
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

6 February 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, VILICANA'S GASOLINE ALLEY, 274 WEST NARANJO BOULEVARD, WOODLAKE, TULARE COUNTY, RB CASE 5T54000433

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 on the northeast corner of Naranjo Boulevard (State Route 2016) and Pepper Street in the City of Woodlake. The property is currently a retail vehicle fueling facility with a single-story building, underground storage tanks (USTs) and two fuel islands beneath a canopy. A portion of the building is also used as a smog check facility. Vacant land and commercial and residential properties surround the Site. The Tulare County Assessor's Parcel Number is 060-113-002. The City of Woodlake Water System provides drinking water to the Site.

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.

A UST release was discovered during February 1998 during an upgrade of the previous UST system. Gasoline constituents were detected in soil samples collected beneath the UST system. The Tulare County Environmental Health Services Division directed that assessment be conducted to determine the concentration and extent of the release.

Concentration and extent of gasoline concentrations in soil were determined by analysis of soil samples collected from groundwater monitoring well borings and soil vapor extraction (SVE) well borings from August 2001 through November and December 2005. Gasoline constituents and additives were the primary chemicals of concern that impacted soil beneath the Site. Total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPHg) was detected to a maximum concentration of 15,000 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). Benzene was detected a maximum concentration of 41 mg/kg, and the fuel oxygenate methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) was detected to 81 mg/kg. Toluene, ethylbenzene

and xylenes were also detected. Gasoline constituents were not detected, with two exceptions in samples from nine other monitoring well borings.

Approximately 11,206 pounds of hydrocarbons were removed from soil and groundwater by soil vapor extraction (SVE) and air sparge (AS) systems operated from June 2007 to September 2010.

The case was transferred to the Central Valley Regional Water Board for regulatory oversight by letter dated 12 May 2011.

A dual-phase extraction test, conducted for 341 hours during May 2012, removed 8,500 gallons of groundwater and 169 pounds (26.5 gallons) of gasoline.

Gasoline constituents were either not detected or detected at very low concentrations in soil samples from post-remedial confirmation borings in the areas of highest previous concentrations in August 2012. Benzene, ethylbenzene, and naphthalene concentrations in shallow soil samples collected at approximately 5 and 10 feet below ground surface (bgs) were less than human health risk screening levels contained in the Policy.

Fifty-one groundwater sampling events were conducted from August 2001 to September 2024 from a network of up to 27 groundwater monitoring wells to determine the extent and concentration of gasoline constituents dissolved in groundwater. Depth to groundwater was from approximately 17 to 28 feet bgs onsite. The fuel oxygenate methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) were detected at greater than 1,000 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) in water samples from onsite monitoring wells and from wells extending offsite approximately 600 feet to the southwest along Acacia Street.

During the last several years of groundwater monitoring, MTBE and other gasoline constituent concentrations decreased to very low concentrations or were not detected beneath the site. Concentrations in the detached offsite contaminant plume continued to decrease due to SVE, AS, dual-phase remediation and natural attenuation. Gasoline constituents were not detected in samples from monitoring wells furthest from the Site, west of Acacia Street. MTBE concentrations decreased to less than 1,000 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in the remaining areas of highest concentrations during the last year of monitoring.

There should be no risk to human health and safety or the environment from the remaining petroleum product constituents, which are expected to degrade naturally. Public water wells were not identified within approximately 1,000 feet of the Site.

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/>).

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 5T54000433.

Please submit any comments regarding the proposed case closure to the Central Valley Water Board's Fresno office by **7 April 2025**.

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 and remediation wells be properly destroyed 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.