

State Water Resources Control Board

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) CASE CLOSURE SUMMARY

Agency Information

Agency Name: Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA)	Address: 1241 E. Dyer Road, Suite 120 Santa Ana, CA 92705
Agency Caseworker: Karl Bewley	Case No.: 96UT021

Case Information

UST Cleanup Fund (Fund) Claim No.: N/A	Global ID: T0605900090
Site Name: Fountain Valley Regional Hospital	Site Address: 17100 Euclid Street Fountain Valley, CA 92708 (Site)
Responsible Party: Fountain Valley Regional Hospital Attention: Clay Farell	Address: 17100 Euclid Street Fountain Valley, CA 92708
Fund Expenditures to Date: N/A	Number of Years Case Open: 26

GeoTracker Case Record: <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?gid=T0605900090>

Summary

This case has been proposed for closure by the State Water Resources Control Board at the request of OCHCA, which concurs with closure.

The Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy (Policy) contains general and media-specific criteria, and cases that meet those criteria are appropriate for closure pursuant to the Policy because they pose a low threat to human health, safety, and the environment. The Site meets all of the required criteria of the Policy and therefore, is subject to closure.

The site is located within a paved parking area in the central portion of the Fountain Valley Regional Hospital. The site formerly maintained a 10,000-gallon diesel underground storage tank (UST), two fuel pumps, and associated underground piping to support hospital engineering services. A petroleum release was discovered during removal of the UST and associated facilities in 1996 and petroleum-impacted soil was over-excavated and disposed of off-site. Additionally, petroleum-impacted groundwater was recovered from the excavation and disposed at an off-site treatment facility. The

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

soil and groundwater quantities removed during UST removal and excavation activities are unknown. Free product removal occurred between 1997 and 2013. Approximately 9,250 gallons of petroleum-impacted groundwater were extracted in monitoring wells MW-2, MW-5, MW-6, and MW-10 during these removal efforts.

Treated water was detected in groundwater samples collected by OCHCA in September 2019. The treated water was determined to be from a pipeline leak of the hospital's fire water system and was reportedly stopped in June 2019. Based on current groundwater concentrations collected in 2021, it does not appear that concentrations in groundwater were significantly influenced by treated water infiltration from the pipeline leak.

Soil, groundwater, and soil vapor samples collected between 2002 and 2012 were analyzed by CalTech Environmental Laboratories (CTEL). A State Water Board investigation revealed "evidence of altered data, failed quality control tests, gaps in the chain of custody (sample handling), improper reuse of sample containers, and poor housekeeping of laboratory equipment"¹ by CTCL. As such, any data provided by CTCL is not considered reliable and was not utilized to evaluate the site for closure against the Policy.

Total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel (TPHd) remain in soil, groundwater, and soil vapor; however, concentrations are limited in extent and are isolated to the paved parking lot of the hospital facility. Secondary source material has been removed and the area of TPHd-impacted soil is about 100 square feet. Groundwater concentrations have been stable to decreasing, with the current plume measuring approximately 120 feet in length. Free product has been consistently attenuating over time with no measurable free product observed during the last groundwater monitoring and sampling event in June 2021. TPHd in soil vapor does not appear to be a potential risk to human health because the site is capped by asphalt and soil vapor appears limited to the parking area (i.e. not below the hospital buildings).

Remaining petroleum constituents are limited, stable, and decreasing. Additional assessment would be unnecessary and will not likely change the conceptual model. Any remaining petroleum constituents do not pose significant risk to human health, safety, or the environment under current conditions.

Rationale for Closure Under the Policy

- General Criteria – Site **MEETS ALL EIGHT GENERAL CRITERIA** under the Policy.
- Groundwater Media-Specific Criteria – Site meets the criteria in **Class 2**. The contaminant plume that exceeds water quality objectives is less than 250 feet in length. There is no free product. The nearest existing water supply well or

¹ State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Enforcement, 2017, *State Water Board Investigation Leads to Arrest of Los Angeles County Environmental Lab Owner Fraud*, Press Release, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2017/pr122117_caltech.pdf

surface water body is greater than 1,000 feet from the defined plume boundary. The dissolved concentration of benzene is less than 3,000 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), and the dissolved concentration of MTBE is less than 1,000 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

- Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air – Site meets **Criteria 2 (a), Scenario 4**. The concentrations of benzene, ethylbenzene, and naphthalene in soil gas are less than the Policy limits as it applies to the bioattenuation zone, land use, and existing or planned future building structures at the Site.
- Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure – Site meets **Criteria 3 (a)**. Maximum concentrations of petroleum constituents in soil from confirmation soil samples are less than or equal to those listed in Table 1 of the Policy.

Recommendation for Closure

The corrective action performed at this Site ensures the protection of human health, safety, and the environment. The corrective action performed at this Site is consistent with chapter 6.7 of division 20 of the Health and Safety Code, implementing regulations, applicable state policies for water quality control and applicable water quality control plans. Case closure is recommended.

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