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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

1 October 2025

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### **CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, GONZALES AUTO SERVICE, 940 PARK BOULEVARD, ORANGE COVE, FRESNO COUNTY, RB CASE 5T10000614, OSCF # B0188**

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 Gonzales Auto Service, 940 Park Boulevard, Orange Cove, Fresno County (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 vicinity of the Site to participate in the closure process.

The Site is a former gasoline service station and automobile repair facility. Two underground storage tanks (USTs) and a dispenser island were removed in May 1996. Analytical results indicated elevated concentrations of petroleum constituents in soil beneath USTs and the dispenser.

From February 1999 through August 2018, several Site investigations were conducted. Work included the installation of multiple soil borings, fifteen groundwater monitoring wells, six nested soil vapor extraction (SVE) wells, and two air sparge (AS) wells, to determine the extent of soil and groundwater contamination beneath the Site and to conduct a SVE/AS pilot test to determine a feasible remediation technology for the Site.

Currently there are 15 on- and off-site groundwater monitoring wells associated with the release. Multiple rounds of groundwater sampling conducted from July 2016 through April 2025 initially indicated elevated petroleum contaminant concentrations in the source area wells and a downgradient off-site well. The downgradient extent of dissolved petroleum constituents in groundwater appears to be adequately characterized. Based on the April 2025 groundwater analytical results, the lateral extent of the groundwater contaminant plume is defined and dissolved phase petroleum concentrations have decreased near the source area and in downgradient wells. The petroleum impacted groundwater plume extending west-southwest is defined, stable and contained. The drinking water supply for properties in the area is provided by the City of Orange Cove.

The Central Valley Water Board Staff determined that based on the analysis of the Site-specific conditions and that under current and reasonably anticipated near-term future scenarios, the contaminant plume should pose a low threat to human health, safety and the environment. Water quality objectives should be achieved within a reasonable time frame. The remaining groundwater contaminant plume should naturally attenuate/biodegrade.

The secondary source has been removed to the extent practicable. SVE/AS operations were conducted through July 2024 which recovered approximately 98,850 pounds of petroleum hydrocarbons as vapor. Based on the reported concentrations of petroleum constituents in shallow soil, the case meets the criteria contained in the Policy for Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure, and the Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air requirements.

Based on the data submitted for the Site, the components of a Conceptual Site Model that assess the nature, extent, and mobility of the release have been developed. The attenuating concentrations of hydrocarbons in soil, and the remaining low level petroleum hydrocarbon impacts to groundwater, residual petroleum hydrocarbons should not present a threat to human health, the environment, or beneficial uses of groundwater. The residual petroleum concentrations 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.

**Central Valley Water Board Staff conclude that the case meets the General and Media-Specific criteria contained in the Policy and satisfies the case closure requirements of Health and Safety Code section 25296.10.**

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/) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public\\_notices/](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/) (<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) by searching for case number **5T10000614**. 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 **1 December 2025**. 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](mailto: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.