



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

Home of The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

October 18, 2007

Ms. Maureen Gorsen, Director
California Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

Dear Ms. Gorsen:

As you are aware, the City of Simi Valley has sought the assistance of various agencies, including the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), in evaluating questions related to the public health risk posed by the presence of certain contaminants on the Runkle Canyon property.

Environmental Impact Reports were prepared, publicly reviewed and adopted in 2004, and entitlements granted, for the Runkle Canyon residential development project. The environmental reviews did not show that the development would be a threat to the community's public health. In 2006, a group of residents alleged the property poses potential health risks; in response to these statements, the City Council directed that grading permits for the project be withheld while these issues were further addressed.

One issue raised by residents was that surface water on the property was "caustic" and presents a risk to the public who may come into contact with it. The residents hired a laboratory to take a small number of water and soil samples and test the samples for Title 22 metals. The City of Simi Valley also conducted a sampling event, engaging the services of Tetra Tech, Inc. to oversee the collection of water and soil samples from the same location tested by the residents, to review and interpret the results of laboratory analyses for Title 22 metals and to advise the City as to any public health and safety threat. The property's developer, KB Home, was present at the sampling event and had its consultant, Geocon Consultants, Inc. sample and test the locations as well.

Tetra Tech produced a report titled, "Laboratory Analytical Results for Surface Water and Surface Soil Samples Collected from the Proposed Runkle Canyon Development"; Geocon Consultants also reported on the results of the sampling event. I am providing copies of these reports for your information and review.

Request

City staff has been directed to report to the City Council with recommendations as to whether the Runkle Canyon housing development should proceed or whether another course of action should be taken. In that the Tetra Tech report may not clearly present conclusions as to whether the project is or is not safe to proceed, the City is seeking your agency's technical assistance in reviewing the information and providing an expert opinion to address the following:

- 1) Do the findings from the sampling event indicate that a hazardous condition exists that would need to be addressed before this approved housing development may proceed, and if so, how may this issue appropriately be addressed?
- 2) Do the test results indicate that contact with the water and/or soil presents a risk to the public?
- 3) Is there any action the City of Simi Valley is legally obligated to take (e.g., reporting to regulatory agencies) in view of these results?

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. We hope to be able to report to the City Council in the next several weeks; as such, your timely response would be appreciated. If you have any questions or require further information as you review this matter, please contact Laura Behjan, Assistant City Manager, at (805) 583-6701.

Sincerely,



Mike Sedell
City Manager

Enclosures

cc: City Council
City Attorney
Assistant City Manager
Director of Environmental Services
Gerard Abrams, Department of Toxic Substances Control