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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0536

December 5, 2012

Mr. Sam Unger
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Ms. Hilda Blanco
Interim Director
USC Center for Sustainable Cities
University of Southern California
3518 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, CA 90089

Dear Mr. Unger and Ms. Blanco,

I write to request information and swift action regarding details of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board's expert panel in the matter of the Carousel Housing Tract in Carson.

As a long-time resident of the South Bay region, and as the person who will be representing the 285 households in the Carousel Housing Tract starting in January, I am deeply concerned about the protracted nature of the investigation into water and soil contamination in that neighborhood. I have visited Carousel, and sat with those families. I have heard of the high cancer rates and health problems in people and pets, and how their community has suffered for decades on this contaminated land.

On August 29, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board announced the creation of an expert review panel to investigate the contamination. As of December 5, only three of the four members of the panel have been appointed.

I am extremely troubled by this holdup. The men and women and children living in the Carousel Housing Tract have been denied justice for too long already. They continue to live on contaminated land, and they cannot afford to wait any longer. As such, the last member of the expert panel must be appointed without further delay, so the panel can promptly complete its work.

This will be a key issue for me moving forward, and I would like request a full briefing from your office on the progress being made in resolving this serious **environmental justice** matter. Please send your reply to the attention of Eric Boyd in my San Pedro office and Henry Connelly in my Washington office at ericf.boyd@mail.house.gov and henry.connelly@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janice Hahn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress