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Statement on Groundwater Assessment at Site of Proposed Oil Project

No Threat to Public Health or Safety from Contamination at the Maintenance Yard

HERMOSA BEACH, CA – City Manager Tom Bakaly issued the following statement regarding an assessment of the groundwater at the City’s Maintenance Yard at 555 6th Street in Hermosa Beach that found some contamination at the site. E&B Natural Resources (E&B) had its environmental engineer, Brycon, LLC, conduct the groundwater assessment at the City’s request as part of the oil company’s environmental studies for its proposed oil production project. Following is the statement:

“As part of our ongoing commitment to examining all potential environmental impacts surrounding the proposed oil production project, the City asked E&B to conduct the assessment so we could better understand the state of groundwater quality at the site. As had been previously reported in E&B’s project application to the City, previous investigations of the Maintenance Yard indicated the presence of lead and other metals and petroleum hydrocarbons in the soil. This is not unexpected given that the Maintenance Yard is believed to have been the site of a landfill at one time.

“Brycon, LLC has provided its draft report to the City, informing us that one of the groundwater samples from the site contained elevated levels of arsenic and barium. Another of the samples contained elevated levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons. All three samples contained elevated levels of lead.

“We must be clear that there is no immediate risk to public health or safety. The groundwater at this site is not used for drinking water. The City’s staff has reported the discovery of groundwater contamination to the proper regulatory agencies and will work cooperatively with them to meet their requirements. The City’s staff is also consulting with E&B regarding these results and the City will determine an appropriate response. E&B has submitted a remedial action plan for contaminated soil as part of its Oil Production Project Application.”

E&B has proposed an oil production project at the Maintenance Yard. The City is currently conducting an Environmental Impact Report of the proposed project, and the voters of Hermosa Beach will ultimately decide if the project goes forward.

For the groundwater study, E&B’s environmental engineer, Brycon, LLC, drilled three borings to a depth of approximately 46 to 51 feet below the ground surface to reach the groundwater. According to a draft report prepared by Brycon, LLC and submitted to the City, groundwater was sampled from the borings and was tested at a laboratory for the presence of metals, total petroleum hydrocarbons and volatile organic compounds. The City will make the full report of the groundwater assessment available to the public through its website, as soon as that report is finalized.

About Hermosa Beach

Founded in 1907, Hermosa Beach is known as “The Best Little Beach City.” Named “Southern California’s Greenest City” for its work to protect the environment, it is a thriving community of some 20,000 residents located on the southern end of Santa Monica Bay in Los Angeles County, and its beaches have been ranked among the best in the world. To learn more, please visit www.hermosabch.org.

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