



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

19 September 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, SCOTTY'S CHEVRON SERVICE, 6701 WOFFORD HEIGHTS BOULEVARD, WOFFORD HEIGHTS, KERN COUNTY, RB CASE 5T15000762, CUF CLAIM 18345

This letter is to inform interested parties of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) consideration of closing the subject case (Site), and to request comments from interested parties.

The Site is a former automotive service station and convenience store with retail motor fuel sales in an area of commercial and residential properties. The Site is along the north side of Wofford Boulevard, east of Woodland Drive in the unincorporated community of Wofford Heights. The facility building is currently used as a coffee shop operated by the Kern River Valley Art Association. The Kern County Assessor's Parcel Number is 083-252-27-00-1. Drinking water is provided by the California Water Service, Kern Valley District public water system.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the *Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy* (Policy). This case has been evaluated for closure based on the evidence presented in the investigation reports and meets the relevant case closure criteria based on the fundamental principles contained in the Policy.

An unauthorized release from the underground storage tank (UST) system was discovered when the system was removed during 1997. Laboratory analysis of soil samples indicated that gasoline constituents were present in soil beneath the USTs and one fuel dispenser island. Total petroleum hydrocarbons referenced as gasoline and diesel (TPHg and TPHd) were detected at up to 5,100 and 460 milligrams-per-kilogram (mg/kg), respectively. Benzene and the fuel oxygenate methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) were detected at less than 1.0 mg/kg.

Based upon the soil sample analytical results, The Kern County Environmental Health Services Division (Kern County) issued an Unauthorized Release Report. Kern County required preliminary assessment of the vertical and lateral limits of the hydrocarbon-containing soils and an assessment of the potential for the petroleum release to impact groundwater resources. Kern County transferred UST release regulatory oversight to

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the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) by a letter dated November 13, 2002.

At the direction of the Central Valley Water Board, the extent of hydrocarbon concentrations in soil were determined by investigations from June 2009 through April 2019. A small hydrocarbon mass of approximately 123 pounds (lbs.) of gasoline constituents and 87 lbs. of diesel constituents were estimated to remain in soil, due to the small volume of soil present above shallow granitic bedrock.

Shallow soil and soil vapor sampling were conducted during February 2020 to evaluate human health risk. Benzene, ethylbenzene, and naphthalene concentrations in shallow soil and soil vapor were less than the human health risk screening levels contained in the Policy

Groundwater monitoring wells were dry after installation during June 2009. Twenty-three groundwater sampling events to evaluate the concentration and extent of gasoline constituents dissolved in groundwater were conducted from March 2016 through May 2024 from a network of up to six onsite and five offsite monitoring wells completed for sampling groundwater in the unconsolidated materials and weathered bedrock.

At the end of monitoring, Central Valley Water Board staff concluded that the Policy's Media Specific Groundwater Criteria were satisfied by Class 4: *the contaminant plume that exceeds water quality objectives is less than 1,000 feet in length; there is no free product; the nearest water supply well or surface water body is greater than 1,000 feet from defined plume boundary; the dissolved concentration of benzene is less than 1,000 µg/L, and the dissolved concentration of MTBE is less than 1,000 µg/L.*

Diesel constituent detections in offsite monitoring wells were determined by forensic analysis to be the result of compounds not related to the UST release. They were not part of the area of hydrocarbon contamination, which was approximately 270 feet in length extending south of the Site. Downgradient extent was estimated by extrapolating the extent of MTBE detected in one offsite well. MTBE concentrations reached a maximum of 100 µg/L during October 2021 and have remained low thereafter, between 17 and 48 µg/L. No water supply wells were identified within 1,000 feet by a Sensitive Receptor Survey conducted during 2021.

There should be no risk to human health and safety or the environment from the remaining petroleum product constituents in soil and groundwater, which are expected to degrade naturally.

This Public Notice has been transmitted to the interested parties in the Site vicinity and relevant agencies, as well as posted on the [Central Valley Water Board website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/) available at (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/) Underground Storage Tank – Decisions Pending, Case Closures. Details of the assessment are also available to interested parties through the [State Water Board's GeoTracker website](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/). (<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>).

You may participate in the case closure process by reviewing reports, asking questions, and providing comments on the proposed closure. The Central Valley Water Board's case number is 5T15000762.

Please submit any comments regarding the proposed case closure to the Central Valley Water Board's Fresno office by **20 November 2024**.

Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the Site or the proposed actions should contact the case worker, John Whiting at 1685 E Street, in Fresno at (559) 445-5504, or by email at John.Whiting@waterboards.ca.gov.

Upon completion of the public comment period, and in the absence of any substantive comments against closure, the Central Valley Water Board staff will direct that groundwater monitoring wells and any remaining investigation derived waste be removed and properly managed. If no problems are discovered during a final Site inspection a case closure letter will be prepared.