22 January 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, 7- ELEVEN STORE #38969, 4202 EAST KINGS CANYON ROAD, FRESNO, FRESNO COUNTY, APN 470-071-14, RB CASE # 5T54000535, Global ID # T10000020393

To: Offsite Property Owners and Other Interested Persons,

This letter is to inform interested parties of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Water Board) consideration of closing the subject case, and to request comments from interested parties regarding the proposed closure at the 7-Eleven Store No. 38969 at 4202 East Kings Canyon Road in Fresno, Fresno County California (Site). In accordance with the criteria contained in the State Water Resources Control Board's *Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy* (Policy), the Central Valley Water Board is required to provide the opportunity to interested parties in the Site vicinity to participate in the closure process.

The Site is on the southeast corner of Cedar Avenue and East Kings Canyon Road in Fresno, California. Prior to 7-Eleven leasing the property, the Site was operated as a Sinclair gas station and convenience store. On 2 June 2022, three 10,000-gallon gasoline underground storage tanks (USTs) and associated dispensers were removed from the Site. The UST system removal and soil sampling were conducted with oversight by the Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (Fresno County). Two new 15,000-gallon USTs, four dispensers, and a canopy have been installed.

In a UST System Removal Report dated 18 July 2022, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec), reported that analytical results of soil samples, collected beneath the UST system on 3 June 2022, indicated total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPHg) at 6,420 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). Fresno County issued a UST Unauthorized Release (Leak)/Contamination Site Report and transferred regulatory oversight of the Site to the Central Valley Water Board on 25 August 2022. The Fresno County letter listed 7-Eleven as the responsible party.

Stantec submitted the *Site Assessment Report* (Report), dated 11 October 2023, for the Site. The Report was submitted to GeoTracker in response to the Central Valley Water Board staff (Staff) *Work Plan* review concurrence letter dated 17 February 2023 and *Addendum to the Work Plan* review letter dated 30 March 2023.

The Report states that from 21 through 23 August 2023, Stantec supervised the drilling and sampling of soil borings SB-1 through SB-5 to a depth of 40 feet below ground surface (bgs). Soil samples were collected at approximate 5-foot intervals beginning at approximately 5 feet until a 20-foot clean buffer zone was encountered at 40 feet bgs. Groundwater monitoring wells were not installed since a 20-foot clean soil buffer zone was achieved prior to encountering groundwater. Based on the Department of Water Resources Spring 2023 data, the regional depth to groundwater in the area is approximately 110 feet bgs.

Soil samples from SB-1 through SB-5 were analyzed at a State of California accredited laboratory for TPHg using US EPA Test Method 8015/8015B; benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and total xylenes (BTEX), methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), tert-amyl methyl ether (TAME), tert-butyl alcohol (TBA), di-isopropyl ether (DIPE), ethyl tert-butyl ether (ETBE), naphthalene, and full list volatile organic compounds (VOCs) using EPA Test Method 8260B. Lead was analyzed by EPA Test Method 6010B.

Based on the analytical results of forty (40) soil samples, only low to non-detect concentrations of petroleum constituents were detected in soil samples collected during the investigation. Based on the laboratory analytical results from the current assessment activities, hydrocarbon (TPH concentrations in soil greater than 100 mg/kg) were not present in any of the borings during this phase of assessment. Low level lead was detected in all soil samples, well below California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) soil screening levels of 80 mg/kg for residential areas. Hydrocarbon impacts in soil appear to be limited in extent and confined to the eastern and southeastern portions of the former UST excavation at a depth of 14 feet bgs. Hydrocarbon impact to soil within the former UST excavation is delineated by borings SB-1 through SB-5.

Groundwater was not encountered during drilling activities at the maximum depth explored of 40 feet bgs and based on the lateral and vertical delineation of hydrocarbon impact in soil, it does not appear that the hydrocarbon release has impacted groundwater.

The 11 October 2023 Report states that based on the laboratory analytical results from the Site assessment activities, hydrocarbon-impacted soil appears to be defined laterally and vertically. Only trace concentrations of petroleum contaminants were detected in a limited number of soil samples. Based on observations and results obtained during this investigation along with historical Site activities and results, the Site appears to meet the General and Media Specific criteria contained in the Policy.

Based on the Sensitive Receptor Survey assessment, the limited release in soil should not pose a threat to agricultural, public, domestic wells, surface water bodies, or other sensitive receptors within a 1,000-foot radius of the Site.

Based on the analytical results of soil samples collected during the August 2023 assessment, trace concentrations of constituents of concern were detected to a depth of 40 feet bgs. Detection of only trace concentrations of petroleum constituents in soil samples indicates a clean soil buffer zone between soil contamination and groundwater.

The secondary source has been removed to the extent practicable with removal of the leaking USTs and pump island, when the USTs were removed in June 2022 and replaced with new USTs and dispenser system. No additional secondary source removal has been conducted at the Site; however, natural attenuation should continue to reduce concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbon. The mass of hydrocarbon impacted soil is located beneath the current USTs and well defined laterally and vertically. The location and limited area of hydrocarbon impact and low concentrations would make source excavation an ineffective and cost prohibitive removal alternative.

The Site meets Policy Criteria 3 (a) of Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure. The maximum concentrations of petroleum constituents in soil are less than or equal to those listed in Table 1 of the Policy. The case is exempt from the Policy vapor intrusion to indoor air criteria because the Site is an active commercial petroleum fueling facility and is reasonably believed there are no unacceptable health risks resulting from exposure to indoor air.

The Site is within the service area of a City of Fresno public water system. Soil samples results indicate there is no significant secondary source that remains. Based on the attenuating concentrations of remaining petroleum hydrocarbons in soil, and the absence of petroleum hydrocarbon impact to groundwater, residual petroleum hydrocarbons should not present a threat to human health, the environment, or beneficial uses of groundwater. The residual petroleum concentration in soil should be further reduced by natural attenuation, and no further action regarding this release is necessary. All technically and economically feasible cleanup has been completed.

The proposed closure is based on the Central Valley Water Board Staff's conclusion that the case meets the General and Media-Specific criteria contained in the Policy.

This Public Notice has been transmitted to interested parties in the area, and is posted on the website (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/), under Public Notices, Underground Storage Tanks-Decisions Pending & Case Closures. Details of the Site assessment and cleanup are also available through the State Water Board GeoTracker website (http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/) by searching for case number **5T54000535**. This information may also be reviewed at the Central Valley Water Board office at 1685 E Street in Fresno, California.

You may participate in the case closure process by reviewing technical reports, asking questions, and providing comments. Comments regarding the proposed closure need to be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board at the above-listed address by **22 March 2024**.

Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the Site or the proposed action should contact Khalid Durrani at the above address, by e-mail at khalid.durrani@waterboards.ca.gov, or by telephone at (559) 445-6191.

On completion of the public comment period and in the absence of substantive comment against closure being granted, Central Valley Water Board Staff will proceed with the closure process for the case.