

## Update/Progress Report on Leach Field Special Study

This is an update to inform of the status of the mandatory special project to study whether continuous chlorination of WWTP effluent discharged to the leach field is required.

Close communication between the Community Engineering Corps team and myself continues. Pertinent information and data being assembled to both determine the best study design as well as to make a strong justificatory argument to the Regional Board supporting the design is being identified, gathered, and compiled.

A meeting with employees of the Regional Board to discuss progress and the direction and shape we are moving in is scheduled. We welcome any feedback and concerns that may have and will of course take that into account as the study is put together and the scope of work is finalized.

At this time, the most likely course of action(s) for the study will entail special monitoring in key, strategic locations for particular analytes that will indicate what effect, if any, the effluent discharged to the leach field is having upon ground water quality. In order to accomplish this, we will likely need to employ geo-probe technology. This entails "planting" geo-probes (a type of sampling device) at a relatively shallow depth (20-30 feet) in the ground at key locations. To do this a small drilling rig/auger is utilized to both bore the hole and push the geo-probe into the ground. A sample is obtained by the geo-probe and the probe is raised back out of the ground. There is no permanent installation or disturbance of the ground. At this time, three geo-probe samples are anticipated.

An estimate has been obtained from one drilling contractor who can do the geo-probes. It is for one day each mobilization and de-mobilization and one full day in the field to perform the work. If for whatever reason it takes longer to complete the work, obviously the cost would go up. The current estimate obtained is \$4800.00 Funding via the Community Engineering Corps is likely available and we would qualify for it. We would have to pay the contractor and then be reimbursed for that cost by the CEC.

Additional sampling and analyses will also be necessary to the study. These will be samples that I can collect and we can use North Coast Labs to analyze for us. In addition to our normal monthly samples, we will likely need collect samples for total and fecal coliform of the WWTP effluent.

There is some delay anticipated due to travel restrictions imposed by the shelter-in-place orders in response to Covid-19 virus. Anticipate no major set-backs in time table and also expect the Regional Board to be sympathetic towards time tables placed on the study design.

I am looking into access issues and whether or not any county permits are required in order to perform the geo-probe work.