
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 (Central Valley Water Board) is soliciting comments from the public regarding the pending closure of an environmental case at 30100 Pit 5 Road, Big Bend, Shasta County (Site).

SUBJECT SITE:

30100 Pit 5 Road, Big Bend, Shasta County.
Shasta County Assessor's Parcel Number 021-200-045-000.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENT PERIOD:

14 November through 14 December 2024

SUMMARY:

The Central Valley Water Board currently regulates a Site Cleanup Program (SCP) case regarding an intentional unauthorized release of approximately 200 gallons of diesel fuel to the ground surface which occurred at a private 40-acre property (Site) bounded on all sides by forest land. An unnamed seasonal creek located about 200 feet south of the point of release drains across the site joining the north fork of Miners Creek about 1,000 feet west of the western property line. Miners Creek joins the Pit River approximately 1-1/2 miles downstream. There are no water supply wells on the Site or the adjacent properties.

Investigations and Remediation Activities

In 2020, a fire consumed a residence on the property which was being used as a cannabis grow site. Electrical power for the grow was supplied by a pad-mounted diesel generator located approximately 12 feet east of the residence. Diesel was dispensed from 55-gallon steel drums. For unknown reasons, Mr. Yinan Zhang, the property owner at the time, intentionally discharged the contents of four drums containing diesel onto the ground between the residence and generator during the fire. The 2020 fire and diesel release are discussed in Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R5-2022-0702 which was issued to Mr. Zhang on 21 July 2022.

Mr. Zhang has since defaulted on his mortgage payments and his whereabouts are unknown. Thus, property ownership was transferred to Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) who is now the named Discharger in this SCP case.

Staff inspected the site on 29 March and 20 May and observed the removal of diesel-impacted material on 10 September 2024. Details of these inspections are presented in Staff's October 2024 Inspection Report.

During each inspection, Staff collected samples of groundwater, surface water and soil from the Site to assess the degree and extent of soil and groundwater contamination. The soil and water samples were analyzed for the following:

- Diesel-range organics (DRO)
- Gasoline-range organics (GRO)
- Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (BTEX)
- Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), and
- Naphthalene by Method 8260B.

On 10 September 2024 inspection, an excavation contractor hired by Fannie Mae's agent removed an estimated 100 cubic yards of diesel-impacted base rock and 48 empty 55-gallon drums. Staff collected four (4) confirmation samples from the sides of the excavation. GRO, BTEX, MTBE and naphthalene were not detected in any of these confirmation samples. Maximum remaining TPH concentration levels after the soil removal were below screening levels.

Estimated Pollutant Mass Removed

Staff estimates that approximately 39.2 pounds of diesel-range hydrocarbons were removed by the September 2024 base rock removal action.

Rationale for Closure

Key rationale for closure of this environmental case includes the following criteria of the Low Treat Closure Policy (LTCP):

- General Criteria:
 - The Site is not within the service area of a public water supply system. However, there are no impacts to potential surface water and groundwater drinking water sources.
 - The unauthorized release consists only of petroleum.
 - The unauthorized release has been stopped.
 - The majority of the secondary source has been excavated and hauled offsite. Residual petroleum products will be removed by natural attenuation

processes and concentrations are expected to reach non-detectable levels at the source area within a reasonable time.

- Groundwater Specific:
 - The site generally meets the “Class 1” definition in that:
 - The contaminant plume that exceeds WQOs is less than 100 feet in length.
 - There is no free product
 - The nearest existing water supply well or surface water body is greater than 250 feet from the plume boundary.
- Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air:
 - Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are not present. Therefore, the criteria for consideration of indoor air impacts are met.
- Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure:
 - The health impact potential is considered *de minimis*. None of the historical soil samples collected from depths between 0 to 2 feet bgs contained benzene, ethylbenzene, naphthalene, or polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons at concentrations that will adversely affect human health for the residential, commercial/industrial, or utility worker scenario.

Given these conditions, Staff has determined the Site is eligible for case closure. Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R5-2022-0702 will be rescinded concurrently with case closure.

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/) web site (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000014393).

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 **14 December 2024** 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.