
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

PUBLIC NOTICE CLOSURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CASE

This will serve as notice that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) is soliciting comments from the public regarding the pending closure of an environmental case for a developed property located at 867 Highway 99, Gridley, Butte County.

SUBJECT SITE:

867 Highway 99, Gridley, Butte County (Site).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENT PERIOD:

9 July 2026 – 8 August 2026.

SUMMARY:

Based on analysis of site-specific conditions under current and reasonably anticipated near-term future scenarios does not pose a significant threat to human health and the environment.

SETTING:

The 867 Highway 99, Gridley site (Site) is on Assessor's Parcel Number 024-110-031-000 (see Figure 1 for the site location). This 24.47 acre parcel is currently owned by Union Pacific Railroad and the building on Site is operated by stove manufacturer, Heat Tech Industries, LLC. Railroad tracks pass through the length of the parcel, bounding the west side of the industrial portion of the property. State Highway 99 bounds the east margin of the Site.

An on-site supply well located on the west side of the building provides drinking water for the facility. Logs of shallow soil borings and the supply well's construction report describe the soil in the upper 13 ft below ground surface (bgs) as poorly graded sands and silt, with a clay layer at approximately 15 ft bgs which extends to 65 ft bgs, beneath which are layers of sand and clay extending to the total drilled depth of 75 ft bgs. The intake area of the supply well is an uncased open hole interval from 40 ft bgs to the completed depth of 72 ft bgs.

Shallow groundwater was encountered at 9 ft bgs in temporary soil borings in 1999 and 10 to 12 ft bgs in 2019.

Local groundwater generally flows to the northeast, towards the Feather River.

SITE HISTORY:

According to 1 March 2018 Gridley VNP Facility Summary (Site Summary) submitted by Geosyntec on behalf of Wilbur-Ellis, John Taylor Fertilizers (JTF) leased the Site from Southern Pacific Transportation between 1980 and 1997. The Site Summary stated JTF ceased their operations on Site and subleased it to an unnamed party in 1997.

Wilbur-Ellis Company, LLC (Wilbur-Ellis) purchased JTF in 1999. Wilbur-Ellis acquired the lease upon purchase of JTF in 1999 but never operated at the Site according to the Site Summary. An unknown party operated the northern portion of the Site from 1980 to 1997.

At the time of the Site Summary (1 March 2018), the Site was operated as a landscaping supply facility for an unknown period.

INVESTIGATION AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES:

In 1999, as part of a Phase II Site Assessment, groundwater and soil were sampled on the Site to assess for the presence of Trichloropropane (TCP), a compound present in certain nematocides. EPA Method 504.1 was used to analyze four grab groundwater samples that were taken from 9 to 10 ft bgs with a practical quantitative limit (PQL) of 20 parts per trillion (ppt) TCP. Five shallow soil samples were analyzed for TCP by Method MSE002 with a PQL of 10 micrograms per kilogram. TCP was not detected in any of the samples taken in January 1999.

The 2018 Site Summary stated that no TCP containing product was stored or handled on Site to the knowledge of Wilbur-Ellis representatives and requested no further action at the Site.

In 2017, a California Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 5 ppt was established for TCP, which is less than the PQL of the 1999 laboratory reports. To meet the requirements of the new MCL, on 23 July 2018, Central Valley Water Board staff (Staff) requested a Work Plan to sample soil and shallow groundwater for TCP using methods with a more stringent reporting limit of 5 ppt. In accordance with an approved work plan, the sampling was completed in December 2019. TCP was not detected at or above the reporting limit of 5 ppt in any of the four shallow grab groundwater samples taken in December 2019.

Central Valley Water Board Staff issued a letter on 9 December 2025 requesting two consecutive quarters of sampling of the supply well on Site for TCP to determine if closure is appropriate. On 15 October 2025 and 12 March 2026, Staff took split samples from the supply well in coordination with the property owner's consultant, Arcadis. TCP was not detected at or above the 5ppt reporting limit in either sample.

TCP has not been detected in shallow soil and groundwater samples in 1999 or 2019, or in the supply well in 2025 or 2026. Sufficient evidence that TCP is not present in elevated levels at the Site has been presented and current Site conditions do not present a threat to human health or the environment. Therefore, Staff concurs with the Geosyntec recommendation for case closure.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

General information regarding the Site can be obtained from the State Water Resources Control Board's [GeoTracker Website](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/). (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/). Please enter **T10000017080** into the search bar for more information about this case.

All interested agencies, groups and persons wishing to comment on the pending case closure must provide these comments in writing. The comments should be submitted by **8 August 2026** to the Central Valley Water Board's office at 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002.

Please contact me at (530) 224-4852, William.Bergmann@Waterboards.ca.gov, or the footer address with questions or comments.