18 March 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, FORMER VILLAGE MARKET, 20984 AVENUE 152, PORTERVILLE, TULARE COUNTY, RB CASE 5T54000098

To: Offsite Property Owners and Other Interested Persons,

This letter is to inform interested parties of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Water Board) consideration of closing the subject case, and to request comments from interested parties regarding the proposed closure at the former Village Market at 20984 Avenue 152 in Porterville, Tulare County, California (Site). In accordance with the criteria contained in the State Water Resources Control Board's *Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy* (Policy), the Central Valley Water Board is required to provide the opportunity to interested parties in the Site vicinity to participate in the closure process.

The Site, located in a residential/agricultural area, consists of a lot with a single-family residence, a workshop, and vehicle canopies. In 1988, three 550-gallon gasoline underground storage tanks (USTs) and dispensers were removed. Analytical results of soil samples collected from beneath the USTs indicated elevated concentrations of petroleum constituents. One on-Site and multiple off-Site water supply wells in the area were believed to be threatened by the release.

Multiple phases of Site investigation were conducted from September 2017 through March 2021 with oversight by the Central Valley Water Board Staff. Site investigation included the installation of multiple soil borings, groundwater monitoring wells, soil vapor extraction (SVE) wells, and shallow soil vapor wells. Based on recent and historical soil sample analytical results, the lateral and vertical extent of petroleum hydrocarbon constituents in soil has been adequately assessed. Investigation data determined that both soil and groundwater beneath the Site were impacted by petroleum hydrocarbon constituents. The petroleum contaminant mass in soil was below the former UST's location and fuel dispenser islands, with highest concentrations extending to approximately 40 feet below ground surface (bgs).

Analytical results of groundwater sampling from wells MW-1 through MW-5, MW-9 and MW-10, conducted from December 2017 through October 2024, initially indicated elevated constituent concentrations near the source area. However, results indicated a decreasing trend during additional sampling events. In October 2024, analytical results did not detect petroleum constituent in any groundwater sample. Hydrocarbon

concentrations in groundwater at the Site appear stable, the plume has been defined and has receded.

From November 2021 through September 2024, the combination of SVE pilot test, interim remedial action, and thermal/catalytic oxidizer remediation operations recovered approximately 9,168 pounds of petroleum hydrocarbon as vapor. The SVE system apparently has successfully remediated the soil and groundwater at the Site. No detection of petroleum constituent concentrations in groundwater samples during the last sampling event appears to be the result of the remediation process.

Based on the soil gas vapor sample analytical results, concentrations of benzene, ethylbenzene, and naphthalene at the Site are less than the criteria contained in the Policy for petroleum vapor intrusion to indoor air for residential properties with no bio-attenuation zone. The Site meets Policy Criteria 3 (a) of Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure. The maximum concentrations of petroleum constituents in soil are less than or equal to those listed in Table 1 of the Policy.

Four agricultural supply wells, sixteen private domestic water supply wells, six municipal public water supply wells, and two other likely domestic supply wells, were identified within 2,500 feet of the Site. Since hydrocarbons were not detected in the most recent groundwater monitoring results, these groundwater wells should not be affected. In March 2021, groundwater samples were collected from five off-site domestic wells within 1,000 feet of the Site. No petroleum constituents were detected that exceeded the analytical detection limits. The on-site domestic well was also sampled in December 2024 and results for petroleum constituents did not exceed laboratory detection limits. Based on the distance to the supply wells, low concentrations in soil, and no detection of hydrocarbons in the most recent groundwater monitoring results, it does not appear that the release could have impacted these receptors.

Components of a Conceptual Site Model that assess the nature, extent, and mobility of the release have been submitted. Analytical results of samples indicate that lateral and vertical extent of soil and groundwater contamination has been determined. Based on the analytical results, it appears that soil and groundwater have been remediated to the extent practicable by removal of approximately 9,168 pounds of petroleum hydrocarbons.

The Site is not within the service area of a public water system. Case closure of areas without a public water system may be evaluated for closure based upon the fundamental principles contained in the Policy, and a site-specific evaluation of developing water supplies in the area. No benzene, ethylbenzene, and naphthalene were detected in any sample collected at shallow depths during the current assessment. The residual petroleum concentrations in soil should be further reduced by natural attenuation, and no further action regarding this release is necessary.

Based on the attenuation of concentrations of remaining trace petroleum hydrocarbons in soil, and the absence of petroleum hydrocarbon impacts to groundwater, residual petroleum hydrocarbons should not present a threat to human health, the environment, or beneficial uses of groundwater.

The Central Valley Water Board Staff conclude that the case meets the General and Media-Specific criteria contained in the Policy and satisfies the case closure requirements of Health and Safety Code section 25296.10.

This Public Notice has been transmitted to interested parties in the area, and is posted on the website (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/), under Public Notices, Underground Storage Tanks-Decisions Pending & Case Closures. Details of the Site assessment and cleanup are also available through the State Water Board GeoTracker website (http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/) by searching for case number **5T54000098**. This information may also be reviewed at the Central Valley Water Board office at 1685 E Street in Fresno, California.

You may participate in the case closure process by reviewing technical reports, asking questions, and providing comments. Comments regarding the proposed closure need to be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board at the above-listed address by **19 May 2025.**

Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the Site or the proposed action should contact Khalid Durrani at the above address, by e-mail at khalid.durrani@waterboards.ca.gov, or by telephone at (559) 445-6191.

On completion of the public comment period and in the absence of substantive comment against closure being granted, Central Valley Water Board Staff will proceed with the closure process for the case.