
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

PUBLIC NOTICE **Pending Case Closure** **Shell California Lease (Cat Canyon Oil Field)** **6527 Dominion Road, Santa Maria, CA**

GeoTracker Case No.
T10000001111

December 18, 2023

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) is the state regulatory agency responsible for the protection of groundwater and surface water quality within the central coast region. As such, we are overseeing the investigation and cleanup of a crude oil/diluent release at the above-referenced site. Shell Exploration and Production Company is the party responsible for investigation and cleanup of the site. We are notifying the site property owner, surrounding property owners, and other potentially interested parties of the proposed closure of this case. Please provide your comments or concerns regarding closure of this Site Cleanup Program (SCP) case to this office by **January 19, 2024**. It is not necessary to respond if you have no comments. Information on the SCP case investigation and cleanup is available for review at the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker database:

<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?gid=T10000001111>.

You can view a site location map at:

https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?global_id=T10000001111.

Site Background

On April 17, 1988, approximately 340 gallons of crude oil/diluent leaked from an aboveground pipeline connected to oil well California No. 71, which is owned and operated by Shell Western Exploration and Production, Inc. The crude oil leaked down nearby Bradley Creek for approximately 3,400 feet where the remaining oil was contained in a hydrocarbon catch basin.

A site investigation was conducted in October 1988 which included the installation of four groundwater monitoring wells. In September 1989, approximately 460 cubic yards of hydrocarbon-impacted soil was removed from the site. Groundwater monitoring

JANE GRAY, CHAIR | RYAN E. LODGE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

began at the site in October 1990 and continued until October 2018. The pipelines were removed, and the oil well was abandoned on December 17, 1996. Additional site investigations were conducted and between July and August 2015, approximately 15,000 cubic yards of hydrocarbon-impacted soil were removed from the site. In September 2015, the Central Coast Water Board reviewed field maps and soil sample laboratory data and authorized the responsible party to leave hydrocarbon-impacted material in place in the south, west, and north walls of the excavation due to slope stability and safety concerns.

A draft Case Summary Form that summarizes about the case is available at:

<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?surl=azkwa>.

After reviewing the soil investigation, groundwater monitoring, soil vapor sampling, and cleanup results, Central Coast Water Board staff determined that this site does not pose a significant threat to groundwater resources, human health, or the environment. Residual petroleum pollutants remaining in soil and groundwater are well characterized and declining in volume and concentration. The pollutant mass has been removed from the site to the maximum extent practical, is localized and limited in extent, and historical monitoring data indicate pollutant concentrations in groundwater are expected to continue decreasing to below cleanup goals in a reasonable time. Following the public comment period and resolution of any comments, and pending proper monitoring well destruction, the Executive Officer may issue a case closure letter.

If you wish to obtain additional information, provide comments, or if you need assistance accessing GeoTracker or the Case Summary Form, please contact Dillon Kass at **(805) 549-3879** (dillon.kass@waterboards.ca.gov) or Greg Bishop at (805) 549-3132.

GT ID T10000001111, CR# 2033500

Interested Parties:

Occupant, 6525 Dominion Road, Santa Maria, CA 93429
Occupant, 6527 Dominion Road, Santa Maria, CA 93429
James Ontiveros, Rancho Dominion, LLC, PO Box 3138, Santa Maria, CA 93457

Cc via email:

David Brown, Shell Exploration & Production Co., david.a.brown2@shell.com
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