CLOSURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CASE
ED STAUB SPILL HIGHWAY 32 NEAR DEER CREEK
GLOBAL ID T10000017201

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 the Site Cleanup Program case Ed Staub Spill Highway 32 Near Deer Creek, Unincorporated County Area, Tehama County (Site). Ed Staub and Sons (Ed Staub) is the responsible party.

SUBJECT SITE:

The Site is located in Accessor's Parcel Number 055-050-006-000, an unincorporated area of Tehama County that is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, Lassen National Forest, and the Bureau of Land Management.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENT PERIOD:

24 June 2025 through 24 July 2025

SUMMARY:

The Central Valley Water Board currently regulates a Site Cleanup Program case regarding the unauthorized release of total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel (TPH-d) from an overturned tanker truck. The Site is approximately 15 miles west/southwest of the town of Chester. The surrounding area is generally used for outdoor recreation including camping, hiking, and sledding. Deer Creek is the closest surface water body and is approximately 180 feet southeast of the point of origin of the spill. The closest drinking water well is located approximately 6 miles southeast of the unauthorized release. Groundwater was not encountered during any site activities and is not expected to be impacted.

Initial Site Assessment and Interim Remedial Action

On 15 July 2021, an Ed Staub tanker overturned and leaked approximately 2,300-gallons of TPH-d onto surrounding soils on Highway 32 at Milepost Marker 14.5, near the Potato Patch Campground. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response assessed the spill and determined that no significant impacts to Deer Creek were observed, and the contamination appeared to be limited to soil. Absorbent booms were placed in the creek and monitored for several

days. The booms remained clean and did not appear to capture or contain hydrocarbon constituents. Rocks and soil adjacent to the creek lacked contamination staining.

From 16 July 2021 to 20 July 2021, Ed Staub performed interim remedial action by excavating impacted soil. The impacted area was heavily vegetated and contained mature trees and large rocks, therefore, multiple excavators of various sizes and hand crews were used to excavate the impacted soil where feasible. Approximately 100 tons of diesel-impacted soil were excavated and removed off-site for disposal. The excavation was backfilled with clean import fill material. Central Valley Water Board staff (Staff) estimates approximately 7,000 kilograms (2,120 gallons) of TPH-d was removed during excavation.

On 20 July 2021, four confirmation soil samples (S1 through S4) were collected by NRC Environmental Services, Inc. and analyzed for TPH-d, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, total xylenes (BTEX), and naphthalene. Sampling results indicated sample S2 had concentrations of TPH-d, benzene, ethylbenzene, and total xylenes exceeding the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFBRWQCB) Environmental Screening Level (ESL) for Leaching to Groundwater Levels for Nondrinking Water. Samples S1 and S4 had ethylbenzene concentrations exceeding the applicable ESL. Naphthalene and toluene concentrations in all four soil samples were below the laboratory reporting limit or below the applicable ESL. On 20 and 21 July 2021, four surface water samples (S5, S6, WS-1, and WS-2) were collected by US Ecology. Samples S5 and S6 were analyzed for BTEX constituents and analytical results did not exceed laboratory detection limits. Samples WS-1 and WS-2 were analyzed for TPH-d and analytical results did not exceed laboratory detection limits.

In a letter dated 20 December 2021, Central Valley Water Board staff requested post remediation surface water and storm water runoff sampling during significant rain events to further assess impacts to Deer Creek from the diesel release. Ed Staub collected a total of eight storm water and surface water samples and analyzed them for TPH-d and BTEX constituents. Apex Envirotech, Inc. (Apex) reviewed the laboratory analytical data from the samples collected by Ed Staub and submitted the corresponding sampling results in a report dated 23 September 2022. All constituents were below the applicable ESL.

Conceptual Site Model

In a report dated 13 October 2023, Apex presented an updated conceptual site model (CSM) containing calculations for the estimated pollutant mass remaining in-place at the Site. Apex estimates approximately 820 kilograms (250-gallons) of TPH-d remain in Site soils. Staff requested revisions to the CSM asking for an interpretation of precipitation infiltration and groundwater movement during storm events to further show remaining TPH-d concentrations in soil would not mobilize to Deer Creek. The revised CSM, submitted on 22 March 2024, stated although transient groundwater percolates through permeable materials overlying the crystalline bedrock, surface water sampling and stormwater runoff sampling have shown residual petroleum impacts do not migrate to the creek with transient groundwater flow.

Rational for Closure

Based on Staff's review of the Site information, key rational for closure of this environmental case include:

- The nearest drinking water well is approximately 6 miles from the unauthorized release.
- The unauthorized release consists only of petroleum.
- Free product and secondary sources have been removed to the maximum extent practicable.
- A conceptual site model that addresses the nature, extent, and mobility of the release has been developed.
- No nuisance as defined by Water Code section 13050 exists at the Site.
- Residual petroleum concentrations will naturally attenuate in the environment through adsorption, dispersion, dilution, volatilization, and biological degradation.
- Staff estimate the petroleum mass remaining in soil is approximately 570 kilograms (170 gallons) and is approximately 180 feet from Deer Creek. Based on the setback distance from the creek and natural attenuation of petroleum, Staff do not expect the residual petroleum to impact the creek**.**
- Groundwater was not encountered during Site excavation and activities.
- Due to the remote location, vapor intrusion does not pose a risk to human health. Soil concentrations are below values in the Low Threat Closure Policy for protection of direct contact and outdoor air exposure.
- Excavation activities and clean backfill prevent direct soil exposure and contact.

Staff has determined the Site is eligible for case closure based on the review performed.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Information regarding the Site can be obtained from the State Water Resources Control Board's Geotracker website: (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000017201).

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 **24 July 2025** to the Central Valley Water Board's office at:
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002.

For information, please call: Kate Sjoberg at (530) 224-3218 or contact her by email at Kate.Sjoberg@waterboards.ca.gov.