

DOCKETED

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HECA Referenced in Bakersfield Californian Letter to the Editor

Attached is the text of a Letter to the Editor from Jon Carrithers that was published in the Bakersfield Californian newspaper on April 14, 2015 regarding: the responsibility to clean up the Elk Hills Reserve; the failure of the Department of Energy to clean up the the contaminated sites; and the suggestion that the clean up should be done before the DOE proposes "making another mess with HECA".

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Letters

Let's clean up Elk Hills

The April 5 letter "Clean up the Elk Hills Reserve" needs a correction of one fact. The responsibility for the cleanup of Elk Hills has always been the U.S. Department of Energy's. The contamination was put there while the federal government was operating Elk Hills as a Naval Petroleum Reserve. Upon the sale of Elk Hills to a private entity, USDOE kept the liability for the cleanup of these sites as part of the property sale agreement.

Cal-DTSC seems to have inherited the face of the Elk Hills cleanup project about the time the HECA project showed up in Kern County and thankfully they seem to be taking some action to accomplish cleanup and have been much more transparent in their efforts.

It was not DTSC, it was USDOE who sadly and for most of 13 years spent tens of millions of your dollars on the cleanup project without doing any cleanup.

Maybe USDOE should pay the new owner of the hill to do the work that USDOE seems incapable of, and/or unwilling to do. The equipment, technology, and people who do this kind of work are right here in Kern County and it is sad that they have not been put to work yet given all the money spent.

The mess at Elk Hills belongs to USDOE; check it out. Maybe they should clean up their first mess before they propose making another mess with HECA.

Jon Carrithers Bakersfield