

County of Santa Clara

Department of Environmental Health

Hazardous Materials Compliance Division Site Mitigation Program

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NOTICE REGARDING REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING LEVELS

February 12, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

On January 24, 2019, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) released the latest update to their Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs). ESLs are conservative screening levels for over 100 chemical contaminants in soil, groundwater, and soil gas. The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) relies on ESLs to evaluate risk to human health and the environment at sites enrolled in our Site Cleanup Program (SCP), formerly known as the Voluntary Cleanup Program.

Among the more significant changes to the ESLs are revisions to vapor intrusion screening levels. All vapor intrusion ESLs are now based on the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) 2015 recommended attenuation factors, rather than the Johnson and Ettinger Model. The DEH recommends that Responsible Parties with a SCP case and their consultants review the revised ESLs, which are available on the following RWQCB website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb2/water_issues/programs/esl.html

Through this letter, the DEH is providing notice regarding the use of revised ESLs for cases in the SCP. **The DEH requires immediate use of the revised ESLs in the following scenarios:**

- All new SCP cases; and
- All existing SCP cases that do not have a DEH-approved Work Plan (e.g., Site Management Plan, Mitigation Plan, Remedial Action Plan, or equivalent).

The DEH will review existing SCP cases that already have a DEH-approved Work Plan using the revised ESLs to determine if additional work is required. The DEH advises Responsible Parties to expedite completion of approved remediation and/or mitigation measure(s) as soon as possible. DEH decisions regarding the need for additional work will be made on a site-specific basis.

Please contact your caseworker directly if you have questions about how the revised ESLs may affect your case.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kaahaaina
Hazardous Materials Program Manager
Site Mitigation Program