



# CITY OF SACRAMENTO

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING

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May 10, 1983

City Council  
Sacramento, California

**FILED**  
By the City Council  
Office of the City Clerk

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: TCE Monitoring of American River

MAY 10 1983

The laboratory staff at the American River has been monitoring the American River for volatile organic content for the past few months. The reason for the monitoring was to verify that no trichloroethylene (TCE) was entering the River from the vicinity of the Aerojet property. The laboratory was using a method with a detection limit of 0.25 parts per billion (ppb). The results showed less than the detection limit and were reported as less than 0.25 ppb.

During the course of this analysis, one of our chemists, Mr. Ron Myers noticed a slight peak indicative of TCE. Although it was less than the detection limit, Mr. Myers proceeded to investigate.

An alternate procedure was utilized in further analyses capable of detecting TCE above 1 part per trillion or 0.001 ppb. The first set of analyses showed 0.08 ppb in the American River at the Sunrise Bridge, and 0.04 ppb at the American River Plant intake. No TCE was detected in our treated water.

Because of the low levels detected and the need to verify the validity of the results, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board was contacted. An arrangement was made to split samples with this agency. The results have verified that low levels of TCE are entering the river. The levels are far below the State Health Department action level of 4.5 ppb and are of absolutely no concern as a threat to public health. The usefulness of this data is to submit hard evidence to support previous theory that the chemical is entering the American River.

The results of samples collected May 3, 1983 and split with the Regional Board show the following levels of TCE.

<u>Location</u>	<u>TCE (ppb)</u>
1. American River at Negro Bar (above Aerojet vicinity)	Less than .001
2. American River at Sunrise Bridge	0.312
3. American River at water treatment plant	0.094

4. American River Plant tap sample	Less than .01
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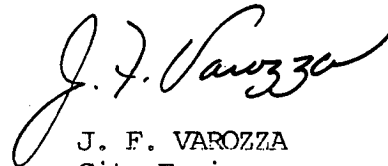
The presence of a second organic compound was also detected in these samples. This compound is tetrachloroethylene. The results follow:

	<u>Tetrachloroethylene (pob)</u>
1. American River at Negro Bar	Less than .001
2. American River at Sunrise Bridge	.040
3. American River at water treatment plant	.024
4. American River Plant tap sample	Less than .01

We will continue to monitor weekly and keep you informed of any changes in concentrations.

I would like to commend the laboratory staff, particularly Mr. Ron Myers for diligent work in developing this data.

Respectfully submitted,



J. F. VAROZZA  
City Engineer

For Council Information:



Walter J. Slipe  
Walter J. Slipe, City Manager

May 10, 1983  
All Districts