Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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 a Site Cleanup Program case at the Wild Horse Sanctuary, 5796 Wilson Hill Road, Shingletown, Shasta County (Site).

SUBJECT SITE:

Dianne Nelson (Discharger) owns the property located at Assessor's Parcel Number 703-300-017-000, which has a legal description of 5796 Wilson Hill Road, Shingletown, Shasta County, California.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENT PERIOD:

26 January 2024 through 26 March 2024.

SUMMARY:

The Central Valley Water Board currently regulates a Site Cleanup Program case regarding the unauthorized release of total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel (TPH-d) from a damaged above ground storage tank (AST). The Wild Horse Sanctuary (Sanctuary) has operated as a horse rescue since 1978. The Site is located south of Shingletown and east of Anderson in Shasta County, California. The Sanctuary is comprised of 11 parcels and 5,000 acres of meadows and forests. The surrounding area is largely undeveloped wooded ranch land with sparsely scattered barns and residences. The closest surface water body is Baldwin Creek, located approximately 700 feet north of the unauthorized discharge. The North Fork of Battle Creek is located approximately one mile south of the Site. Two active diesel ASTs currently exist onsite.

The unauthorized release was caused by a fire sparked by onsite welding activity. The fire damaged a storage trailer and a 1,500-gallon AST which discharged diesel onto the ground. The extent of the diesel release could not be determined due to the soil being saturated with water from firefighting activities. Groundwater was not encountered during remedial activities, but depth to groundwater at the Site is estimated to be 250 feet below ground surface (bgs).

Initial Site Assessment and Remedial Action

In May 2022, the Central Valley Water Board staff met with the Sanctuary operations manager and Guzi-West Inspection and Consulting to discuss the proposed characterization of the debris from the burned storage trailer and soil impacted by the diesel release from the AST. In July 2022, eight composite soil samples were collected and analyzed for TPH-d and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). One waste characterization sample and two suspected asbestos-containing material (ACM) samples were also collected and analyzed. Analysis of the structural debris indicated that ACMs were not present, and all pH, metal, and polychlorinated biphenyl concentrations were below waste criteria or within acceptable ranges, supporting the conclusion that the structural debris waste could be disposed of off-site as general construction debris. All waste was removed from the Site. Concentrations for all eight soil samples exceeded the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Francisco Regional Water Board) Tier 1 Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) for TPH-d and naphthalene. Based on the analytical soil results from this initial site investigation, it was determined that discing (turning) the impacted soil would be an appropriate remedial action. Accordingly, the impacted soil was turned in place to promote hydrocarbon volatilization and natural attenuation.

Additional Site Characterization

Following the remedial action, in October 2022 five additional soil samples were collected and analyzed for TPH-d and VOCs. Naphthalene and VOCs were below laboratory detection levels in all five soil samples. Four of the five soil samples contained TPH-d concentrations that were above the San Francisco Regional Water Board Tier 1 ESL. It was determined that more time was needed for the impacted soil to naturally attenuate, and a final round of confirmation sampling was to be conducted after the 2022-2023 wet season. In June 2023, four soil samples were collected and analyzed for TPH-d. TPH-d concentrations in all the samples were below the San Francisco Regional Water Board Tier 1 ESL limit. In June 2023, the Discharger's consultant requested case closure.

Rational for Closure

Based on Staff's review of the Site information, key rational for closure of this environmental case include:

1. Soil impacts have been sufficiently delineated. The discing/turning of the soil promoted volatilization and enhanced natural attenuation of the contaminant mass as evidenced by the June 2023 shallow soil sampling results.
2. Soil samples collected as deep as 6 inches contained TPH-d concentrations below the Tier 1 ESL limit of 260 mg/kg, and no groundwater was encountered.
3. Depth to groundwater at the Site is estimated to be 250 feet bgs.
4. Residual petroleum concentrations will further attenuate in the environment through natural processes.

5. In general, the Site meets the criteria of the Low-Threat Closure Policy.[1]

Staff has determined the Site is eligible for case closure based on the review performed.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Information regarding the Site can be obtained from the State Water Resources Control Board's Geotracker website: GeoTracker (ca.gov). (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000019819).

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 **26 March 2024** to the Central Valley Water Board's office at: 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002.

For information, please call: Mey Bunte at (530) 224-2428 or contact her by email at Mey.Bunte@Waterboards.ca.gov.

[1] While this policy does not specifically address other petroleum release scenarios such as pipelines or above ground storage tanks, if a particular site with a different petroleum release scenario exhibits attributes similar to those which this policy addresses, the criteria for closure evaluation of these non-UST sites should be similar to those in this policy.