
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

PUBLIC NOTICE CLOSURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CASE

This will serve as notice that the Central Valley 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 for a developed property located at 37087 Main Street, Burney, Shasta County.

SUBJECT SITE:

Bernards, 37087 Main Street, Burney, CA, Shasta County (Site). The current Discharger is Ennis Holding, LLC.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENT PERIOD:

14 May 2026 – 13 July 2026.

SUMMARY:

The Site meets the requirements for closure under Groundwater-Specific Criterion 1 of the State Water Resources Control Board's Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy (LTCP). Based on analysis of site-specific conditions under current and reasonably anticipated near-term future scenarios, residual contaminations pose low threat to human health and the environment. Water quality objectives will be achieved through natural degradation processes within a reasonable time frame.

SETTING:

The Site is in a highway commercial use zone, and it is surrounded by commercial and residential properties. A gasoline station operated at this location from 1947 to 1989. The Site is currently occupied by vacant service station buildings.

The geologic deposits near the site consist of unconsolidated and semi-consolidated alluvium. Surficial soils are predominantly fill material consisting of sand and mixtures of gravel, sand, and silt. Vesicular basalt bedrock underlies the surficial soil at depths of approximately 15 feet (ft) below ground surface (bgs). Groundwater occurs between 10 and 15 ft bgs, as encountered in an excavation on the west side of the Site during the 2025 investigation.

INVESTIGATION AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES:

In 1991, the then property owner filled four fuel underground storage tanks (USTs) with cement slurry. Shasta County Environmental Health Division (SCEHD) records indicated the abandonment of these USTs was not performed in accordance with SCEHD's directive or permit process, and proof of UST abandonment was not submitted.

In April 2005, Porter GeoTechnical conducted a Preliminary Site Investigation. The investigation identified five USTs, including four abandoned in place and filling with concrete. An additional deteriorated 500-gallon tank, full of waste oil, was observed. Petroleum-impacted soil was encountered in two test pit locations: near the waste oil tank in the northeast portion of the property and near the gasoline tank in the northwest corner of the property. Groundwater was not encountered during the investigation.

SCEHD filed an unauthorized release report and referred the case to the Central Valley Water Board in 2012. Subsequently, Central Valley Water Board staff (Staff) opened the UST case in July 2013. Due to the absence of a viable discharger, the case remained inactive until February 2024 when the current Discharger acquired the Site through a Shasta County auction.

In accordance with an approved Work Plan, in April 2025, Remedy Engineering oversaw closure of the five USTs according to SCEHD tank closure requirements. The reported 500-gallon deteriorated waste oil UST was actually a 1,000-gallon tank in good condition. The waste oil UST was emptied and removed from site. The four fuel USTs appeared to be in good condition and were abandoned in place.

Twelve confirmation soil samples were collected at depths ranging from 8 to 11.5 feet bgs, and one grab groundwater sample was collected at 10 feet bgs. The samples were analyzed for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) as diesel, oil, and gasoline; volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and total xylenes; fuel oxygenates; chlorinated VOCs; lead scavengers; semivolatile organic compounds; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons; and Title 22 metals. Benzo(g,h,i)perylene and arsenic were detected in the soil samples, and several metals were detected in the groundwater sample.

Staff requested a follow-up groundwater sample to be collected because groundwater was encountered at only one location during the investigation. In addition, soil samples collected adjacent to the pooled groundwater exhibited low moisture content, suggesting that saturated conditions were limited and localized. The follow-up sample was requested to determine whether the initial sample represented true groundwater conditions or localized seepage.

In accordance with an approved Work Plan, on December 18, 2025, Remedy Engineering collected the additional groundwater sample, after the soil boring was advanced to a depth of 30 ft bgs. Groundwater was encountered between

approximately 12 and 15 ft bgs and the sample was collected at 13.5 ft bgs. The sample was analyzed for the same laboratory constituents as those included in the June 2025 sampling event, along with field parameters dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity, oxidation reduction potential, pH, temperature and turbidity.

In February 2026, the *Summary Report for Groundwater Sampling at Bernard's Gas Station* was submitted. Analytical results were consistent with the April 2025 sample event. The report recommends case closure under the LTCP, despite minimal exceedances of TPH as diesel (910 micrograms per liter) and elevated metal associated with very high turbidity (4,258 nephelometric units).

Upon reviewing the Report, Staff concurs with the recommendation for case closure. The case is eligible for closure under the LTCP Criterion 1 since the unauthorized release consists solely of petroleum, is located within the service area of a public water system, and the primary release has been eliminated through the removal of the USTs. Metals concentrations exceeding water quality objectives are likely due to high turbidity and suspended particles and are not sourced from historic site activities.

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/). (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/). Please enter **T0608900072** into the search bar for more information about this case.

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 **13 July 2026** to the Central Valley Water Board's office at 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002.

For information, please call Christy Gilbreath at (530) 224-4998 or contact her by e-mail at Christy.Gilbreath@waterboards.ca.gov.