

APPENDIX A

CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, SECTION 25356.1

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SECTION 25356.1**

25356.1. (a) For purposes of this section, "regional board" means a California regional water quality control board and "state board" means the State Water Resources Control Board.

(b) Except as provided in subdivision (h), the department, or, if appropriate, the regional board shall prepare or approve remedial action plans for all sites listed pursuant to Section 25356.

(c) A potentially responsible party may request the department or the regional board, when appropriate, to prepare or approve a remedial action plan for any site not listed pursuant to Section 25356, if the department or the regional board determines that a removal or remedial action is required to respond to a release of a hazardous substance. The department or the regional board shall respond to a request to prepare or approve a remedial action plan within 90 days of receipt. This subdivision does not affect the authority of any regional board to issue and enforce a cleanup and abatement order pursuant to Section 13304 of the Water Code or a cease and desist order pursuant to Section 13301 of the Water Code.

(d) All remedial action plans prepared or approved pursuant to this section shall be based upon Section 25350, Subpart E of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 C.F.R. 300.400 et seq.), and any amendments thereto, and upon all of the following factors, to the extent that these factors are consistent with these federal regulations and do not require a less stringent level of cleanup than these federal regulations:

(1) Health and safety risks posed by the conditions at the site. When considering these risks, the department or the regional board shall consider scientific data and reports which may have a relationship to the site.

(2) The effect of contamination or pollution levels upon present, future, and probable beneficial uses of contaminated, polluted, or threatened resources.

(3) The effect of alternative remedial action measures on the reasonable availability of groundwater resources for present, future, and probable beneficial uses. The department or the regional board shall consider the extent to which remedial action measures are available that use, as a principal element, treatment that significantly reduces the volume, toxicity, or mobility of the hazardous substances, as opposed to remedial actions that do not use this treatment. The department or the regional board shall not select remedial action measures which use offsite transport and disposal of untreated hazardous substances or contaminated materials if practical and cost-effective treatment technologies are available.

(4) Site-specific characteristics, including the potential for offsite migration of hazardous substances, the surface or subsurface soil, and the hydrogeologic conditions, as well as preexisting background contamination levels.

(5) Cost-effectiveness of alternative remedial action measures. In evaluating the cost-effectiveness of proposed alternative remedial action measures, the department or the regional board shall consider, to the extent possible, the total short-term and long-term costs of these actions and shall use, as a major factor, whether the deferral of a remedial action will result, or is likely to result, in a rapid increase in cost or in the hazard to public health or the

environment posed by the site. Land disposal shall not be deemed the most cost-effective measure merely on the basis of lower short-term cost.

(6) The potential environmental impacts of alternative remedial action measures, including, but not limited to, land disposal of the untreated hazardous substances as opposed to treatment of the hazardous substances to remove or reduce its volume, toxicity, or mobility prior to disposal.

(e) A remedial action plan prepared pursuant to this section shall include the basis for the remedial action selected and shall include an evaluation of each alternative considered and rejected by the department or the regional board for a particular site. The plan shall include an explanation for rejection of alternative remedial actions considered but rejected. The plan shall also include an evaluation of the consistency of the selected remedial action with the requirements of the federal regulations and the factors specified in subdivision (d), if those factors are not otherwise adequately addressed through compliance with the federal regulations. The remedial action plan shall also include a nonbinding preliminary allocation of responsibility among all identifiable potentially responsible parties at a particular site, including those parties which may have been released, or may otherwise be immune, from liability pursuant to this chapter or any other provision of law. Before adopting a final remedial action plan, the department or the regional board shall prepare or approve a draft remedial action plan and shall do all of the following:

(1) Circulate the draft plan for at least 30 days for public comment.

(2) Notify affected local and state agencies of the removal and remedial actions proposed in the remedial action plan and publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the draft remedial action plan. The department or the regional board shall also post notices in the location where the proposed removal or remedial action would be located and shall notify, by direct mailing, the owners of property contiguous to the site addressed by the plan, as shown in the latest equalized assessment roll.

(3) Hold one or more meetings with the lead and responsible agencies for the removal and remedial actions, the potentially responsible parties for the removal and remedial actions, and the interested public, to provide the public with the information which is necessary to address the issues which concern the public. The information to be provided shall include an assessment of the degree of contamination, the characteristics of the hazardous substances, an estimate of the time required to carry out the removal and remedial actions, and a description of the proposed removal and remedial actions.

(4) Comply with Section 25358.7.

(f) After complying with subdivision (e), the department or the regional board shall review and consider any public comments, and shall revise the draft plan, if appropriate. The department or the regional board shall then issue the final remedial action plan.

(g) (1) A potentially responsible party named in the final remedial action plan issued by the department or the regional board may seek judicial review of the final remedial action plan by filing a petition for writ of mandate pursuant to Section 1085 of the Code of Civil Procedure within 30 days after the final remedial action plan is issued by the department or the regional board. Any other

person who has the right to seek judicial review of the final remedial action plan by filing a petition for writ of mandate pursuant to Section 1085 of the Code of Civil Procedure shall do so within one year after the final remedial action plan is issued. No action may be brought by a potentially responsible party to review the final remedial action plan if the petition for writ of mandate is not filed within 30 days of the date that the final remedial action plan was issued. No action may be brought by any other person to review the final remedial action plan if the petition for writ of mandate is not filed within one year of the date that the final remedial action plan was issued. The filing of a petition for writ of mandate to review the final remedial action plan shall not stay any removal or remedial action specified in the final plan.

(2) For purposes of judicial review, the court shall uphold the final remedial action plan if the plan is based upon substantial evidence available to the department or the regional board, as the case may be.

(3) This subdivision does not prohibit the court from granting any appropriate relief within its jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, enjoining the expenditure of funds pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 25385.6.

(h) (1) This section does not require the department or a regional board to prepare a remedial action plan if conditions present at a site present an imminent or substantial endangerment to the public health and safety or to the environment or, if the department, a regional board, or a responsible party takes a removal action at a site and the estimated cost of the removal action is less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000). The department or a regional board shall prepare or approve a removal action workplan for all sites where a nonemergency removal action is proposed and where a remedial action plan is not required. For sites where removal actions are planned and are projected to cost less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000), the department or a regional board shall make the local community aware of the hazardous substance release site and shall prepare, or direct the parties responsible for the removal action to prepare, a community profile report to determine the level of public interest in the removal action. Based on the level of expressed interest, the department or regional board shall take appropriate action to keep the community informed of project activity and to provide opportunities for public comment which may include conducting a public meeting on proposed removal actions.

(2) A remedial action plan is not required pursuant to subdivision (b) if the site is listed on the National Priority List by the Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the federal act, if the department or the regional board concurs with the remedy selected by the Environmental Protection Agency's record of decision. The department or the regional board may sign the record of decision issued by the Environmental Protection Agency if the department or the regional board concurs with the remedy selected.

(3) The department may waive the requirement that a remedial action plan meet the requirements specified in subdivision (d) if all of the following apply:

(A) The responsible party adequately characterizes the hazardous substance conditions at a site listed pursuant to Section 25356.

(B) The responsible party submits to the department, in a form acceptable to the department, all of the following:

(i) A description of the techniques and methods to be employed in

excavating, storing, handling, transporting, treating, and disposing of materials from the site.

(ii) A listing of the alternative remedial measures which were considered by the responsible party in selecting the proposed removal action.

(iii) A description of methods that will be employed during the removal action to ensure the health and safety of workers and the public during the removal action.

(iv) A description of prior removal actions with similar hazardous substances and with similar public safety and environmental considerations.

(C) The department determines that the remedial action plan provides protection of human health and safety and for the environment at least equivalent to that which would be provided by a remedial action plan prepared in accordance with subdivision (c).

(D) The total cost of the removal action is less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000).

(4) For purposes of this section, the cost of a removal action includes the cleanup of removal of released hazardous substances from the environment or the taking of other actions which are necessary to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage which may otherwise result from a release or threatened release, as further defined by Section 9601 (23) of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(5) Paragraph (2) of this subdivision does not apply to a removal action paid from the Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund.

(i) Article 2 (commencing with Section 13320), Article 3 (commencing with Section 13330), Article 5 (commencing with Section 13350), and Article 6 (commencing with Section 13360) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 of the Water Code apply to any action or failure to act by a regional board pursuant to this section.

25356.1.3. (a) In exercising its authority at a hazardous substance release site pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 25355.5 or 25358.3, the department shall issue orders to the largest manageable number of potentially responsible parties after considering all of the following:

(1) The adequacy of the evidence of each potentially responsible party's liability.

(2) The financial viability of each potentially responsible party.

(3) The relationship or contribution of each potentially responsible party to the release, or threat of release, of hazardous substances at the site.

(4) The resources available to the department.

(b) The department shall schedule a meeting pursuant to Section 25269.5 and notify all identified potentially responsible parties of the date, time, and location of the meeting.

(c) A person issued an order pursuant to Section 25355.5 or 25358.3 may identify additional potentially responsible parties for the site to which the order is applicable and may request the department to issue an order to those parties. The request shall include, with appropriate documentation, the factual and legal basis for identifying those parties as potentially responsible parties for the site. The department shall review the request and accompanying information and, within a reasonable period of time, determine if

there is a factual and legal basis for identifying other persons as potentially responsible parties, and notify the person that made the request of the action the department will take in response to the request.

(d) Any determination made by the department regarding the largest manageable number of potentially responsible parties or the identification of other persons as potentially responsible parties pursuant to this section is not subject to judicial review. This subdivision does not affect the rights of any potentially responsible party or the department under any other provision of this chapter.

25356.1.5. (a) Any response action taken or approved pursuant to this chapter shall be based upon, and be no less stringent than, all of the following requirements:

(1) The requirements established under federal regulation pursuant to Subpart E of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 C.F.R. 300.400 et seq.), as amended.

(2) The regulations established pursuant to Division 7 (commencing with Section 13000) of the Water Code, all applicable water quality control plans adopted pursuant to Section 13170 of the Water Code and Article 3 (commencing with Section 13240) of Chapter 4 of Division 7 of the Water Code, and all applicable state policies for water quality control adopted pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 13140) of Chapter 3 of Division 7 of the Water Code, to the extent that the department or the regional board determines that those regulations, plans, and policies do not require a less stringent level of remediation than the federal regulations specified in paragraph (1) and to the degree that those regulations, plans, and policies do not authorize decisionmaking procedures that may result in less stringent response action requirements than those required by the federal regulations specified in paragraph (1).

(3) Any applicable provisions of this chapter, to the extent those provisions are consistent with the federal regulations specified in paragraph (1) and do not require a less stringent level of remediation than, or decisionmaking procedures that are at variance with, the federal regulations set forth in paragraph (1).

(b) Any health or ecological risk assessment prepared in conjunction with a response action taken or approved pursuant to this chapter shall be based upon Subpart E of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 C.F.R. 300.400 et seq.), the policies, guidelines, and practices of the United States Environmental Protection Agency developed pursuant to the federal act, and the most current sound scientific methods, knowledge, and practices of public health and environmental professionals who are experienced practitioners in the fields of epidemiology, risk assessment, environmental contamination, ecological risk, fate and transport analysis, and toxicology. Risk assessment practices shall include the most current sound scientific methods for data evaluation, exposure assessment, toxicity assessment, and risk characterization, documentation of all assumptions, methods, models, and calculations used in the assessment, and any health risk assessment shall include all of the following:

(1) Evaluation of risks posed by acutely toxic hazardous substances based on levels at which no known or anticipated adverse effects on health will occur, with an adequate margin of safety.

(2) Evaluation of risks posed by carcinogens or other hazardous substances that may cause chronic disease based on a level that does not pose any significant risk to health.

(3) Consideration of possible synergistic effects resulting from exposure to, or interaction with, two or more hazardous substances.

(4) Consideration of the effect of hazardous substances upon subgroups that comprise a meaningful portion of the general population, including, but not limited to, infants, children, pregnant women, the elderly, individuals with a history of serious illness, or other subpopulations, that are identifiable as being at greater risk of adverse health effects due to exposure to hazardous substances than the general population.

(5) Consideration of exposure and body burden level that alter physiological function or structure in a manner that may significantly increase the risk of illness and of exposure to hazardous substances in all media, including, but not limited to, exposures in drinking water, food, ambient and indoor air, and soil.

(c) If currently available scientific data are insufficient to determine the level of a hazardous substance at which no known or anticipated adverse effects on health will occur, with an adequate margin of safety, or the level that poses no significant risk to public health, the risk assessment prepared in conjunction with a response action taken or approved pursuant to this chapter shall be based on the level that is protective of public health, with an adequate margin of safety. This level shall be based exclusively on public health considerations, shall, to the extent scientific data are available, take into account the factors set forth in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b), and shall be based on the most current principles, practices, and methods used by public health professionals who are experienced practitioners in the fields of epidemiology, risk assessment, fate and transport analysis, and toxicology.

(d) The exposure assessment of any risk assessment prepared in conjunction with a response action taken or approved pursuant to this chapter shall include the development of reasonable maximum estimates of exposure for both current land use conditions and reasonably foreseeable future land use conditions at the site.