

COMPANY LINE

PG&E Apologizes to Tribe, Moves Facility

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) issued a formal apology to the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe last fall for the construction of a water treatment facility on sacred land, and promised to move the facility to a different location, return the land to the tribe, and include the tribe in future activities of the company, according to the *Mohave Daily News*. The facility had been built to treat chromium-VI-contaminated groundwater from PG&E's Topock Natural Gas Compressor Station near Needles. It was an interim facility to prevent the contamination from reaching the Colorado River while a permanent, long-term treatment facility could be designed and constructed, according to the newspaper.

With this action, the tribe dropped a lawsuit filed against state and federal agencies in 2005 for "building the plant in the middle of their sacred area without consultation," reported the *Daily News*. The California Department of Toxic Substances had ordered PG&E to take action to prevent the plume from reaching the Colorado River, and allowed PG&E to build the facility on the land without consideration for the tribe's concerns.

The tribe expressed satisfaction that the issue was resolved outside the courts, even though the impact to its lands cannot be reversed. Courtney Coyle, a tribal attorney, told the *Daily News* that had it gone to court, "the judge probably wouldn't have ordered the land to be returned to the tribe, or to pay for a tribal cultural person to monitor future projects."

Visit www.mohavedailynews.com.

Three Companies Pay \$2.1M for San Gabriel Cleanup

In November, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced it had reached separate settlements requiring companies that allegedly contributed to groundwater contamination at the San

Gabriel Valley Superfund site near Los Angeles to reimburse EPA \$2.1 million and the California State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) \$16,000 for past cleanup costs. Rathon Corporation and Chemed Corporation will reimburse \$1.8 million to EPA and \$14,000 to DTSC. The Saint-Gobain Corporation will reimburse \$376,000 to EPA and \$2,000 to DTSC. EPA previously received approximately \$10 million from prior settlements relating to the Puente Valley Operable Unit (PVOU) in Area 4 of the Superfund site.

An editorial in the *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* noted that the payments are proportional to "a few cents out of a \$4 bill for the PVOU," according to the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority.

Other potentially responsible parties are implementing groundwater cleanup programs for the PVOU that are

estimated to cost over \$50 million over the next ten years. The work parties are designing a groundwater cleanup system to pump out contaminated groundwater. The extracted groundwater will be treated and may be provided to a local water supply distribution system or discharged to surface water.

The EPA listed several sections of the 170-square-mile San Gabriel Valley as Superfund sites in 1984, including multiple areas of groundwater

contaminated by volatile organic compounds. The contaminated groundwater underlies numerous cities and towns; forty-five water suppliers in the valley use San Gabriel Basin groundwater to provide 90 percent of the drinking water for over one million residents.

Visit www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund/ and sgvtribune.com.

Tetra Tech Wins \$15M

In October, Tetra Tech Inc. announced the signing of a \$15 million contract with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide technical support to its Pacific Southwest Region (Region 9) Water Division as it implements core water programs, including those associated with the Clean Water Act, Marine Protection and Sanctuaries Research Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act. The contract has a four-year period of performance and will include time and materials and fixed-price tasks.

EPA Region 9 includes Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands, and Tribal Nations. The Water Division is responsible for providing clean and safe surface water, groundwater, and drinking water and protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems. Tetra Tech is a 7,500-person consulting company providing engineering and technical services.

Visit www.tetrattech.com and www.epa.gov/region9/.

ZymaX

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Groundwater & Environmental Forensics

Isotope Analysis

D/H	¹³ C/ ¹² C	¹⁵ N/ ¹⁴ N	¹⁸ O/ ¹⁶ O	³⁴ S/ ³² S
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¹³C/¹²C of Chlorinated Solvents in Groundwater and Soils

¹⁵N/¹⁴N of NO₃, NH₃; D/H + ¹⁸O/¹⁶O in Groundwater

D/H, ¹³C/¹²C, ¹⁴C of Crude, Petroleum Fuels & Gases

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