

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 2010
Prepared November 10, 2010

ITEM NUMBER: 7
SUBJECT: Staff Closures
THIS ACTION: Information/Discussion

This staff report summarizes information for two Central Coast Water Board staff-closed Underground Storage Tank (UST) cases. Central Coast Water Board staff closed these sites because the wastes in soil do not pose a threat to human health and the environment and, if applicable, the groundwater beneath each site has reached water quality goals that are protective of beneficial uses. No Central Coast Water Board action is necessary for this item.

For each of the sites listed in this report, closure reflects a tangible water quality outcome, meaning groundwater has been restored such that it meets water quality goals sufficient for the designated beneficial uses. Table 1 below provides case closure targets for the current fiscal year (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011) and progress to date in achieving those tangible water quality outcomes.

**Table 1
Case Closure Performance Scoreboard**

Program	2010-2011 Fiscal Year¹ Case Closure Target	Case Closures To Date^{2,3}
Department of Defense	15	7
Underground Storage Tanks	17	7
Site Cleanup	12	4

Notes:

- ¹ Fiscal Year 2010-2011 runs July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.
- ² Final closure letters are not issued for sites until documentation of proper well abandonment has been provided.
- ³ This total includes sites with pending well destruction and does not include Recommended Closures on current agenda.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CASE CLOSURES:

Quik Stop Market, 1 Porter Drive, Pajaro, Monterey County [John Goni 805 542 4628]

Central Coast Water Board staff plans to close this leaking underground storage tank (UST) case where groundwater sample results indicate total petroleum hydrocarbons and fuel oxygenates are below detection limits or below the Central Coast Water Board's cleanup goals.

This facility has operated as a convenience store and retail gasoline station since 1973. In 1997, consultants replaced two 10,000-gallon underground storage tanks with double-walled tanks. Approximately 500 cubic yards of soil were also removed during the upgrade and disposed at an appropriate landfill. At the time of tank upgrade, consultants discovered and removed a previously unknown 500-gallon waste oil tank. Subsequent investigations found

gasoline contaminants in soil under the former tanks, and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in groundwater at concentrations of 140 ug/L and 5.7 ug/L in two on-site groundwater monitoring wells. Off-site groundwater samples confirmed MTBE was confined to the site and limited in extent. Given the relatively low concentrations and stability of the MTBE plume, Water Board staff agreed to monitored natural attenuation for the contaminants. Subsequent monitoring of groundwater showed the attenuation of all constituents of concern to below cleanup goals.

The site lies within a groundwater basin designated as having beneficial uses for domestic and municipal supply and agricultural supply. Depth to groundwater beneath the site varies between eleven and nineteen feet below ground surface (bgs). The groundwater gradient is to the northwest. There are two drinking water wells within ½ mile of the site. One inactive well is cross-gradient to the east of the site. The other well is approximately ½ mile northwest of the site in the City of Watsonville. Any residual contamination is unlikely to reach either of these wells due to the distance to the wells and the very limited extent of the contamination.

Based on site investigation and groundwater monitoring results, there is no longer a threat to groundwater or surface water quality from the release of petroleum hydrocarbons at this site. No further investigation or cleanup is necessary at this site. Monterey County Health Department staff concurs with case closure. We have notified all interested parties of our plan to close this case and have not received any comments or objections to the planned closure of this case. Central Coast Water Board staff will close this case, and the Executive Officer will issue a final case closure letter upon receipt of a final well destruction report for the remaining groundwater monitoring wells.

Pintor's Tire and Fuel, 22301 El Camino Real, Santa Margarita, San Luis Obispo County (Corey Walsh 805-542-4781)

Central Coast Water Board staff plans to close this UST case where groundwater sample results indicate petroleum hydrocarbon constituents, including total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), benzene, and MTBE are below the Central Coast Water Board's cleanup goals.

The subject site is an active retail fuel service station and tire shop located on the southwest corner of El Camino Real and Encina Avenue within the town of Santa Margarita. The property is surrounded by mixed commercial and residential properties. Mr. Chris Pintor is the property owner and party responsible for cleanup of the subject site.

Under the direction of San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Services (EHS) the responsible party commissioned a preliminary assessment prior to relining of two 5,000-gallon USTs and upgrades to the fuel distribution system. The results of the assessment indicated that soil beneath the USTs and fuel dispensers had been impacted by petroleum hydrocarbons. On June 18, 2004 San Luis Obispo County EHS requested additional soil and groundwater assessment. The subsequent assessment found soil and groundwater contamination at concentrations greater than regulatory cleanup goals in two borings at locations near the northeast fuel dispenser. The assessment also found soil contamination at between four and seven feet bgs, and groundwater impacted with total petroleum hydrocarbons benzene, and MTBE.

The responsible party chose soil excavation to cleanup the site, removing approximately 211 cubic yards of contaminated soil and disposing of the soil at an appropriate landfill off-site.

The site lies within a groundwater basin designated as having beneficial uses for domestic and municipal supply and agricultural supply. The depth to groundwater is between approximately two and nine feet bgs. Currently groundwater flows to the north-northeast at a gradient of 0.008 ft/ft. One active and two inactive water supply wells are located approximately 1,800 feet southwest of the site. A fourth active water supply well is located approximately 2,100 feet east of the site. In addition, one irrigation well is located approximately 1,300 ft northeast of the site. All of these wells are unlikely to be impacted by any residual contamination considering the groundwater flow direction, well distances, well construction, and low contaminant concentration remaining.

Some residual soil contamination exists beneath the subject property near the fuel dispenser remedial excavation, extending off-site toward the north and underlying El Camino Real. Soil sample analysis from April 1999 and September 2007 indicate residual TPH, benzene, and MTBE at concentrations slightly above cleanup goals. Any remaining soil contamination is expected to attenuate over time.

Based on site investigation and groundwater monitoring results, there is no longer a threat to groundwater or surface water quality from the release of petroleum hydrocarbons at this site. Central Coast Water Board staff has no further requirements for soil or groundwater investigation, monitoring, or cleanup at the site. The San Luis Obispo County EHS agrees with this determination. Central Coast Water Board staff also notified the property owner, and other interested parties of the proposed case closure. We have not received any comments or objections to the planned closure of this case. The responsible party has been directed to destroy all monitoring wells. The Central Coast Water Board staff will close this case, and the Executive Officer will issue a final case closure letter, upon receipt of a well destruction report documenting the proper destruction of monitoring wells.

