PUBLIC NOTICE

Liberty Farms Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Release Site
10 Avenue and Utica Avenue, Alpaugh, CA

Public Notice: The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) invites public comment on a proposed regulatory case closure for the former fueling facilities at the Liberty Farms Site, at the intersection of 10 Avenue and Utica Avenue, Alpaugh, Kings County, California (Site).

This Public Notice fact sheet provides general information on the Site. A map showing the location of the Site is attached (Figure 1).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:
30 June – 30 July 2022 (30 Days)

CASE SUMMARY:

The Site consists of a large farm compound with numerous structures. Surrounding the farm compound is land with irrigated cover crops and an irrigation canal to the east. The Site is currently owned by Sandridge Partners, LP (Sandridge) and was acquired in April 2010.

Gasoline and diesel fuel were discovered beneath the ASTs in a 1988 Site assessment. Site assessments in 2014 and 2016 found gasoline and diesel fuel impacted shallow soil and groundwater. A continuous 4 feet thick clay layer underlies the impacted soil and groundwater.

The Site lies within an area of the Tulare Lake Basin for which, in December 2017, the Central Valley Water Board de-designated the shallow aquifer for municipal and agricultural beneficial uses, meaning that the water quality within the aquifer is recognized as unsuitable for the specified uses regardless of point source pollution such as from the gasoline and diesel release. To address potential health threats from soil vapor migration to indoor air, Sandridge razed or removed doors from buildings in the impacted area, allowing for ample ventilation to prevent accumulation of vapors.

The lateral and vertical extent of gasoline and diesel fuel has been defined in soil, groundwater, and soil vapor. Downward migration is considered unlikely, given the thick and laterally extensive low permeability clay layer. Because of the shallow nature of the impacted area, the residual gasoline and diesel fuel are expected to degrade over several years.

A Land Use Covenant (LUC) was recorded for the Site which restricts the use of groundwater beneath the Site and requires written Central Valley Water Board approval for excavation/drilling to depths greater
than 4 feet below ground surface or for construction of residential housing in the encumbered area (Figure 2).

The Central Valley Water Board has determined that gasoline and diesel fuel residuals do not pose a significant threat to human health or the environment and is considering case closure. Once all public comments have been reviewed, the Central Valley Water Board will direct further corrective action or close the case, as appropriate.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Historical reports and the Consideration of No Further Action (Closure) Determination can be viewed by accessing the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker respective website.

(https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SLT5FT384513)

The Site's case file is also available for review at the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board office at 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706. To make an appointment for a file review, please call (559) 445-5116.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Any interested individual can learn more about the case by contacting Chad Neptune with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Written comments or questions on the planned regulatory case closure for the Site must be submitted to Chad Neptune at the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board by July 30, 2022.

Chad Neptune – Engineering Geologist  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1685 E Street  
Fresno, CA 93706  
(559) 445-5584  
Chad.Neptune@waterboards.ca.gov
Figure 2 - Site Map
Wells displayed were destroyed in August 2021.