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Secretary for
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California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

Public Notice of Plan for No Further Action

**Santa Barbara Harbor
Santa Barbara, CA
April 16, 2012**

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is providing this notification to Harbor users and other interested persons to inform you of our plan to recommend no further action for the Santa Barbara Harbor cleanup case. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide the public with information or answer questions regarding why we intend to close the site described below, and to solicit your comments.

Introduction

Since 2003, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) has been the lead regulatory agency responsible for overseeing cleanup of illegal marine battery disposal into the Santa Barbara Harbor (Harbor) and the investigation of Harbor bottom sediment. Based on the successful removal of six marine batteries by California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) staff in 2003 and information from Harbor investigations conducted in 2002, 2004, and 2006, Water Board and DFG staff concur with the City of Santa Barbara's Waterfront Department's (City's) request to close this cleanup case.

No Further Action Justification

The City leased space to a dry dock operation in the Harbor until 2011. Between 2002 and 2006, sediment samples were collected from the Harbor bottom below this dry dock, a much older former dry dock, two storm drain outlets, and in the vicinity of the City Pier and fuel docks. In addition, sediment, water, and fish and mussel tissue samples were collected from six stations within the Harbor in 2004 as part of a multi-harbor study to evaluate average conditions in six Central Coast harbors. Collectively, analysis of all samples indicates the following:

- No additional marine batteries have been discovered on the Harbor bottom since 2002. With the removal of six batteries in 2003, there are no additional issues associated with marine battery disposal in the Harbor.
- Metals and organotin compounds have been detected in Harbor sediment. These constituents are commonly associated with leaching and/or scrapings from anti-fouling paint used on vessel bottoms. Due to the anti-fouling nature of the paint, adverse health effects may occur in non-targeted organisms, such as those in/on the Harbor bottom.
- Investigation results indicate sediment in contact with the anti-fouling paint debris is localized below the dry dock and is limited in extent. It is also expected that some benthic Harbor organisms are in contact with this sediment below the dry dock.
- Toxicity testing indicates that average Harbor-wide sediment conditions do not have a toxic effect on benthic organisms throughout the Harbor. The absence of a Harbor-wide toxic effect supports the conclusion that sediment below the dry dock is localized and has not migrated.
- The elimination of the dry dock in 2011 has eliminated a concentrated ongoing source of bottom paint debris accumulation on the Harbor bottom.
- The Harbor Marine Works (HMW) boat yard just west of the Harbor was connected to the City storm sewer in 2006, thereby eliminating HMW's long-established practice of discharging runoff containing boat hull sanding and scraping debris from its property into the Harbor via storm drains near the City Pier.
- The banning of the use of tributyltin in anti-fouling paints in 1988, along with the current phasing out of the use of copper represent additional reductions in future water or sediment quality impairment.
- The City periodically conducts Harbor maintenance dredging, and has satisfactorily complied with Water Board requirements associated with its discharge of dredge and fill material to waters of the United States. The City has never dredged the area below the dry dock, nor does it expect to dredge this area in the future. However, Water Board staff will require the City to continue to comply with all applicable regulations in the unlikely event that dredging below the former dry dock becomes necessary.

Public Comment Period

Additional documents related to this cleanup case are available for public review at http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL0608336723. Water Board staff invites interested persons to comment on the proposed closure of this cleanup case on or before **May 16, 2012**. You may send all public comments to:

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California Environmental Protection Agency