

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
ORDER WQ 2025-0037-UST

**In the Matter of Underground Storage Tank (UST) Case Closure
Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10 and the
Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy**

BY THE CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR:¹

By this order, the Chief Deputy Director directs closure of the UST case at the site listed below, pursuant to section 25296.10 of the Health and Safety Code.² The name of the responsible party(ies), the site name, the site address, the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Fund) claim number if applicable, current and former lead agencies, and case numbers are as follows:

Equilon Enterprises LLC dba Shell Oil Products US (Responsible Party)

Shell #8990

8990 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, Orange County, CA

Fund Claim No. 4558

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Case No. 083000369T

Orange County Local Oversight Program, Case No. 86UT074

¹ State Water Board Resolution No. 2023-0036 delegates to the Executive Director the authority to close or require the closure of any UST case if the case meets the criteria found in the State Water Board's Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy adopted by State Water Board Resolution No. 2012-0016. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2023-0036, the Executive Director has delegated this authority to the Chief Deputy Director.

² Unless otherwise noted, all references are to the California Health and Safety Code.

I. STATUTORY AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

Upon review of a UST case, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is authorized to close or require closure of a UST case where an unauthorized release has occurred, if the State Water Board determines that corrective action at the site is in compliance with all the requirements of subdivisions (a) and (b) of section 25296.10. The State Water Board, or in certain cases the State Water Board Executive Director or Chief Deputy Director, may close a case or require the closure of a UST case. Closure of a UST case is appropriate where the corrective action ensures the protection of human health, safety, and the environment and where the corrective action is consistent with: 1) chapter 6.7 of division 20 of the Health and Safety Code and implementing regulations; 2) any applicable waste discharge requirements or other orders issued pursuant to division 7 of the Water Code; 3) all applicable state policies for water quality control; and 4) all applicable water quality control plans.

State Water Board staff has completed a review of the UST case identified above, and recommends that this case be closed. The recommendation is based upon the facts and circumstances of this particular UST case. The attached UST Case Closure Summary has been prepared for the case identified above and is incorporated by reference. The UST case record that is the basis for determining compliance with the Water Quality Control Policy for Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closures (Low-Threat Closure Policy or Policy) is available on the State Water Board's GeoTracker database.

GeoTracker Case Record: <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?gid=T0605900294>

Low-Threat Closure Policy

The Policy became effective on August 17, 2012. The Policy establishes consistent statewide case closure criteria for certain low threat petroleum UST sites. In the absence of unique attributes or site-specific conditions that demonstrably increase the risk associated with residual petroleum constituents, cases that meet the general and media-specific criteria in the Low-Threat Closure Policy pose a low threat to human health, safety, the environment, and are appropriate for closure under Health and Safety

Code section 25296.10. The Policy provides that if a regulatory agency determines that a case meets the general and media-specific criteria of the Policy, then the regulatory agency shall notify responsible parties and other specified interested persons that the case is eligible for case closure. Unless the regulatory agency revises its determination based on comments received on the proposed case closure, the Policy provides that the agency shall issue a uniform closure letter as specified in Health and Safety Code section 25296.10. The uniform closure letter may only be issued after the expiration of the 60-day comment period, proper destruction or maintenance of monitoring wells or borings, and removal of waste associated with investigation and remediation of the site.

Health and Safety Code section 25299.57, subdivision (I)(1) provides that claims for reimbursement of corrective action costs that are received by the Fund more than 365 days after the date of a uniform closure letter or a letter of commitment, whichever occurs later, shall not be reimbursed unless specified conditions are satisfied.

II. FINDINGS

Based upon the facts in the UST record and the hydrogeologic conditions at the site, as summarized in the attached UST Case Closure Summary, the State Water Board finds that corrective action taken to address the unauthorized release of petroleum at the UST release site identified as:

Equilon Enterprises LLC dba Shell Oil Products US (Responsible Party)

Shell #8990

8990 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, Orange County, CA

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ensures protection of human health, safety, and the environment and is consistent with chapter 6.7 of division 20 of the Health and Safety Code and implementing regulations, the Low-Threat Closure Policy and with other applicable water quality control policies and plans.

The unauthorized release from the UST consisted only of petroleum. This order directs closure for the petroleum UST case at the site. This order does not address non-petroleum contamination at the site, if non-petroleum contamination is present.

Pursuant to the Low-Threat Closure Policy, notification has been provided to all entities that are required to receive notice of the proposed case closure, a 60-day comment period has been provided to notified parties, and any comments received have been considered by the State Water Board in determining that the case should be closed.

Pursuant to section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code, environmental impacts associated with the adoption of this order were analyzed in the substitute environmental document (SED) the State Water Board approved on May 1, 2012. The SED concludes that all environmental effects of adopting and implementing the Low-Threat Closure Policy are less than significant, and environmental impacts as a result of adopting this order in compliance with the Policy are no different from the impacts that are reasonably foreseen as a result of the Policy itself. A Notice of Decision was filed August 17, 2012. No new environmental impacts or any additional reasonably foreseeable impacts beyond those that were addressed in the SED will result from adopting this order.

The UST case identified above may be the subject of orders issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) pursuant to division 7 of the Water Code. Any orders that have been issued by the Regional Water Board pursuant to division 7 of the Water Code, or directives issued by a Local Oversight Program (LOP) agency for this case should be rescinded to the extent they are inconsistent with this order.

III. ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

- A. The UST case identified in Section II of this order, meeting the general and media-specific criteria established in the Low-Threat Closure Policy, be closed in accordance with the following conditions and after the following actions are complete. Prior to the issuance of a uniform closure letter, the responsible party(ies) is/are ordered to:
1. Properly destroy any and all monitoring wells and borings unless the owner of real property on which the well or boring is located certifies that the wells or borings will be maintained in accordance with local or state requirements;
 2. Properly remove from the site and manage any and all waste piles, drums, debris, and other investigation and remediation derived materials in accordance with local or state requirements; and
 3. Within six months of the date of this order, submit documentation to the regulatory agency overseeing the UST case identified in Section II of this order that the tasks in subparagraphs (1) and (2) have been completed.
- B. The tasks in subparagraphs (1) and (2) of Paragraph (A) are ordered pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25296.10, and failure to comply with these requirements may result in the imposition of civil penalties pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25299, subdivision (d)(1). Penalties may be imposed administratively by the State Water Board or Regional Water Board.
- C. Within 30 days of receipt of proper documentation from the responsible party(ies) that requirements in subparagraphs (1) and (2) of Paragraph (A) are complete, the regulatory agency that is responsible for oversight of the UST case identified in Section II of this order shall notify the State Water Board that the tasks have been satisfactorily completed.
- D. Within 30 days of notification from the regulatory agency that the tasks are complete pursuant to Paragraph (C), the Deputy Director of the Division of Water

Quality shall issue a uniform closure letter consistent with Health and Safety Code section 25296.10, subdivision (g) and upload the uniform closure letter to GeoTracker.

- E. Pursuant to section 25299.57, subdivision (l)(1), and except in specified circumstances, all claims for reimbursement of corrective action costs must be received by the Fund within 365 days of issuance of the uniform closure letter in order for the costs to be considered.
- F. Any Regional Water Board or LOP agency directive or order that directs corrective action or other action inconsistent with case closure for the UST case identified in Section II is rescinded, but only to the extent the Regional Water Board order or LOP agency directive is inconsistent with this order.



Chief Deputy Director

June 10, 2025

Date

State Water Resources Control Board

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) CASE CLOSURE SUMMARY

Agency Information

Agency Name: Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board)	Address: 3737 Main Street, Suite 500 Riverside, CA 92501
Agency Caseworker: Chris Marino	Case No.: 083000369T

Case Information

UST Cleanup Fund (Fund) Claim No.: 4558	Global ID: T0605900294
Site Name: Shell #8990	Site Address: 8990 Westminster Boulevard Westminster, CA 92683 (Site)
Responsible Party: Equilon Enterprises LLC dba Shell Oil Products US Attention: Alex Meza	Address: 20945 S. Wilmington Avenue Carson, CA 90810
Fund Expenditures to Date: \$909,472	Number of Years Case Open: 38

GeoTracker Case Record: <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?gid=T0605900294>

Summary

This case has been proposed for closure by the State Water Resources Control Board at the request of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, which concurs with closure.

The Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy (Policy) contains general and media-specific criteria, and cases that meet those criteria are appropriate for closure pursuant to the Policy because they pose a low threat to human health, safety, and the environment. The Site meets all of the required criteria of the Policy and therefore, is subject to closure.

Shell #8990, T0605900294
8990 Westminster Blvd., Westminster

The Site operated as a commercial fueling facility until March 2002. In April 2004, the Site was redeveloped to its current use as a commercial office and retail building. The release was discovered in 1986 during removal and replacement of the facility's gasoline USTs. From February 1989 to January 1996, 1,316,167 gallons of petroleum-impacted groundwater were removed via a groundwater extraction system. An additional 976 gallons of petroleum-impacted groundwater was extracted through biweekly over-purging events conducted in April 1999. In March 2002, the three 10,000-gallon gasoline USTs, fuel dispensers, and associated piping were removed from the Site. In April 2003, 2,517 tons of petroleum hydrocarbon-impacted soils and approximately 55,000 gallons of hydrocarbon-impacted groundwater were removed from the former UST pit and former dispenser islands and were disposed of off-site. The excavation was backfilled with 900 pounds of oxygen release compound (ORC) added to the backfill material. In July 2009, ORC was injected into nine locations near the former groundwater monitoring well, MW-25. tertiary butyl alcohol (TBA) remains above the California Division of Drinking Water Notification Level of 12 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$).

The Orange County Water District objected to closure of the Site three times between 2012 and 2015, with the position that TBA-affected groundwater was not fully defined and that there was insufficient data to demonstrate that the plume was stable or decreasing in areal extent. In 2018, 2020, and 2023 additional site investigation was completed to laterally and vertically delineate the remaining TBA plume.

Remaining TBA concentrations have been vertically and laterally delineated, and the remaining TBA plume is less than 250 feet in length. Concentrations of TBA have been decreasing over time from a historical high of 63,000 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in 2001 (B-01) to 720 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in 2023 (HP-1-30). The closest active public drinking water supply well is 2,900 ft north and upgradient of the Site. It is improbable that remaining TBA concentrations will impact the drinking water supply and therefore, poses a low risk to human health and the environment.

Remaining petroleum constituents are limited, stable, and decreasing. Additional assessment would be unnecessary and will not likely change the conceptual model. Any remaining petroleum constituents do not pose significant risk to human health, safety, or the environment under current conditions.

Rationale for Closure Under the Policy

- General Criteria – Site **MEETS ALL EIGHT GENERAL CRITERIA** under the Policy.
- **Groundwater Media-Specific Criteria – Site meets the criteria in Class 2.**
The contaminant plume that exceeds water quality objectives is less than 250 feet in length. There is no free product. The nearest existing water supply well or surface water body is greater than 1,000 feet from the defined plume boundary. The dissolved concentration of benzene is less than 3,000 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), and the dissolved concentration of MTBE is less than 1,000 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

- **Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air – Site meets Criteria 2 (a), Scenario 4.** The concentrations of benzene, ethylbenzene, and naphthalene in soil gas are less than the Policy limits as it applies to the bioattenuation zone, land use, and existing or planned future building structures at the Site.
- **Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure – Site meets Criteria 3 (a).** Maximum concentrations of petroleum constituents in soil from confirmation soil samples are less than or equal to those listed in Table 1 of the Policy.

There are no soil sample results in the case record for naphthalene. However, the relative concentration of naphthalene in soil can be conservatively estimated using the published relative concentrations of naphthalene and benzene in gasoline. Taken from Potter and Simmons (1998), gasoline mixtures contain approximately 2% benzene and 0.25% naphthalene. Therefore, benzene concentrations can be used as a surrogate for naphthalene concentrations with a safety factor of eight. Benzene concentrations from the Site are below the naphthalene thresholds in Table 1 of the Policy. Therefore, estimated naphthalene concentrations meet the thresholds in Table 1 and the Policy criteria for direct contact with a safety factor of eight. It is highly unlikely that naphthalene concentrations in the soil, if any, exceed the threshold.

Recommendation for Closure

The corrective action performed at this Site ensures the protection of human health, safety, and the environment. The corrective action performed at this Site is consistent with chapter 6.7 of division 20 of the Health and Safety Code, implementing regulations, applicable state policies for water quality control and applicable water quality control plans. Case closure is recommended.

Prepared by:



Julie Johnson, P.G. No. 9707
Engineering Geologist

2/14/2025

Date

Reviewed By:



Dayna Cordano, P.G. No. 9694
Senior Engineering Geologist

02/28/2025

Date

