

Mohammad M. Zaidi

mzaidi@sicor-inc.com | 626.393.4405 | Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
linkedin.com/in/mohammad-mehdi-zaidi

Principal Hydrogeologist & Senior-Level Consultant

CA State Registered Geologist | Certified Hydrogeologist | Trusted Expert Advisor

Strategic & Tactical Planning

Project Management

Superior Problem-Solving

Water Resources Assessment

Groundwater Modeling Review

Aquifer Test & Geophysical Log

Analyses

Reporting & Documentation

Influencing/Negotiations

Coalition Building

- Applies 32 years' hands-on environmental industry consulting and regulatory experience, and relationships including 21 years as a LA-RWQCB distinguished case-officer and manager.
- Applies expertise in effective project management and direction of site investigations and remediation, hydrogeological basin analysis, water resources assessment, and litigation support.
- Provide expert technical and regulatory advice to internal and external clients on hydrogeological investigations and remediation of contaminated complex industrial, DoD, and CERCLA sites potentially impacting water resources.
- Exhibit principled leadership in decision-making, motivating multidisciplinary teams to do their best work, and creating values-driven culture.
- Apply sound technical assessments, critical thinking skills, and deep insight to devise innovative solutions for site-specific issues.
- Collaborate and coordinate with Federal agencies, State and local governments, legal teams, and private sector organizations to achieve shared goals and build consensus.
- Articulate communicator and presenter with hands-on experience facilitating **100+** on- and off-site meetings for diverse array of stakeholders.

CAREER EXPERIENCE

CA Regional Water Quality Control Board (CRWQCB) | Los Angeles, CA 9/1999 – 11/2020

ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST/PROJECT MANAGER – SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM (6/2001 – 11/2020)

Performed thorough technical review and analysis of site work plans, RI/FS, Remedial Action Plans and Designs (RAP/RD), and remediation, groundwater monitoring, and closure reports submitted by Responsible Party (RP) consultants. Evaluated documents for compliance with regulatory requirements. Drafted Regional Board (RB) orders presenting viable site-specific solutions supported by sound data and reasoning. Oversaw implementation of RB orders, monitored and communicated progress, and provided ongoing guidance to RPs on numerous hydrogeologically complex industrial, Brownfield, Department of Defense, and Superfund sites. Collaborated and coordinated with United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), State and local agencies, and water purveyors on progress of investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites in San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin Superfund Area, NASA JPL, Omega, and Pemaco Superfund Sites.

- Secured **100% approval** from RB management and attorneys and **>90% acceptance** by contaminated site owners and highly experienced and licensed consultants and legal experts to launch technically refined solutions.
- Obtained **Project Manager endorsement** by Executive Officer (EO) of RB for **100+** letters drafted for assigned sites.
 - [SCP4_MZ_218_Hi-Shear_Comments_on_Module_II_Report_102020_Final.pdf \(ca.gov\)](#)
 - [RB Comments on Tesoro 6-29-18, 7-30-18, 8-1-18 ltrs and PS GW Data, Marathon East Hynes Site SCP-211, 2-11-2019.pdf \(ca.gov\)](#)
 - [0348 Comments on RAP - RD dated Oct. 31, 2005 033006.pdf \(ca.gov\)](#)
- Utilized advanced analytical, decision-making, and interpersonal skills to increase site investigations involving CRWQCB required lateral and vertical extent of soil and groundwater contamination from **30% to 80%** and remediation from **20% to 50%**.
- Partnered closely with CA Deputy Attorney General to compose directive explaining deficiencies of RAP/RD resulting in **Dismissal of Petition** from an RP. Directed revised RAP installation of **56** injection wells and subsurface injection of vegetable oil and calcium polysulfide in on- and off-site portions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and hexavalent chromium (CrVI) plumes that reduced contaminant concentrations by **95%**.
- **Uncovered sources of CrVI groundwater contamination** in South Gate wells in the Water Replenishment District (WRD) area. Proposed replacing previous collection of groundwater from multiple aquifers by single well with undedicated screen intervals with a discrete production well screened in each aquifer. Changes prompted identification and isolation of contaminated zones in shallow aquifers, facilitation of groundwater monitoring and remediation of impacted zones, and prevention or decline of migration of shallow contamination to deeper clean aquifers.

- Acknowledged for **excellent performance as Project Manager in 2005** for contribution to brownfields redevelopment of the former 23-acre Price Pfister site into a safe multi-store shopping center.

Key Projects:

- **Brownfield Sites Redevelopment:** Defined regulatory requirements and directed investigation and remediation of CrVI, VOCs, total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), and 1,4 Dioxane contamination in soil. Submitted recommendation and secured RB approval for no further action and redevelopment of following sites:
 - **Mission Linen:** Converted into commercial building in Sana Fe Springs, CA.
 - **Price Pfister:** Turned into shopping center with Costco, Best Buys, and Home Depot that stimulated local economy in Pacoima, CA.
 - **Long Beach Naval Shipyard Gas Station:** Transformed into shipping container storage terminal at Port of Los Angeles.
 - **Site 5 MCAS:** Convinced Navy to refine extent of polluted soil using Site Characterization and Analysis Penetrometer System with laser-induced Fluorescence sensors (SCAPS). Spearheaded excavation and removal of **23K** tons of contaminated and overburden soil from **Sites 5 and 21**. DoD Site 5 became aircraft landing strip at MCAS.
- **USEPA Hexavalent Chromium Investigation:** CRWQCB Lead on Interagency Coordinating Committee for managing water quality in San Fernando Valley Groundwater Superfund Basin. Interacted with representatives of USEPA, DTSC, CADPH, LADWP, Department of Water in Glendale and Burbank, and Water Master for Upper Los Angeles River Area (ULARA) to formulate technical, regulatory, and procedural recommendations.
- **BP Carson/ExxonMobil Refineries and BP Hynes/Shell Carson Terminals:** Pivotal contributor to evolution of LNAPL Literature Research document, Conceptual Site Model (CSM), Decision Tree Flow Chart, and text adapted by LARWQCB. Rendered comments as part of Carson Regional Groundwater Group (CRGG) based on review of groundwater flow and transport modeling reports, design, and expansion of groundwater monitoring program.
- **NASA JPL Pasadena Site:** As CRWQCB RPM, collaborated with NASA JPL, USEPA, DTSC, CADPH, Pasadena Water and Power, Lincoln Avenue Water Company, Raymond Basin, and Foothill Municipal Water District in required hydrogeological investigations and expedited remediation of perchlorate and VOC contaminated groundwater plumes impacting Arroyo Seco Canyon and adjacent water supply wells using liquid GAC, fluidized bed reactor and ion exchange technologies.
- **Shell Carson and Tesoro Hynes Terminals; Hi-Shear, Price Pfister, NASA JPL, Lockheed, Exello Plating, Omega, Pemaco, W.W. Henry, Valley Todeco, Mission Linen, Menasco Aerospace, Drilube, PRC Desoto; Former Fairchild Controls, Manhattan Beach; Honeywell North Hollywood, El Segundo, and Century Blvd sites; Exxon Mobil and BP Carson refineries:** Directed implementation of subsurface investigations and remediation, and evaluated potential impact of contaminated groundwater plume migration from sites on downgradient water supply wells. Presented Price Pfister Site progress at RB and at public outreach meetings for several sites.

ASSOCIATE ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST | STORM WATER UNIT | Los Angeles, CA (6/2000 – 6/2001)

Operated as Region-4 Project Manager for CALTRANS activities. Wrote NOV's for LADWP and CALTRANS and supplemented ACLSs for non-compliance of General Industrial Storm Water Permit. Inspected construction, industrial, and CALTRANS facilities. Engaged in discussions with stakeholders and industry and environmental groups to consider feedback and resolve concerns prior to finalization and adoption of Ventura County MS4 Permit.

ASSOCIATE ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST | NPDES AND NON-CHAPTER 15 UNIT | Palm Desert, CA (9/1999 – 6/2000)

Conducted Wastewater Treatment Plant inspections at multiple secondary and tertiary facilities. Scrutinized EIRs and wastewater facility design, hydrogeologic investigation, and self-monitoring reports. Appraised wastewater quality, identified WDR and NPDES permit and Water Code violations, and took appropriate informal or formal enforcement actions. Rescinded cease and desist order and renewed expired NPDES permits and WDRs. Assessed effectiveness of groundwater monitoring program at POTWs discharging secondary effluent to percolation ponds.

- Gained management buy-in to add hydraulically upgradient and downgradient monitoring wells within **100 feet** of ponds to protect underlying groundwater quality.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE:

OHM Remediation Services, Inc. (later merged with The IT Group) | Irvine, CA

SENIOR PROJECT HYDROGEOLOGIST

Headed application of specialized tasks at **nine** military bases in Southern CA and AZ for several delivery orders ranging from **\$2 to \$5M** under United States Navy Southwest Division Remedial Action Contract.

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) | Waltham, MA

PG, CHG**GEOLOGIST (GS12-6)**

Sole **Hydrogeologist** with Geotechnical Engineering Branch of USACE New England Division. Reviewed RI/FS reports, RAPs, remedial designs, O&M plans, and groundwater modeling studies for **seven** superfund sites. Delivered scientific evaluations to USEPA, state regulatory agencies, and USGS and USACE senior staff members.

- Received **Official Commendation** from Department of Army, New England Division Engineering Directorate for **excellent performance as Hydrogeologist**.

Tetra Tech, Inc | Lompoc, CA

SENIOR GEOLOGIST

Instrumental in project management of remedial investigations of **five** IRP sites from start to finish at Vandenberg, AFB.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT (SME)**11/2010 – 1/2011**

Researched and authored questions for Certified Hydrogeologist licensing Exam as part of Writing Group serving CA Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.

EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALS

West Virginia University | Morgantown, WV**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GEOLOGY SEDIMENTATION/STRUCTURE****University of Punjab** | Lahore, Pakistan**MASTER IN GEOLOGY (MINEROLOGY/PETROLOGY)****BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONORS IN GEOLOGY****University of Houston** | Houston, TX

Additional coursework in ordinary and partial differential equations, complex variables, and linear algebra; geophysics; hydrogeology; and hazardous waste management.

Colorado School of Mines | Golden, CO: Borehole Geophysics**HYDROGEOLOGY SHORT COURSES:**

- **Aquifer Test Analysis** | Association of Groundwater Scientists and Engineers | Columbus, OH
- **Modeling Ground Water Flow Using Finite Difference Methods** | USGS
- **IBM PC Applications in Groundwater Pollution and Hydrology** | National Groundwater Association
- **Groundwater Modeling** | California State University | Northridge, CA
- **Visual MODFLOW** | National Ground Water Association | Salem, MA
- **Characterizing, Predicting, and Modeling Water from Mine Sites** | SWRCB | Rancho Cordova, CA

PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST | State of California | #842**CERTIFIED HYDROGEOLOGIST** | State of California | #6002