Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

5 January 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, WESTSIDE FORD – LINCOLN – MERCURY, 1503 EIGHTH STREET, FIREBAUGH, FRESNO COUNTY, RB CASE NO. 5T10000931

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 above referenced address (Site), and to request comments from interested parties. The Site is currently vacant and in the process of being redeveloped.

In July 2017, one 1,000-gallon and one 500-gallon underground storage tanks (USTs) were removed from the Site. The USTs were filled with liquid (assumed groundwater) when removed with several small holes observed. One thousand-five hundred gallons of groundwater was removed from the UST excavation. Associated product piping was removed from the Site in October 2017 after building demolition. Soil samples collected from beneath the USTs and the piping trench were sent to a State of California accredited laboratory. Analysis included total petroleum hydrocarbons diesel range (TPHg), total petroleum hydrocarbons gasoline range (TPHg), total petroleum hydrocarbons oil range (TPHo); benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and total xylenes (BTEX); methyl tert butyl ether (MTBE); and naphthalene. Analytical results indicated the presence of TPHg in concentrations of 100 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), TPHd, in concentrations of 44 mg/kg, TPHo in concentrations 190 mg/kg, BTEX in respective concentrations of 0.73 mg/kg, 3 mg/kg, 0.710 mg/kg, and 9.1 mg/kg, and naphthalene in concentrations 1.3 mg/kg. The Site was referred to the Central Valley Water Board for regulatory oversight on 5 December 2017 by the Fresno County Division of Environmental Health.

In January 2018, the consulting firm Advanced Environmental Concepts, Inc. (AEC) submitted an *Investigation Workplan,* which was reviewed and approved by Central Valley Water Board staff. AEC began soil and groundwater investigations in February 2018 with six soil borings to depths between 18 and 22 feet below ground surface (bgs). Soil samples were collected at five, ten, and 15 feet bgs and grab groundwater samples were collected from each boring. Soil investigation at the Site continued through November 2022 when confirmation soil samples were collected.

Groundwater investigation began with the water samples in February 2018, and continued in July 2018 when the first five of ten groundwater monitoring wells were installed at the Site. Groundwater monitoring continued through September 2023. Groundwater analytical results indicated the presence of TPHg in concentrations up to 61,000 micrograms per liter (µg/L), TPHd in concentrations up to 9,300 µg/L, TPHo in

concentrations up to 2,800, BTEX in respective concentrations up to 4,100 µg/L, 6.2 µg/L, 240 µg/L, and 19 µg/L, and naphthalene in concentrations up to 48 µg/L. The maximum extent of the contaminant plume in groundwater was determined to be approximately 140 feet from the source area.

During the initial Site investigation, several soil vapor probes were installed to approximately five and a half feet bgs, but no sample was collected as the well tubing collapsed when suction was applied due to the low permeability of the soil. Due to the thickness of the low permeability soil, and the low concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbon constituents in soil and groundwater, vapor intrusion to indoor air is highly unlikely and there is low threat to human health and safety and the environment.

Remedial action occurred at the Site when AEC removed approximately 432 cubic yards of soil in October and November 2022, which contained approximately 354 pounds or 50 gallons of petroleum hydrocarbons. During the excavation process an additional previously unknown 500-gallon UST was discovered and removed.

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 sampling results indicate there should be low 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 available at (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/) Underground Storage Tank – Decisions Pending, Case Closures. Details of the assessments are also available to interested parties through the State Water Board's GeoTracker website (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 5T10000931.

Please submit any comments regarding the proposed case closure to the Central Valley Water Board's Fresno office by **5 March 2024.**

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.

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.