

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

# PUBLIC NOTICE CLOSURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CASE

This will serve as notice that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region staff (Central Valley Water Board) is soliciting comments from the public regarding the pending closure of an environmental case at Hat Creek Rim, Shasta County (Site).

### **SUBJECT SITE:**

Highway 44 at Feather Lake Road at Hat Creek Rim, Old Station, Shasta County, 96071

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENT PERIOD:**

23 December 2024 through 22 January 2025

### **SUMMARY:**

The Site meets the requirements for closure under Groundwater-Specific Criterion (5)a of the Low-Threat Closure Policy<sup>1</sup>. 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 and water quality objectives will be achieved through natural degradation processes within a reasonable time frame.

### **SETTING:**

The Site is situated on a high west-facing cliff known as the Hat Creek Rim approximately 450 feet in elevation above the broad valley of Hat Creek. Drainage from the Site flows southward one-half mile to the edge of the valley. Hat Creek is located one mile west of the valley's edge and joins with the Pit River 20 miles to the north. There are no known water supply wells or other sensitive receptors within one mile of the Site. Depth to groundwater at the Site is unknown. Groundwater was not

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<sup>1</sup> State Water Resources Control Board, 2012, [Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/rs2012_0016atta.pdf), 1 May. (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\_decisions/adopted\_orders/resolutions/2012/rs2012\_0016atta.pdf)

encountered during the removal action and springs and seeps were not observed during the 9 February or 18 June 2024 site visits conducted by Staff.

### **INVESTIGATIONS AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES:**

On 22 August 2023, a south-bound semi-truck owned by Overlog, Inc. ran off the pavement of Highway 44 continuing down a decommissioned dirt road designated as Feather Lake Road, rupturing the transmission fluid reservoir, engine oil reservoir, and diesel saddle tanks. The accident occurred on property owned by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS). The USFS estimates the released product volumes to be 150 gallons of diesel fuel, and a combined total of 25 gallons of transmission fluid and engine oil. The basis of these estimates is unknown. The right-side saddle tank was dislodged from the truck chassis and had been abandoned on site partially filled with diesel fuel. The area of the forest floor impacted by the diesel fuel was approximately 30 feet by 30 feet, and the oils were spread along the 350-foot long crash area.

At the time of the incident, the truck was hauling beer in aluminum cans. Approximately 3,500 gallons of beer (contents of 38,000 cans) were released to the forest floor.

The truck and trailer were removed from the Site on the day following the crash. The aluminum cans were removed at a later date.

Between September 2023 and March 2024, the USFS issued five letters to Overlog requesting cleanup of the Site. Overlog did not respond.

At the recommendation of Shasta County Division of Environmental Health, the USFS requested assistance from Central Valley Water Board in an email dated 10 January 2024.

On 1 May 2024, Staff issued a Technical Reporting Order to Overlog pursuant to Water Code section 13267 (Order)<sup>2</sup>. Additional Site history details are provided in the Order.

Subsequently, Overlog's insurance carrier, AIG contracted GHD to prepare an investigation and contaminant removal work plan for submittal to Central Valley Water Board. GHD performed an Initial Site Investigation on 2 May 2024 and submitted a Corrective Action Work Plan on 3 June 2024. Central Valley Water Board staff approved the Corrective Action Work Plan on 5 June 2024.

On 18 June 2024, GHD performed soil removal and confirmatory soil sampling activities. Staining was not observed, however an obvious petroleum odor was present.

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<sup>2</sup> Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, 2024, [Technical Reporting Order](#), 1 May.

([https://documents.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/regulators/deliverable\\_documents/5071363151/24-04-18%20%20Hat%20Ck%20Rim\\_13267%20to%20OCC.pdf](https://documents.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/regulators/deliverable_documents/5071363151/24-04-18%20%20Hat%20Ck%20Rim_13267%20to%20OCC.pdf))

Contaminated soil was removed to bedrock. The lateral extent of contamination was defined using a portable photoionization detector and a colorimetric immunoassay test kit.

On 8 November 2024, GHD submitted a Corrective Action Completion Report (Report) <sup>3</sup>.

In total 2 background samples, and 11 confirmation samples from the sidewalls and base of the excavation were collected and analyzed for total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel and motor oil, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and total xylenes (BTEX), methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), naphthalene, and aluminum. Confirmation samples were screened against 2019 (Rev. 2) Region 2 Soil Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) for Leaching to Groundwater Levels (non-drinking water) based on the distance of the Site to groundwater and lack of known groundwater supply wells in the area.

- All three of the samples from the base of excavation exceeded the Region 2 ESLs in diesel range organics (DROs), benzene, ethylbenzene, total xylenes, and naphthalene. Only one sidewall sample 2 feet below ground surface exceeded the ESL for DRO. All other constituent concentrations were within an acceptable range.

Upon review of the Report, Staff has determined the case is eligible for closure.

**Estimated Pollutant Mass Removed:** Approximately 32.9 tons of impacted soil were removed and transported to a licensed disposal facility. Staff estimates based on average stockpile concentrations that approximately 474 pounds<sup>4</sup> (67 gallons) of diesel-range hydrocarbons were removed.

### Rationale for Closure

- The remaining soil impacted by petroleum is localized. Concentrations of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, m,p-xylene, MTBE and naphthalene in the remaining soil were less than ESL screening levels in all eight sidewall confirmation samples collected.
- Residual petroleum from the three soil/weathered bedrock samples collected from the base of the excavation exceeded ESLs.

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<sup>3</sup> GHD, 2024, [Corrective Action completion Report](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/view_documents_all?global_id=T10000021664&doc_id=6133281), Truck Spill, Highway 44 at Feather Lake Road, Old Station, Shasta County, 8 November.  
([https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/view\\_documents\\_all?global\\_id=T10000021664&doc\\_id=6133281](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/view_documents_all?global_id=T10000021664&doc_id=6133281))

<sup>4</sup> Calculation of mass removed:

Assume density of diesel 7.1 lbs/gal, 32.9 tons soil removed, avg. stockpile concentration 7,200 mg/kg diesel 32.9 tons soil x 2000 lb/ton x 7,200 mg DRO/kg x 10<sup>-6</sup> kg/mg = 474 lb (67 gallons) diesel removed.

- Excavation was completed to bedrock. The bulk of the impacted soil was removed to the maximum extent practicable.
- Residual petroleum will continue to degrade with time.
- Horizontal and vertical contaminant migration to groundwater will be impeded by the low hydraulic conductivity of the underlying weathered basalt.
- Depth to groundwater is unknown; however, because the Site is one mile in distance and 500 feet in elevation higher than Hat Creek, it is unlikely that any groundwater beneath the Site would measurably impact Hat Creek, the Pit River, or wells in the Hat Creek Valley.

**Threat to Human Health:** None. BTEX, MTBE and naphthalene concentrations from all sidewall soil confirmation samples were below screening levels. Concentrations of all three soil/weathered bedrock samples collected from the base of the excavation exceeded leaching to groundwater non-drinking water ESLs. However, based on the elevation of the Site within the Hat Creek Valley and the distance to the nearest drainage, impacts to drinking water supplies would be negligible.

#### **WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

General information regarding the Site can be obtained from the State Water Resources Control Board's [GeoTracker](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/regulators/screens/menu?global_id=T10000021664) website: (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/regulators/screens/menu?global\_id=T10000021664).

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 22 January 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](mailto:William.Bergmann@waterboards.ca.gov).