Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

5 December 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, EMERGENCY, ABANDONED, RECALCITRANT (EAR) ACCOUNT #R20-224, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, CAMACHO PROPERTY, 36781 WEST SHAW AVENUE, FIREBAUGH, FRESNO COUNTY, RB CASE 5T10000916

To: Offsite Property Owners and Other Interested Persons,

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 subject case, and to request comments from interested parties regarding the proposed closure at the Camacho Property, 36781 West Shaw Avenue, Firebaugh, Fresno County (Site). In accordance with the criteria contained in the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) *Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy* (Policy), the Central Valley Water Board is required to provide the opportunity to interested parties in the vicinity of the Site to participate in the closure process.

The Site is a vacant lot at 36781 West Shaw Avenue in Firebaugh, Fresno County, California, in an area of residential/agricultural properties. Drinking water is provided to properties in the area by the Las Deltas Mutual Water System. In May 2015, under the direction of Fresno County Division of Environmental Health (Fresno County), one 500-gallon Underground Storage Tank (UST) was removed from the Site. Analytical results of a soil sample collected from beneath the UST indicated elevated concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons. An unknown volume of soil was excavated during tank removal and removed from the Site.

On 6 October 2015, Fresno County referred the case to the Central Valley Water Board for regulatory oversight. The State Water Board placed the Site on the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year *Emergency, Abandoned, Recalcitrant* (EAR) Account Annual Site List, and the case was awarded to GHD Consultants (GHD) to conduct Site assessment and remediation.

Based on GHD reviews, the nearest surface water body is the Secondary Lift Canal, located approximately 60 feet southwest of the Site. No water supply, municipal, domestic, or irrigation wells are within 1,000 feet of the Site.

In September 2024, soil boring SB-1, soil vapor probes SVP-1 through SVP-3 and monitoring wells MW-1 through MW-3 were installed and samples collected. Gasoline range organics (GRO) were detected in seven of thirty-five soil samples at a maximum

concentration of 210 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) in MW-1 at 35 feet below ground surface (bgs). Diesel range organics (DRO) were detected in seventeen of thirty-five samples at a maximum concentration of 130 mg/kg in MW-1 at 35 feet bgs. Total petroleum hydrocarbons as motor oil (ORO) were detected in five of thirty-five samples at a maximum concentration of 260 mg/kg in SB-1 at 5 and 10 feet bgs. Low level to trace concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in some soil samples. Benzene, toluene, methyl-tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE), and naphthalene were not detected to exceed laboratory reporting limits in any sample.

In September 2024, grab groundwater samples were collected from boring SB-1 and wells MW-1 through MW-3 and analyzed at a State of California accredited laboratory. Analytical results indicated GRO in SB-1 and MW-3 at 340 micrograms -per- liter (µg/L) and 520 µg/L, respectively. DRO was detected in SB-1, MW-1, and MW-3 at concentrations of 270 µg/L, 64 µg/L, and 130 µg/L, respectively. Low to trace concentrations of some VOCs were detected in samples from SB-1 and MW-3. On 8 October 2024, groundwater samples were collected from MW-1 through MW-3 and analytical results indicated DRO at concentration of 64 µg/L in MW-3. Concentrations of GRO, ORO, BTEX, MTBE, or naphthalene were not detected in any groundwater sample.

Analytical results of soil gas samples collected in October 2024, indicate the case meets Policy criteria for the Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air and does not appear to pose an unacceptable health risk to future construction workers, Site occupants or present a threat of vapor intrusion into adjacent or nearby structures. The maximum concentrations of petroleum constituents in shallow soil samples (0 to 10 feet bgs) are less than those listed in Table 1 of the Policy. The case meets the criteria contained in the Policy for Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure.

In January 2025 (First quarter) and in June 2025 (Second quarter), additional groundwater monitoring and sampling activities were conducted. Groundwater samples were analyzed at a State of California accredited laboratory for GRO, DRO, and ORO by EPA Method 8015B, VOCs including BTEX, MTBE, and naphthalene by EPA Method 8260B. During the first quarter 2025 monitoring event, samples result from MW-3 indicated GRO at a concentration of 220 µg/L, DRO at 57 µg/L, benzene at 6.9 µg/L, and 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene at 1.1 µg/L. No ORO, MTBE, or naphthalene were detected in any samples. During the second quarter 2025 monitoring event, sample results indicated GRO and DRO at respective concentrations of 220 µg/L and 86 µg/L, in MW-3. Benzene, ethylbenzene, and 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene were detected in MW-3 at concentrations of 1.3 µg/L, 1.2 µg/L, and 2.4 µg/L, respectively. Concentrations of ORO, MTBE, or naphthalene were not detected in any samples.

A Conceptual Site Model (CSM) that assesses the nature, extent and mobility of the release has been developed to evaluate the case for closure in accordance with the General and Media-Specific criteria contained in the Policy.

Based on the analytical results of soil samples for the Site, low to trace concentrations of constituents of concern were detected in borings near the former UST location, and the extent has been determined. The remaining low level petroleum impact appears to attenuate to non-detect concentrations in samples at 40 feet bgs. Concentrations of

benzene, toluene, MTBE, and naphthalene were not detected in any soil sample collected during the current assessment.

The lateral extent of groundwater impacts has been delineated, and GRO, DRO, and benzene concentrations detected in groundwater samples show a stable to decreasing trend. Additionally, groundwater on the Site is not used for human consumption. The petroleum contaminant plume in groundwater is estimated to be less than 100 feet in length, stable and decreasing in size. No wells are present within 250 feet of the Site. The Second Lift Canal is located approximately 60 feet west of the UST location and is not threatened by the petroleum release. The case meets the Groundwater-Specific Criteria # 2.

Based on the concentrations of petroleum constituents in shallow soil, the case meets the Policy criteria for Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure, and the Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air requirements.

Based on the attenuated concentrations of remaining trace petroleum hydrocarbons in soil and groundwater, residual petroleum hydrocarbons should not present a threat to human health, the environment, or beneficial uses of groundwater. The residual petroleum concentrations in soil should be further reduced by natural attenuation/degradation, and no further action regarding this release is necessary. The secondary source has been excavated to the extent practicable.

Central Valley Water Board Staff conclude that the case meets the General and Media-Specific criteria contained in the Policy and satisfies the case closure requirements of Health and Safety Code section 25296.10.

This Public Notice has been transmitted to interested parties in the area, and is posted on the website (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/), under Public Notices, Underground Storage Tanks-Decisions Pending & Case Closures. Details of the Site assessment and cleanup are also available through the State Water Board GeoTracker website (http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/) by searching for case number **5T10000916**. 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 at the above-listed address by **5 February 2026.** Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the Site or the proposed action should contact Khalid Durrani at the above address, by e-mail at khalid.durrani@waterboards.ca.gov, or by telephone at (559) 445-6191.

On 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.