

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

ORDER WQ 2018-0003 – UST

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**In the Matter of Underground Storage Tank Case Closure**

**Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25299.39.2 and the Low-Threat  
Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy**

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**BY THE CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR:<sup>1</sup>**

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25299.39.2, the Manager of the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Fund) recommends closure of the underground storage tank (UST) case at the site listed below.<sup>2</sup> By this order, the Chief Deputy Director directs closure of the UST case. The name of the Fund claimant, the Fund claim number, the site name and the applicable site address, and the lead agency are as follows:

**ExxonMobil Corporation  
Claim No. 1331  
Exxon #7-3525  
14781 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine**

**Orange County Health Care Agency  
Agency Case Number 89UT107**

**I. STATUTORY AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

Section 25299.39.2 directs the Fund Manager to review the case history of claims that have been active for five years or more (five-year review), unless there is an objection from the UST owner or operator. This section further authorizes the Fund Manager to make recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for closure of a five-year-review case if the UST owner or operator approves. In response to a recommendation by the Fund Manager, the State Water Board, or in certain cases the State

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all references are to the Health and Safety Code.

Water Board Executive Director, or Chief Deputy Director, may close 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.

The Fund Manager has completed a five-year 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. A UST Case Closure Review Summary Report has been prepared for the case identified above and the bases for determining compliance with the Water Quality Control Policy for Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closures (Policy) are explained in the Case Closure Review Summary Report.

In State Water Board Resolution No. 2012-0016, the State Water Board adopted the 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 Policy pose a low threat to human health, safety and 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 closure letter as specified in Health and Safety Code section 25296.10. The closure letter may be issued only 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 closure letter or a Letter of Commitment, whichever occurs later, shall not be reimbursed unless specified conditions are satisfied. A Letter of Commitment has already been issued for the claim subject to this order and the respective Fund claimant, so the 365-day

timeframe for the submittal of claims for corrective action costs will start upon the issuance of the closure letter.

## II. FINDINGS

Based upon the UST Case Closure Review Summary Report prepared for the case and attached hereto, the State Water Board finds that corrective action taken to address the unauthorized release of petroleum at the UST release site identified as:

**Claim No. 1331**  
**Exxon #7-3525**

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 Policy, and 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.<sup>3</sup>

Pursuant to the 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 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 Policy are less than significant, and environmental impacts as a result of complying 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 not 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 agency for this case should be rescinded to the extent they are inconsistent with this Order.

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<sup>3</sup>This order addresses only the petroleum UST case for the site. This order does not affect any order or directive requiring corrective action for non-petroleum contamination, if non-petroleum contamination is present.

### **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 Policy, be closed in accordance with the following conditions and after the following actions are complete. Prior to the issuance of a closure letter, the Fund claimant 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 on page 1 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 Fund claimant 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 Financial Assistance shall issue a closure letter consistent with Health and Safety Code section 25296.10, subdivision (g) and upload the closure letter and UST Case Closure Review Summary Report to GeoTracker.
- E. As specified in Health and Safety Code section 25299.39.2, subdivision (a) (2), corrective action costs incurred after a recommendation of closure shall be limited to \$10,000 per year unless the Board or its delegated representative agrees that corrective action in excess of that amount is necessary to meet closure requirements, or additional corrective actions are necessary pursuant to section 25296.10, subdivisions (a) and (b). 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 closure letter in order for the costs to be considered.
- F. Any Regional Water Board or Local Oversight Program 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 Local Oversight Program Agency directive is inconsistent with this Order.



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Chief Deputy Director

2/23/18

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Date

State Water Resources Control Board

UST CASE CLOSURE REVIEW SUMMARY REPORT

Case Information

USTCF Claim No.: 1331	GeoTracker Global ID: T0605901000
Site Name: Exxon #7-3525	Site Address: 14781 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618
Responsible Party: Dok Choe ExxonMobil Environmental Services Company	Address: 17853 Santiago Boulevard, Suite 107-306, Villa Park, CA 92861
USTCF Expenditures to Date: \$1,460,989	Number of Years Case Open: 27
Fund Budget Category: None currently chosen	

Agency Information

Agency Name: Orange County Health Care Agency (County)	Address: 1241 East Dyer Road, Suite 120, Santa Ana, CA 92705
Agency Caseworker: Julie Wozencraft	Case No.: 89UT107

Consultant History

Consultant: Cardno ERI	Registered Professional Signatory: Andy Nelson, PG
Years: 2011- Present	Office Phone: (949) 457-8950
Consultant: Environmental Resolutions, Inc.	Registered Professional Signatory: James Leist, REA
Years: 1997-2010	Office Phone: (949) 457-8929
Consultant: SECOR	Registered Professional Signatory: NA
Years: 1994 -1996	Office Phone: NA
Consultant: EA Engineering and Science Technology, Inc.	Registered Professional Signatory: NA
Years: 1989 -1993	Office Phone: NA

To view all public documents for this case available on GeoTracker use the following URL:  
[http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=T0605901000](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0605901000)

Summary

The Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank (UST) Case Closure Policy (Policy) contains general and media-specific criteria, and cases that meet those criteria are appropriate for closure pursuant to the Policy. This case meets all of the required criteria of the Policy. Highlights of the case follow:

This Site is located inside the northbound off-ramp loop of the Interstate 5 freeway at Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine, within the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right-of-way. The

Site is the former location of a petroleum fueling facility, and consists of a vacant lot. Due to the widening of Sand Canyon Avenue, former locations of the fueling facility dispenser islands are now beneath Sand Canyon Avenue. An unauthorized release was reported in June 1989 following the removal of four USTs (three gasoline and one waste oil). Reportedly, 447 cubic yards of impacted soil were excavated as part of remedial activities and transported offsite for disposal in February 1990. Soil vapor extraction with air sparging was conducted intermittently at the Site between September 2004 and January 2015, removing approximately 11,200 pounds of vapor-phase total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPHg). Active remediation has not been conducted at the Site for the past year. Since 1994, twelve groundwater monitoring wells have been installed and regularly monitored. According to groundwater data, water quality objectives (WQO) have not been achieved.

The petroleum release is limited to the soil and shallow groundwater. The affected groundwater is not currently being used as a source of drinking water, and it is highly unlikely that the affected groundwater will be used as a source of drinking water in the foreseeable future. Other designated beneficial uses of impacted groundwater are not threatened, and it is highly unlikely that they will be, considering these factors in the context of the site setting. Remaining petroleum hydrocarbon constituents are limited and stable, and concentrations are decreasing. Corrective actions have been implemented and additional corrective actions are not necessary. Any remaining petroleum hydrocarbon constituents do not pose a significant risk to human health, safety or the environment.

### **Rationale for Closure under the Policy**

#### **General Criteria:**

The case meets all eight Policy criteria.

#### **Media-Specific Criteria:**

- **Groundwater:** Site meets the criteria in **Class 5**. The contaminant plume that exceeds WQOs is less than 200 feet. There is no free product. The nearest water supply well or surface water body is greater than 3,000 feet from the defined plume boundary. The dissolved concentration of benzene is less than 12,000 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) and the dissolved concentration of MTBE is less than 1.0  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Since 2010, the dissolved concentrations of benzene in downgradient and cross-gradient monitoring wells 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8 have been less than 1.0  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . The contaminant plume is decreasing in areal extent and beneath Sand Canyon Avenue (a six lane road). Therefore, the plume does not pose a significant threat to human health and the environment.
- **Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air:** Site meets **Criteria 2 (b)**. The following Site-specific risk evaluation for the vapor intrusion pathway was conducted and demonstrates that human health has been protected to the satisfaction of the regulatory agency. The bioattenuation zone is a continuous zone that provides a separation of at least 50 feet vertically between dissolved concentrations in groundwater and the surface. The sum of all total petroleum hydrocarbon concentrations as gasoline and diesel is less than 100 mg/kg throughout the entire depth of the bioattenuation zone. Footings for Interstate 5 have been constructed where the former fueling facility was located. It is highly unlikely that any buildings will be constructed at the Site.
- **Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure:** Site meets **Criteria 3 (b)**. Maximum concentrations of benzene and ethylbenzene in soil are less than or equal to those listed in Table 1 for the specified depth below ground surface (bgs). For benzene and ethylbenzene, both the 0 to 5 feet bgs concentration limits and the 5 to 10 feet bgs concentration limits for the appropriate site classification (Residential or Commercial/Industrial) have been satisfied. The shallowest soil sample that was analyzed for naphthalene was collected at 15 feet bgs and indicated a

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August 2017

concentration of 5.7 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). This concentration is less than the Table 1 concentration of 45 mg/kg for residential and commercial land use scenarios. Because of the Site location and its current use (beneath a freeway overcrossing) a Site-specific evaluation of risk demonstrates that human health has been protected to the satisfaction of the regulatory agency.

**Determination**

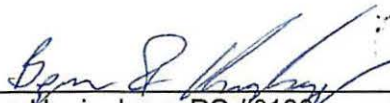
Based on the review performed in accordance with Health & Safety Code Section 25299.39.2 subdivision (a), the Fund Manager has determined that closure of the case is appropriate.

**Recommendation for Closure**

Based on available information, residual petroleum hydrocarbons at the Site do not pose a significant risk to human health, safety, or the environment, and the case meets the requirements of the Policy. Accordingly, the Fund Manager recommends that the case be closed. The State Water Board staff is conducting public notification as required by the Policy. The County has the regulatory responsibility to supervise the abandonment of monitoring wells.


Please contact Ben Heningburg at (916) 449-5605 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Ben Heningburg, PG #8130  
Supervising Engineering Geologist  
Chief, Technical Section I



8/30/17  
Date

  
Lisa Horowitz McCann  
Fund Manager – Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund  
Assistant Deputy Director, Division of Financial Assistance

9/7/17  
Date

cc: Ben Heningburg