



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

15 July 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED, FORMER TAR CANYON PUMP STATION, PHILLIPS 66 SITE #370191, KINGS COUNTY

To: Offsite Property Owners and Other Interested Parties,

This Public Notice is to inform interested parties of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Water Board) consideration of closing the subject case, and to request comments from interested parties regarding the proposed closure at the subject site (Site).

The Site is approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Avenal, California. The fenced property encompasses approximately 17.5 acres. The remaining surface features at the Site are two buildings and, prior to remedial activities, two circular earthen basins that formerly encompassed the petroleum aboveground storage tanks (ASTs). During a Site inspection in June 2011, Central Valley Water Board staff (Staff) observed crude oil surface releases within the former AST basins. Phillips 66 Company (Phillips 66) is the current property owner.

Between 2012 and 2019 several phases of investigation and remediation were conducted by Stantec Consulting Services (Stantec) (consultant for Phillips 66). Site work included drilling and sampling of soil borings, the excavation of test pits to characterize the extent of hydrocarbon impacted soil, the excavation and backfill of soil, and the installation and sampling of soil vapor probes. Concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons in the gasoline, diesel, and oil ranges (TPHg, TPHd, TPHo) have been detected in soil at maximum concentrations of 2,300, 76,000, and 110,000 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (BTEX) have generally been not detected, or only at low concentrations. With exception of naphthalene, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons have not been detected or detected at low concentrations in soil. Petroleum hydrocarbon impacts have extended to a maximum depth of approximately 65 feet below ground surface at two locations. Site investigations have delineated the extent of the petroleum hydrocarbon impacts and have shown that concentrations attenuate to non-detect with depth.

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

The excavation of hydrocarbon impacted soil and backfill with clean soil was determined to be the appropriate remedial action. On 26 November 2019 Stantec submitted the *Soil Remediation Report*. Approximately 37,547 tons of petroleum hydrocarbon impacted soils were excavated to a maximum depth of 10 feet bgs and backfilled with both imported fill and soil from the Site. Imported soil was analyzed for TPHg, TPHd, TPHo, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), metals, organochlorine pesticides, PCBs, and asbestos. All of the imported fill soil sample results were either non-detect, or less than the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) for commercial/industrial facilities, except for arsenic. The results for arsenic were consistent with background levels in the region. On-Site soil was analyzed for TPHg, TPHd, TPHo, BTEX and SVOCs. All of the on-Site soil sample results were less than residential ESLs with exception of one, and the soil was transported off-Site for disposal at an appropriate facility. In a letter dated 20 February 2020, Staff determined that the engineered backfill procedures appeared to be in accordance with commonly accepted soil engineering practices and appropriate for the Site.

A shallow soil vapor investigation, which included a human health risk assessment, followed the excavation and backfill activities to evaluate the potential for soil vapor intrusion from beneath the Site. On 27 February 2020, Stantec submitted the *Screening Level Vapor Intrusion Human Health Risk Assessment*. For the assessment, Stantec installed and sampled eight soil vapor probes to depths of 5 feet bgs at locations exhibiting significant concentrations in soil. A human health risk assessment was conducted based on the sampling results. Stantec determined that the calculated risk of constituents of concern in soil vapor was less than the threshold of 1E-06 and the calculated non-cancer hazard risk was less than 1 at each sample location. Stantec stated that no further evaluation of vapor intrusion was necessary and that cleanup and restoration objectives have been achieved. In a letter dated 9 April 2020, Staff concurred with the results and determined that a no further action status for the Site would be considered pending the completion of the public comment process and the submittal of an updated soil management plan (SMP). Phillips 66 will be required to submit an updated SMP by the end of the public comment period. The SMP will designate Phillips 66 as the responsible party to address residual crude oil that may be encountered during future Site activities, that is attributable to the release. The concentrations of crude oil remaining at the Site will continue to naturally degrade. On 6 July 2020, Phillips 66 submitted documentation that the soil vapor probes have been appropriately abandoned.

This Public Notice has been transmitted to parties on the attached list, and is posted on the [Central Valley Water Board website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/), under Public Notices, Site Cleanup Program, Decisions Pending & Case Closure. Details of the site assessment and cleanup are also available through the GeoTracker website (<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) by searching for case number **T1000003453**. This information may also be reviewed at the Central Valley Water Board office at 1685 E Street in Fresno, California.

You may participate in the case closure process by reviewing technical reports, asking questions, and providing comments. Comments regarding the proposed closure need to be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board office at the above listed address **by 18 August 2020**.

Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the site or the proposed action should contact Brian Hitz at the above address, by e-mail at brian.hitz@waterboards.ca.gov, or by telephone at (559) 445-5170.

At the completion of the public comment period and in the absence of substantive comment against closure being granted, Central Valley Water Board staff will proceed with the closure process for the case. The Public Notice was mailed to the addresses on Table 1.

Table 1
Interested Party Survey

APN	Owner	Mailing address	Occupant	Property address
038-280-029-000	N/A	2929 E. Imperial Highway Brea, CA 92621	N/A	N/A
038-280-027-000	N/A	35244 Oil City Road Coalinga, CA 93210	N/A	N/A
038-280-018-000	N/A	39482 Highway 33 Avenal, CA 93204	N/A	N/A
038-280-026-000	N/A	35244 Oil City Road Coalinga, CA 93210	N/A	N/A
038-280-015-000	N/A	2331 City West Boulevard Houston, TX 77072	N/A	N/A
038-280-030-000	N/A	2929 E. Imperial Highway Brea, CA 92621	N/A	N/A
038-280-009-000	N/A	39482 Highway 33 Avenal, CA 93204	N/A	N/A