
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

4 March 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, CHASE MOBIL MART, 20661 TRACY BOULEVARD, BUTTOWILLOW, KERN COUNTY, RB CASE 5T15000916, CUF CLAIM NO. 20077

This letter is to inform interested parties of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) consideration of closing the subject case (Site), and to request comments from interested parties.

The Site is an operating convenience store with retail motor fuel sales in an area of commercial properties at the intersection of State Highway 58 and Interstate Highway 58 on the southwest side of Tracy Boulevard (State Highway 58), and east of an Interstate Highway 5 off-ramp. The Site is also adjacent on the southwest to the intersection of Tracy Boulevard and Lagoon Drive. The Kern County Assessor's Parcel Number is 103-300-01-00-0. Drinking water is provided by the Interstate 5 Properties public water system.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the *Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy* (Policy). This case has been evaluated for closure based on the evidence presented in the investigation reports and meets the relevant case closure criteria based on the fundamental principles contained in the Policy.

Petroleum hydrocarbons were detected in soil samples collected beneath the fuel dispensers in September 2007 during dispenser upgrade activities. Total petroleum hydrocarbons referenced as gasoline and diesel (TPHg and TPHd) were detected by laboratory analysis at up to 7,700 and 2,000 milligrams-per-kilogram (mg/kg), respectively. Benzene and the fuel oxygenate methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) were detected up to 2.8 and 19 mg/kg, respectively. The Kern County Environmental Health Services Department filed an Unauthorized Release Report on 5 May 2008 to document the fuel release. The case was transferred to the Central Valley Water Board for regulatory oversight by a letter dated 1 July 2011.

At the direction of the Central Valley Water Board, the extent of hydrocarbon concentrations in soil were determined by investigations from December 2011 through February 2015. Gasoline constituents and additives were the primary chemicals of

concern that impacted soil beneath the Site. The center of hydrocarbon mass was in one area beneath two dispenser locations, with most hydrocarbon mass extending to approximately 50 feet below ground surface. Approximately 15,160 pounds (lbs.) of gasoline constituents as TPHg was estimated to be present from 5 to 50 feet below ground surface (bgs). Approximately 2,020 lbs. of MTBE had migrated to a depth to 85 feet bgs. The investigations determined that gasoline constituents had migrated vertically to first encountered groundwater, which was perched on clay layers.

Benzene, ethylbenzene, and naphthalene concentrations in shallow soil were less than human health risk screening levels contained in the Policy.

Gasoline constituents were extracted from soil by SVE (soil vapor extraction), and the volatile vapors destroyed by oxidization. During operation from mid-November 2022 until early February 2023, influent volatile vapor concentrations as TPHg decreased from 44,000 to 7,300 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). Approximately 13,000 lbs. of volatile fuel constituents were reported to be removed. Based on the rate of decrease of influent concentrations, additional operation was not considered economic.

Twenty-one groundwater sampling events to evaluate the concentration and extent of gasoline constituents dissolved in groundwater were conducted from January 2014 through October 2023 from a network of up to 12 monitoring wells. Groundwater sample analysis indicated that elevated MTBE concentrations were present in the perched groundwater at approximately 85 – 100 feet bgs, but MTBE was not detected or detected in very low concentrations, usually less than 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$, in deeper groundwater at approximately 115 feet bgs.

There should be no risk to human health and safety or the environment from the remaining petroleum product constituents, which are expected to degrade naturally. Public water wells were identified approximately 1,000 feet north of the Site, not in the direction of groundwater flow.

This Public Notice has been transmitted to the interested parties in the Site vicinity and relevant agencies, as well as posted on the [Central Valley Water Board website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/) available at (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/) Underground Storage Tank – Decisions Pending, Case Closures. Details of the assessment are also available to interested parties through the [State Water Board's GeoTracker website](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/): (<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>).

You may participate in the case closure process by reviewing reports, asking questions, and providing comments on the proposed closure. The Central Valley Water Board's case number is 5T15000916.

Please submit any comments regarding the proposed case closure to the Central Valley Water Board's Fresno office by **3 May 2024**.

Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the Site or the proposed actions should contact the case worker, John Whiting at 1685 E Street, in Fresno at (559) 445-5504, or by email at John.Whiting@waterboards.ca.gov.

Upon completion of the public comment period, and in the absence of any substantive comments against closure, the Central Valley Water Board staff will direct that groundwater monitoring and soil vapor extraction wells and any remaining investigation derived waste be removed and properly managed. If no problems are discovered during a final Site inspection a case closure letter will be prepared.