

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

10 September 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION – UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, NILES MARKET, 3818 NILES STREET, BAKERSFIELD, KERN COUNTY, RB CASE NO. 5T15000945

This letter is to inform interested parties of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Water Board) consideration of case closure for the subject address (Site), and to request comments from interested parties. The Site is currently an operating commercial fueling facility and a convenience store.

The Site contains two 12,000-gallon, double-walled underground storage tanks (USTs) and four multi-product dispensers. In December 2025 and February 2026, three 12,000-gallon, single-walled USTs, product dispensers, and associated product piping were removed. Analytical results from soil samples collected beneath the USTs, dispensers, and product piping indicated the presence of total petroleum hydrocarbon diesel range (TPHd) in concentrations up to 43 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg); total petroleum hydrocarbons gasoline range (TPHg) was detected at a concentration of 3,800 mg/kg, and benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and total xylenes (BTEX, collectively) was detected in respective concentrations of 11 mg/kg, 1,100 mg/kg, 41 mg/kg, and 290 mg/kg. Kern County Environmental Health Department submitted the tank removal report to the GeoTracker Tank Removal Portal. Central Valley Water Board staff reviewed the submittal and determined a release had occurred and requested a workplan for additional investigation on 14 April 2026.

On 15 April 2026, Central Valley Water Board staff received a workplan for interim remedial action. The workplan was approved and on 13 May 2026 approximately 24 tons of impacted soil was excavated from the area of highest petroleum hydrocarbon contamination. An area of 20 feet by 20 feet and a depth of approximately 8 feet below ground surface (bgs), centered on the area below the eastern piping elbow and extending 10 feet in each direction, was removed. Confirmation samples were collected from the floor and walls of the excavation. There were no detections of TPHg, BTEX, methyl tert butyl ether (MTBE) or naphthalene in any analyzed sample. TPHd was detected in low concentrations, up to 6.3 mg/kg, from the side wall samples.

Groundwater, expected to be approximately 200 feet bgs, was not encountered during the remedial action, and is not expected to be affected by this release.

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This case has been evaluated for closure based on evidence presented in the interim remedial action report and the Conceptual Site Model and meets the case closure criteria contained in the State Water Resources Control Board's *Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy* (Policy). There should be no risk to human health and safety or the environment from this UST release.

This Public Notice has been transmitted to the parties adjacent to the Site, as well as posted on the Central Valley Water Board's [website](http://waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/) available at http://waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/ Underground Storage Tank – Decisions Pending, Case Closure. Details of the assessment are also available to interested parties through the State Water Board's [GeoTracker](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov) website (<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>).

You may participate in the case closure process by reviewing technical reports, asking questions, and providing comments on the proposed case closure. The Central Valley Water Board case number is 5T15000945.

Please submit any comments regarding the proposed case closure to the Central Valley Water Board's Fresno office by **12 November 2026**.

Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the Site or proposed actions should contact the case worker Micheale Gourley at 1685 E Street in Fresno, at (559) 488-4391 or by email at Micheale.Gourley@waterboards.ca.gov.

Upon completion of the public comment period, and in the absence of substantive comments against closure being granted, Central Valley Water Board staff will proceed with the case closure process.