

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 16-17, 2011
Prepared February 18, 2011

ITEM NUMBER: 6

SUBJECT: Update on San Paso Truck and Auto, 81 Wellsona Road, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County

STAFF PERSON: Corey Walsh 805/542-4781 or cwalsh@waterboards.ca.gov

THIS ACTION Information/status only

Background:

This information item updates activities at San Paso Truck and Auto at 81 Wellsona Road in Paso Robles. This site has an ongoing Underground Tank Cleanup (UST) case at the site. The subject property is located in the Wellsona area of northern San Luis Obispo County, approximately 3.5 miles north of the City of Paso Robles, west of U.S. Highway 101. The Salinas River is approximately 0.5 mile to the east. The subject property encompasses approximately ten acres and is developed as a truck and auto fueling station improved with a convenience store and a restaurant. Consultants discovered contaminated soil and groundwater at the site during the replacement of underground storage tanks in 1990. Contaminated soils were excavated to the extent possible at that time. More recently, the consultant for the site owner directed the remedial injection of hydrogen peroxide to the groundwater beneath the site to stimulate biodegradation of the remaining contamination.

In May 2010, a representative (Mr. Gerard Martorano) of the party responsible for the cleanup at this site requested that Central Coast Water Board staff recommend closing this case. After considering the available technical data for this site, staff determined that closure was not appropriate at that time. The Responsible Party's representative then requested an opportunity to seek closure of the case from the Central Coast Water Board. At their May 12, 2010 meeting, the Central Coast Water Board heard presentations from Water Board staff and the Responsible Party's representative. After deliberation, the Board concluded that they would not close the case. They directed Water Board staff to work with the owner to expedite additional work to determine if the case is ready to close.

Update:

After the May Board meeting, Water Board staff requested the Responsible Party to conduct verification monitoring to assess the effectiveness of groundwater cleanup activities at the site. The Responsible Party's consultant completed the verification soil and groundwater sampling and compiled the information into a summary report. We received a Groundwater Verification Assessment Report on September 3, 2010. Results of this investigation showed excessive soil and groundwater contamination remaining in two locations (TPHg at 1,200 mg/kg and benzene at 0.79 mg/kg in soil, and TPH-g at 43,000 ug/l, and benzene at 930 ug/l in groundwater), Toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes all exceeded cleanup action levels as well.

Based on staff's review of the September 3, 2010 Verification Assessment Report and Third Quarter 2010 Groundwater Monitoring report, we required confirmation sampling and preparation of a remedial action plan (RAP) proposing further soil and groundwater remediation. The site investigation/Remedial Action Work Plan was due December 15, 2010. We did not receive the report by the due date and issued a Failure to Submit (FTS) letter for the required work plan on December 29, 2010. At that time the Responsible Party's consultant indicated that they had never received approval to do the work. We also were informed that the Responsible Party's former representative (Mr. Martorano) no longer worked for the site owners.

We have since received a positive response indicating the responsible parties are making efforts to come back into compliance. The responsible parties indicated that they have recently received reimbursement from the UST Cleanup Fund, which will allow them to continue work at the site. They have paid their consultant for their outstanding balance, and the consultant has restarted work at the site.

The Responsible Party's consultant collected First Quarter 2011 groundwater monitoring data and the monitoring report is due to our office by April 20. The consultant proposes to submit the required Site Investigation/Remedial Action work plan by March 7, 2011. The consultant is also working on a new Cleanup Fund Claim Reimbursement Request to help keep the Responsible Party's escrow fund solvent and hopefully prevent work slow downs in the future. Based on this latest information, we are not recommending further enforcement at this time and anticipate receiving the Site Investigation/Remedial Action Work Plan by March 7.

Reportedly the San Paso Truck and Auto service station was not operational during the July 2010 investigation and groundwater monitoring activities. After resolving various County requirements, the service station and restaurant reopened in September of 2010.