
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Public Notice of Remedial Action

Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery

2555 Willow Road, Arroyo Grande, CA

June 1, 2021

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) is providing this notification to the landowners, residents/occupants, tenants, and interested parties near this cleanup site to notify you of upcoming cleanup actions and to solicit comments. This notification describes the site background, proposed cleanup approach, and the next steps in cleanup.

La Junta de Control de la Calidad del Agua de la Costa Central les comunica a todos los dueños de terrenos, residentes, ocupantes, inquilinos y personas interesadas que vivan o se encuentren cerca del sitio, que se están llevando a cabo los trabajos de limpieza y estamos a la espera para recibir sus comentarios. Esta notificación incluye información sobre los antecedentes del sitio, las diferentes alternativas de limpieza que se proponen y los siguientes pasos a seguir. Si desea obtener información en español, póngase en contacto con Monica Barricarte al (805) 549-3881.

Introduction

The Central Coast Water Board is the State regulatory agency responsible for overseeing the site investigation and cleanup activities at the Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery (Site) located at 2555 Willow Road, Arroyo Grande, California. Remediation activities will take place at the Northern Inactive Waste Site (NIWS). The NIWS is a former landfill containing waste with petroleum hydrocarbons and other related compounds (polyaromatic hydrocarbons, dioxins and furans) and asbestos containing material (ACM).

The purpose of this notification is to provide the public with a summary of the proposed NIWS cleanup activities planned at the Site by Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec) on behalf of the responsible party, Phillips 66 Company (Phillips 66), and to solicit your comments.

Site Background

The Site was owned and operated by Unocal from its construction 1955 until 1997. Phillips 66 currently owns and operates the Site which is linked by a 200-mile pipeline to the San Francisco Refinery in Rodeo, California. The Site receives heavy, high sulfur crude oil from various sources. The output from the refinery at the Site includes two semi-refined products, gas oil and pressure distillate, which are sent by pipeline to Phillips 66 San Francisco Refinery for upgrading into finished petroleum products.

The NIWS was reportedly constructed by Unocal in 1955 and used until 1974. It is situated in a topographic low spot between two sand dunes near the entrance of the

Site and was reported to contain refinery trash and non-hazardous debris, slop oil emulsion, American Petroleum Institute oil-separator sludge, ACM, and domestic waste from local residents. In 1990, exploratory trenches were advanced to evaluate the nature and extent of the waste. In 2017, soil borings were advanced to define the characteristics and extent of waste-impacted soil. In 2019, additional soil borings were advanced as part of a data gap assessment to further delineate the extent of impacted soil. The assessment activities identified petroleum hydrocarbons in the motor oil range (TPHmo), petroleum hydrocarbons in the diesel range (TPHd), polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxins and furans, and ACM (amosite and chrysotile) as the contaminants of potential concern. Based on the assessment results, Stantec estimated that the NIWS contains approximately 14,520 cubic yards (cy) of impacted soil.

The maximum concentrations of TPHmo and TPHd detected in soil samples collected were 82,000 mg/kg and 22,000 mg/kg, respectively. These concentrations exceed the Tier I San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Francisco Bay) Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs)¹ for TPHmo and TPHd of 2,600 mg/kg and 260 mg/kg, respectively. Other constituents also exceeded the San Francisco Bay ESLs, including polyaromatic hydrocarbons, dioxin compounds, cyanide, arsenic, hexavalent chromium, and nickel and appear to be associated with the occurrence of high TPHmo concentrations. ACM as either amosite or chrysotile was also reported in samples above the total threshold limit concentration of 1%.

Proposed Cleanup Approach

As described in the July 25, 2019 *Additional Site Assessment Results and Conceptual Closure Plan (CCP)*² April 15, 2021 *Data Gap Assessment and Conceptual Closure Plan Addendum (CCP Addendum)*³, remediation will be performed using conventional excavation methods followed by habitat restoration. A figure showing the NIWS project area is provided below (Figure 1). This remediation method has been successfully implemented to restore areas formerly used for waste disposal.

¹ The San Francisco Bay ESLs are considered conservative levels because the presence of a chemical at concentrations exceeding an ESL does not necessarily indicate adverse effects on human health or the environment, rather that additional evaluation and/or cleanup is warranted. More information about San Francisco Bay ESLs is available at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/esl.html

² The CCP can be found on GeoTracker at:

https://documents.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/uploads/geo_report/5758191049/SL203121248.PDF

³ The CCP Addendum can be found on GeoTracker at:

https://documents.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/uploads/geo_report/2816760480/SL203121248.PDF

Next Steps in Cleanup

The NIWS CCP and CCP Addendum will be implemented with San Luis Obispo County⁴ and Central Coast Water Board approval and oversight. The Central Coast Water Board will address any public comments submitted during the 30-day public notice period as well as oversee the implementation of the NIWS cleanup activities and will determine when cleanup is complete.

Public Comment Period

The public has 30 days to comment on the proposed remediation activities. Copies of the CCP, CCP Addendum, and other reports are available under the “Site Maps/Documents” tab on the GeoTracker website:

https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL203121248

If you would like more information or wish to comment on the information provided, please contact Ms. Amber Sellinger at the Central Coast Water Board. All interested parties are required to submit their comments to the Central Coast Water Board in writing (by email or letter) on or before **July 2, 2021** to be considered.

Comments should be sent to:

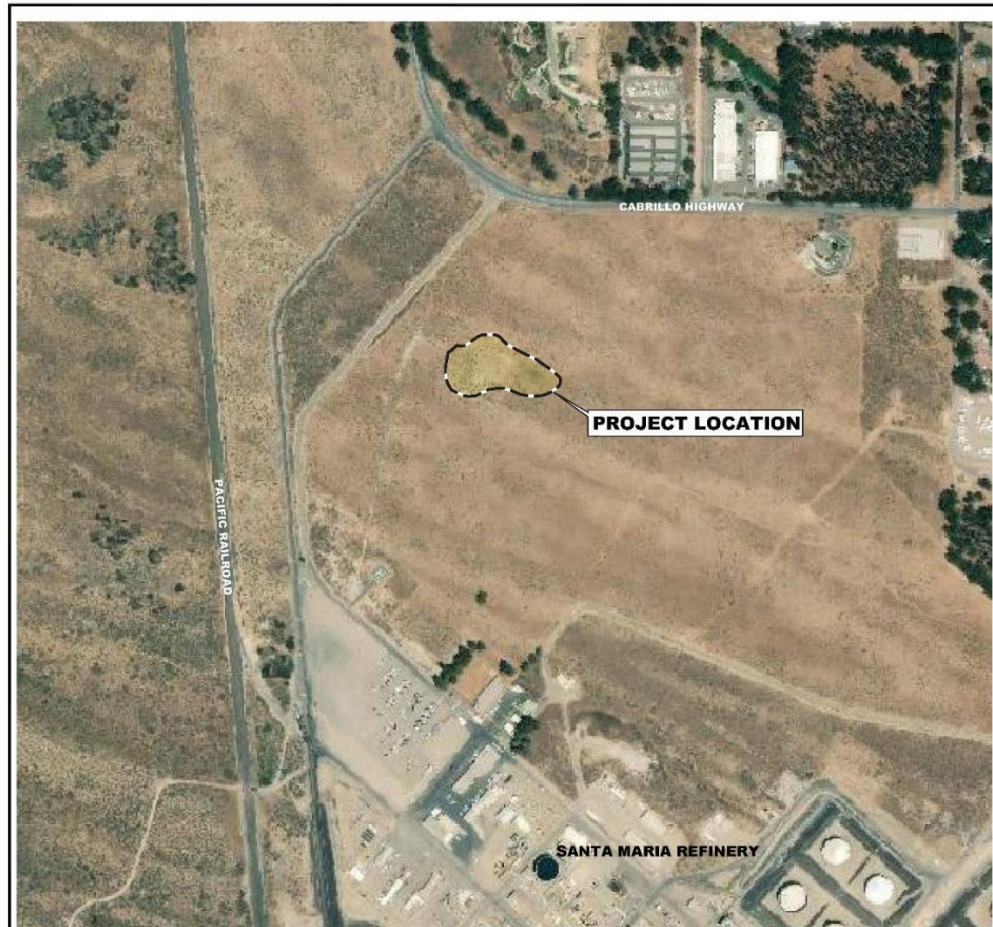
Ms. Amber Sellinger
Central Coast Water Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 549-3866

Email: Amber.Sellinger@waterboards.ca.gov

If you would like to receive future correspondence on this cleanup site, please contact Ms. Sellinger and request to be added to the interested parties’ mailing list for this Site.

⁴ More information about San Luis Obispo County’s Minor Use Permit ED20-098 (DRC2019-0031) for the Phillips 66 NIWS Remediation project can be found on the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research CEQA website at: [DRC2019-00231 Phillips 66 \(NIWS Remediation\) Minor Use Permit \(ED20-098\) \(ca.gov\)](https://opra.ca.gov/Projects/2019-0031-Phillips66)

Northern Inactive Waste Site



CALIFORNIA





SCALE IN MILE



SCALE IN FEET

REFERENCE: CA Digital Raster Graphics(<http://gis.ca.gov/casli/usgs.gov/>)
7.5 Minute Series, Albers NAD83, Trimmed
Block o3512a5, Dated 1965; Revised 1994

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 3437 EMPRESA DR. SUITE A SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA PHONE: (805) 546-0455 FAX: (805) 546-0583	FOR:  PHILLIPS 66 SANTA MARIA REFINERY NORTHERN INACTIVE WASTE SITE 2555 WILLOW ROAD ARROYO GRANDE, CALIFORNIA	VICINITY MAP		FIGURE: 1
	JOB NUMBER: 185850432	DRAWN BY: JBL	CHECKED BY: KH	APPROVED BY: KH