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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

# PUBLIC NOTICE CLOSURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CASE

This will serve as notice that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) is soliciting comments from the public regarding the pending closure of an environmental case at a locomotive storage and maintenance facility, McCloud, California (Site).

### **SUBJECT SITE:**

McCloud Railroad, 801 Industrial Way, McCloud, Siskiyou County

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENT PERIOD:**

24 April through 24 May 2024

### **SUMMARY:**

The Central Valley Water Board currently regulates an environmental case at the subject property regarding an unauthorized release of unknown quantities of petroleum hydrocarbons and metals from Site activities including locomotive storage, fueling, and maintenance activities. The Site is located in the town of McCloud on Siskiyou County Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 028-440-071 and APN 028-440-070.

Between November 2017 and April 2018, hazardous materials were removed from the Site and aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) were cleaned and marked with paint to show they were closed in-place as directed by the Siskiyou County Environmental Health Division. Additionally, some areas of stained surface soils were removed. Laboratory analytical testing confirmed petroleum hydrocarbon contamination remained in surface soils at the Site.

In July 2019, Siskiyou County conducted an inspection and reported petroleum was seeping from tanks and leaking to surface soils from a locomotive stored outside, and from two locomotives stored inside the on-site shop.

The Central Valley Water Board became the lead agency and opened a Site Cleanup Program case in July 2019. In August 2019, Central Valley Water Board staff inspected the Site with Siskiyou County and observed, in part, miscellaneous drums, areas of soil staining, and locomotives and railcars with associated oil and fuel leaks.

On 4 March 2020, the Central Valley Water Board issued Technical Reporting Order R5-2020-0801 (Order) for the McCloud Railroad to Four Rails, Inc., the landowner, and to McCloud Railway Company, Inc., the current lessee of the property. The Order required submission of a site investigation work plan to determine the extent of contamination from petroleum hydrocarbons and chlorinated solvents in soil and groundwater. The Order also required implementation of the approved site investigation work plan and submission of a site investigation summary report.

In August 2021 an approved site investigation work plan was executed to determine lateral and vertical extent of soil contamination. The investigation determined shallow soils near the locomotive idling and fueling area, the waste oil AST, and the south end of the locomotive maintenance shop were impacted by petroleum hydrocarbons. Soils south of the maintenance shop were also impacted by arsenic. During November and December 2021, a portion of impacted soils were excavated and subsequently disposed of at an approved facility. So as not to disrupt operations, impacted soil was not excavated where active rail spurs were co-located with contaminated soils.

In December 2021, an approved groundwater monitoring event took place to determine impacts to groundwater from Site activities. Laboratory analysis indicated groundwater was not impacted by Site activity.

In September 2022 a Land Use Covenant (LUC) was recorded with the Siskiyou County Recorder's Office. The LUC was recorded, in part, to restrict future Site development to commercial and industrial uses due to soil contamination left in place near the rail spurs.

In February 2023, the Discharger submitted a request for closure to Central Valley Water Board staff. Staff reviewed the case for closure. The closest water body, Squaw Valley Creek, is located approximately 3,200 feet southeast of the Site. The Site is on a public water supply and the nearest public water supply well is 2.4 miles south of the Site. Soil impacts are limited in extent and groundwater was not shown to be impacted by Site activities. A LUC was recorded to restrict Site use. Site conditions do not pose a threat through direct contact or outdoor air exposure and the Site is eligible for closure.

### **WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

General information regarding the Site can be obtained from the State Water Resources Control Board's [GeoTracker website](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000013677).  
([https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=T10000013677](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000013677)).

All interested agencies, groups and persons wishing to comment on the pending case closure must provide these comments in writing. The comments should be submitted by **24 May 2024** to the Central Valley Water Board's office at 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002. For information, please call Kate Sjoberg at (530) 224-3218 or contact her by e-mail at [Kate.Sjoberg@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Kate.Sjoberg@waterboards.ca.gov).