
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Public Notice No. 7-26-41
Date: October 14, 2026

NOTICE OF PROPOSED NO FURTHER ACTION
for
TRANSFORMER SOYBEAN OIL SPILL, 1102 EAST SIMPSON ROAD
CALIPATRIA, IMPERIAL COUNTY
GEOTRACKER GLOBAL ID No. T10000022551

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin (Regional Water Board), is the agency responsible for protecting groundwater and surface water quality in the region. The Board has completed oversight of investigation and cleanup activities for the Transformer Soybean Oil Spill at 1102 East Simpson Road, Calipatria, a Site owned by Citizens Energy Corporation.

After reviewing all documentation, the Regional Water Board has determined that cleanup requirements have been met and is recommending no further action. This notice informs interested agencies, property owners, and nearby occupants that the case is being considered for closure and invites public comment.

SITE BACKGROUND

Location: The Citizen Imperial Solar Facility is a 96-acre solar farm and substation. The release occurred at a transformer in the southwest portion of the array.
Release: On March 27, 2024, approximately 275 gallons of soybean-oil transformer fluid were released to onsite soil. No surface water or storm drains were affected.
Initial Response: Graymar Environmental Consultant contained the spill, deployed sorbents, and recovered an estimated 15–25 gallons of oil. Early sampling identified diesel- and oil-range total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH-d and TPH-o).

CLEANUP SUMMARY

Excavation: Impacted soil was removed January 7–12, 2026. The final excavation measured about 21 ft × 12.5 ft × 8.5 ft.

Verification: Additional soil was removed where confirmation samples exceeded cleanup levels. Final confirmation samples showed all TPH-d concentrations below Tier 1 levels; TPH-o was not detected. Excavated soil was disposed of at Copper Mountain Landfill.

VIVIAN PEREZ, CHAIR | MICHAEL PLACENCIA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CURRENT STATUS AND SITE RESTORATION

Soil: Cleanup goals have been met. EFI Global recommends no further action for soil.

Groundwater: Although TPH was detected, EFI concludes that source removal, depth to groundwater, and limiting soil layers prevent significant migration. No human-health or environmental risk is anticipated. No further action is recommended.

Site Restoration: The excavation was backfilled with Regional Water Board-approved Class 2 aggregate base in compacted lifts, with geologic oversight.

Public Records

All documents for this case are available on GeoTracker:

https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000022551



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 **October 14, 2026**, and ending, **November 13, 2026**. People wishing to submit written comments on the proposed case closure are requested to do so by **5:00 pm** on **November 13, 2026**, to be given sufficient consideration.

Interested people 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 – Transformer Soybean Oil Spill, Imperial County; Global ID No. T10000022551**”. 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].