



Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710-2721



Gavin Newsom
Governor

July 27, 2022

Alicia Bihler
Office of Environmental, Health & Safety
University of California, Berkeley
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Berkeley, California 94720
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Dear Ms. Bihler:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reviewed the Sampling Results for Western Stege Marsh Near-Surface Sediment Samples Letter (Letter), dated March 10, 2022, for the Richmond Field Station Site (Site), located in Richmond California. The California Department of Public Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry prepared a Public Health Assessment Report, dated March 13, 2008, evaluating exposure to contaminants at the Site. The Public Health Assessment Report concluded that there was an unknown potential health risk to marsh restoration workers posed by recontamination of sediment in the remediated marsh. Near-surface sediment sampling to characterize the sediment and evaluate the potential health risk from incidental sediment contact has been conducted annually in January or February from 2008 to 2020. Sampling frequency was reduced to once every two years (even-numbered years) in 2020.

The Letter describes the results of the annual marsh sediment sampling which took place at the Site on January 24, 2022. The Letter provides the rationale for the selected sampling locations, a summary of field sampling protocols, including minor adjustments from previous years, and sampling results. Samples were analyzed for metals and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). PCBs were reported at concentrations below commercial/industrial screening levels. Arsenic was reported at a concentration exceeding its background concentration of 16 milligrams per kilogram. No other metals were detected at concentrations below commercial/industrial screening.

DTSC has no comments and hereby approves the Letter.

Ms. Bihler
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If you have any questions, please contact me at (510) 540-3881 or via email at Nicole.Yuen@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Nicole Yuen
Project Manager
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program – Berkeley Office

cc: Jason Brodersen, PG, QSD
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