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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

20 June 2022

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### **CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, LOOP RANCH, 22800 BROOME ROAD, KEENE, KERN COUNTY, RB CASE NO. 5T12000939**

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 (Site), and to request comments from interested parties. The Site currently serves as the Loop Ranch LLC headquarters. Facilities on the Site include a shop building, barn, two residential homes, and cattle pens.

On 30 August 2021 one 500-gallon underground storage tank (UST) was removed from the Site under supervision of the Kern County Public Health Services Department Environmental Health Division (KCPHSD EHD). Soil samples were collected from beneath the UST at depths of two feet below ground surface (bgs) and six feet bgs. Samples were sent to a State of California accredited laboratory for analysis of total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPHg), diesel (TPHd) and oil (TPHo), as well as benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and total xylenes (BTEX); and methyl tert butyl ether (MTBE). Analytical results of the samples collected from six feet bgs indicated the presence of TPHg, TPHd, and TPHo in respective concentrations of 190 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), 100 mg/kg, and 1,100 mg/kg. Toluene, ethyl benzene, xylenes, and naphthalene were detected in respective concentrations of 0.074 mg/kg, 0.37 mg/kg, 2.4 mg/kg, and 4.4 mg/kg. The detections were considered evidence of an unauthorized release and KCPHSD EHD referred the case to Central Valley Water Board for regulatory oversight on 8 November 2021.

Soil investigations conducted in December 2021 and March 2022 indicated contamination extended to depths of 30 feet bgs vertically, and approximately 15 feet laterally. Soil samples were collected and sent to a State of California accredited laboratory for analysis of TPHg, TPHd, TPHo, BTEX, MTBE, and naphthalene. TPHg was detected in concentrations up to 30 mg/kg, and TPHd in concentrations up to 74 mg/kg. TPHo was detected in concentrations up to 11 mg/kg, and BTEX was detected in respective concentrations up to 0.00093 mg/kg, 0.17 mg/kg, 0.082 mg/kg, and 4.4 mg/kg. Naphthalene was detected in concentrations up to 1 mg/kg. MTBE was not

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MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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detected. The estimated mass of petroleum hydrocarbons in subsurface soil is 594 pounds.

A soil vapor investigation is not necessary at the Site as the nearest building for human occupancy is more than 300 feet from the source area.

Groundwater is expected to be approximately 100 feet bgs and was not encountered during the investigation. Groundwater is not expected to be impacted by this release.

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

This Public Notice has been transmitted to the parties listed below, as well as posted on the [Central Valley Water Board website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/) available at ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public\\_notices/](http://www.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 5T12000939.

Please submit any comments regarding the proposed case closure to the Central Valley Water Board's Fresno office by **20 August 2022**.

Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the Site or the 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](mailto: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.