

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION - DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
JUNE 15, 2010**

ITEM 8

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED ORDER GRANTING PETITIONS FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CASE CLOSURE PURSUANT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 25296.40

DISCUSSION

Section 25296.40 of the Health and Safety Code authorizes owners and operators of underground storage tanks (USTs) and other responsible parties to petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for a review of their case if they feel the corrective action plan for their site has been satisfactorily implemented, but closure has not been granted. In response to a petition, the State Water Board may close the case or remand the case to the applicable regulatory agency.

Closure of a UST case is appropriate where the corrective action ensures the protection of human health, safety, and the environment and where the corrective action is consistent with:

- 1) Chapter 6.7 of the Health and Safety Code and implementing regulations;
- 2) Any applicable waste discharge requirements or other order issued pursuant to Division 7 of the Water Code;
- 3) All applicable state policies for water quality control; and
- 4) All applicable water quality control plans.

The State Water Board received UST closure petitions from the following petitioners:

1. Charles West (Cold Springs Store), 1628 Cold Springs Road, Placerville
2. Carl Graffenstatte (New Performance Site), 186 East Lewelling Boulevard, San Lorenzo
3. Chevron Environmental Management Company, 631 West Carillo Street, Santa Barbara

All petitioners contend that the corrective action performed at their respective sites ensures the protection of human health, safety and the environment and that case closure is appropriate. Individual UST Case Closure Summaries have been prepared for each petition. The proposed order finds that based upon the UST Case Closure Summaries, that closure of each UST case identified above is appropriate.

The UST Program Manager notified the tank owner or operator, responsible party, applicable regional water quality control board, fee title owners of the site and adjacent sites and other interested persons of the recommendation for case closure. In addition, UST Case Closure Summaries were made available for review and comment by all of the parties identified above and the public.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board adopt an order granting these petitions and directing closure of these UST cases?

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Yes. Regions 2, 3 and 5.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should adopt the proposed order directing the UST cases for the listed sites be closed pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.40 and no further action related to the UST be required, and direct the Division Chief of Division of Water Quality to issue closure letters consistent with Health and Safety Code, section 25296.10, subdivision (g).

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to improve and protect groundwater quality in high-use basins by 2030.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

ORDER WQO 2010–XXXX-UST

**In the Matter of the Petitions for Review of Denial of
Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Case Closure**

BY THE BOARD:

The petitioners, listed below, seek review of the decision that rejects closure of petitioner’s case involving an unauthorized release of petroleum from an underground storage tank (UST). The name of each petitioner and the applicable site address are as follows:

1. Charles West (Cold Springs Store), 1628 Cold Springs Road, Placerville
2. Carl Graffenstatte (New Performance Site), 186 East Lewelling Boulevard, San Lorenzo
3. Chevron Environmental Management Company, 631 West Carillo Street, Santa Barbara

I. STATUTORY AND REGULATORY BACKGROUND

Owners and operators of USTs and other responsible parties may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for a review of their case if they feel the corrective action plan for their site has been satisfactorily implemented, but closure has not been granted. (Health & Saf. Code, § 25296.40, subd. (a)(1).)¹

In response to a petition, the State Water Board may close the case or remand the case to the regulatory agency if the case is under the jurisdiction of a regional water quality control board (Regional Water Board) or a local agency that is implementing the local oversight program pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25297.1. (Health & Saf. Code, § 25296.40, subd. (a)(2).)

¹ To the extent that the State Water Board may lack authority to review a petition under Health and Safety Code section 25296.40, subdivision (a)(1) because petitioner did not submit a corrective action plan for the site, the case is being reviewed by the State Water Board pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25296.10, subdivision (g) or section 25297.1, subdivision (d) and State Water Board Resolution 88-23. These provisions also authorize the State Water Board to close a UST case.

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Several statutory and regulatory provisions provide the State Water Board, Regional Water Boards, and local agencies with broad authority to require responsible parties to clean up a release from a petroleum UST. (E.g., Health & Saf. Code, § 25296.10; Wat. Code, § 13304, subd. (a).) The State Water Board has promulgated regulations specifying corrective action requirements for petroleum UST cases. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 2720-2728.) The regulations define corrective action as "any activity necessary to investigate and analyze the effects of an unauthorized release, propose a cost-effective plan to adequately protect human health, safety and the environment and to restore or protect current and potential beneficial uses of water, and implement and evaluate the effectiveness of the activity (ies)." (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 2720.)

Closure of a UST case is appropriate where the corrective action ensures the protection of human health, safety, and the environment and where the corrective action is consistent with: 1) Chapter 6.7 of the Health and Safety Code and implementing regulations; 2) Any applicable waste discharge requirements or other order issued pursuant to Division 7 of the Water Code; 3) All applicable state policies for water quality control; and 4) All applicable water quality control plans.

State Water Board [Resolution 92-49](#), *Policies and Procedures for Investigation and Cleanup and Abatement of Discharges Under Water Code Section 13304* is a state policy for water quality control and applies to petroleum UST cases. State Water Board Resolution 92-49 directs that water affected by an unauthorized release attain either background water quality or the best water quality that is reasonable if background water quality cannot be restored. (State Water Board Resolution 92-49, Section III.G.) Any alternative level of water quality less stringent than background must be consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state, not unreasonably affect current and anticipated beneficial use of affected water, and not result in water quality less than that prescribed in the water quality control plan for the basin within which the site is located. (*Ibid.*) Resolution 92-49 does not require, however, that the requisite level of water quality be met at the time of site closure. Resolution No. 92-49 specifies compliance with cleanup goals and objectives within a reasonable time frame. (*Id.* at section III.A.) Therefore, even if the requisite level of water quality has not yet been attained, a site may be closed if the level will be attained within a reasonable period.

Regional Water Boards adopt Regional Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) for their respective regions and Basin Plans are approved by the State Water Board. Basin Plans include beneficial uses of water for the applicable region and water quality objectives to

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protect specific beneficial uses of water. Each UST Case Closure Summary identifies relevant beneficial uses and water quality objectives from the applicable Basin Plan.

II. CONTENTIONS AND FINDINGS

All petitioners contend that the corrective action performed at their respective sites ensures the protection of human health, safety and the environment and that case closure is appropriate. Case-specific contentions are contained in individual UST Case Closure Summaries that have been prepared for each petition.

Based upon the UST Case Closure Summary prepared for each case and attached hereto as [Exhibit 1](#), [Exhibit 2](#), and [Exhibit 3](#), the State Water Board finds that corrective action performed at the UST release sites listed below ensures protection of human health, safety and the environment and is consistent with Chapter 6.7 of the Health and Safety Code and implementing regulations, State Water Board Resolution 92-49, and applicable water quality control plans.

1. Charles West (Cold Springs Store), 1628 Cold Springs Road, Placerville (Exhibit 1)
2. Carl Graffenstatte (New Performance site), 186 East Lewelling Boulevard, San Lorenzo (Exhibit 2)
3. Chevron Environmental Management Company, 631 West Carillo Street, Santa Barbara (Exhibit 3)

Any orders that have been issued by Regional Water Boards pursuant to Division 7 of the Water Code for these cases that are inconsistent with case closure should be rescinded.

III. ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

- A. The UST cases identified in Section II of this Order are closed and no further action related to the UST case is required.
- B. The Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality issue a closure letter consistent with Health and Safety Code, section 25296.10, subdivision (g) and upload the closure letter and UST Case Closure Summary for each case to Geotracker.

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- C. Any Regional Water Board order issued pursuant to Division 7 of the Water Code that directs corrective action or other action inconsistent with case closure for a UST case identified in Section II is rescinded.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on June 15, 2010.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board