



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

March 1, 2012

Clinton P. Donati,  
Assistant Treasurer-Tax Collector  
-Public Administrator  
County of Santa Barbara  
P.O. Box 579  
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

Re: Santa Barbara County Assessors Parcels Nos. 113-260-02 and 113-260-03.

Dear Mr. Donati:

This letter responds on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX ("EPA"), to inquiries from the County of Santa Barbara ("County") concerning certain parcels of property, specifically County Assessors Parcels Nos. 113-260-02 (3300 NTU Rd.) and 113-260-03. These two parcels are the location of the former Casmalia Disposal Site ("Site").

The Site is a federal Superfund site that was added to the National Priorities List in 2000. During its years of operation, between approximately 1977 and 1989, the Site accepted over five billion pounds of solid and hazardous waste from a wide variety of industrial, commercial and governmental sources. Disposal activities at the Site have resulted in hazardous substance contamination to surface and subsurface soils and to groundwater. EPA has estimated that the cleanup of the Site will cost approximately \$284 million.

Work at the Site is currently in the remedial investigation/feasibility ("RI/FS") stage, with the FS planned to be completed in 2012. After completing the FS, EPA will issue a Proposed Plan describing its preferred remedy for the Site, which will be subject to public comment. At the conclusion of the public comment process, EPA will issue a Record of Decision for its selected remedy. Although a Record of Decision will not issue for some time, remedial actions at large hazardous waste landfills with contaminated groundwater often include groundwater pump-and-treat and capping the waste in place. Once selected, the remedial actions are anticipated to take several years to construct and will need to be operated and maintained for many

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more years, and likely in perpetuity.

Accordingly, EPA believes that the two referenced parcels are contaminated, will remain contaminated, and that no portion of them is likely to be available for subdivision as uncontaminated in the foreseeable future. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the County has questions or needs additional information at this time. I can be reached at (415) 972-3891 or Rongone.Marie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie M. Rongone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Marie M. Rongone  
Senior Counsel

cc: Roberta Blank  
Russell Mechem  
Bradley O'Brien, Esq.