STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

ORDER WQ 2016-0071 – UST

In the Matter of Underground Storage Tank Case Closure

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25299.39.2 and the Low Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy

---

BY THE CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR:[1]

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25299.39.2, the Manager of the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Fund) recommends closure of the underground storage tank (UST) case at the site listed below.[2] By this order, the Chief Deputy Director directs closure of the UST case. The name of the Fund claimant, the Fund claim number, the site name and the applicable site address, and the lead agency are as follows:

Union Oil Company of California
Claim no. 7577
Unocal #5336
6012 Warner Avenue, Huntington Beach

Orange County Environmental Health Department
Agency Case Number: 89UT165

I. STATUTORY AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

Section 25299.39.2 directs the Fund Manager to review the case history of claims that have been active for five years or more (five-year review), unless there is an objection from the UST owner or operator. This section further authorizes the Fund Manager to make recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for closure of a five-year-review case if the UST owner or operator approves. In response to a recommendation by the Fund Manager, the State Water Board, or in certain cases the State Water Board Executive Director, or Chief Deputy Director, may close or require the closure of a

---

[1] 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.

[2] Unless otherwise noted, all references are to the Health and Safety Code.

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.

The Fund Manager has completed a five-year 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. A UST Case Closure Review Summary Report has been prepared for the case identified above and the bases for determining compliance with the Water Quality Control Policy for Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closures (Policy) are explained in the Case Closure Review Summary Report.

In State Water Board Resolution No. 2012-0016, the State Water Board adopted the 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 Policy pose a low threat to human health, safety and 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 closure letter as specified in Health and Safety Code section 25296.10. The closure letter may be issued only 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 (l)(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 closure letter or a Letter of Commitment, whichever occurs later, shall not be reimbursed unless specified conditions are satisfied. A Letter of Commitment has already been issued for the claim subject to this order and the respective Fund claimant, so the 365-day timeframe for the submittal of claims for corrective action costs will start upon the issuance of the closure letter.

II. FINDINGS

Based upon the UST Case Closure Review Summary Report prepared for the case and attached hereto, the State Water Board finds that corrective action taken to address the unauthorized release of petroleum at the UST release site identified as:

Claim No. 7577
Unocal #5336

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 Policy, and 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.[3]

Pursuant to the 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 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 Policy are less than significant, and environmental impacts as a result of complying 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 not 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 agency for this case should be rescinded to the extent they are inconsistent with this Order.

---

[3] This order addresses only the petroleum UST case for the site. This order does not affect any order or directive requiring corrective action for non-petroleum contamination, if non-petroleum contamination is present.

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 Policy, be closed in accordance with the following conditions and after the following actions are complete. Prior to the issuance of a closure letter, the Fund claimant 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 on page 1 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 Fund claimant 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 Financial Assistance shall issue a closure letter consistent with Health and Safety Code section 25296.10, subdivision (g) and upload the closure letter and UST Case Closure Review Summary Report to GeoTracker.

E. As specified in Health and Safety Code section 25299.39.2, subdivision (a) (2), corrective action costs incurred after a recommendation of closure shall be limited to $10,000 per year unless the Board or its delegated representative agrees that corrective action in excess of that amount is necessary to meet closure requirements, or additional corrective actions are necessary pursuant to section 25296.10, subdivisions (a) and (b). 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 closure letter in order for the costs to be considered.

F. Any Regional Water Board or Local Oversight Program 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 Local Oversight Program Agency directive is inconsistent with this Order.

Chief Deputy Director

6/22/2016

Date

UST CASE CLOSURE REVIEW SUMMARY REPORT

Agency Information

Agency Name: Orange County Environmental Health Department (County)	Address: 1241 East Dyer Road, Suite 120 Santa Ana, CA 92705
Agency Caseworker: Denamarie Baker	Case No.: 89UT165

Case Information

USTCF Claim No.: 7577	GeoTracker Global ID: T0605900148
Site Name: Unocal #5336	Site Address: 6012 Warner Avenue Huntington Beach, CA 92647
Responsible Party: Chevron Environmental Management Company Attn: Daryl Pessler	Address: 145 South State College Bl., 400 Brea, CA 92821
USTCF Expenditures to Date: $0	Number of Years Case Open: 26

To view all public documents for this case available on GeoTracker use the following URL: **http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0605900148**

Summary

The Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank (UST) Case Closure Policy (Policy) contains general and media-specific criteria, and cases that meet those criteria are appropriate for closure pursuant to the Policy. This case meets all of the required criteria of the Policy. Highlights of the case follow:

This case is a retail business and former commercial petroleum fueling facility. An unauthorized release was reported in September 1989 followed by the removal and replacement of three USTs (two gasoline, one waste oil). In November 1991 the replacement USTs were also removed. Approximately 250 cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated and disposed offsite in October 1997. Dual phase extraction was conducted between April 2001 and January 2005, which removed 52 pounds of total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPHg) and 71,265 gallons of contaminated groundwater. Active remediation has not been conducted for the past ten years. Since 1997, 37 groundwater monitoring wells have been installed and monitored; 15 monitoring wells have been destroyed. According to groundwater data, water quality objectives have been achieved or nearly achieved.

The petroleum release is limited to the soil and shallow groundwater. According to data available in GeoTracker, there are no public water supply wells within 1,000 feet of the Site. The East Garden Grove Flood Control Channel is located approximately 700 feet northwest (downgradient) of the Site. No other water supply wells have been identified within 1,000 feet of the Site in files reviewed. The unauthorized release is located within the service area of a public water system, as defined in the Policy. The affected shallow groundwater is not currently being used as a source of drinking water, and it is highly unlikely that the affected shallow groundwater will be used as a source of drinking water in the foreseeable future. Other designated beneficial uses of the affected shallow groundwater are not threatened, and it is highly unlikely that they will be, considering these

factors in the context of the site setting. Remaining petroleum hydrocarbon constituents are limited and stable, and concentrations are decreasing. Corrective actions have been implemented and additional corrective actions are not necessary. Any remaining petroleum hydrocarbon constituents do not pose a significant risk to human health, safety or the environment.

Rationale for Closure under the Policy

- General Criteria: The case meets all eight Policy general criteria.
- Groundwater Specific Criteria: The case meets Policy Criterion 1 by Class 5. The East Garden Grove Flood Control Channel is located approximately 700 feet northwest (downgradient) of the Site. If not for this surface water body this case would satisfy Policy Criterion 1 by Class 2. The contaminant plume that exceeds water quality objectives is less than 250 feet in length. There is no free product. The dissolved concentration of benzene is less than 3,000 micrograms per liter (µg/L), and the dissolved concentration of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) is less than 1,000 µg/L. The State Water Board staff has determined, based on an analysis of site specific conditions under current and reasonably anticipated near-term future scenarios, the contaminant plume poses a low threat to human health and safety and to the environment and water quality objectives will be achieved within a reasonable time frame.
- Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air: The case meets Policy Criterion 2a by Scenario 3a. The maximum benzene concentration in groundwater is less than 100 micrograms per liter (µg/L). The minimum depth to groundwater is greater than 5 feet, overlain by soil containing less than 100 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of TPH.
- Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure: This case meets Policy Criterion 3b. Although no document titled "Risk Assessment" was found in the files reviewed, a professional assessment of site-specific risk from potential exposure to residual soil contamination was completed by Fund staff. The results of the assessment found that maximum concentrations of petroleum constituents remaining in soil will have no significant risk of adversely affecting human health. An unknown volume of contaminated soil was excavated September 1990. In addition, approximately 250 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated in 1997. The Site is paved and accidental exposure to site soils is prevented. Therefore, the pathway is incomplete. Any construction crew performing subsurface work will be prepared to deal appropriately with environmental hazards anticipated or encountered in their normal daily work. The presence of residual contamination should be taken into account when issuing and executing excavation or building or other permits at the Site, including but not limited to the inclusion of a Competent Person in the work crew.

Outcome of Conference Call

In a conference call on October 7, 2015, County staff reiterated that the TBA plume length was greater than 100 feet and that the site did not meet Class 1 criteria. State Water Board staff said the site meets groundwater criterion Class 5. County staff stated they did not object to State Water Board staff pursuing case closure as long as the RSR documents closure under groundwater criterion Class 5.

Determination

Based on the review performed in accordance with Health & Safety Code Section 25299.39.2 subdivision (a), the Fund Manager has determined that closure of the case is appropriate.

Unocal #5336
6012 Warner Avenue, Huntington Beach
Claim No: 7577

Recommendation for Closure

Based on available information, residual petroleum hydrocarbons at the Site do not pose a significant risk to human health, safety, or the environment, and the case meets the requirements of the Policy. Accordingly, the Fund Manager recommends that the case be closed. The State Water Board staff is conducting public notification as required by the Policy. Orange County has the regulatory responsibility to supervise the abandonment of monitoring wells.

Lisa Babcock

Lisa Babcock, P.G. 3939, C.E.G. 1235

11/17/15

Date

Prepared by: Kirk Larson, P.G.