
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

PUBLIC NOTICE

Union Pacific, Colfax Railyard Fuel Sump
Colfax Railyard, Colfax, Placer County

Proposed No Further Action Determination

Public Comment Period:

9 December 2024 – 7 February 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE:

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) is providing notice of a Proposed No Further Action Determination for the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) bunker fuel oil sump cleanup project at the Colfax Railyard. UPRR has been cleaning up historical bunker fuel oil spills and leaks that have impacted soil and groundwater and seasonal surface water since 2003. UPRR proposes no further cleanup action is needed at the Site.

NOTICE TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED:

TDD users can obtain information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service (800) 735-2929 to reach the Public Participation Specialist. Ask them to contact the Central Valley Water Board at (916) 464-3291 regarding the proposed “No Further Action” determination for The Union Pacific Railroad Colfax Railyard.

CASE SUMMARY:

The Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Colfax Railyard (Site) has operated since the 1880s. UPRR uses the Site as a track maintenance and material staging area. No rail-related fueling or maintenance of engines or rail cars is currently done onsite. In late 2002, UPRR staff discovered bunker fuel oil seeping out of the hillside below the Railyard and into a seasonal stream. As a temporary measure, UPRR constructed an oil-water separator below the hillside seep and dug a new stream channel to go around the seep.

In September 2003, UPRR excavated oily soil from the fuel oil seep, disposed of the soil at a waste disposal facility and backfilled the excavation with imported clean soil. An underground concrete bunker fuel oil sump was later found, cleaned, and removed in 2013. The oil sump was estimated to contain up to 60,000 gallons of fuel oil when in use. However, when cleaning it out to remove, it was found to be full of gravel, soil, water and trace amounts of bunker fuel oil. In 2014, the oil-water separator was removed and a barrier containing sand and activated carbon was installed into the hillside to absorb any fuel oil that could seep out during times of higher rainfall.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC
COMMENT PERIOD**

- 2 -

BEGINS: 9 December 2024
ENDS: 7 February 2025

The Site is located within the service area of the Placer County Water Agency, which provides potable water from the Yuba and Bear River watersheds and the American River. Therefore, the bunker fuel oil does not threaten the City of Colfax drinking water source. Groundwater monitoring results collected through September 2024 indicate that the bunker fuel oil concentrations in groundwater are stable and are not migrating.

Union Pacific Railroad is seeking a determination from the State that no further cleanup action is needed at the Site. Central Valley Water Board staff concur that the remaining bunker fuel oil pollution does not pose a threat to human health and the environment and that conditions meet the State Water Board's Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy criteria (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/lt_cls_plcy.html). A land use covenant will be recorded on the property that restricts use and access to any remaining polluted soil and groundwater while the bunker fuel oil pollution continues to naturally break down at the Site. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is providing the public an opportunity to comment on the request for no further action.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

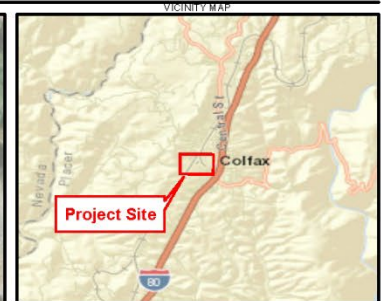
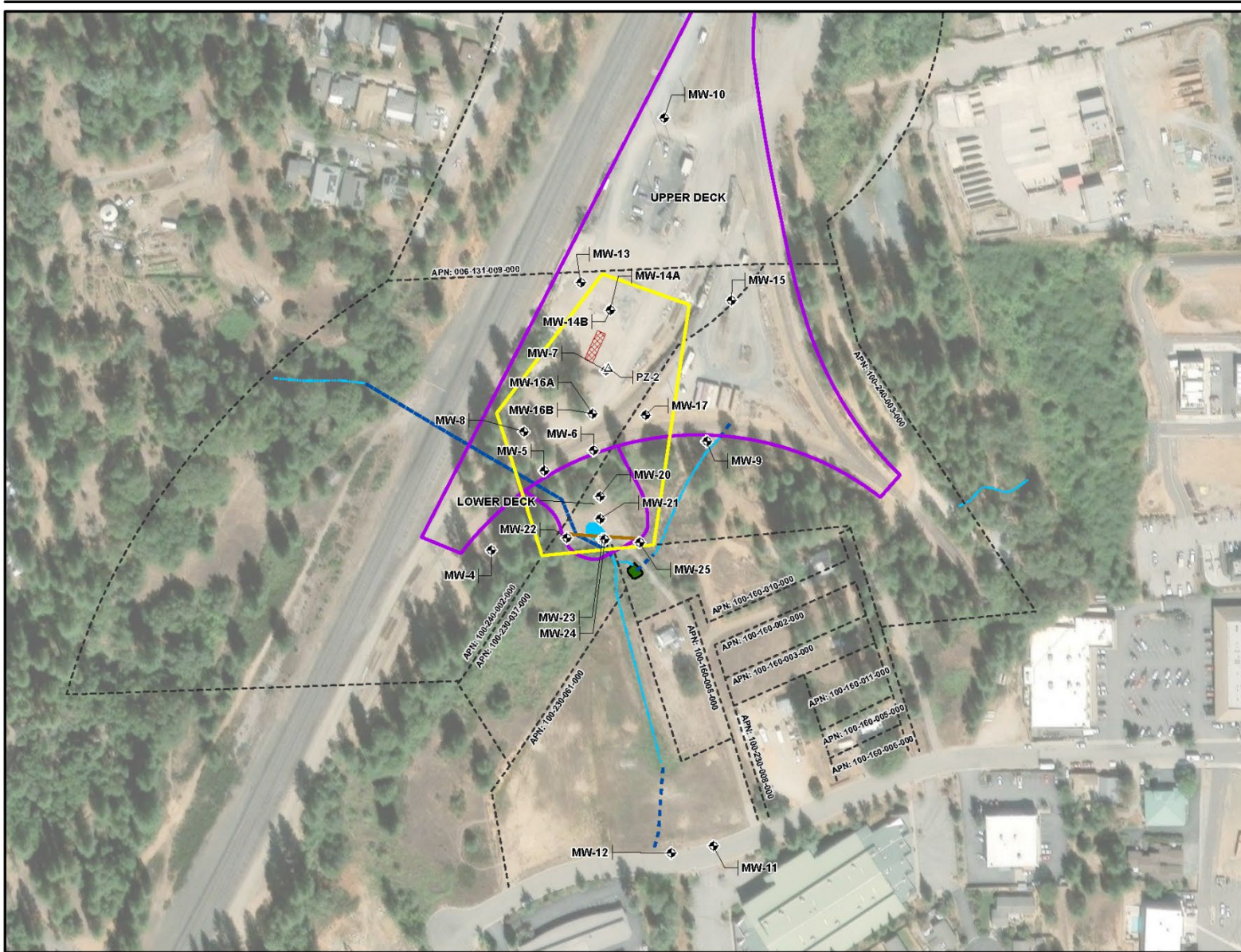
Visit the GeoTracker website (<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) and search for the address, Site name, or case ID number listed below:

- Colfax Railyard, Colfax
- Union Pacific, Colfax Railyard Fuel Sump
- SL0606136899

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

You may have questions or comments. If so, please contact Nhat Nguyen with the Central Valley Water Board.

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- LEGEND**
- ◆ Monitoring Well
 - △ Piezometer
 - Yellow shaded area Proposed Land Use Covenant Restricted Area
 - - - Parcel Boundary
 - Pipe
 - Blue dashed line Culvert
 - Blue line Seasonal Stream
 - Purple line Deck Boundary
 - Red hatched area Former Oil Sump
 - Yellow line Permeable Adsorptive Barrier Wall
 - Green area Catch Basin
 - Blue area Oil Water Separator

Note: Analytical data not available for MW-8

Aerial Imagery Source: Bing, Esri, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, GeoEye, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, and the GIS User Community

Street Map Source: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand)

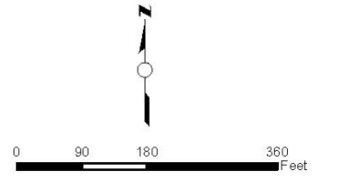


FIGURE 1
Proposed Land Use Covenant Restricted Area
 Union Pacific Railroad
 Bunker Fuel Release Site, Colfax, California
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