FSISE) and Feasibility Study Detailed Evaluation (FSDE) that remain unresolved. "*

#### **Response 8-01:**

The TAC consists of the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA), the California Regional Water Quality Control Board-Santa Ana Region (RWQCB) and DTSC. The TAC reviewed and commented on the FS Initial Screening Evaluation (FSISE) and FS Detailed Evaluation (FSDE). Comments received from the TAC and responses were incorporated in the Draft OU2 FS Report. The comments and responses were also included in appendices to the Draft OU2 FS Report (Appendices H to S). The TAC has reviewed the responses and associated revisions, did not indicate there were any unresolved issues <sup>[26](#page-707-0)</sup>, and approved circulation of the Draft OU2 FS Report to the Stakeholder Advisory Group for review and comment. As such, SOCOs claim that Regulatory Agency Acceptance has not been met is an inaccurate statement, and SOCO's remaining comments need not be addressed; however, for the sake of completeness, SOCO's comments pertaining to comment 8 are presented in the following.

<span id="page-707-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> email from DTSC to B. Leever, OCWD, dated July 11, 2022; email from Chad Nishida, RWQCB, to B. Leever, OCWD, dated March 29, 2022; and email from A. Rangi, DFA, to B. Leever, OCWD, dated March 28, 2022.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report**

There are no revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report as the TAC comments were resolved prior to preparation and submittal to SAG.

#### **Comment 8-02:**

"First, as discussed above, the proposed IRM will impact the DTSC-approved remedy at the Holchem property. *RWQCB commented that "any substantial effect on groundwater quality or flow near the source sites could potentially complicate the ongoing or planned execution of remedial actions by responsible parties," to which OCWD responded "Comment noted" (Appendix K, page 5). DTSC also voiced concern about IRM impacts to residence times for remedial elements at the Holchem property (Appendix J). OCWD responded that the detailed remedial alternative evaluation would address these concerns, but the issue is not resolved in the Draft FS. In fact, OCWD's detailed evaluation shows that the proposed IRM will affect groundwater flux and residence times at the Holchem property, as discussed in Comment 2."*

#### **Response 8-02:**

Refer to Responses 2-01 through 2-06.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per responses 2-02 and 2-03.

#### **Comment 8-03:**

*"DTSC has long been aware of and concerned about OCWD's plan to implement a pump and treat remedy that would compromise the Soco remedy. Years before OCWD prepared this Draft FS, it selected pump and treat as the preferred remedial alternative and proposed pilot studies to evaluate pump and treat. It proposed multiple pumping locations downgradient from and proximate to the Holchem property. A letter from DTSC to OCWD dated October 21, 2015 (Attachment 9), noted "DTSC is concerned that OCWD's proposed pilot study might interfere with the DTSC-approved remedial activities required for the Site, the areal extent of groundwater contamination from activities at the Site, and other adjacent properties. We hereby request that OCWD consult with DTSC regarding OCWD's proposed pilot study and any other proposal to ensure that they will not interfere with the DTSC-approved remedial activities. " OCWD's proposed remedial alternatives in the Draft FS do not satisfy requirements articulated by DTSC nearly seven years ago. "*

# **Response 8-03:**

The remedial alternative for OU2 groundwater has not been selected. Further, the pilot study referenced in the SOCO comment was not and is not a remedy or an interim remedy. As previously stated, the Draft OU2 FS Report does not "select" an alternative, rather it provides a comparison and ranking of alternatives, for which Alternatives 3 and 4 (containment and treatment) rank highest (Section 8.2 of the Draft OU2 FS). DTSC is part of the South Basin TAC and has reviewed and provided comments to the Draft OU2 FS Report and approved circulating the Draft OU2 FS Report to the SAG for review and comment.

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

### **Comment 8-04:**

*"Second, OCWD has not identified cleanup goals or a cleanup timeline. The California State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance commented "The RAOs should be updated to include groundwater cleanup goals, the area addressed by groundwater cleanup activities, and estimated timeframes for achieving the proposed groundwater cleanup goals" (Appendix I).*

### **Response 8-04:**

Refer to responses 7-01 and 8-01.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

### **Comment 8-05:**

*OCWD responded that IRMs do not require numeric cleanup goals as part of RAOs, nor do they require an estimate for cleanup times. That may be consistent with EPA guidance, but the NCP requires an FS to include remediation goals that establish acceptable exposure levels that are protective of human health and the environment (40 CFR § 300.430(e)(2)(i))."*

### **Response 8-05:**

The Draft OU2 FS Report provided information necessary to establish protection of human health and the environment for the IRMs. It does so through the identification of relevant COCs based on the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment and incorporation of Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs). The Draft OU2 FS Report further indicated that ARARs in conjunction with the overall protection of human health and the environment criterion, form the

threshold criteria to evaluate remedial alternatives when selecting a remedial action. The Draft OU2 FS Report also included RAOs that are protective of human health and the environment.

The Draft OU2 FS Report is for the IRM of the OU2, not the final remedy. Final remediation goals are determined with the final remedy selection<sup>27</sup>.

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## **Comment 8-06:**

*"Cleanup goals are also necessary for evaluating the progress of a remedial action. In addition, although cleanup goals were not labeled as such in the Draft FS, OCWD does state that the proposed IRM will satisfy ARARs, including state and federal MCLs: "In the context of transitioning the IRM to final remedy, this alternative also would meet chemical-specific ARARs associated with the state and federal MCLs for OU2 groundwater COCs by removing these COCs from OU2 groundwater.*

*With these de facto cleanup goals, cleanup times should be estimated as requested by the agencies. RWQCB also commented that relative cleanup timeframes for remedial alternatives should be provided in the FS to more accurately evaluate alternatives and associated costs (Appendix 0)."*

### **Response 8-06:**

Refer to response 7-01. IRMs have performance standards tied to RAOs which are evaluated to assess performance of the IRM.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

# **COMMENT 9: THE SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT IS INACCURATE AND INCOMPLETE**

### **Comment 9-01:**

*"The sustainability assessment in the Draft FS contains several notable errors and inconsistencies. First, Alternatives 3 requires "installing groundwater extraction and monitor wells and filtration systems at each alignment" (page 67), and Alternative 4 requires the same plus conveyance piping, treatment units and injection wells (page 72). However, the SiteWise summaries in Appendix C for Alternatives (Table C-2 for alternative 3 and Table C-3 for*

<span id="page-710-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> "Final remediation goals will be determined when the remedy is selected" per 40 CFR § 300.430(e)(2)(i)).

*alternative 4) show no greenhouse gas emissions and no energy consumption for the transportation of equipment during construction. This is not possible."*

### **Response 9-01:**

As stated in Section 7.1.3 of the Draft OU2 FS Report, the sustainability assessment was conducted in addition to the seven NCP criteria. It is important to note that some FS reports have no evaluation of remedy sustainability, as is the case for SOCO's FS Report. The Draft OU2 FS Report sustainability assessment was performed as a preliminary assessment during the FS and development of remedial alternatives (as characterized in Section 7.1.3 of the Draft OU2 FS Report). As such, a semi-quantitative rank was produced for each alternative using a reduced version of SiteWise. Modules that had high levels of detail beyond what is practical to consider as part of a FS, such as the transportation of equipment during construction, were not incorporated as part of the preliminary assessment. A more detailed sustainability assessment will be conducted during the remedial design for the selected remedial alternative as mentioned in the Draft OU2 FS Report.

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

### **Comment 9-02:**

*"Second, emissions and energy usage during construction for Alternative 2 (MNA) and Alternative 3 (pump and treat at POTW) are effectively the same. Both alternatives involve installing groundwater wells, but Alternative 3 also involves constructing underground conveyance piping. Insufficient information was provided in Appendix E to understand the scope of work evaluated in SiteWise, but the work scopes are summarized in the cost tables provided in Appendix D. Alternative 2 consists of a \$5 million pre-design investigation that involves installing groundwater wells and no activities considered "construction ". In contrast, Alternative 3 consists of a \$3 million pre-design investigation and nearly \$10 million in capital costs associated with constructing extraction well and conveyance systems. It seems unlikely that the PDI and construction scope for Alternative 2 will result in similar emissions and energy usage as Alternative 3 despite being less than 40% the scope based on cost."*

### **Response 9-02:**

Per response 9-01, a subset of SiteWise modules was used to evaluate and semi-quantitatively rank the sustainability of each of the remedial alternatives as part of a preliminary sustainability assessment. The SiteWise evaluation was limited to selected well and treatment system construction activities (i.e., piping installation, treatment system construction) and operations and maintenance (O&M) activities (i.e., groundwater monitoring and treatment system O&M). Alternative 2 had greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that were relatively high during construction

due to the large number of monitor wells compared to other alternatives, but the electrical use and GHG emissions for Alternative 2 during O&M were substantially lower than Alternative 3.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### **Comment 9-03:**

*"Third, the ranges of values for the "low, "medium", and "high" designations (Draft FS, page 104) were not defined and are not logical. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were classified low for Alternative 2 (MNA, 970 metric tons) and pump and treat Alternatives 3 and 4 (12,000 and 18,000 metric tons, respectively), despite emissions being 10 times lower for Alternative 2 than Alternatives 3 and 4. Emissions under alternative 6 (56,000 metric tons) were approximately three times higher than Alternative 4, but Alternative 6 emissions were classified as medium."*

#### **Response 9-03:**

The qualifiers provide a relative summary in the total range in estimated GHGs. The total range in high to low emissions varied by over 170. The numeric values were also included as point of reference to allow a more detailed comparison; however, detailed comparisons are cautioned as sustainability assessment was a semi-quantitative process (refer to response 9-01) and did not include all aspects of the alternatives (refer to response 9-01 and 9-02).

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

### **Comment 9-04:**

*"The sustainability assessment in the Draft FS is inaccurate, and insufficient information regarding inputs for each alternative was provided for the results to be meaningful."*

#### **Response 9-03:**

Per response 9-01, a subset of SiteWise modules was used to evaluate and semi-quantitatively rank the sustainability of each of the remedial alternatives as part of a preliminary sustainability assessment. As indicated in Section 7.1 of the Draft OU2 FS Report, sustainability assessment was included in addition to the seven NCP criteria. The sustainability assessment, like the Threshold and Balancing Criteria, should be used in the remedy selection process, although it may be considered in some instances to be a secondary consideration relative to the Threshold and Balancing Criteria. More detailed sustainability assessment will be conducted during the design phase to integrate green principles into the overall processes.

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## **COMMENT 10: COMMENTS REGARDING THE ENGINEERING ANALYTICS, INC. NUMERICAL GROUNDWATER FLOW MODEL**

The comments regarding EA Numerical Groundwater Flow Model were presented in SOCO's comment letter as Attachment 1, which was prepared by GSI Environmental (GSI).

#### **Comment 10-01:**

*"The South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP) is a project created by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) to address groundwater contamination in an approximate five square mile area in the south-central portion of the Orange County Groundwater Basin (the Basin) defined as the "Study Area." Engineering Analytics (EA) prepared a Draft Feasibility Study (Draft FS) for OCWD in which it developed remedial alternatives for what it defined as "Operable Unit 2" (OU2). OU2 consists of off-property groundwater contamination in the Shallow Aquifer System from numerous groundwater contamination "Source Sites" located within the Study Area. Figure 1 (Draft FS Figure 1-2) shows the Study Area and the Source Sites, and Figure 2 (Draft FS Figure 1-27) shows the claimed lateral extent of contamination in the upper portion of the Shallow Aquifer System.*

*The Draft FS included numerical groundwater flow and particle tracking modeling to support development of remedial alternatives, including a no action scenario, monitored natural attenuation, P&T systems, and in-situ treatment to contain the plume. The model evaluates hydrogeologic behavior under the various remedial alternative scenarios across the Study Area. On behalf of Soco West, Inc (Soco), GSI Environmental Inc. (GSI) evaluated the model construction and its use. Our comments fall into three general areas:*

- *1) EA's numerical model is not consistent with its Conceptual Site Model.*
- *2) EA's model did not evaluate the impact of Alternatives 3 and 4 on Soco's remedy, which was approved by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).*
- *3) EA's P&T hydraulic containment strategies in Alternatives 3 and 4 are not consistent with US EPA guidance or EA's Remedial Action Objectives, and the goals are not sufficiently defined.*

*Each of these issues is further discussed in greater detail below."*

#### **Response 10-01:**

Refer to responses 10-02 to 10-04 below.

Refer to below.

### **Comment 10-02:**

*"The numerical model does not accurately represent known local conditions or hydrogeologic parameters at various sites in the Study Area. Several important examples are discussed below."*

#### **Response 10-02:**

Refer to responses 10-02A to 10-02C below.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Refer to below.

#### **Comment 10-02A:**

"*EA's numerical model is inconsistent with the Conceptual Site Model or accepted aquifer parameters in several important ways*.

• First, EA's calibrated numerical model requires that there are large mergence zones that connect Model Layers 2 and 4 without an intervening aquitard. This is shown in Figure 4.24 of the Draft FS report Appendix E. This is inconsistent with all the cross sections prepared by Hargis in the 2020 Supplemental Remedial Investigation. "

#### **Response 10-02A:**

There are several mergence zones which are outside the OU2 study area but within the OU2 FS Model domain. These mergence zones were identified based primarily on water level elevations measured in water table monitor wells in the area of the mergence zones. The water level elevations in the mergence zones were lower than sea level, indicating that shallow groundwater could not flow into surface water features with water level elevations near or above sea level. These mergence zones were not identified on SRI cross sections because the cross sections were within the OU2 Study Area and did not extend into the southern portion of the model domain where these zones exist.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## **Comment 10-02B:**

• "*Second, the horizontal hydraulic conductivities (K's) used in the numerical model for Layer 2 are substantially lower than those measured in the aquifer tests. For example, at the Holchem Property, K values ranged from 64 to 174.8 feet/day. K values used by EA were 15 and 70 feet/day in the area around the Holchem Property (Figure 4.25 of the Draft FS report Appendix E). Appropriate K values are important to assess several critical parameters, including the number and spacing of extraction wells, the total flow those extraction wells, and the impact of the P&T system on groundwater conditions at individual properties. The OU2 remedy developed by EA needs to work in concert with the site-specific remedies and should use locally obtained parameters rather than one that calibrates a larger scale model. Each of these parameters significantly affects the cost analysis for Alternatives 3 and 4.* "

### **Response 10-02B:**

As indicated in response 1-01B, the OU2 FS Model, as with any groundwater flow model, is an approximate representation of subsurface conditions. Site-specific measurements are valuable in assessing hydraulic conditions in the area of each test location; however, even with appropriate analysis, these tests only provide an approximation of hydraulic properties in the immediate vicinity of the test, not necessarily the hydraulic properties of large-scale model features. The sitespecific tests indicate variability in hydraulic conductivity, which are on the same order of magnitude as the OU2 FS Model.

As indicated in responses 02-02 and 02-03, the OU2 FS Model was not intended for design purposes, rather it was meant to compare alternatives. As presented in the Draft OU2 FS Report, a sensitivity analysis was performed during groundwater flow remedial simulations. From this sensitivity analysis, it was determined that the differences in hydraulic properties generally influenced the evaluated alternatives in a similar way, allowing for alternative comparison using the existing OU2 FS Model. For example, higher or lower hydraulic conductivities would require more or less groundwater extraction and/or more or less injection points and dosing applications of in situ chemical oxidant.

As a point of comparison, the groundwater model prepared for the SOCO FS/RAP used a single hydraulic conductivity value for HSU 3 over the entire SOCO property and throughout the larger model domain (HSU 3 is similar to Layer 2 in the OU2 FS Model). This was done without performing sensitivity analysis even though the above SOCO comment suggests variability in hydraulic conductivity at the site.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

# **Comment 10-02C:**

• "*Third, EA's numerical modeling does not consider the impact of matrix back-diffusion on the remedy selection. Matrix diffusion has an impact over the entire length of the VOC plume, not just at the source areas as implied by EA (page 9) and provides a prolonged source of elevated concentrations of COCs.* "

#### **Response 10-02C:**

As indicated in response 7-01, the IRM focus is on stabilizing operable unit and/or preventing further migration of contaminants, without specifying cleanup goals or estimating time for groundwater cleanup. Matrix diffusion in areas downgradient of the source areas along the entire length of the plume was described in Section 1.5 of the Draft OU2 FS Report. Matrix diffusion processes are expected to slow COC migration by transferring mass from primary transport zones within the coarse intervals to the surrounding finer grained material. Over time, however, matrix back diffusion from the finer grained intervals back into coarse intervals is expected to prolong conditions that result in elevated COPC concentrations in groundwater that will prolong the remedy duration. The prolonged duration applies to all alternatives.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### **Comment 10-03:**

*"EA claims in its report that it evaluated the impact of the groundwater extraction systems for each property. This is incorrect. EA's model simply estimates the change in groundwater flow directions and rates before and after the P&T remedies in Alternatives 3 and 4 are implemented. It does not simulate the impact of the groundwater extraction systems on Soco's remedy, as discussed below."*

#### **Response 10-03:**

Refer to responses 10-03A to 10-03D below.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Refer to below

### **Comment 10-03A:**

#### *"The Soco Approved Remedy*

*Geosyntec (2014) conducted fate and transport modeling in support of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) that included installation of a slurry wall, flow control gates, and a PRB around the source area, as*

*well as off-property Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) and contingency remedies if MNA is found to be ineffective (Geosyntec, 2014).* "

### **Response 10-03A:**

As indicated in response 0-01A, SOCO states that their remedy has a contingency plan to address failure in meeting remediation goals. However, the proposed contingency would implement EISB only 150 feet downgradient of their source remedy (PRB), while their furthest downgradient monitoring well is 2,100 feet downgradient of Warner Avenue. This contingency plan does not cover MNA failure as indicated in the above SOCO comment.

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## **Comment 10-03B:**

*"It* [Geosyntec added for context] *developed a local model over the property and downgradient area consisting of two hydrogeologic zones - Zone 1 (Geosyntec Model Layer 1), which includes HSU1 and HSU2, and Zone 2 (Geosyntec Model Layer 2), which consists of HSU3. Groundwater flow was simulated based on groundwater elevation measurements and average values for soil parameters for HSU2 and HSU3 based on Site investigation reports. The Geosyntec Model used site-specific and literature values for most flow and transport parameters and performed a transport calibration for horizontal transverse and vertical dispersivity coefficients and tortuosity against data from 4Q2002 through 4Q2012.*

*The Geosyntec Model was then used to evaluate conditions for 50 years from 2012 through 2063. Baseline conditions were evaluated to note how the plume would evolve under a no-action scenario (which is not the remedy proposed by Soco or approved by DTSC). The design of a PRB was also*  simulated. The PRB system, which is depicted on Figure 3, consists of slurry walls and flow control *gates to achieve the minimum residence time required for the designed PRB gate thicknesses. The slurry wall system can divert approximately 72% of groundwater flow to reduce the volume of water passing through the Property's subsurface and reduce seepage velocities through the PRB gates. The resulting mounding upstream of the diversion was less than 0.5 feet, which indicates no significant flooding risk. Significant downstream hydraulic impacts extending up to 500 feet to the south of the Holchem Property in HSU3 were noted due to the slurry wall system. Predictive transport simulations indicated that VOC concentrations exiting the PRB system will be below MCLs. "*

# **Response 10-03B:**

As indicated in responses 0-01A and 0-01B, the SOCO FS Model did not address the leading edge (as defined by MCL) of contamination emanating from the SOCO property, and as such does not address the entirety of the SOCO contamination. In addition, the SOCO FS Model did not include sensitivity analysis to assess uncertainty in the model hydraulic and chemical parameters.

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

### **Comment 10-03C:**

#### *"EA's Modeling of Remedial Alternatives*

*EA's numerical flow modeling evaluated eight feasibility study extraction sites distributed throughout the Study Area (Figure 4; Draft FS Figure 3.15). The model was used to simulate the impact of the various extraction systems on capture and the potential impact at Source Sites. Each extraction site was simulated such that extraction rates provided hydraulic containment at various locations throughout the plume, not simply at the leading edge.*

*The proposed extraction systems cause changes in the groundwater flow magnitude and direction at one or more Source Sites. The simulated groundwater flux magnitude scaling factor at Source Sites as a result of each proposed extraction system is shown on Figure 4 (Draft FS Figure 3.15) to be 1.34, 2.38, and 2.23 in model layers 1, 2, and 3, respectively, at the Holchem Property (monitoring point ISRA2). The change in groundwater flow direction at Source Sites is shown on Figure 5 (Draft FS Figure 3.16) to be 6.8, 28.2, and 3.3 in model layers 1, 2, and 3, respectively, at the Holchem Property. Thus, the extraction systems can more than double the flux magnitude at the Holchem Property and change flow direction by as much as 28 degrees. EA did not perform any sensitivity analyses to evaluate the accuracy or uncertainty of these numbers. "*

#### **Response 10-03C:**

As indicated in response 2-02, the intent of the Draft OU2 FS Report is to provide a comparison of the presented remedial alternatives, not to perform remedial design. For Alternatives 3, 4 and 6, the potential effects of well field operation would be further assessed during the pre-design investigation. This additional investigation would refine remedy design prior to implementation to minimize potential negative effects on source site remediation activities. In addition, contingency actions are available during the operation of pump and treat remedies to mitigate undesirable changes in groundwater gradients and fluxes in the vicinity of source areas, as indicated in the draft OU2 FS.

As described in response 2-03, the OU2 FS Model was modified in the vicinity of the SOCO site to evaluate the effect of OU2 groundwater extraction on SOCOs source remedy, which incorporates slurry walls. During this evaluation it was determined that the placement of the SOCO slurry walls may have a more pronounced affect in the change in direction of groundwater flow in the vicinity of the SOCO property than the OU2 FS groundwater pump and treat options. ITRC explicitly states that flow problems may arise with PRB despite detailed site characterization and a thorough design process due to uncertainties in subsurface installations. These uncertainties exist with and without the OU2 FS pump and treat system. Some of these uncertainties can be mitigated through PRB modifications.

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per responses 2-02 and 2-03.

#### **Comment 10-03D:**

*"Evaluation of EA's Modeling on Local Impacts at the Holchem Property*

*The model used for Draft FS evaluation is at the scale of the Study Area, which encompasses the plumes of several Source Sites, and is inappropriate for evaluation of the impact of feasibility study extraction site operations on each of the specific Source Sites.*

*Figure 6 (Draft FS Figure 4.15) shows the model grid and Figure 7 shows a zoom view of the*  model grid over the Source Sites. As noted, the resolution of the grid is not sufficient to evaluate *the impact of groundwater extraction systems on Source Sites. Specifically, the entire Holchem Property is contained in just 1% grid-blocks. Also, the proposed extraction systems are just downgradient of the Holchem Property, with extraction sites G3 and G2 being just 3 grid-blocks away.*

*EA's model does not include details of the Soco slurry wall or PRB design. The resolution of the model is not sufficient to even include these details. However, these flows are critical to operation of the PRBs and may be critically impacted. A local model, with local property values and local remediation design details, is necessary to evaluate the impact of the FS remedial alternatives on the current Soco remedy*

*The change in flow magnitude and direction indicated by the EA's model will be significant to operation of the PRB system. A change in flow direction of 28 degrees can impact how water enters the gates and a change in flow magnitude by over a factor of two will impact residence times within the PRBs. There are similar magnitude changes in flow direction in the area south and downgradient of the Holchem Property, which is within the Site and associated DTSC approved remedy. "*

#### **Response 10-03D:**

Refer to response 2-03.

### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per responses 2-02 and 2-03.
# **Comment 10-04A**:

*"EA's pump-and-treat (P&T) designs are poorly conceived and are not consistent with EPA's guidance documentation or EA's own Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs).*

*EPA Guidance for Pump-and-Treat Systems*

*The EPA has published several guidance documents related to P&T systems for cleanup and containment of solutes in groundwater (EPA, 1990, 1997; EPA, 2008). According to the EPA: "In order to determine an appropriate strategy to manage contaminated ground water, it is necessary first to evaluate site conditions and define remediation goals. Historically, the goal of ground-water remediation has been to protect human health and the environment and to restore ground water to beneficial uses where practicable." (EPA, 1997).*

*The EPA identified numerous strategies for managing groundwater contamination, including hydraulic/physical containment, groundwater quality restoration, and mixed objective strategies. (EPA, 1997). The purpose of these strategies are:*

- *Hydraulic containment designs prevent continued expansion of the contamination zone. Containment P&T systems are designed to be located at the distal end of a plume to prevent it from expanding further. Capture zone evaluations are conducted to gauge the effectiveness of the hydraulic barrier created by the P&T operations.*
- *Groundwater quality restoration strategies are designed to attain clean-up goals during a finite period. Solute transport evaluations are required to determine whether the strategies are effective and whether clean-up goals can be achieved within a reasonable period.*
- *Mixed objective strategies are designed to contain the downgradient edge of the plume and attempt to restore the source area and downgradient plume area. Mixed strategies may include non-P&T approaches to handle different portions of the contaminated region with different remediation approaches. When mixed approaches are used, the impact of one strategy on the other must be analyzed.*

*Figure 8 (from EPA's Guidance document) shows the various uses of P&T systems for site management (EPA, 1997). EPA guidance on designing P&T systems also emphasizes the need to optimize well locations, depths, and extraction rates to maintain effective hydraulic flushing of the plume, minimize stagnation zones (typically located downgradient of containment well arrays), and contain groundwater plumes (EPA, 1997). This was not considered in EA's analysis."*

# **Response 10-04A**:

As established in RAO 1 of the Draft OU2 FS Report, one of the goals of the interim remedy is to "Protect groundwater resources from further degradation by preventing lateral and vertical migration of high concentration COCs into zones with lower concentrations of COCs". As such, hydraulic containment at OU2 is not reserved only to the distal end of plumes to prevent lateral

migration, as implied by SOCO's response, it can also be used as a means of preventing vertical migration of plumes.

Groundwater restoration strategies (also referred to as Cleanup/Restoration) are more difficult to achieve than hydraulic containment <sup>[28](#page-721-0)</sup>. As indicated in response 7-01, the IRM focus is on stabilizing the operable unit and/or preventing further migration of contaminants. The optimization of well locations to maximize flushing as described in the SOCO comment is more relevant to a cleanup/restoration remedy, which, as the Draft OU2 FS Report indicated, may be part of the final remedy.

To the extent pump and treat alternatives are selected for the OU2 IRM, optimization of well locations would be conducted during remedial design based on updated information collected during the pre-design investigation, not as part of the Draft OU2 FS Report. The final remedy could also be further optimized based on performance monitoring information obtained during the operation and five-year remedy reviews implemented as part of the IRM.

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### **Comment 10-04B**:

*"Potential limits to P&T include tailing and rebound when the system is shut off and then turned back on, especially when aquifer restoration is the remediation goal. These may occur due to physical processes of diffusion to/from low conductivity sediments, or chemical processes of adsorption or mass transfer from another phase (EPA, 1997). An appropriate conceptual site model tested using analytical or numerical methods may help estimate the relative significance of different processes, such as matrix back diffusion, that cause tailing and rebound. EA did not do that analysis."*

#### **Response 10-04B**:

Refer to response 10-02C.

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

# **Comment 10-04C:**

*"Consistency of the Remedial Alternatives with the RAOs*

*The Draft FS defines the RAOs as protection of human health and the environment from COCs from the various Source Sites. Specific RAOs were described in the Draft FS:*

<span id="page-721-0"></span><sup>28</sup> Page 2 of USEPA/540/S-92/504. September 1997

- *1. "Protect groundwater resources from further degradation by preventing lateral and vertical migration of high concentration CO Cs into zones with lower concentrations of COCs within OU2, to the extent practicable;*
- *2. Protect groundwater resources by preventing the potential for vertical migration of high concentration COCs from the upper/middle portions of the Shallow Aquifer System to the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells, to the extent practicable;*
- *3. Protect groundwater resources from further degradation by preventing the spread of COCs exceeding MCLs in the Leading-Edge areas of the plume, to the extent practicable;*
- *4. Implement a reliable interim groundwater remedy(s) that is compatible with ongoing and planned remediation at source sites and associated off-property locations, where applicable;*
- *5. Prevent discharge of COCs exceeding ecological risk-based concentrations from the Shallow Aquifer System to surface water channels; and*
- *6. Prevent human exposure to contaminated groundwater with COC concentrations exceeding MCLs or other ARARs".*

*The proposed P&T remedial alternatives are shown on Figure 4 (Draft FS Figure 3.15) and includes groundwater extraction wells and trenches. The Source Sites are also shown on Figure 4. Figure 5 (Draft FS Figure 3.16) shows the groundwater extraction locations for the proposed remedial alternatives and the plume of COCs. The alternatives that EA selected as viable include:*

- *Alternative 3--Containment and Treatment of relatively High Concentration and Leading• Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Discharge to POTW and GWRS for further treatment*
- *Alternative 4-- Containment and Treatment of relatively High Concentration and Leading• Edge Areas Using Groundwater Extraction and Treatment with Injection to the Basal Sand."*

# **Response to 10-04C:**

*.*

The Draft OU2 FS Report identified Alternatives 3 and 4 as potentially feasible and provided a comparison and ranking of alternatives, for which Alternatives  $3$  and  $4$  ranked highest<sup>29</sup>.

<span id="page-722-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Section 8.2 of the draft OU2 FS Report.

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### **Comment 10-04D:**

*"EA's overall strategy is not appropriate. Its remedial alternative analysis fails to include sufficient details of current and proposed remediation systems at Source Sites and therefore EA's P&T alternatives could interfere with the operation of Source Site systems."*

#### **Response to 10-04D:**

Refer to responses to comments 2-01 to 2-07.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per responses 2-02 and 2-03.

#### **Comment 10-04E:**

*In addition, groundwater extraction systems within the middle of the plume, as proposed by EA, do not achieve stated remediation goals for the following reasons:*

• *The Shallow Aquifer System is not a drinking water resource as the water is not potable due to high TDS and chlorides.*

#### **Response to 10-04E:**

As stated in Section 1.2.1 of the Draft OU2 FS Report, the Shallow and Principal Aquifer Systems are components of the Orange and Irvine Groundwater Management Zones which are defined in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses for the Orange and Irvine Groundwater Management Zones, including the Domestic and Municipal (MUN) beneficial use. OU2 groundwater, including groundwater in the Shallow Aquifer, is designated for beneficial use.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### **Comment 10-04F:**

• *"The proposed in-plume extraction systems do not prevent further degradation of the resource due to migration of high concentration VOCs into lower concentration zones because the downgradient portions of the plumes are not being captured by the P&T systems. For instance,*

*extraction site G2 (see Figure 9; Draft FS Figure 2.3) has high concentrations of VOC immediately downgradient of the extraction system. A similar situation exists with extraction sites G3, G8 and G5. In fact, the design and placement of these extraction well arrays will prolong the duration of the remedy because they will likely create stagnation zones in the downgradient areas."*

#### **Response to 10-04F:**

Stagnation zones develop in areas where the P&T operation produces low hydraulic gradients.<sup>[30](#page-724-0)</sup> By definition, the amount of groundwater flowing through stagnation zones is low, which can create isolated pockets of higher concentration water. Because of this low flow, stagnation zones limit the mass flux of contaminants, which is consistent with OU2 FS RAOs 1 and 2 presented in the Draft OU2 FS Report. Stagnation zones that develop as part of pump and treat alternatives, can be identified during operation of the IRM, if one of these alternatives are selected. The size, magnitude, and duration of stagnation zones can be diminished by changing pumping schedules, locations, and rates<sup>31</sup>. These types of evaluations can be conducted during an IRM and support the final remedy.

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

# **Comment 10-04G:**

• *"The in-plume treatment system was designed for containment, not optimal mass removal. Therefore, these systems were not placed in the highest concentration areas of the plume. Also, EA's modeling to evaluate system design was optimized based on the pumping required to contain and capture water from upstream sources instead of evaluating the optimal capture of VOCs based on physical and chemical properties of the solutes and back diffusion effects from lower permeability zones."*

# **Response to 10-04G:**

The OU2 area is within a densely utilized urban area that creates challenges for siting and operating remedial alternatives. As such, the draft OU2 FS Report used public rights of way for the analysis, which was consistently applied to all alternatives with the exception of procurement property for the larger treatment system associated with Alternative 4. It is difficult to optimize remedial alternatives in areas such as OU2 given access constraints; however, as indicated in a portion of response 10-04A, optimization of well locations would be conducted during design based on updated information collected during the pre-design investigation, not part of the draft OU2 FS Report.

<span id="page-724-0"></span><sup>30</sup> Page 13 of USEPA/540/S-92/504. September 1997

<span id="page-724-1"></span><sup>31</sup> Page 13 of USEPA/540/S-92/504. September 1997

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### **Comment 10-04H:**

• *"The remedial alternative does not promote plume cut-off as noted in the second panel of Figure 8, or downgradient aquifer restoration as in the third through fifth panels of Figure 8, because there are multiple Source Sites"*

#### **Response 10-04I:**

OU2 groundwater is impacted by multiple plumes from multiple source sites that vary by depth and location within the OU2 Study Area. Some of the OU2 Alternative transects are downgradient of some source sites, but upgradient of others. These transects do reduce the mass flux of commingled plumes from upgradient of the respective transect to areas downgradient. Achieving OU2 FS RAOs is the focus of the IRM as indicated in the Draft OU2 FS Report (refer to response 7-01).

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### **Comment 10-04J:**

• *"If the postulated but unknown "Legacy Water Supply Wells" as defined by EA exist within the Study Area and are acting as conduits as speculated by EA, Alternatives 3 or 4 do nothing to address such pathways."*

#### **Response 10-04J:**

Alternatives 3 to 6 have transects that intercept/treat higher concentration groundwater thereby reducing the threat potential in areas downgradient of the transects. This is presented in the Draft OU2 FS Report in sections 6.2.3 to 6.2.6. The respective alternative would be applied in transects within relatively high COC concentration area to decrease lateral and vertical migration of high concentration COCs into zones with lower concentrations within OU2; decrease the threat of COC migration from the Shallow Aquifer System to the Principal Aquifer System through Legacy Water Supply Wells that cannot be located or properly destroyed; and begin to treat and reduce the concentration of COCs in OU2 groundwater.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

# **Comment 10-04K:**

• *"There is little or no data that shows VOCs are present in surface water channels even after decades of contamination in the OU2 area. Furthermore, the remedial alternatives preferred by EA do not prevent water from entering the surface-water system, nor has it been demonstrated that it does. Alternative 3 and 4 do nothing to address this unproven pathway."*

#### **Response 10-04K:**

Section 4.2 of the SRI indicated there was some limited surface water sampling in the Lane Channel to the south of the Ricoh Electronics Facility located on Pullman Drive in 2000. The results of this sampling indicated that tetrachloroethylene (PCE) was detected in the surface water. This data, along with water level elevations measured at the time, indicated that a portion of the groundwater in the upper portion of the Shallow Aquifer System was flowing into this surface water channel. As a point of clarification, OU2 FS RAO 5 "Prevent discharge of COCs exceeding ecological risk-based concentrations from the Shallow Aquifer System to surface water channels;" applies to hexavalent chromium not VOCs (Section 1.6.2 of the Draft OU2 FS Report).

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### **Comment 10-04L:**

• *"The remedial alternatives do not specifically address human exposure to groundwater with VOCs exceeding their respective standards. The Shallow Aquifer System water is not potable and there are no downstream potable water wells in the Shallow Aquifer System that are or may be threatened."*

# **Response to 10-04L:**

As indicated in response 7-01 and in Table 8-2 of the Draft OU2 FS Report, RAO 6 (human exposure to groundwater) is maintained through ICs for Alternatives 2 through 6. As stated in response 10-04E and Section 1.2.1 of the Draft OU2 FS Report, the Shallow and Principal Aquifer Systems are components of the Orange and Irvine Groundwater Management Zones which are defined in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses for the Orange and Irvine Groundwater Management Zones, including the Domestic and Municipal (MUN) beneficial use. OU2 groundwater, including groundwater in the Shallow Aquifer, is designated for beneficial use.

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

# **Comment 10-04M:**

*"The remedial alternatives do not address details of ongoing or planned onsite remedial strategies. For instance, the Soco approved remedy includes a slurry wall system to control flow through permeable reactive barriers that would remove mass from the system. This system will be affected by the proposed remedial alternative, but EA did not evaluate that effect on a local scale. Even from regional trends, it was noted that the remedial alternative would change direction and magnitude of flow around the entire Soco Site thus interfering with approved Site remedial implementation.*

#### **Response to 10-04M:**

Refer to response to comments 2-01 through 2-07.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per responses 2-02 and 2-03.

#### **Comment 10-04N:**

*"As explained above, the proposed remedial alternatives and analyses thereof are inadequate. The main objective of a remedial alternative is to protect human health and the environment and to restore ground water to beneficial uses where practicable. The remedial alternatives proposed do not improve the protection of human health in terms of preventing COCs from reaching drinking water sources. The Shallow Aquifer System groundwater is not potable and has not been put to any beneficial uses. The aquifer restoration potential has not been analyzed. The practicality of clean-up and time to reach appropriate standards have not been estimated. The system operation was not designed to be optimal for mass removal considering matrix diffusion or other chemical and physical properties of the COCs and the site conditions; instead, it was designed for containment and capture while needlessly creating numerous stagnation zones. Furthermore, many of the extraction systems do not prevent further degradation of the resource because the high concentrations are already downgradient of the extraction wells.*

#### **Response to 10-04N:**

Refer to response to comments 10-04A to 10-04M.

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

#### **COMMENT 11. COMMENTS REGARDING THE REPLENISHMENT ASSESSMENT AND BASIN EQUITY ASSESSMENT IN ENGINEERING ANALYTICS, INC. DRAFT FS**

The comments regarding Replenishment Assessment and Basin Equity were presented in SOCO's comment letter as Attachment 2, which was prepared by GSI.

# **Comment 11-01:**

*"1. The cost estimates for selected Alternatives 3 and 4 include Replenishment Assessment (RA) and Basin Equity Assessment (BEA) Fees. Neither the RA nor the BEA is appropriate for the pump and treat system in the Shallow Aquifer System of the SBGPP."*

# **Response to Comment 11-01:**

Given that the main purpose of the Draft OU2 FS Report is to describe and evaluate interim remedial alternatives that would be implemented by the OCWD, rather than another entity, it is appropriate that the costs for the RA and BEA be deleted from these alternatives, explained as follows. Per the OCWD Act, including but not limited to Sections 24, 27, 27.1, and 31.5, the groundwater extracted by OCWD under Alternatives 3, 4 and 6 would be subject to payment of the RA and BEA. Under this scenario, however, OCWD would in essence be billing and paying itself in equal amounts for each billing cycle. Therefore, there would be no net costs for the RA and BEA and, as such, they will be deleted from the costs for Alternatives 3, 4 and 6 in the FS report.

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

The RA and BEA items will be removed from the cost estimates for Alternatives 3, 4 and 6 in the Draft OU2 FS Report. This revision, reduces the estimated cost for Alternatives 3, 4 and 6 by approximately \$9.6, \$1.9 and \$9.4 million dollars, respectively. These changes affect the overall estimated costs for the different remedial alternatives, but do not affect the overall cost ranking for any of the Alternatives presented in Draft OU2 FS Report. These revisions will be incorporated into the Final Draft FS Report.

# **Comment 11-01a:**

*"Pump and treat as designed will pump shallow aquifer system groundwater at a rate of 343.28 GPM"*

# **Response to Comment 11-01a:**

Refer to response to comments 10-04E, 10-04L and 11-01.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per response 11-01.

#### **Comment 11-01b:**

*"The Shallow Aquifer System is not usable groundwater"*

#### **Response to Comment 11-01b:**

Portions of the Shallow Aquifer System in the South Basin contain groundwater that is of suitable quality for potable water supply or other uses, while other portions of the Shallow Aquifer System contain groundwater that would need to be treated prior to potable or other water supply uses. Also see response to Comment 11-01.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per response 11-01.

# **Comment 11-01c:**

*"The Basin Equity Assessment (BEA) is not an applicable cost to levy for the extraction of nonpotable water"*

# **Response to Comment 11-01c:**

Refer to response to comment 11-01.

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per response 11-01.

#### **Comment 11-01d:**

*"The Replenishment Assessment (RA) is not an appropriate charge to non-potable water sources, and it overestimates the cost to treat SBGPP groundwater at the GWRS"*

#### **Response to Comment 11-01d:**

Refer to response to comment 11-01.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per response 11-01.

#### **Comment 11-02:**

*"2. Although the Shallow Aquifer System groundwater is currently not used for municipal water supply and is largely discharged to Newport Bay, any perceived reduction in groundwater storage can be replaced at a far lower cost by acquiring water from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD).."*

#### **Response to Comment 11-02:**

The three aquifer systems in the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project Study Area, with increasing depth, are the Shallow Aquifer System, the Principal Aquifer System, and the Deep Aquifer System. Although identified as separate systems, the aquifer systems are known to be hydraulically connected as groundwater flows between them by way of discontinuities in the aquitards or leakage through the intervening aquitards (Orange County Water District Groundwater Management Plan 2015, Updated June 17, 2015; Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report, Orange County Water District South Basin Protection Project, Operable Unit 2, prepared by Hargis + Associates, Inc., dated May 6, 2020). Some near-surface groundwater in the Shallow Aquifer System discharges to surface water channels tributary to Newport Bay. No net reduction in basin groundwater storage will occur as a result of implementation of any of the Alternatives in the FS, due to OCWD's basin management programs including groundwater replenishment of the Shallow, Principal, and Deep Aquifer Systems.

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

# **Comment 11-02a:**

*"The total cost to pump and send water to the POTW and then to OCWD's GWRS for 30 years with an NPV of 2.5% is approximately \$37.3M"*

# **Response to Comment 11-02a:**

Refer to response to comment 11-01. A discount rate of 2.5% was selected based on OCWD's anticipated rate of return on its investments and inflation.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report will be made per response 11-01.

#### **Comment 11-02b:**

*"The cost to buy an equivalent volume of water from the MWD for that same period is \$9M to \$13M"*

#### **Response to Comment 11-02b:**

Comparing costs of the interim remedial alternatives to purchasing MWD water ignores the purpose of the interim remedial alternatives which is to achieve the remedial action objectives listed in the Draft OU2 FS Report.

#### **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

# **LIST OF TABLES**

- 1a Simulated Groundwater Discharge through the SOCO West Feasibility Study Slurry Wall (with and without FSES Remediation)
- 1b Simulated Groundwater Discharge through the SOCO West Remedial Design Slurry Wall (with and without FSES Remediation)

# **LIST OF FIGURES**

- 1 Original Model Grid In the Study Area, SBGPP Model
- 2 Revised Model Grid In the Study Area, SBGPP Model
- 3 Revised Model Gridding Near SOCO West Site, SBGPP Model
- 4 Telescopic Mesh Refinement (TMR) Model Domain and Grid, SBGPP Model
- 5a. Comparison of Layer 1 Potentiometric Surface Baseline Simulation for Original and Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid SBGPP Model
- 5b. Comparison of Layer 1 Potentiometric Surface Baseline Simulation for Original and Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid, Near SOCO West Site, SBGPP Model
- 6a. Comparison of Layer 2 Potentiometric Surface Baseline Simulation for Original and Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid SBGPP Model
- 6b. Comparison of Layer 2 Potentiometric Surface Baseline Simulation for Original and Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid, Near SOCO West Site, SBGPP Model
- 7a. Comparison of Layer 1 Potentiometric Surface OU2 FS Simulation for Original and Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid, SBGPP Model
- 7b. Comparison of Layer 1 Potentiometric Surface OU2 FS Simulation for Original and Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid, Near SOCO West Site, SBGPP Model
- 8a. Comparison of Layer 2 Potentiometric Surface OU2 FS Simulation for Original and Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid, SBGPP Model
- 8b. Comparison of Layer 2 Potentiometric Surface OU2 FS Simulation for Original and Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid, Near SOCO West Site, SBGPP Model
- 9a. Simulated SOCO West Feasibility Study Slurry Wall, SBGPP Model
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- 10a. Potentiometric Surface, Layer 1, Baseline Simulation With and Without SOCO West Feasibility Study Slurry Wall Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid, SBGPP Model
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- 11a. Potentiometric Surface, Layer 2, Baseline Simulation With and Without SOCO West Feasibility Study Slurry Wall Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid, SBGPP Model
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- 12a Potentiometric Surface, Layer 1, Remedial Simulation With SOCO West Feasibility Study Slurry Wall, Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid, SBGPP Model
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- 13a Potentiometric Surface, Layer 2, Remedial Simulation With SOCO West Feasibility Study Slurry Wall, Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid, SBGPP Model
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**TABLES**

# **Table 1a: Simulated Groundwater Discharge through the SOCOWest Feasibility Study Slurry Wall (with and without FSES Remediation)**



Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Factor is FSES ( $ft^3$ /day) divided by SOCOWest ( $ft^3$ /day)



# **Table 1b: Simulated Groundwater Discharge through the SOCOWest Remedial Design Slurry Wall (with and without FSES Remediation)**

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Factor is FSES (ft<sup>3</sup>/day) divided by SOCOWest (ft<sup>3</sup>/day)

**Total Out** | 125.4 | 0.65 | 217.4 | 1.13 | 1.73

**FIGURES**



Project No. 151099 Project No. 151099



Project No. 151099 Project No. 151099

SBGPP\_ModelDomain\_grid.srf (04/12/21) SBGPP\_ModelDomain\_grid.srf (04/12/21)



**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 

# **SOCO West Site, SBGPP Model**

# **ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**









**Figure 5b. Comparison of Layer 1 Potentiometric Surface Baseline Simulation for Original and Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid, Near SOCOWest Site, SBGPP Model**

> **ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**

**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 





**Figure 6b. Comparison of Layer 2 Potentiometric Surface Baseline Simulation for Original and Telescopic Mesh Refinement Near SOCO West Site, SBGPP Model**

**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 

**ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**





**Figure 7b. Comparison of Layer 1 Potentiometric Surface OU2 FS Simulation for Original and Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid, Near SOCOWest Site, SBGPP Model**

> **ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**

SBGPP\_SourceSiteLocations.srf (06/11/21) SBGPP\_SourceSiteLocations.srf (06/11/21)

**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 





**Figure 8b. Comparison of Layer 2 Potentiometric Surface OU2 FS Simulation for Original and Telescopic Mesh Refinement Grid**, **Near SOCO West Site, SBGPP Model**

> **ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**

**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 



▲ Source Site Model Monitor Point Minimum cell size is 2 ft x 2 ft

**Engineering Analytics, Inc.** 

# **Figure 9a. Simulated SOCOWest Feasibility Study Slurry Wall, SBGPP Model**

**ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT South Basin Groundwater Protection Project**


























**ATTACHMENT 2 RESPONSE TO DRSS-I, LLC COMMENTS DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT, SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2**



This response to comments document has been prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) on behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) in support of the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP).

This attachment is in response to Newmeyer Dillon's July 5, 2022 comments (Subject Comment Document) regarding the April 5, 2022 SBGPP OU2 Feasibility Study report (Draft OU2 FS Report) prepared by EA. Newmeyer Dillon provided these comments on behalf of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) member DRSS-I, LCC (DRSS).

## **ORGANIZATION**

Comments in the Subject Comment Document were divided into selected categories developed by the author. These categories included comment topics, some of which were repeated between the selected categories. Given the number of comment topics within the individual selected categories. This Attachment organizes the responses to comment topics as follows:

- The text from the Subject Comment Document is presented under the "Comment" subsection. Each "Comment" heading incorporates the major section information (Subject Comment Document Comment ID, e.g 1,2,3, etc) and the sequence of the respective comment within the major section (1 to n). For example, the resultant "Comment" identifier for the second major section (eg Subject Comment Document comment 2) and the third comment topic would be "Comment 2-03".
- A response is presented to each comment immediately following the "Comment" subsection; and
- A statement as to whether the draft FS is being revised with respect to the subject comment.

# RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

## Comment 0-01:

"Given Judge Claster's "Gateway Issues" ruling last Tuesday in the South Basin trial finding that OCWD failed to comply with the public participation aspects of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) for nearly 11 years when it had a duty to do so, DRSS hopes that OCWD remains receptive to the below comments. The District must now finally realize that the NCP requires "meaningful public participation" (42 U.S.C. § 9607(a)(4)(B) and Carson Harbor Village v. County of Los Angeles, 433 F.3d 1260, 1265-66 (9th Cir. 2006)); that "the public – both PRPs and concerned citizens – have a strong interest in participating in cleanup decisions that may affect them" (NCP Preamble, 55 Fed. Reg. 46, 131); and as OCWD cross-references in its own Community Involvement Plan (CIP) for the South Basin – a proper "public participation program is not a public relations tool in the sense that public relations is 'one-way' communication" but rather is "to create a dialogue with all stakeholders to ensure that their concerns and priorities are incorporated into each project." We hope there will not be a repeat of how OCWD handled comments to the draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report. OCWD received extensive comments. Yet, while OCWD acknowledged such, it did not change a word in the Final RI Report in response."

## Response to 0-01:

OCWD prepared detailed responses to the comments received regarding the Supplemental Remedial Investigation (SRI) Report. As indicated in the responses to SRI comments, revisions to the SRI Report were not warranted. Both the response to comments (RTCs) and determination that no revisions were required were reviewed and accepted by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). OCWD will continue the community involvement program, obtain comments from stakeholders, provide continued opportunities for the public to be involved and will provide responses to the comments and update public participation documents to the extent necessary.

## Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## Comment 1-01:

"Labeling Error/Omission Regarding DRSS's Second Treatment Area. The Draft FS credits only one of two current and future in-situ treatment zones associated with the 2040 Site. Specifically, while Draft FS Figures 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, and 2-5, and Draft Figure 2.1 from the Numerical GW Flow Model Part II – Remedial Simulations & Engineering Analytics (April 1, 2022) properly identify the GE Plastics perchlorate bio-barriers (see below example from Draft FS Figure 2.2), they fail to include the 2040 Site's on-going southern boundary injection (see orange highlights below). To be clear, while the 2040 Site has injected in various on- and off- site locations over the years, its current and future RWQCB-approved injections are in two locations – not one. This appears to be a simple oversight. DRSS asks that OCWD add a second white line to the "BFM Energy Prod" label and correct the omission for all the figures referenced above in the Final FS.

## Response to 1-01:

The figures in the Draft OU2 FS Report will be revised to include an additional leader to the referenced feature.

#### Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

The figures in the Draft OU2 FS Report will be revised.

#### Comment 2-01:

"The Alleged "Mega-Plume" is Misleading. The Draft FS continues to use the outdated, discredited, and admittedly inaccurate "mega-plume" set forth in the Draft FS's Figure ES-2 (and all other figures using the same depiction). This is misleading, inappropriate, and causes false impressions that underlie the FS analysis and resulting decisions. At least three points associated with the mega-plume warrant mention here."

#### Response 2-01:

The DRSS comment regarding use of outdated data was responded to in the SRI Report RTCs. The following is an excerpt of the response from the SRI RTC<sup>1</sup> that addressed the data sufficiency.

"Regarding the nature and extent of COPCs, the distribution of principal COPCs in the SRI was compiled using data available as of September 2018 for plan view maps and September 2019 for cross sections. The COPC distribution maps in the SRI represent a valid interpretation of the distributions of COPCs in OU2 groundwater using data from 2018/2019.

There is sufficient RI data for use in preparing a FS."

The above response included an introductory statement that the RWQCB and the SWRCB have indicated that the SRI is complete and final. Thus, the existing RI data are sufficient to conduct a FS. The SRI data set was used to prepare the Draft OU2 FS Report.

## Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

No revisions were required for the SRI Report. The SRI Report clearly stated that this data set was sufficient for the purposes of preparing the FS Report. Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### Comment 2-02:

a. "Continued Use of Obsolete Data. As OCWD's long-time Chief Hydrogeologist Roy Herndon admitted under oath in the recent South Basin trial: "If the remediation caused a reduction in concentrations subsequent to the time that this map was prepared, then it would not take that into account." (Rough Trial Transcript (RTT) 1927:7-12, emphasis added)."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Comment excerpted from response to Consortium General Comment FF. DRSS was one of the members of the consortium.

# Response 2-02:

As indicated in response 2-01, the SRI data set is sufficient for the FS. The Draft OU2 FS Report indicates that additional data will be collected during the pre-design investigation (PDI) to support the design of the selected alternative<sup>2</sup>. The groundwater data from the DRSS property that are readily available at the time of the PDI, will be used to evaluate the scope of the PDI to the extent it influences decision on the PDI scope of work for the selected remedy.

As indicated above, the Draft OU2 FS is consistent with Mr. Herndon's statement.

# Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## Comment 2-03:

"The 2040 Site's remedial efforts for over 30 years have caused such reductions. As OCWD's long-time technical consultant and expert Anthony Brown summarized in response to a question by the Court during the 2040 Site segment of the South Basin trial: "What we have seen at this site is generally a dramatic reduction in concentrations at the site and immediately south of the site because of the remedial actions that have been implemented. . . . So we have seen a dramatic reduction in concentrations onsite and immediately offsite." (RRT 9039:9-9040:10, emphasis added.) It should be expressly stated in the Final FS that the mega-plume map does not take into account the admitted "dramatic reduction" resulting from the most updated remedial efforts associated with the 2040 Site."

## Response 2-03:

The Draft OU2 FS Report presents remedial alternatives to address commingled plumes within OU2. The Draft OU2 FS Report incorporates data collected at and in the vicinity of the DRSS property<sup>3</sup>, which is based on the data and evaluations presented in the Supplemental Remedial Investigation (SRI). The Draft OU2 FS Report overview of the extent of principal compounds of potential concern<sup>4</sup> incorporates DRSS site data. As indicated in the DRSS comment, the area of reduction was "at the site and immediately south of the site". The alternatives that are presented in the Draft OU2 FS Report are approximately 1,000 feet or more to the south of the DRSS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Draft OU2 FS Section 7.2.1 states that alternatives 2 to 6 will require a pre-design investigation to support more specific design aspects of the respective alternative.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Figure 1-5 of the Draft OU2 FS Report illustrates the locations of groundwater sample locations. Figures 1-6 to 1-25 of the Draft OU2 FS Report present the concentration of principal chemicals of potential concern in groundwater samples.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Figure 1-27 of the Draft OU2 FS Report, which was developed as part of the Supplement Remedial Investigation Report, incorporates groundwater data collected from the DRSS site.

property (for Area 6 monitoring) and over 4,000 feet south (for groundwater extraction or in-situ chemical oxidation [ISCO]).

As indicated above, the Draft OU2 FS is consistent with Mr. Brown's statement and incorporates representative data collected from the DRSS site that was collected within the time period identified in the SRI.

#### Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### Comment 2-04:

b. "Perchlorate is Not Associated with the 2040 Site. Brown also testified at the South Basin trial that "there is other contaminat[ion], such as perchlorate, which I'm not attributing to releases at the subject site, at the BFM/DRSS facility." (RRT 9090:2-4, emphasis added.) In this vein, OCWD's Herndon confirmed about the mega-plume figure at trial: "[Q] So what's reflected on this exhibit includes the extent of perchlorate plume that comes from the Sabic site No. 15 and flows under and past the DRSS, or former BFM Energy site at No. 7; correct? [A] Correct." (RRT 1929:16-22, emphasis added.) The Final FS should therefore make it clear that there are perchlorate impacts depicted under and beyond the 2040 Site that did not originate there."

#### Response 2-04:

As described in the introduction to the Draft OU2 FS Report, groundwater contamination in the Shallow Aquifer System is from numerous groundwater contamination source sites located within the SBGPP Study Area. The Draft OU2 FS Report does not indicate which OU2 COCs are attributed to specific source sites. It does reference the Preliminary RI Report with respect to identification of COCs for specific source sites.<sup>5</sup>

#### Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## Comment 2-05:

"According to OCWD, Five Times the MCL is the Real Threshold for Active Remediation. In the Draft FS at ES-4, the third recommended remedial action objective is to prevent "the spread of COCs exceeding maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in the leading-edge areas of the plume." Yet, the much-touted MCLs are not the relevant standard for these solvent plumes. Indeed, Brown has sworn under oath for almost a decade that the real threshold for the OU 2 shallow aquifer is five times the MCL: "You've testified many times, going back to 2012 in this case, that for concentrations of offsite contamination in groundwater at less than five times the MCL, there would be no need for active remediation, as such concentrations could be addressed over longer

<sup>5</sup> Section 1.6, page 12 of the draft OU2 FS Report.

periods by monitored natural attenuation, right? A: Yes, that's my opinion…" (RRT 996:22-997:5, emphasis added). It should be made clear in the Final FS that while remediation of VOCs to MCLs may be a goal, contamination at less than five times the MCL will not need active remediation."

#### Response 2-05:

As stated in the Draft OU2 FS Report, USEPA guidance with respect to interim actions can include stabilizing the site or operable unit and/or preventing further migration of contaminants or further environmental degradation<sup>6</sup>. Given the potential for further environmental degradation, remedial action objective (RAO) 3 includes reference to COC maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), not some multiple of MCL.

#### Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### Comment 2-06:

"OCWD is actually using the 5x MCL standard – just not for the South Basin! As OCWD relayed in a 2021 webinar (later posted to OCWD's YouTube channel), the District uses 5x MCL contours for mapping for VOCs in groundwater in the North Basin"

#### Response 2-06:

The 5x MCL is a contour interval, not a standard. As indicated in the source cited by DRSS, "the objective of the interim remedy is to contain groundwater contamination above drinking water standards..."<sup>7</sup>. The cited concentration contour interval (multiples of NL or MCL) was used for the North Basin RI/FS. The South Basin RI/FS used different, yet commonly used, contour intervals, e.g., 1, 10, 100, etc. parts per billion.

## Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## Comment 2-07:

d. "Yet, OCWD never asked Anthony Brown, or Chris Ross (Project Manager for the RI/FS at two firms) to contour anything at 5x MCL in the South Basin – nor has it done so itself. (RRT 8757:11- 22 – Herndon; RRT 1607:21-24 – Ross.) While OCWD has known of Brown's 5x MCL reality for almost a decade, it chose to suppress the fact from years of iterations of its South Basin RI Report – and does so again in the South Basin Draft FS.

The alleged plumes should be contoured at 5x MCL so the public and decision-makers can see

<sup>6</sup> Section 1.1, page 3 of the draft OU2 FS Report

 $7 \frac{\text{https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=KrEbVAiliqk}}{\text{https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=KrEbVAiliqk}}$  (time about 24:27, Commentary)

what they actually look like. DRSS believes that doing so will demonstrate that certain remedial features are not necessary or cost-effective. In fact, DRSS is confident that if this reality-based contouring is done, the plume(s) requiring active remediation will shrink if not disappear. Thus, DRSS asks that in the Final FS OCWD contour the solvent plumes at 5x MCL. This is the information upon which OCWD should be making its decisions before spending millions more in the South Basin."

## Response 2-07:

Refer to responses 2-04 and 2-05.

## Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## Comment 3-01:

- 3. The Distal End Just-In-Case Pump and Treat Wells Should Be Eliminated.
	- a. DRSS's Response Actions Have Been Satisfactory to the RWQCB and OCWD. If DRSS wasn't doing a good job, maybe there would be more need for the proposed just-in-case groundwater extraction wells at the distal end near Baxter Health Care (Baxter) and Edwards Lifesciences (Edwards). Yet, that is not the case. For example, OCWD's prior head of Special Projects for the South Basin, Bill Hunt, testified: "I think the DRSS plume is defined." (RRT 9517:14-15, emphasis added). Likewise, RWQCB's Dr. Mona Behrooz testified: "[Q] Has DRSS adequately delineated the offsite groundwater plume vertically? A. Yes." (RRT 9494:18-20, emphasis added.) Anthony Brown was impeached at the South Basin trial with deposition testimony where he admitted that DRSS's in situ remedial approach, coupled with natural attenuation, would ultimately achieve the remedial goals for groundwater. (RRT 9186:11-19.) Moreover, in a 2020 meeting with the RWQCB, the District's top technical staff (Herndon, David Bolin, and Hunt) admitted that they were satisfied with DRSS's work and it was mutually agreed that future planned remedial efforts by DRSS would be sufficient and no OCWD action was necessary. (RRT 9435:21-9436:3, 9437:4-12 – RWQCB's Dr. Nick Amini.) All of this should be acknowledged in the Final FS as one reason why the 2040 Site isn't the basis for any planned just-in-case wells.

## Response 3-01:

OCWD prepared the Draft OU2 FS in cooperation with the Department of Toxic Substances Control and California Regional Water Quality Control Board to develop an interim remedy that addresses contamination that has migrated off of source properties where releases have occurred and are commingled downgradient of the source sites $\delta$ . The transect along the southeast portion of the Study Area<sup>9</sup> is required to ensure that OU2 FS RAO 3 is achieved. This transect is meant

<sup>8</sup> Section 1.3 of the Draft OU2 FS.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Transect "G-7" on Figures 7-2, 7-3 and 7-4 of the Draft OU2 FS Report, also referred to as Transect "I-7" on Figure 7-4.

to address the commingled plume downgradient of the DRSS and other sites. Based on on-going groundwater assessment activities being conducted by DRSS downgradient of the BFM site $^{10}$ , the extent of impacts from the DRSS site have not been delineated<sup>11</sup> and DRSS has not initiated groundwater remediation in the area downgradient of Alton Parkway<sup>12</sup>.

## Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## Comment 3-02:

b. "Using 5x MCL is More Realistic Given OCWD's Anthony Brown. Acknowledging that no active remediation is necessary for solvents at less than 5x MCL, compels the elimination of the just-in-case wells. Apart from two high levels of contamination at Baxter and Edwards (orange below in original), even the misleading mega-plume figures show that for thousands of feet upgradient from those proposed wells there are only impacts in the 1-10 parts per billion (ppb) range (see below from Draft FS Figure 7-2 and Figure 1-2).

Since the MCL for both perchloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) is 5 ppb, 5x MCL for each is 25 ppb. Thus, according to Anthony Brown, no active remediation is necessary for the non-Baxter/Edwards distal end of the alleged mega- plume! "

## Response 3-02:

Refer to responses 2-04, 2-05 and 3-01.

## Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## Comment 3-03:

Anthony Brown has also been helpful in confirming that the 2040 Site does not drive the just-incase distal end wells. When asked about the length of the 2040 Site impacts when viewed under his active remediation threshold, Brown admitted: "I would anticipate that the chlorinated solvent plume associated with releases at the DRSS facility at concentrations greater than five times the MCL would extend to the south beyond the area marked for Kaiser Electroprecision,

https://documents.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/uploads/geo\_report/9054438710/T0605900807.PDF <sup>11</sup> Figure 7 in Leymaster Environmental Consulting, LLC., Second Half 2021 Groundwater Sampling Report dated January 14, 2022 includes a query on the 100 microgram per liter isopleth for total VOCs in Zone B neat Alton Parkway indicating the extent of contaminants are not defined downgradient of existing monitoring well network. https://documents.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/uploads/geo\_report/8416164696/T0605900807.PDF <sup>12</sup> Leymaster Environmental Consulting, LLC., Report of Waste Discharge: Downgradient Treatment Zone Pilot Test

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Leymaster Environmental Consulting, LLC., Off-Site Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation and Grab Sampling Report dated July 29, 2021.

Former BFM Energy Products Corporation 2040 East Dyer Road Santa Ana, California 92705dated January 17, 2022. https://documents.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/uploads/geo\_report/2867816329/T0605900807.PDF

but realistically not much further than that, as all of the concentrations further downgradient are less than five times the MCL." (RRT 9201:3-10, emphasis added.)

#### Response 3-03:

Refer to responses 2-04, 2-05, and 3-01.

#### Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### Comment 3-04:

c. "Only the Baxter Site Could Provide Justification for the Proposed Contingency Wells. The OU2 FS did evaluate whether the 2040 site had defined the extent of its plume and did not allocate responsibility for OU2 cleanup. If the just-in-case distal end wells remains, it must be made clear in the Final FS that the driver is high levels of 1,4 dioxane at Baxter. Below is Draft FS Figure 1-19 showing Baxter's 1,4-dioxane at over 100x MCL immediately up- gradient of the proposed wells:

OCWD knows there is no 1,4-dioxane associated with the 2040 Site. As Anthony Brown testified: "And 1,4-dioxane is not a contamination of concern for the 2040 Site either; correct? [A] That is correct." (RRT 9165:14-16, emphasis added.) This should be made clear in the Final FS."

#### Response 3-04:

Refer to response 3-01.

## Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### Comment 3-05:

d. "Pump and Treat is Disfavored Modernly. As the EPA depicts in its most recent Superfund Remedy Report (July 2020), pump and treat (P&T) is now clearly disfavored as a groundwater remedy (red data line in the adjacent graph). The trend is based upon EPA's own evaluation of over 5,000 decision documents spanning 35 years. In 1982, EPA selected P&T 100% of time; by 2017, EPA selected of P&T had dropped to only 19%. On the other hand, in situ treatment (like at the 2040 Site) shows exactly the opposite trend – steadily going from 0% in the early 1980s to over 50% as of 2013 (dark blue data line in the above graph).

Many reasons underlie these trends, including the poor performance of P&T in the long run,

its high cost, and the proven effectiveness of in situ remedies. Moreover, P&T is not a green solution. As stated by the EPA in late 2021: "More than 80 percent of the groundwater remedies selected for Superfund sites in the early 1990s included P&T systems, some of which still operate. Although selection of remedies involving P&T has since declined significantly, to about 20 percent in fiscal year 2017, newer P&T systems are anticipated to similarly operate for long time periods. As a result, the most significant opportunities to minimize the environmental footprint of P&T implementation concern usage of energy and treatment materials over multiple years, in some cases decades." DRSS finds no evaluation by OCWD in the Draft FS of the "environmental footprint" of adding the just-in-case P&T system at the alleged distal end adjacent to Baxter. This is improper.

As a result of at least the above reasons, the Final FS should eliminate the distal end just- incase P&T extraction wells."

## Response 3-05:

As the DRSS comment indicates, the number of pump and treat (P&T) systems have declined over time, but it is clear that P&T is still being used. As stated on page A-10 of the EPA document that the DRSS comment references<sup>13</sup> "'( $P&T$ ) systems also are used to 'contain' the contaminant plume. Containment of the plume keeps [the plume] from spreading by pumping contaminated water toward the wells. This pumping helps keep contaminants from reaching drinking water wells, wetlands, streams, and other natural resources' (EPA, 2012h)"<sup>14</sup>. This is consistent with OU2 FS RAOs 1 to 3 and 5.

The Draft OU2 FS Report did evaluate the use of in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) in lieu of P&T (Alternative 5). The estimated cost to implement ISCO in lieu of P&T was extraordinarily higher than P&T (Alternatives 3 or 4) even though it would be operated for a similar duration as P&T. In addition, the preliminary sustainability assessment also indicated that the ISCO (Alternative 5) was the least energy efficient and had the highest carbon dioxide emissions for all of the alternatives evaluated

## Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

## Comment 3-06:

"If OCWD is committed to installing them regardless of these facts, then OCWD should at least state the wells are a contingency for the Baxter site, not the 2040 Site which is implementing an admittedly satisfactory in situ remedy.

<sup>13</sup> https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/documents/100002509.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> A Citizen's Guide to Pump and Treat. OSWER. September. EPA 542-F-12-017.

## Response 3-06:

Refer to response 3-01.

## Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

#### Comment 4-01:

4 "Missing Historic Data. The Draft FS says it is based upon data and results from various public databases "and a host of individual source site investigators that have conducted or are conducting various source site groundwater assessment and remediation activities for responsible and potentially responsible parties…" Reference response 202 Yet, the Draft FS ignores certain off-site historic investigation data associated with the 2040 Site. For example, directly below is a highlighted version of Figure 2 from Environ's August 1, 1995 Interim Remedial Action Plan (with highlights showing the monitoring well numbers):

Despite this publically-available information generated under RWQCB oversight, the Draft FS does not include any information regarding MWs 37A, 41A/B, 53A/B, or 54A/B. For example, below is Figure 1-5 from the Draft FS (blue highlighted added to approximate the railroad track and orange for the missing MWs)

This oversight should be corrected in the Final FS."

## Response to 4-01:

Existing monitoring wells MW-53A/B are included in Figure 1-5 of the Draft OU2 FS Report at the indicated location below.



The purple-outlined polygon labeled as "Astech" in the above figure represents the approximate location of the property boundaries, not to be confused with the building footprint. See below site plan figure of 53A/B's location in comparison to the property boundary<sup>15</sup>.



It does not appear that water quality data are readily available for the other monitoring wells referenced in the DRSS comment. According to Table 2 of the BFM First Half 2022 GW Sampling Report <sup>16</sup> , MW-37A and MWs-41A/B were abandoned in January 2004. Monitoring wells MW054A/B were also identified as abandoned in Figure 2 of the same report; however, no information could be found on the date of abandonment for these wells in the above-mentioned report or in the most recent former Alcoa Semi-Annual GW monitoring report<sup>17</sup>. These historic wells had no data presented in Table 2 of the BFM report or Attachment 3 of the former Alcoa report. In addition, no historic data for these abandoned locations could be found in the Geotracker project database or in the Environmental Data ESIs for the BFM<sup>18</sup> or either of the Alcoa<sup>19</sup> sites.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> The referenced figure is from the former Alcoa July-December 2021 Semi-Annual GW monitoring report.

<sup>16</sup> https://documents.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/uploads/geo\_report/4175143241/T0605900807.PDF

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> https://documents.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/uploads/geo\_report/6267840802/SLT8R1034104.PDF

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\_report?global\_id=T0605900807

 $19$ https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\_report?global\_id=SLT8R1034104&mytab=esidata&subcmd=edfsum marytable#esidata

# Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

# **ATTACHMENT 3 RESPONSE TO CARL BENNINGER COMMENTS, DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT, SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2**



This response to comments document has been prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) on behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) in support of the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP).

This attachment is in response to an e-mail from Carl Benninger dated July 6, 2022 (Subject Comment Document) regarding the April 5, 2022 SBGPP OU2 Feasibility Study report (Draft OU2 FS Report).

#### **Comment:**

*"Thank you for the presentation on the plan for the clean up shallow aquifer in the Delhi are of Santa Ana.*

*I am in support of alternative 3 which is pumping the water to the GWRS. There is equipment already in place at the GWRS that can clean up the water. I know from the close watch and testing that the contamination from the shallow aquifer will not make it through to the water being returned to the ground.*

*The two concerns I have is the possible exposure of vaporization of the chlorinated solvents from the water as it travels from Delhi to the GWRS.*

*And the problem I have had in my past dealing with the DTSC. They love the words possible, may happen, could happen rather then look at the safeguards in place. I feel they are more interested in their fee collection than the company they are putting out of business or people losing their jobs. So to hear they will need several more years to study the problem bothers me. Lets pick an alternative and start the clean up"* 

## **Response:**

With respect to concern regarding possible exposure from vaporization of chlorinated solvents from the extracted water that is conveyed from OU2 to the Groundwater Replenishment System, the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) has ordinances with respect to discharges to

industrial sewers. In the past, OCSD had allowable concentrations of total toxic organic  $(TTO)^1$  $(TTO)^1$ compounds in water discharged to the sewer system. TTO includes many of the chemicals of concern (COC) which include chlorinated solvents for OU2. The current OCSD standard does not include a reference to  $TTO<sup>2</sup>$  $TTO<sup>2</sup>$  $TTO<sup>2</sup>$ . Since TTO are no longer referenced in the OCSD ordinance, the Draft OU2 FS Report has been revised to include use of liquid phase granular activated carbon (LGAC) as a pre-treatment for Alternatives 3 and 6 prior to sewer discharge. The addition of LGAC to these alternatives, while not being added in response to this comment, effectively mitigates the concern regarding vapor intrusion from extracted groundwater that is not treated for VOCs.

The other concern listed concern is not related to the Draft OU2 FS Report.

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

The Draft OU2 FS Report will be revised to include LGAC treatment for extracted groundwater for the relevant alternatives. No other revisions are required.

<span id="page-780-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OCSD Ordinance OCSD-39<https://records.ocsan.gov/WebLink/Browse.aspx>

<sup>?</sup>id=89699&dbid=0&repo=OrangeCountySanitationDistrict&cr=1

<span id="page-780-1"></span><sup>2</sup> OCSD Ordinance OCSD-53 https://records.ocsan.gov/WebLink/Browse.aspx

<sup>?</sup>id=89699&dbid=0&repo=OrangeCountySanitationDistrict&cr=1 .

**ATTACHMENT 4 RESPONSE TO DTSC COMMENTS DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT, SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2**



This response to comments document has been prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) on behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) in support of the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP).

This attachment is in response to an e-mail from The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) transmitted comments prepared on June 16, 2022 within an e-mail to OCWD on July 11, 2022 regarding the April 5, 2022 SBGPP OU2 Feasibility Study report (Draft OU2 FS Report).

## **Comment:**

*"Geological Services Branch (GSB) reviewed the "Draft Feasibility Study, South Basin Groundwater protection Project, Operable Unit 2." The Draft Feasibility Study (Draft FS) is dated April 5, 2022 and was prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) for Orange County Water District (OCWD). The Draft FS was revised from a previous version dated September 2021 to address Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) review comments, including November 15, 2021 GSB comments. Responses to Comments were provided in a Comment Summary Table in Appendix S. GSB has no additional comments regarding the FS Report content. As an administrative item, GSB notes the Draft FS was not stamped and signed by a Professional Geologist or Professional Engineer in accordance with the Business and Professions Code; and the Response to Engineering and Special Projects Office (ESPO) Comment Number 2 states "The document will be signed by a California Professional Geologist or Professional Civil Engineer with relevant experience."*

## **Response:**

The Final Draft OU2 FS Report will be signed and stamped in accordance with the referenced Business and Professions Code.

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

The Final Draft OU2 FS Report will be signed and stamped in accordance with the referenced Business and Professions Code. No other revisions are required.

# **ATTACHMENT 5 RESPONSE TO TEXTRON COMMENTS DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT, SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2**



This response to comments document has been prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) on behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) in support of the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP).

This attachment is in response to an e-mail from CDM Smith on behalf of Textron dated July 5, 2022 regarding the April 5, 2022 SBGPP OU2 Feasibility Study report (Draft OU2 FS Report).

## **Comment:**

*"Thank you for providing Textron with the opportunity to review the draft FS for the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project OU2, dated April 5, 2022 and the May 25 SAG presentation slides. The draft FS is a very detailed, well prepared document that not only provides a detailed and accurate representation of the numerous groundwater contamination source sites located within the South Basin including comingled plumes but presents a comprehensive and wellthought out detailed evaluation of remedial alternatives for the regional groundwater plumes. These alternatives have been developed with very careful consideration of the various remedial actions either ongoing or planned at the various source sites including the groundwater extraction and treatment (GET) and sewer discharge at and downgradient of the Cherry Aerospace site, planned by Textron. We fully agree with the analysis and the comparative evaluation of the alternatives, which ranks the two GET alternatives (No. 3 and 4) the highest and hence recommended for the next steps. These alternatives also appear to be compatible with the proposed GET system at Cherry Aerospace. Two other alternatives that were considered, Alternatives 5 and 6, involved in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) without or with GET, respectively. In the event one of these ISCO-based alternatives are selected, it may be detrimental to the Cherry GET system which could capture the chemical injectants and associate by products of this process and significantly impact the GET, depending on the final placement of this injection wells. As a result, we do not recommend that Alternatives 5 and 6 be considered moving forward. Furthermore, these two alternatives scored much lower compared to Alternatives and 4 and it therefore appears highly unlikely that these will be selected as the final alternatives anyway.* 

*We truly appreciate OCWD's massive efforts and comprehensive approach in addressing the comingled plumes in the South Basin and look forward to the next steps in this process. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment."* 

# **Response:**

As the comment points out, the In-Situ Chemical Oxidation Alternatives 5 and 6 are scored lower than the groundwater extraction alternatives (Alternatives 3 and 4) which influences remedy selection. In addition, the Draft OU2 FS Report Table 8-2 indicates the potential for generation of persistent undesirable byproducts upgradient of Cherry Aerospace (Textron), which is consistent with the commenters concern.

## **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.

**ATTACHMENT 6 RESPONSE TO IRWD COMMENTS DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT, SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2**



# *ATTACHMENT 6 RESPONSE TO IRWD COMMENTS, DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT, SOUTH BASIN GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT, OPERABLE UNIT 2*

This response to comments document has been prepared by Engineering Analytics, Inc. (EA) on behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) in support of the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP).

This attachment is in response to a letter from the Irvine Ranch Water District dated June 27, 2022 regarding the April 5, 2022 SBGPP OU2 Feasibility Study report (Draft OU2 FS Report).

## **Comments:**

*"Regarding the Draft Feasibility Study (Engineering Analytics, Inc. April 5, 2022), IRWD offers the following additional comments:*

*1. IRWD believes that the Draft Feasibility Study is a great step forward to initiate remediation of the offsite contamination.*

*2. Both Alternatives 3 and 4 appear to be effective, implementable options and both appear compatible with source site remediation. Alternative 3 is stated to be more technically feasible and sustainable at a lower cost."* 

## **Response:**

The comments are consistent with the Draft OU2 FS Report.

# **Revision to Draft OU2 FS Report:**

Revisions to the Draft OU2 FS Report are not necessary.