
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

3 June 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, NORTH KERN STATE PRISON, 2737 WEST CECIL AVENUE, DELANO, KERN COUNTY, RB CASE 5T1500706

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 is a 640-acre prison facility operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. It is south of County Line Road and North of West Cecil Avenue, approximately 3 miles west of State Highway 99. The Site is within an area of agricultural, commercial and vacant properties.

On 25 November 1993, 2,300 gallons of unleaded gasoline reportedly leaked from the fuel dispenser area of the underground storage tank (UST) system, located near the garage building in the western portion of the Site. The Kern County Environmental Health Services Division (Kern County) requested evaluation of the release. Investigation to determine the concentration and lateral and vertical extent of the release in soil was conducted in a series of phases beginning in March 1994. Groundwater monitoring began during 1995. Kern County closed the case during 1999 after monitoring wells were destroyed.

Gasoline contamination was detected in soil samples collected during removal of the USTs in 2006, and additional evaluation was requested by Kern County. Soil and groundwater investigation was conducted in multiple phases that began during 2008 and 2009 respectively, and defined the extent of the release. Health risk from petroleum vapor in shallow soil was also evaluated.

A soil vapor extraction (SVE) system which operated from 2019 through 2021, removed approximately 3,740 pounds of volatile gasoline constituents and 298 pounds of the fuel oxygenate methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE).

Drinking water is supplied to the Site by the City of Delano municipal water system. The groundwater contaminant plume length has decreased from approximately 900 feet to less than 100 feet with very low gasoline constituent concentrations indicated during the

last groundwater monitoring events in 2020. Supply wells are greater than 1,000 feet from the remaining effects of the UST release.

There should be no risk to human health and safety or the environment from the remaining petroleum product constituents, which are expected to naturally degrade.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water 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 relevant case closure criteria based on the fundamental principles contained in the Policy.

This Public Notice has been transmitted to the interested parties in the Site vicinity and relevant agencies, 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/) 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 reports, asking questions, and providing comments on the proposed case closure. The Central Valley Water Board's case number is 5T15000706.

Please submit any comments regarding the proposed case closure to the Central Valley Water Board's Fresno office by **2 August 2022**.

Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the Site or the proposed actions should contact the case worker, John Whiting at 1685 E Street, in Fresno at (559) 445-5504, or by email at John.Whiting@waterboards.ca.gov.

Upon completion of the public comment period, and in the absence of any substantive comments against closure, the Central Valley Water Board staff will direct that groundwater monitoring and remediation wells be properly destroyed and any remaining investigation derived waste be removed and properly managed. If no problems are discovered during a final site inspection, a case closure letter will be prepared.