
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

21 July 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION - UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, ITALO'S MINI MART, 785 N STREET, FIREBAUGH, FRESNO COUNTY, RB CASE 5T10000403

To: Offsite Property Owners and Other Interested Persons,

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, and to request comments from interested parties regarding the proposed closure at the Italo's Mini-Mart, 785 N Street, Firebaugh, Fresno County (Site). In accordance with the criteria contained in the State Water Resources Control Board's *Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy* (Policy), the Central Valley Water Board is required to provide the opportunity to interested parties in the vicinity of the Site to participate in the closure process.

The Site is a former gasoline service station but currently is only an operating convenience store. Two 5,000-gallon and one 8,000-gallon gasoline underground storage tanks (USTs) were removed from the Site in October 1992. Analytical results for soil samples collected at the time indicated elevated concentrations of petroleum constituents. From April 2011 through October 2020, several Site investigations were conducted. Work included the installation of soil borings, groundwater monitoring wells, and soil gas wells, to determine the extent of soil, groundwater, and soil gas contamination beneath the Site, and to determine a feasible remediation technology.

Based on the Central Valley Water Board Staff's data evaluation, the Site assessment determined that most of the impacted soil and groundwater was present beneath the source area. Only low to trace concentrations of petroleum constituents were detected in the peripheral wells. Most of the residual impact (secondary source) appeared to be localized in the area beneath the former fuel USTs and dispenser island, and trace to low concentrations extended to groundwater at 18 feet bgs.

In December 2022, approximately 983 tons (7,321 pounds) of hydrocarbon-impacted soil was excavated and disposed of at a licensed disposal facility. Based on the analytical results of confirmation samples collected at the bottom of the excavation, no additional remediation was required. The excavation was backfilled and compacted with clean fill material.

To evaluate the effectiveness of subsurface soil remediation on groundwater quality, and establish the trend of hydrocarbon constituent concentration, monitoring well MW-4R was installed in June 2023. Groundwater wells MW-9 and MW-10 were installed in September 2024.

Groundwater monitoring of all on- and off-Site wells was conducted from December 2015 through December 2025. Initially, elevated petroleum constituent concentrations were detected in groundwater. However, following remedial excavation concentrations have been reduced to low to trace concentrations. On 10 December 2025, analytical results of groundwater sampling for onsite wells MW-4R, MW-9 & MW-10 and off-site well MW-6 indicate low to trace concentrations of petroleum constituents. Low concentrations indicate that the remedial excavation process removed most of the hydrocarbons in the vadose zone within the primary source area. However, off-site wells MW-5, MW-7 & MW-8 northwest of the source area, exhibited higher detections of petroleum constituent concentrations in December 2025, but less than values contained in the Policy.

A Sensitive Receptor Survey reported that no water supply wells were identified within a 1,000-foot radius of the Site. A canal approximately 300 feet northwest, and a second canal approximately 1,000 feet southwest of the Site, were identified. Due to their distance, it is unlikely that groundwater or discharge from the Site could have an adverse impact. The Site and surrounding properties are within the City of Firebaugh Public Water System.

Components of a Conceptual Site Model that assess the nature, extent, and mobility of the release have been developed. Based on the sample analytical results, the vertical and lateral extent of petroleum hydrocarbon constituents in soil and groundwater have been adequately assessed.

Based on the concentrations of petroleum constituents in shallow soil, the case meets the criteria contained in the Policy for Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure, and the Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air requirements. It is concluded that the concentrations of petroleum constituents in shallow soil should have no significant risk of adversely affecting human health and the environment.

Soil removal action and offsite disposal conducted in 2022 appears successful in mitigating the secondary source of hydrocarbons. Groundwater monitoring has demonstrated the plume is stable and decreasing. Based on the attenuating concentrations of remaining trace petroleum hydrocarbons in soil and the low petroleum impact to groundwater, residual petroleum hydrocarbons should not present a threat to human health, the environment, or beneficial uses of groundwater. The residual petroleum concentrations in soil and groundwater will be further reduced by natural attenuation/degradation, and no further action regarding this release is necessary.

The Central Valley Water Board Staff conclude that the case meets the General and Media-Specific criteria contained in the Policy and satisfies the case closure requirements of Health and Safety Code section 25296.10.

This [Public Notice](#) has been transmitted to interested parties in the area and is posted on the website (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/) under Public Notices, Underground Storage Tanks-Decisions Pending & Case Closures. Details of the Site assessment and cleanup are also available through the State Water Board [GeoTracker](#) website (<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) by searching for case number **5T10000403**. This information may also be reviewed at the Central Valley Water Board office at 1685 E Street in Fresno, California.

You may participate in the case closure process by reviewing technical reports, asking questions, and providing comments. Comments regarding the proposed closure need to be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board at the above-listed address by **21 September 2026**. Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the Site or the proposed action should contact Khalid Durrani at the above address, by e-mail at khalid.durrani@waterboards.ca.gov, or by telephone at (559) 445-6191.

On completion of the public comment period and in the absence of substantive comment against closure being granted, Central Valley Water Board Staff will proceed with the closure process for the case.