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Secretary for
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Governor

RESOLUTION OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL APPROVING THE FINAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE FRESHWATER SOURCES FOR THE TOPOCK COMPRESSOR STATION GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION PROJECT

ADOPTED September 4, 2013

WHEREAS, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the lead agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15000 et seq.), for the Topock Compressor Station Groundwater Remediation Project (the “Project”);

WHEREAS, in January 2011, the Project was approved after certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Errata prepared for the Project pursuant to CEQA;

WHEREAS, the Project involves manipulation of subsurface water flow to move a contaminated groundwater plume with hexavalent chromium Cr(VI) and other chemicals of potential concern (COPCs), originating from past operations at the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) Topock Compressor Station (compressor station) site, through a treatment zone. This treatment zone or “in situ reactive zone (IRZ)” will be created by introducing a carbon substrate such as, but not limited to, ethanol, molasses, lactate, or whey to induce microbial growth which, in turn, creates an environment where the Cr(VI) is reduced and precipitated.

WHEREAS, the Final EIR considered the potentially significant adverse environmental impacts of adopting the preferred remedy, determined to be Alternative E – In Situ Treatment with Freshwater Flushing - through the Final Groundwater Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study Report for Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU) 1/Area of Concern (AOC) 1 and AOC 10 (Final CMS/FS) process, completed in December 2009. As discussed in the Final EIR, implementation of the final remedy would involve piping water in from an off-site source and the Final EIR considered several options for obtaining the freshwater source for use in the overall remediation project.

WHEREAS, DTSC recognized, in the Final EIR, the need to identify and evaluate the precise freshwater supply locations as part of the subsequent detailed design, construction and implementation phases, and that those areas could occur outside the originally defined project boundary.

WHEREAS, PG&E proposed modifications to the Project that involve evaluating potential alternate freshwater supply locations outside the originally defined project boundary in

the Final EIR. In particular, PG&E proposed that the EIR project area be expanded in order to identify a new freshwater source, which would require two exploratory borehole drilling sites and construction of up to two wells.

WHEREAS, The exploratory borehole drilling and groundwater quality sampling would occur at two sites (referred to as Site B and the HNWR-1 well) which are located just outside the Final EIR project boundary, on the Arizona side of the Colorado River. Groundwater quality sampling and drilling of one borehole would occur at each site. If sufficient quality and quantity are identified, one water supply well would be constructed at each site. The project modifications proposed by PG&E are identified as part of the “Final Implementation Plan for Evaluation of Alternative Freshwater Sources in the Topock Remediation Project Area, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Topock Compressor Station” (August 2, 2013).


WHEREAS, DTSC has adopted an Addendum to the certified Final EIR for the Topock Compressor Station Groundwater Remediation Project which considered the potential environmental effects associated with adoption of the Final Implementation Plan for Evaluation of Alternative Freshwater Sources (August 2, 2013).

WHEREAS, DTSC now finds:

1. DTSC hereby approves the Final Implementation Plan for Evaluation of Alternative Freshwater Sources in the Topock Remediation Project Area (Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Topock Compressor Station) (August 2, 2013). The activities proposed within the Plan are necessary to implement the Groundwater Remediation Project, including: the exploratory borehole drilling and groundwater quality sampling which would occur at the two sites (referred to as Site B and the HNWR-1 well), located just outside the Final EIR project boundary on the Arizona side of the Colorado River, as described in the Topock Compressor Station Groundwater Remediation Project Environmental Impact Report Addendum – also referred to as Addendum No. 1 for Alternative Freshwater Source Evaluation Activities (the “Addendum”).
2. DTSC shall file a Notice of Determination with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research within five working days after this approval.

ADOPTED this Fourth day of September, 2013.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

By: 
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