

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
**ORDER WQ 2014-0116-UST**

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**In the Matter of Underground Storage Tank Case Closure  
Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10 and the  
Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy**

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**BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:<sup>1</sup>**

By this order, the Executive Director directs closure of the underground storage tank (UST) case at the site listed below, pursuant to section 25296.10 of the Health and Safety Code.<sup>2</sup> The name of the responsible party, the site name, the site address, the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Fund) claim number if applicable, current and former lead agencies, and case numbers are as follows:

**Ralphs Grocery Company (Responsible Party)**

**Ralphs Grocery Company**

**2201 South Wilmington Avenue, Compton, Los Angeles County**

**State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality, Case No. N/A (Current)**

**Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Case No. TT012810-013011 (Former)**

**I. STATUTORY AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

Upon review of a UST case, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is authorized to close or require closure of a UST case where an unauthorized release has occurred, if the State Water Board determines that corrective action at the site is in compliance with all of the requirements of subdivisions (a) and (b) of section 25296.10. The State Water Board, or in certain cases the State Water Board Executive Director, may close a case or require the closure of a UST case. Closure of a UST case is appropriate where the

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<sup>1</sup> State Water Board Resolution No. 2012-0061 delegates to the Executive Director the authority to close or require the closure of any UST case if the case meets the criteria found in the State Water Board's Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy adopted by State Water Board Resolution No. 2012-0016.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all references are to the California Health and Safety Code.

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 division 20 of the Health and Safety Code and implementing regulations; 2) Any applicable waste discharge requirements or other orders 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 staff has completed a review of the UST case identified above, and recommends that this case be closed. The recommendation is based upon the facts and circumstances of this particular UST case. The UST case record that is the basis for determining compliance with the Water Quality Control Policy for Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closures (Low-Threat Closure Policy or Policy) is available on the State Water Board's GeoTracker database.

**URL:** [http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=T0603704023](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0603704023)

### **Low-Threat Closure Policy**

In State Water Board Resolution No. 2012-0016, the State Water Board adopted the Low-Threat Closure Policy. The Policy became effective on August 17, 2012. The Policy establishes consistent statewide case closure criteria for certain low-threat petroleum UST sites. In the absence of unique attributes or site-specific conditions that demonstrably increase the risk associated with residual petroleum constituents, cases that meet the general and media-specific criteria in the Low-Threat Closure Policy pose a low-threat to human health, safety, the environment, and are appropriate for closure under Health and Safety Code section 25296.10. The Policy provides that if a regulatory agency determines that a case meets the general and media-specific criteria of the Policy, then the regulatory agency shall notify responsible parties and other specified interested persons that the case is eligible for case closure. Unless the regulatory agency revises its determination based on comments received on the proposed case closure, the Policy provides that the agency shall issue a uniform closure letter as specified in Health and Safety Code section 25296.10. The uniform closure letter may only be issued after the expiration of the 60-day comment period, proper destruction or maintenance of monitoring wells or borings, and removal of waste associated with investigation and remediation of the site.

Health and Safety Code section 25299.57, subdivision (l)(1) provides that claims for reimbursement of corrective action costs that are received by the Fund more than 365 days after the date of a uniform closure letter or a letter of commitment, whichever occurs later, shall not be reimbursed unless specified conditions are satisfied.

## II. FINDINGS

Based upon the facts in the UST record and the hydrogeologic conditions at the site, the State Water Board finds that corrective action taken to address the unauthorized release of petroleum at the UST release site identified as:

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ensures protection of human health, safety, and the environment and is consistent with Chapter 6.7 of division 20 of the Health and Safety Code and implementing regulations, the Low-Threat Closure Policy and other water quality control policies and applicable water quality control plans.

Pursuant to the Low-Threat Closure Policy, notification has been provided to all entities that are required to receive notice of the proposed case closure, a 60-day comment period has been provided to notified parties, and any comments received have been considered by the State Water Board in determining that the case should be closed.

Pursuant to section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code, environmental impacts associated with the adoption of this Order were analyzed in the substitute environmental document (SED) the State Water Board approved on May 1, 2012. The SED concludes that all environmental effects of adopting and implementing the Low Threat Closure Policy are less than significant, and environmental impacts as a result of adopting this Order in compliance with the Policy are no different from the impacts that are reasonably foreseen as a result of the Policy itself. A Notice of Decision was filed August 17, 2012. No new environmental impacts or any additional reasonably foreseeable impacts beyond those that were addressed in the SED will result from adopting this Order.

The UST case identified above may be the subject of orders issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) pursuant to division 7 of the Water Code. Any orders that have been issued by the Regional Water Board pursuant to division 7 of the Water Code, or directives issued by a Local Oversight Program (LOP) agency for this case should be rescinded to the extent they are inconsistent with this Order.

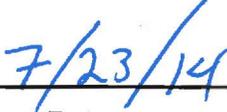
### III. ORDER

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

- A. The UST case identified in Section II of this Order, meeting the general and media-specific criteria established in the Low-Threat Closure Policy, be closed in accordance with the following conditions and after the following actions are complete. Prior to the issuance of a uniform closure letter, the responsible party is ordered to:
1. Properly destroy monitoring wells and borings unless the owner of real property on which the well or boring is located certifies that the wells or borings will be maintained in accordance with local or state requirements;
  2. Properly remove from the site and manage all waste piles, drums, debris, and other investigation and remediation derived materials in accordance with local or state requirements; and
  3. Within six months of the date of this Order, submit documentation to the State Water Board that the tasks in subparagraphs (1) and (2) have been completed.
- B. The tasks in subparagraphs (1) and (2) of Paragraph (A) are ordered pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25296.10 and failure to comply with these requirements may result in the imposition of civil penalties pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25299, subdivision (d)(1). Penalties may be imposed administratively by the State Water Board or Regional Water Board.
- C. Within 30 days of notification that the tasks are complete pursuant to Paragraph (A), the Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality shall issue a uniform closure letter consistent with Health and Safety Code section 25296.10, subdivision (g) and upload the uniform closure letter to GeoTracker.
- D. Pursuant to section 25299.57, subdivision (l) (1), and except in specified circumstances, all claims for reimbursement of corrective action costs must be received by the Fund within 365 days of issuance of the uniform closure letter in order for the costs to be considered.

E. Any Regional Water Board or LOP agency directive or order that directs corrective action or other action inconsistent with case closure for the UST case identified in Section II is rescinded, but only to the extent the Regional Water Board order or LOP agency directive is inconsistent with this Order.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**State Water Resources Control Board**

**UST CASE CLOSURE SUMMARY**

**Agency Information**

Current Agency Name: State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)	Address: 1001 I Street, P.O. Box 2231 Sacramento, CA 95812
Current Agency Caseworker: Mr. Matthew Cohen	Case No.: N/A

Former Agency Name: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Prior to 7/1/2013)	Address: 900 South Fremont Avenue Alhambra, CA 91803
Former Agency Caseworker: Mr. John Awujo	Case No.: TT012810-013011

**Case Information**

USTCF Claim No.: None	Global ID: T0603704023
Site Name: Ralphs Grocery Company	Site Address: 2201 South Wilmington Avenue Compton, CA 90220 (Site)
Responsible Party: Ralphs Grocery Company Attention: Mr. Greg Peterson	Address: P.O. Box 54143 Los Angeles, CA 90054
USTCF Expenditures to Date: N/A	Number of Years Case Open: 23

**URL:** [http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=T0603704023](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0603704023)

**Summary**

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. This case meets all of the required criteria of the Policy.

The release at the Site was discovered during subsurface soil investigation for closure in-place of an underground storage tank (UST) in February 1991. Petroleum constituents were detected at approximately 10 feet below ground surface (bgs). The UST was removed in March 1992. Following UST removal, low-level petroleum constituents were detected in one sample, beneath the east end of the tank excavation. Other activities at the Site have included removal of seven USTs in February 1992, removal of one UST in March 1993, and removal of two USTs, dispensers, and associated piping in 2009. Following removal of the two USTs and dispenser in 2009, petroleum-impacted soils were removed from the Site. The Site is currently operated as a grocery distribution center.

Ralphs Grocery Company  
2201 South Wilmington Avenue, Compton, Los Angeles County

Groundwater was not encountered to the maximum depth explored at the Site (approximately 50 feet bgs). There are not sufficient mobile constituents at the Site (leachate, vapors, or light non-aqueous phase liquids LNAPL) to cause groundwater to exceed the groundwater criteria for the Policy.

The nearest public supply well and surface water body are greater than 1,000 feet from the Site. Remedial actions have been implemented and further remediation is not necessary. Additional corrective action will not likely change the conceptual site model. Any remaining petroleum constituents do not pose significant risk to human health, safety, or the environment.

#### Rationale for Closure under the Policy

- General Criteria – Site **MEETS ALL EIGHT GENERAL CRITERIA** under the Policy.
- Groundwater Media-Specific Criteria – **SITE RELEASES HAVE NOT LIKELY AFFECTED GROUNDWATER**. There are not sufficient mobile constituents (leachate, vapors, or LNAPL) to cause groundwater to exceed the groundwater criteria in this Policy.
- Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air Criteria – Site meets **EXCEPTION**. Exposure to petroleum vapors associated with historical fuel system releases is comparatively insignificant relative to exposures from small surface spills and fugitive vapor releases that typically occur at active fueling facilities.
- Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure Criteria – Site meets **CRITERION (3) a**. Concentrations in soil are less than those in Policy Table 1 for Commercial/Industrial use, and the concentration limits for a Utility Worker are not exceeded. Although poly-aromatic hydrocarbons were not analyzed, there does not appear to be a significant release that would result in concentrations in the soil exceeding concentrations listed in Table 1.

#### Recommendation for Closure

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



George Lockwood, PE No. 59556  
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer

4/1/14

Date

