

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

8 January 2026

# PUBLIC NOTICE

### **CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION – UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, HICKAM TRUST (PRIVATE RESIDENCE), 20090 AVENUE 264, EXETER, TULARE COUNTY, RB CASE NO 5T54000533**

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 subject address (Site), and to request comments from interested parties. The Site is currently occupied by a vacant private residence. In September 2022, one 550-gallon gasoline underground storage tank (UST) was removed from the Site. Soil samples collected from beneath the former UST indicated the presence of total petroleum hydrocarbons gasoline range (TPHg) at concentrations up to 5,700 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene, and total xylenes (BTEX, collectively) were also analyzed. Toluene was detected in concentration ranging from 34 to 180 mg/kg, ethyl benzene was detected in concentrations ranging from 15 to 66 mg/kg, and total xylenes were detected ranging from 96 to 360 mg/kg. Naphthalene was detected in concentrations ranging from 3.9 to 10 mg/kg and methyl tert butyl ether (MTBE) was not detected that exceeded laboratory method reporting limits. Considered evidence of a release, Tulare County Department of Environmental Health referred the case to the Central Valley Water Board for regulatory oversight.

Soil investigation continued from June 2023 through October 2024 when groundwater monitoring wells were installed. Analytical results indicated the release extended to groundwater. Groundwater monitoring began October 2024 and continued for four consecutive quarters. MTBE was detected in groundwater in concentrations up to 43 micrograms per liter (µg/L) and was reduced to 4.8 µg/L by October 2025. There were no detections of any other analyzed constituent in groundwater to exceed laboratory method reporting limits. A domestic water supply well is onsite which was sampled quarterly; there were no detections of any analyzed constituent that exceeded laboratory method reporting limits.

Soil vapor was analyzed in November 2022 and indicated that benzene, ethyl benzene, and naphthalene exceeded criteria contained in the State Water Resource Control Board's (State Board) *Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy* (Policy) for residential applications. In June 2024 remediation as soil excavation was conducted on the Site with approximately 513,972 pounds of contaminated soil and

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approximately 4,285 pounds of total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline removed. Soil excavation depths ranged from 18 to 50 feet below ground surface, and the Site was backfilled with clean fill. Soil vapor was resampled in December 2024 and there were no detections that exceeded laboratory method reporting limits.

This case has been evaluated for closure based on the evidence presented in the investigation reports and meets the fundamental principles presented in the Policy. Soil and groundwater sample results indicate there should be no 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](http://waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/) available at ([http://waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public\\_notices/](http://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 5T54000533.

Please submit any comments regarding the proposed case closure to the Central Valley Water Board's Fresno office by **9 March 2026**.

Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the Site or 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.