

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
ORDER WQ 2021-0015-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, 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:

Ms. Lucia Hong (Responsible Party)

Shell Moreno

13260 Highway 215, Moreno Valley, Riverside County

Fund Claim No. 10445

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Case No. 083301990T (Current)

Riverside County Department of Health, Case No. 89172 (Former)

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

¹ State Water Board Resolution No. 2012-0061 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. 2012-0061, 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.

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 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=T0606500255>

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:

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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 is ordered to:

- 1. Properly destroy 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 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 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

May 6, 2021

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: Kenneth Williams	Case No.: 083301990T

Case Information

UST Cleanup Fund (Fund) Claim No.: 10445	Global ID: T0606500255
Site Name: Shell Moreno	Site Address: 13260 Highway 215 Moreno Valley, CA 92553 (Site)
Responsible Party: Property Owner Attention: Ms. Lucia Hong	Address: 7825 Winship Way Colton, CA 92324
Fund Expenditures to Date: \$254,086	Number of Years Case Open: 32

GeoTracker Case Record: <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?gid=T0606500255>

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.

The Site is a former fueling service station and is currently a vacant lot. The unauthorized release was discovered in February 1989 during removal of the fuel dispensing equipment and the five underground storage tanks (USTs), which were removed by Jetco Underground & Utilities Company. The USTs consisted of one 8,000-

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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gallon regular gasoline UST, one 3,000-gallon unleaded gasoline UST, two 2,000-gallon unleaded gasoline USTs, and one 500-gallon waste-oil UST.

Soil and groundwater monitoring and investigations have been conducted at the Site since 1989. Soil borings were advanced in multiple events to characterize total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPHg) and BTEX impacts in and around the UST excavation as far down as 70 feet below ground surface (fbgs). In 1991, an excavation to remove impacted soil was conducted but ceased at a depth of 30 fbgs when heavily impacted soil was encountered. The excavation was backfilled with onsite materials and a vapor extraction system was installed on the excavated soils. Groundwater monitoring wells MW-1, MW-2, and MW-3 were installed in 1994 and wells MW-4 and MW-5 were installed in 2007. Free product was not observed in onsite soils nor in groundwater monitoring wells.

Groundwater monitoring events were conducted from 2007 to 2013, and single groundwater monitoring events were conducted once in 2014 and then in 2016. In 2018, soil and groundwater investigations were conducted to fill data gaps and determine the extent of impacted groundwater around MW-3. Three hydropunch groundwater samples and seven soil borings were completed. Remaining TPHg and benzene impacts in groundwater are limited to <100 feet around MW-3 with concentrations of 7,430 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) and 1,170 $\mu\text{g/L}$, respectively. Soil samples were collected at 5 and 10 fbgs at each soil boring location. Trace amounts of naphthalene, total xylenes, and ethanol were detected at maximum concentrations of 0.002 mg/kg, 0.005 mg/kg, and 0.544 mg/kg, respectively, which are less than the maximum concentrations listed in Table 1 of the Policy.

In 2019, depth to groundwater onsite was approximately 25 fbgs. The groundwater gradient at the site trends predominantly to the northwest and the nearest active drinking water supply well is approximately 1,750 feet to the east northeast. The data provided show that the remaining TPHg and benzene impacts to groundwater are limited to an area less than 100 feet in length. It is unlikely that impacted groundwater at the site will be used for drinking water in the future and therefore does not pose a significant risk to human health. Assessment of soil conditions in the top 10 feet confirmed that remaining petroleum constituents are limited, below the maximum concentrations in Table 1 of the Policy and pose no significant risk to human health. Since 1994, total TPHg has been <100 mg/kg in soils from 30 fbgs to the surface since 1994. Therefore, no complete pathway for vapor intrusion exists.

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.

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- Groundwater Media-Specific Criteria – Site meets the criteria in **Class 1**. The contaminant plume that exceeds water quality objectives is less than 100 feet in length. There is no free product. The nearest existing water supply well or surface water body is greater than 250 feet from the defined plume boundary.
- Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air – Site meets **Criteria 2 (b)**. A Site-specific risk assessment for the vapor intrusion pathway was conducted under the policy and demonstrates that human health is protected to the satisfaction of the regulatory agency.
- 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.

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 A. Johnson, PG No. 9707
Engineering Geologist

4/15/21

Date

Reviewed By:



Matthew Cohen, PG No. 9077
Senior Engineering Geologist

4/20/21

Date

