

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

27 October 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION – UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, ABE'S LIQUOR AND FOOD, 423 WEST BARSTOW AVENUE, CLOVIS, FRESNO COUNTY, RB CASE NO. 5T10000858

This letter is to inform interested parties of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Water Board) consideration of closing the case at the subject address (Site), and to request comments from interested parties. The Site is currently occupied by a convenience store and commercial gas station. In February 2006, a soil investigation was conducted at the Site which found concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons gasoline range (TPHg) in concentrations up to 1.9 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and total xylenes (BTEX) in respective concentrations of 0.040 mg/kg, 0.009 mg/kg, 0.082 mg/kg, and 0.55 mg/kg; methyl tert butyl ether (MTBE) was detected at up to 28 mg/kg. Fresno County Environmental Health Services Division concluded this was evidence of a release and opened an Underground Storage Tank (UST) release case. On 26 September 2007, Fresno County Environmental Health Division referred the Case to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) for regulatory oversight.

Soil investigation continued at the Site from September 2006 through February 2018 with the installation of the groundwater monitoring wells when soil samples were collected from monitoring well borings. Soil samples were collected at approximate five-foot intervals and sent to a State of California accredited laboratory for analysis of TPHg by EPA Method 8015b and BTEX, MTBE, and Naphthalene by EPA Method 8260B. Soil investigations determined TPHg was present in concentrations up to 5,900 mg/kg and to depths of 50 feet below ground surface (bgs). Toluene, ethyl benzene, and total xylenes were also detected in soil to depths of 50 feet bgs in respective concentrations of 2.7 mg/kg, 45 mg/kg, and 290 mg/kg.

Groundwater investigation began in February 2018 when groundwater monitoring wells MW-1, MW-2, and MW-3 were installed at the Site and monitoring continued intermittently through August 2025. Groundwater samples were sent to a State of California accredited laboratory for analysis of TPHg by EPA Method 8015, and BTEX, MTBE, and naphthalene by EPA Method 8260. Initial concentrations of MTBE in groundwater were up to 7,900 micrograms per liter (µg/L), TPHg was detected in concentrations up to 130 µg/L. BTEX were detected in concentrations up to 0.079 µg/L,

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1.5 µg/L, 0.51 µg/L, and 5.0 µg/L respectively. Naphthalene was not detected in concentrations to exceed laboratory method reporting limits. Concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbon constituents decreased, until by August 2025 there were no detections that exceeded laboratory method reporting limits.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) adopted the *Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy* (Policy). This case has been evaluated for closure based on the evidence presented in the investigation reports and meets the case closure criteria contained in the Policy. Soil and groundwater sample results indicate there should be no risk to human health and safety or the environment from the UST release.

This Public Notice has been transmitted to the parties adjacent to the Site, as well as posted on the [Central Valley Water Board's website](http://waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/) available at (http://waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/) Underground Storage Tank – Decisions Pending, Case Closures. Details of the assessment are also available to interested parties through the [State Water Board's GeoTracker website](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov) (<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>).

You may participate in the case closure process by reviewing technical reports, asking questions, and providing comments on the proposed case closure. The Central Valley Water Board case number is 5T10000858.

Please submit any comments regarding the proposed case closure to the Central Valley Water Board's Fresno office by **29 December 2025**.

Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the Site or proposed actions should contact the case worker Micheale Easley at 1685 E. Street in Fresno, at (559) 488-4391, or by email at Micheale.Easley@waterboards.ca.gov.

Upon completion of the public comment period, and in the absence of substantive comments against closure being granted, Central Valley Water Board staff will proceed with the case closure process.