
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Public Notice No. 7-26-32
Date: August 18, 2026

NOTICE OF PROPOSED NO FURTHER ACTION

for

WILBUR-ELLIS COMPANY (OES#26-1511)
45 W DANENBERG DRIVE, EL CENTRO, IMPERIAL COUNTY
GEOTRACKER GLOBAL ID No. T10000017079

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin (Regional Water Board), is responsible for protecting groundwater and surface water quality in portions of Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. The Regional Water Board has completed its oversight investigation and cleanup activities at the Wilbur-Ellis Company located at 45 W Danenberg Drive, El Centro, Imperial County (Site).

Regional Water Board staff have reviewed all information submitted for this Site and has determined that the cleanup meets the requirements for case closure and is recommending no further action. This notice informs interested parties including local water agencies, permitting agencies, property owners and occupants, and owners or occupants of parcels adjacent to the Site that the case is being considered for closure and invites public comment on this proposed decision. This notice will also be posted on the Regional Water Board's website.

SITE BACKGROUND AND CURRENT STATUS

Wilbur-Ellis Company operated as a feed production and distribution facility beginning in approximately 1964 until it ceased operation in July 2005. Site operations included distribution of hay, pellets, molasses, bentonite, and dolomite. A permitted 10,000-gallon aboveground diesel storage tank (ADST) was present with secondary containment, until operation ceased in 2005 and all Site equipment was removed including the ADST.

Inside Building 1, two concrete trenches (1,000 gallons each) provided secondary containment for hydraulic piping used in hay press operations. No leaks were observed during an April 2025 inspection. However, a hydraulic oil release likely occurred during equipment removal in late 2025 and later identified during a Site visit in March 2026. Soil sampling confirmed that an unauthorized release occurred impacting shallow soil along

VIVIAN PEREZ, CHAIR | MICHAEL PLACENCIA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

the west side of Building 1, in an area that is approximately 130 feet long and up to 30 feet wide and limited to the upper two feet. The Office Emergency Services and Imperial County Environmental Health were notified, and the case was referred to the Regional Water Board for oversight.

INVESTIGATION AND CLEANUP SUMMARY

- Soil sampling confirmed hydraulic oil as the main contaminant.
- A cleanup goal of 1,600 milligrams/kilogram (mg/kg) was set using the Tier 1 Environmental Screening Level (ESL) developed by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board for motor oil.
- Approximately 260 cubic yards of impacted soil were excavated and disposed at Copper Mountain Landfill (Class II) on July 8–9, 2026.
- Confirmation samples from the excavation showed hydraulic oil concentrations between 15 and 300 mg/kg, all below the cleanup goal.
- Arsenic was detected at background levels (5.33–9.95 mg/kg).
- No groundwater was encountered.
- The excavation was backfilled with clean imported soil meeting Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requirements, and site restoration was completed July 15–16, 2026.

SITE RESTORATION

All cleanup activities were completed, temporary equipment was removed, and the area was restored. The contractor confirmed that road and surface conditions were returned to pre-construction condition.

Based on environmental investigations, soil cleanup activities, and confirmation sampling, the Regional Water Board has determined that the Site no longer poses a threat to human health or the environment under current commercial land use. Cleanup goals were met and no contaminated soil above thresholds remains onsite. The Regional Water Board is now accepting public comments on the proposed case closure.

The complete Site record is available on GeoTracker at:

https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000017079

or scan the QR Code:



SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Regional Water Board will accept written comments on the proposed case closure during a thirty (30) day public comment period, beginning **August 18, 2026**, and ending, **September 17, 2026**. Persons wishing to submit written comments on the proposed case closure are requested to do so by **5:00 pm** on **September 17, 2026**, to be given sufficient consideration.

Interested persons are encouraged to submit their comments electronically. Comments can be submitted to Ms. Phan Le via e-mail: phan.le@waterboards.ca.gov (if less than 10 megabytes in total size), or by fax at (760) 341-6820 with the subject “**Comment Letter – the Wilbur-Ellis Company, Imperial County; Global ID No. T10000017079**”. Written comments may also be mailed to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin
Attn: Ms. Phan Le
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite
100 Palm Desert, CA 92260

Please direct any questions regarding this Notice to Ms. Phan Le at (760) 776-8974 or phan.le@waterboards.ca.gov.

Contact us to request information in your language:

[Spanish: Comuníquese con nosotros para solicitar servicios lingüísticos o información en su idioma]; [Russian: Свяжитесь с нами, чтобы запросить информацию на вашем языке];

[Korean: 귀하의 언어로 작성된 정보를 요청하려면 저희에게 문의하십시오];

[Punjabi: ਆਪਣੇ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ];

[Tagalog: Makipag-ugnayan sa amin para humiling ng impormasyon sa iyong wika].