
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

31 July 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, FORMER SILVAS OIL COMPANY, 585 WEST 5TH STREET, HANFORD, KINGS COUNTY, RB CASE # 5T16000200, GLOBAL ID T0603145694

This letter is to inform interested parties of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Water Board) consideration of closing the case and to request comments from interested parties regarding the proposed closure of the former Silvas Oil Company site (Site). In accordance with the criteria contained in the State Water Resources Control Board's *Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy* (Policy), the Central Valley Water Board is required to provide the opportunity to interested parties in the Site vicinity to participate in the closure process.

One 20,000-gallon diesel, one 20,000-gallon gasoline, and one 20,000-gallon split gasoline/diesel Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) were removed from the Site in October 2007. The Site was owned by Chuck Silvas and operated as the Silvas Cardlock facility from December 1994 to October 2007. The Marquez Group later acquired the Site and has converted it to a paved parking lot. Analytical results of soil samples collected during the USTs removal indicated elevated concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel (TPHd) in three areas beneath dispensers and the USTs. Only low to trace concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons were detected in soil samples on the remainder of the Site.

Eight soil borings were drilled at the Site in March 2008. Analytical results of soil samples indicated elevated concentrations of constituents of concern to a depth of 37 feet below ground surface (bgs) near the USTs and dispensers. Soil samples deeper than 37 feet bgs contained only trace to non-detect concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons. Based on the Department of Water Resources Fall 2025 data, the regional depth to groundwater in the area is approximately 145 feet bgs. Based on Silvas Oil Site soil sample data, residual-phase petroleum hydrocarbon constituents in the vadose zone do not appear to extend deeper than 37 feet bgs. A minimum of 108 feet of clean soil remains as a buffer zone between soil contamination and groundwater.

In July 2009, soil excavation was conducted in two areas. Approximately 932 tons of petroleum impacted soils were excavated and disposed of off-site. Analytical results of sixteen confirmation soil samples collected from the sidewalls and bottoms of the excavations indicated non-detect to trace level concentrations of petroleum constituents. The excavations were backfilled with clean soil.

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The City of Hanford Public Water System provides service to the area residential and business properties. Based on the information provided, an industrial supply well is within 100 feet west of the Site, and another Industrial supply well is within the Site boundaries. Based on the information provided by Marquez, the on-Site well is inactive. An inactive City of Hanford well is approximately 1,800 feet east of the Site. The nearest surface water body is Peoples Ditch, a concrete canal approximately 3,300 feet west of the Site.

The Silvas Site is within an area of an ongoing groundwater investigation and remediation conducted for a site designated as *5th & Williams*. Historical and recent Site investigation indicates several feet of light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL) floating petroleum product in monitoring wells in the area, including beneath the Silvas Site. **It has been determined that the floating product in groundwater below the Silvas Site is a result of the *5th & Williams* release and NOT associated with the Silvas release. The Central Valley Water Board Site Cleanup Unit has regulatory oversight for the *5th & Williams* case, as a separate case.**

Based on recent and historical soil sample analytical results, the lateral and vertical extent of petroleum hydrocarbon constituents in soil has been adequately assessed for the Silvas Site. Based on the information available in case files and the GeoTracker database, Central Valley Water Board Staff conclude that the case meets the closure criteria contained in the Policy. The Site has been remediated to the extent practicable as the secondary source was removed in July 2009 by excavation of contaminated soil in the vicinity of the former USTs. Based on the attenuating concentrations of remaining trace to non-detect petroleum hydrocarbons in soil, residual petroleum hydrocarbons should not present a threat to human health, the environment, or beneficial uses of groundwater. The remaining soil does not contain sufficiently mobile constituents that could cause groundwater to exceed the Policy groundwater criteria. Any remaining petroleum hydrocarbons should continue to naturally attenuate/biodegrade. All technically and economically feasible cleanup has been completed and no further action regarding this release is necessary.

Based on soil sample analytical results and the reported depth to groundwater, it appears that groundwater is not likely impacted by this release.

Based on investigation results, Staff concluded that the potential vapor intrusion to indoor air and for direct contact and outdoor air exposure, that concentrations of petroleum constituents in shallow soil meet criteria contained in the Policy. There should be no significant risk of adversely affecting human health and the environment.

Central Valley Water Board Staff conclude that the case meets the General and Media-Specific criteria contained in the Policy.

This Public Notice has been transmitted to interested parties in the area, and is posted on the [website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/), under Public Notices, Underground Storage Tanks-Decisions Pending & Case Closures. Details of the Site assessment and cleanup are also available through the State Water Board [GeoTracker](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/) website (<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) by searching for case number 5T16000200. This information may also be reviewed at the Central Valley Water Board office at 1685 E Street in Fresno, California.

You may participate in the case closure process by reviewing technical reports, asking questions, and providing comments. Comments regarding the proposed closure need to be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board at the above-listed address by **30 September 2026**. Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the Site or the proposed action should contact Khalid Durrani at the above address, by e-mail at khalid.durrani@waterboards.ca.gov or by telephone at (559) 445-6191.

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