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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

26 April 2024

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, EMERGENCY, ABANDONED, RECALCITRANT (EAR) ACCOUNT #R19-206, FORMER AG & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY, INC., 7377 RIVER DRIVE, FIREBAUGH, MADERA COUNTY, RB CASE 5T2000057**

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 above listed site (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 is formerly an agricultural and industrial supply store where an Underground Storage Tank (UST) was located and is currently a residence. On 11 April 1988 during removal of a 550-gallon unleaded gasoline UST, Madera County Department of Environmental Health (MCDEH) staff noted petroleum odor and soil discoloration, and an unknown volume of impacted soil was excavated during tank removal.

On 2 October 2023, GHD Consultants (GHD) supervised the drilling of soil borings SB-1 and SB-2 to a depth of 20 feet below ground surface (bgs) and soil vapor probe SV-1 to 5 feet bgs. Analytical results of soil samples collected from borings and vapor probe indicated diesel range organics (DRO) at a concentration of 7.7 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) and acetone at 1.5 mg/kg in SV-1 at 2 feet bgs. No other petroleum constituents were detected in other samples.

Grab groundwater samples, collected from SB-1 indicated DRO at a concentration of 880 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), and in SB-2 at 100  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Total petroleum hydrocarbons as motor oil (TPHmo) was detected at 720  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in SB-1. Groundwater samples were also analyzed for DRO and TPHmo using the silica gel cleanup (SGC) procedure, and were not detected in either sample, which indicates that organics detected in the DRO and TPHmo range without SGC were non-hydrocarbons. No other constituents analyzed were detected in any sample.

On 9 October 2023, a soil vapor sample indicated only benzene at a concentration of 5.2 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g/m}^3$ ) with oxygen detected at 19%. The Site meets Policy

Criteria 2 (a) (Appendix 4, Scenario 4). The soil vapor survey indicated that concentrations of benzene, ethylbenzene, and naphthalene do not exceed the criteria contained in the Policy for petroleum vapor intrusion to indoor air for residential/commercial properties with a bio-attenuation zone. The Site meets Policy Criteria 3 (a). Maximum concentrations in shallow soil are less than those listed in Table 1 of the Policy for commercial/Industrial and residential use, and do not exceed the concentration limit for utility workers.

Based on the investigation results it is concluded that the extent of petroleum hydrocarbon impact is limited to shallow soil, and that the lateral and vertical extent of petroleum hydrocarbon constituents in soil has been adequately assessed. Low to trace concentrations of impacted soil are present at the Site at approximately 2 feet bgs. The majority of soil samples collected from borings to 20 feet bgs did not indicate any petroleum constituents that exceed the reporting limits contained in the Policy.

The Site is within the service area of a public water system. The secondary source was removed to the extent possible in April 1988 with excavation of contaminated soil within the vicinity of the former USTs. Based on the attenuating 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 residual petroleum concentrations in soil should be further reduced by natural attenuation, and no further action regarding this release is necessary.

Three municipal and one domestic water supply well were identified within a 1,000-foot radius of the Site, and the San Joaquin River and Columbia Canal are within 500 feet of the Site. Based on the distance to the supply wells, low concentrations in soil and no likely impact to groundwater, it does not appear that the release could have impacted these receptors.

The proposed closure is based on the Central Valley Water Board Staff's conclusion that the case satisfies the criteria contained in the Policy.

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/) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public\\_notices/](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/) (<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) by searching for case number **5T20000057**. 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 **26 June 2024**. 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](mailto: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.