# PUBLIC NOTICE
# CLOSURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CASE
# E-J AUTOMOTIVE
## UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CASE
## (GLOBAL ID T0608900290)

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 an environmental case at 4309 Shasta Dam Blvd, Shasta Lake, Shasta County (Site).

**SUBJECT SITE:**

Former E-J Automotive, 4309 Shasta Dam Blvd, Shasta Lake, CA 96019, Shasta County Assessor's Parcel Number 005-240-002-000. The Discharger is John Maloney.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENT PERIOD:**

8 July 2025 through 6 September 2025 (60 days)

**SUMMARY:**

The Site meets the requirements for closure under Groundwater-Specific Criterion (5)a of the Low-Threat Closure Policy. Based on an analysis of site-specific conditions under current and reasonably anticipated near-term future scenarios, the residual contamination poses a low threat to human health and safety and to the environment. Water quality objectives will be achieved through natural degradation processes within a reasonable time frame.

**SETTING:**

The Site is a former gasoline service station bound to the north and south by Front Street and Shasta Dam Boulevard, respectively. Existing features include a vacant service station building with an attached garage. The east property boundary coincides with the edge of the asphalt paved parking area. The south-flowing middle fork of Salt Creek is located approximately 50 to 100 feet east of this property boundary below a steep 12-foot-high bank. Salt Creek is perennial and fed in part by several drop inlets along Shasta Dam Boulevard.

Geology at the Site consists of approximately 6 feet of mixed clay developed from completely weathered (saprolitic) Copley Greenstone. Induration increases with depth, becoming fresh, unweathered Copley Greenstone at 12 to 14 feet below ground surface (bgs). Groundwater flow is southwest, with a relatively flat gradient. Some fractured flow may occur within the greenstone below 12 feet bgs.

**INVESTIGATIONS AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES:**

Central Valley Water Board staff (Staff) originally opened the E-J Automotive Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program case in 2000 in response to contamination discovered during UST removals. The case was closed in 2009 when the on-site remedial action was completed. The case was opened again in 2020 in response to a concerned citizen complaint. Both actions were funded by the same claim to the UST Cleanup Fund. These actions are summarized below.

**Original Case:** The station operated from approximately 1970 until 1997 with two 4,000-gallon gasoline USTs, one 10,000-gallon gasoline UST, and one 500-gallon waste oil UST. The Site did not dispense diesel. The USTs were removed in 1998 along with 100 cubic yards of petroleum-impacted soil. The excavations were backfilled, the fueling system was decommissioned, and the USTs were not replaced. Staff opened UST Cleanup Program case # 450369 on 27 June 2000. The former USTs and associated piping were determined to be the source of gasoline range organics (GRO), benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and total xylenes (BTEX) contamination in soil and groundwater at the Site. A soil vapor extraction/air sparge pilot test was conducted in 2007 that removed an estimated 34 pounds of total petroleum hydrocarbons. BTEX concentrations showed decreasing trends with time. During the last groundwater monitoring event in June 2008, low levels of GRO, benzene, ethylbenzene, and toluene were found below environmental screening levels (ESLs). No constituents of concern were found in surface water samples collected from Salt Creek in April 2007, October 2007, or March 2008. Following completion of remediation and groundwater monitoring, Staff closed the case in March 2009.

**Citizen Complaint and Regional Board Follow-Up:** In November 2019, a concerned citizen reported an apparent petroleum sheen on the water surface along the bank of Salt Creek. Staff sampled the creek and hyporheic water along both banks of the creek in February, June, and December 2020 (the hyporheic zone is the area beneath and alongside a creek or riverbed where surface water and groundwater mix). The samples were analyzed for GRO, diesel-range organics (DRO), motor oil range organics (ORO), BTEX, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons and semi-volatile organics. Results in soil and surface water were below the residential USEPA Regional Screening Levels and Final Aquatic Habitat Screening Level for freshwater aquatic life for all tested constituents. Results in the hyporheic water samples indicated localized GRO and DRO concentrations slightly exceeding water quality objectives. Maximum concentrations in hyporheic samples were 338 micrograms per liter (ug/L) GRO, 1,600 ug/L DRO, and 19,000 ug/L ORO.

**Current Case:** Staff reopened the case in September 2020 and requested the Discharger to develop a conceptual site model (CSM) to assess whether an onsite source was contributing to water quality impacts to the creek. The Discharger subsequently reapplied to the UST Cleanup Fund and the Expedited Claim Account Program (ECAP). Following Joint Execution Team meetings with ECAP and Staff, the Discharger's consultant (Consultant) submitted a Work Plan in December 2023 for subsurface investigation including an updated CSM.

In accordance with an approved Work Plan, on 19 March 2025 the Consultant advanced four borings to 14 to 18 feet bgs, collecting a total of 15 soil samples and three grab groundwater samples. Groundwater was encountered at approximately six feet bgs in three of the four borings and was not encountered in the fourth boring. The Consultant submitted an investigative report (Report) on 8 May 2025 summarizing the results. Analyzed constituent concentrations were less than residential screening levels in all soil samples. In groundwater, only one constituent, GRO, exceeded the screening level in one sample. Benzene, ethylbenzene, total xylenes, methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) and naphthalene were not detected in this sample (see Table below).

Upon review of the Report, Staff determined that additional remedial measures are not required, and the case is eligible for closure.

**Results of Groundwater Sampling conducted on 19 March 2025**
**Results in micrograms per liter (ug/L)**

| Groundwater Sample Name | Gasoline Range Organics | Benzene | Toluene | Ethyl-benzene | Total Xylenes | Methyl Tert-Butyl Ether (MTBE) | Naph-thalene |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SB-1 | <7.2 | <0.083 | 0.22 J | <0.098 | <0.36 | <0.11 | <0.36 |
| SB-2 | 9.2 J | <0.083 | 0.21 J | <0.098 | <0.36 | <0.11 | <0.36 |
| SB-3 | 110 | <0.083 | 0.15 J | <0.098 | <0.36 | <0.11 | <0.36 |
| Groundwater Water Quality Goal | 100 | 0.15 | 40 | 3.2 | 20 | 5 | 17 |

Notes about the table: a "J" flag means the value is estimated but the reported concentration is less than the method reporting limit. A less than (<) symbol means the result is less than the laboratory reporting limit indicated.

**RATIONALE FOR CLOSURE UNDER THE LOW-THREAT CLOSURE POLICY:**

The unauthorized release consists only of petroleum, is located within the service area of a public water system, and the primary release has been stopped by the removal of the UST. BTEX, MTBE and naphthalene concentrations meet Groundwater-Specific

Criterion (5)a of the Low-Threat Closure Policy and do not pose a threat to human health or the environment.

- The GRO concentrations in three of five hyporheic water samples collected in 2020 from the bank of Salt Creek were at trace levels far below aquatic habitat screening levels. Additionally, since the Site did not dispense diesel, and ORO was not detected during the tank removal or monitoring events, the DRO and ORO detections in the hyporheic samples are believed be from an offsite source. Stormwater runoff from drop-inlets along heavily traveled Front Street drain into Salt Creek and may be a source of hydrocarbons detected along the creek.

- The contaminant plume that exceeds water quality objectives is less than 250 feet in length and there is no remaining free product at the Site. The dissolved concentration of benzene is less than 3,000 ug/L, and the dissolved concentration of MTBE is less than 1,000 ug/L.

- Groundwater-Specific Criterion (5)a of the Policy is appropriate due to the proximity of Salt Creek's location 75 feet east of the Site boundary. The single groundwater GRO detection is too low to represent a source for the sheen or concentration reported earlier in Salt Creek. The lack of petroleum constituents in soil at concentrations exceeding screening levels during the March 2025 investigation further supports this conclusion. In addition, residual petroleum constituents will degrade by natural attenuative processes within a reasonable time frame.

**Threat to Human Health:** None.

**WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

General information regarding the Site can be obtained from the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker Database at: (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov).

(please enter **T0608900290** into the search bar).

If you do not have access to the internet, you can make an appointment to review case files in our office at the footer address. Appointments can be made during regular business hours, which are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

This letter serves as notice of a 60-day public comment period. 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 5:00 pm, 6 September 2025** to the Central Valley Water Board's office at 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002.

For information, please call Bill Bergmann at (530) 224-4852 or contact him by e-mail at William.Bergmann@waterboards.ca.gov.