

**PUBLIC NOTICE:
Proposed No Further Action Determination**

**Hamburg Ranch - Flores Parcel
Firebaugh, CA**

**Public Comment Period is from
18 August 2025 to 18 September 2025**



California Environmental
Protection Agency

Yana Garcia

**Secretary for
Environmental Protection**



State Water Resources
Control Board

**E. Joaquin Esquivel
Chair**

Central Valley Regional
Water Quality Control Board
**Nicholas Avdis
Chair**

Contact:

Geoff Rader

(916) 464-4707

[geoff.rader@waterboards.
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Central Valley Regional
Water Quality Control Board

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) invites public comment on a request for regulatory closure made on behalf of M&R Investment One Company Inc. (M&R) and Conterra Ag Capital for the property located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Hamburg Avenue and Sharon Road in Firebaugh, Merced County (Site). A map showing the Site location is presented on the attached Figure 1.

Case Title: Hamburg Ranch - Flores Parcel

Location: Northwest corner of the intersection of Hamburg Avenue and Sharon Road, Firebaugh, Merced County

Case Summary:

The Site is the location of a pre-1990 aerial pesticide applicator operation involving the use of an on-Site runway, pesticide mix tank, aircraft washdown area, and a concrete pad with a drain which conveyed pesticide wastewater to an on-Site leach field. Subsurface pesticide contamination was first investigated in the early 1990's via the advancement of 16 soil borings, installation of four groundwater monitoring wells, and collection of soil and groundwater samples. Sample results indicated that Site soils were contaminated with chlorinated pesticides including Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT; up to 1,760 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) and toxaphene (up to 1,600 mg/kg). Samples collected from Site groundwater, which was first encountered at approximately 10 feet below ground surface (bgs), contained up to 19 micrograms per liter (µg/L) toxaphene.

In 1992, approximately 5,250 cubic yards of pesticide-impacted soil was excavated, and about 1,300 cubic yards of the excavated soil with the highest pesticide concentrations was disposed of off-Site. Ex-situ bioremediation of the remaining excavated soil was proposed; however, case files indicate that this was not completed, and instead, stockpiled soil was spread in the stockpile area in 2003 and 2004.

Following the 1992 excavation, the case went "inactive" until 2017 when Central Valley Water Board staff requested additional Site information. In response, from 2019 to 2020, M&R collected additional discrete soil samples, composite soil samples utilizing Incremental

Sampling Methodology, and grab groundwater samples to assess the extent of residual pesticide contamination. Sample data indicated that surface soil across much of the Site contained chlorinated pesticides at concentrations exceeding commercial/industrial screening level concentrations. However, samples collected from 3 feet bgs contained concentrations of these constituents several orders of magnitude lower than commercial/industrial screening level concentrations. Grab groundwater samples contained trace (less than 1 µg/L) pesticide concentrations. To further assess the pesticide exposure risk to Site workers at this active almond orchard, in 2024 and 2025, almond harvesting standard operating procedures were reviewed, and potential pesticide concentrations in dust generated from Site surface soils were evaluated.

Central Valley Water Board staff reviewed the request for regulatory closure and, based on the data compiled to date, believe there is merit to this request. As such, we are conducting a public participation comment period that allows interested parties to comment on the proposed case closure.

Additional Information on GeoTracker

Additional information is available on the State Water Resources Control Board [GeoTracker Website](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/) (<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>). Information can be found on the GeoTracker website by searching by name (Hamburg Ranch - Flores Parcel), or by case identification number (SLT5S4373394).

The case file for the Site is also available for review at the Central Valley Water Board office located at 11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. To make an appointment for a file review, please call (916) 464-3291.

Contact

Please contact Geoff Rader with the Central Valley Water Board if you have any comments or questions regarding environmental investigation or cleanup activities at the Site, or any of the information in this notice:

Geoff Rader
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Anuncio

Si usted desea recibir el resumen de este documento en español o si desea hablar con algún funcionario en español con respecto a este documento por favor llame a la Junta Regional para el Control de Calidad de Agua del Valle Central al (916) 464-3291.

Notice to the Hearing Impaired

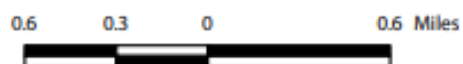
TDD users can obtain information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service (800) 735-2929 to reach the Public Participation Specialist. Ask them to contact the Central Valley Water Board at (916) 464-3291 regarding the request for regulatory closure for the Hamburg Ranch - Flores Parcel site.



Legend

● Site Location

Service Layer Credits: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, IPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2012.



Site Location Map

Report of Additional Assessment, Request
for Closure

Hamburg Ranch Flores Parcel
Merced County, California

Geosyntec
consultants

Project No.: SFO106C

February 2021

Figure

1