

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
**ORDER WQ 2021-0043-UST**

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**In the Matter of Underground Storage Tank (UST) Case Closure  
Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10 and the  
Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy**

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

By this order, the Chief Deputy Director directs closure of the UST case at the site listed below, pursuant to section 25296.10 of the Health and Safety Code.<sup>2</sup> The name of the responsible party, the site name, the site address, the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Fund) claim number if applicable, current and former lead agencies, and case numbers are as follows:

**World Oil Company (Responsible Party)**

**World Oil #61 (Former)**

**10970 South Street, Cerritos, Los Angeles County**

**Fund Claim No. 2371**

**Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Case No. I-10257**

**I. STATUTORY AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

Upon review of a UST case, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is authorized to close or require closure of a UST case where an

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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 California Health and Safety Code.

unauthorized release has occurred, if the State Water Board determines that corrective action at the site is in compliance with all the requirements of subdivisions (a) and (b) of section 25296.10. The State Water Board, or in certain cases the State Water Board Executive Director or Chief Deputy Director, may close a case 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.

State Water Board staff has completed a 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. The UST case record that is the basis for determining compliance with the Water Quality Control Policy for Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closures (Low-Threat Closure Policy or Policy) is available on the State Water Board's GeoTracker database.

**GeoTracker Case Record:** <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?gid=T0603703598>

### **Low-Threat Closure 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 Low-Threat Closure Policy pose a low threat to human health, safety, 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 uniform closure letter as specified in Health and Safety Code section 25296.10. The uniform closure letter may only be issued 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 uniform closure letter or a letter of commitment, whichever occurs later, shall not be reimbursed unless specified conditions are satisfied.

## **II. FINDINGS**

Based upon the facts in the UST record and the hydrogeologic conditions at the site, as summarized in the attached UST Case Closure Summary, the State Water Board finds that corrective action taken to address the unauthorized release of petroleum at the UST release site identified as:

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**World Oil #61 (Former)**

**10970 South Street, Cerritos, Los Angeles County**

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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 Low-Threat Closure Policy and with 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. This order does not address non-petroleum contamination at the site, if non-petroleum contamination is present.

Pursuant to the Low-Threat Closure 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 State Water 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 Low-Threat Closure Policy are less than significant, and environmental impacts as a result of adopting this order in compliance 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 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 (LOP) agency for this case should be rescinded to the extent they are inconsistent with this order.

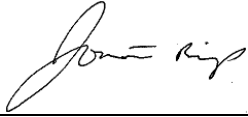
### **III. ORDER**

**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 Low-Threat Closure Policy, be closed in accordance with the following conditions and after the following actions are complete. Prior to the issuance of a uniform closure letter, the responsible party 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 in Section II 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 responsible party 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 Water Quality shall issue a uniform closure letter consistent with Health and Safety Code section 25296.10, subdivision (g) and upload the uniform closure letter to GeoTracker.
- E. 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 uniform closure letter in order for the costs to be considered.
- F. Any Regional Water Board or LOP 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 LOP agency directive is inconsistent with this order.



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Chief Deputy Director

September 29, 2021

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Date

## State Water Resources Control Board

### UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) CASE CLOSURE SUMMARY

#### Agency Information

Agency Name: Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board)	Address: 320 West 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200 Los Angeles, CA 90013
Agency Caseworker: Noman Chowdhury	Case No.: I-10257

#### Case Information

UST Cleanup Fund (Fund) Claim No.: 2371	Global ID: T0603703598
Site Name: World Oil #61 (Former)	Site Address: 10970 South Street Cerritos, CA 90703 (Site)
Responsible Party (RP): World Oil Company Attention: Mr. John Hundley	Address: 9302 South Garfield Avenue South Gate, CA 90280
Equilon Enterprises LLC dba Shell Oil Products US Attention: Ms. Andrea Wing	20945 South Wilmington Avenue Carson, CA 90810
Fund Expenditures to Date: \$1,495,000	Number of Years Case Open: 33

**GeoTracker Case Record:** <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?gid=T0603703598>

#### Summary

The Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy (Policy) contains general and media-specific criteria, and cases that meet those criteria are appropriate for closure pursuant to the Policy because they pose a low threat to human health, safety, and the environment. The Site meets all of the required criteria of the Policy and therefore, is subject to closure.

The Site is a former commercial petroleum fueling facility that is currently being used as a parking lot. The unauthorized release from the USTs at the Site was reported in September 1988 based on the results of a leak detection assessment performed in April 1986. A pipeline leak was detected and repaired in 1995. Approximately 6 to 10 cubic yards of contaminated soil was removed during the repair. Five gasoline USTs were removed and replaced with three USTs in 1998. Approximately 2,225 tons of

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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contaminated soil were removed during replacement of the USTs. In 2001, the petroleum fueling facility was decommissioned and converted to a parking lot. The remaining USTs and 845 tons of contaminated soil were removed.

In addition to the soil excavated during UST removal and other activities described above, the following active remediation has been performed:

- Free product removal was performed from approximately 1986 to 1998 and removed between 2,500 and 3,000 gallons of free product. Measurable free product has not been observed since 1999.
- Dual-phase extraction between 2000 and 2003, removed approximately 2,900 pounds of vapor-phase petroleum hydrocarbons and approximately 386,000 gallons of groundwater containing an estimated mass of approximately 28 pounds of petroleum hydrocarbons.
- Air sparging-enhanced soil vapor extraction (AS/SVE) performed between 2008 and 2013 removed approximately 2,700 pounds of vapor-phase petroleum hydrocarbons.
- Groundwater overpurguing events between December 2016 and March 2017 removed approximately 3,000 gallons of contaminated groundwater.

The remediation activities listed above demonstrate that secondary source has been removed to the extent practicable. While elevated dissolved benzene continues to be detected in monitoring well (MW-20), significant active remediation has been performed which has reduced the benzene concentration in MW-20 by more than an order of magnitude from its historic maximum. Based on more than 30 years of groundwater monitoring data, including several years since active remediation ceased, the plume is shrinking in areal extent and does not pose a threat to any water supply wells or surface water bodies.

Concentrations of gasoline constituents in soil gas samples collected near the adjacent building were elevated. However, the RP's consultants performed a series of risk assessments using both the soil gas and groundwater sample data. Results of the risk assessments demonstrated that the residual impacts beneath the building do not pose a significant risk to the building occupants.

Remaining petroleum constituents are limited, stable, and decreasing. Additional assessment would be unnecessary and will not likely change the conceptual model. Any remaining petroleum constituents do not pose significant risk to human health, safety, or the environment under current conditions.

### **Rationale for Closure Under the Policy**

- General Criteria – Site **MEETS ALL EIGHT GENERAL CRITERIA** under the Policy
- Groundwater Media-Specific Criteria – Site **meets the criteria in Class 5**. The regulatory agency determines, based on an analysis of Site-specific conditions that under current and reasonably anticipated near-term future scenarios, the



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contaminant plume poses a low threat to human health, safety, and to the environment and water quality objectives will be achieved within a reasonable time frame.

- Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air – Site **meets Criteria 2 (b)**. A Site-specific risk assessment for the vapor intrusion pathway was conducted under the Policy and demonstrates that human health is protected to the satisfaction of the regulatory agency.
- Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure – Site **meets Criteria 3 (a)**. Maximum concentrations of petroleum constituents in soil from confirmation soil samples are less than or equal to those listed in Table 1 of the Policy.

### Recommendation for Closure

The corrective action performed at this Site ensures the protection of human health, safety, and the environment. The corrective action performed at this Site is consistent with chapter 6.7 of division 20 of the Health and Safety Code, implementing regulations, applicable state policies for water quality control and applicable water quality control plans. Case closure is recommended.

Prepared by:



William Brasher  
Water Resource Control Engineer

6/18/2021

Date

Reviewed By:



Matthew Cohen, PG No. 9077  
Senior Engineering Geologist

6/18/2021

Date

