



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

PUBLIC NOTICE: PROPOSED SITE CLEANUP CASE CLOSURE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: 6 January 2025 through 7 March 2025

NORTH RIPON ROAD SPILL; 21800 NORTH RIPON ROAD, RIPON, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY; REGIONAL CASE #SLT5S202, GLOBAL ID #SLT5S2023241

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) invites public comment on the proposed case closure of the North Ripon Road Spill cleanup case located at 21800 North Ripon Road in Ripon (property).

On 14 February 1994, a truck driver spilled approximately 1,500 gallons of liquid fertilizer on the intersection between East River Road and North Ripon Road. The fertilizer pooled on the road and flowed onto the northern and western edges of the property. A map of the property showing the approximate area of the fertilizer spill is attached as Figure 1.

Following the spill, the San Joaquin County Public Works Department excavated soil about 6 feet wide by 10 inches deep, extending about 100 feet east of the intersection and about 180 feet south of the intersection. In March 1994, the San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department collected soil samples from the spill area and detected a high level of nitrate. The property owner also analyzed a groundwater sample from the domestic supply well on the property and detected nitrate above the drinking water standards (Environmental Protection Agency's Maximum Contaminant Level).

In October 2022, Central Valley Water Board staff collected and analyzed a groundwater sample from the domestic well on the property for nitrate and other fertilizer byproducts. The level of nitrate in the groundwater sample was above drinking water standards but was consistent with nitrate levels in other wells within a two-mile radius of the property. The amount of nitrate in the well on the property is likely from both agricultural activities in the area and residual impacts from the fertilizer spill.

Central Valley Water Board staff has determined that the case may be eligible for closure. Central Valley Water Board staff is issuing this notice and providing a 60-day public comment period to the owners and occupants of the property and nearby properties and to other interested parties. Central Valley Water Board staff will consider comments when evaluating the case closure.

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can obtain additional information on the [State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker website](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/) (<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>). Please contact Mitch Messmer with the Central Valley Water Board if you have any comments or questions about this Public Notice or about the environmental cleanup activities for the North Ripon Road Spill case:

Mitch Messmer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 464-5817
mitch.messmer@waterboards.ca.gov

Language Services

This notice is available in English and Spanish. To request the translation of a written document or interpretation services to contact Water Board Staff regarding the proposed cleanup case closure, please use **one** of the following options:

- Submit a [Language Services Request](#) online.
- Call the Office of Public Participation at (916) 341-5254.
- Email the Office of Public Participation at OPP-languageServices@Waterboards.ca.gov.

Notice to the Hearing Impaired

TDD users can obtain information about the cleanup case by using the California State Relay Service (800) 735-2929 to reach the Public Participation Specialist. Ask them to contact the Central Valley Water Board at (916) 464-3291 regarding the Public Notice for the proposed closure of the North Ripon Road Spill cleanup case.

ATTACHMENT

Figure 1



Figure 1: Aerial image of the property that shows the approximate area of the fertilizer spill