Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

16 January 2015

Roger Levin
Marketing Environmental Manager
Valero Energy Corporation
10955 Westmoor Drive, Suite 400
Westminster, CO 80021

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, BEACON STATION 363, 1267 OLLER STREET, MENDOTA, FRESNO COUNTY, RB CASE 5T10000011

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) in a letter dated 29 September 1998 (copy attached), closed the case for the underground storage tank (UST) release at the Beacon Station, 1267 Oller Street, Mendota, Fresno County (Beacon Station). The case closure was based on the investigation data submitted up to the date of the closure letter.

An investigation has been ongoing since 2010 at the site of the former Gonzales Mini Mart, 1278 Oller Street (Gonzales Site). The site is across Oller Street, and due south of the Beacon Station (Oller St. runs northwest to southeast). As part of the investigation, nine groundwater monitoring wells have been installed, which were last sampled in August 2014. A map showing the locations of the Gonzales Site and groundwater monitoring wells; and the current Valero Service Station (former Beacon Station), is attached. MW-6, which is on the Gonzales Site adjacent to Oller Avenue, contained total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPHg) of 7,100 micrograms per liter (µg/L). MW-7, which is across Oller Street from the Gonzales Site, contained TPHg of 720 µg/L. MW-5 and MW-8, which are about 15 feet and 65 feet, respectively, northeast of MW-7, contained TPHg of 820 µg/L and 46,000 µg/L, respectively. The direction of groundwater flow was to the east. The results of groundwater monitoring performed in April 2014 were similar to the August 2014 results. You may review the Gonzales Site case file at the State Water Board's GeoTracker website (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/). The Central Valley Water Board case number for the release is 5T10000372.

Previously, floating product was present in monitoring wells located along the eastern/southeastern property line of the Beacon site. The current well MW-8 is east (downgradient) of the area where the floating product was previously measured on the Beacon site. Floating product was also measured near the northeastern Beacon property line. Central Valley Water Board staff has determined that the Beacon case file contains no documentation to suggest that the extent of the floating product or the dissolved phase plume was ever defined offsite of the Beacon Station.

If you are in possession of documentation, data, or investigation reports that define the extent of the offsite groundwater impacts, such as floating product or dissolved phase constituents, please submit by **16 March 2015.** If no such documentation exists, the Central Valley Water

Board staff will reopen the case for the Beacon Station and a work plan to define the offsite extent (northeast, and east/southeast) of the plume needs to be submitted **by 16 March 2015**.

Should you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Jeff Hannel at (559) 445-6193 or by email at jhannel@waterboards.ca.gov.

JEFFREY W. HANNEL
Engineering Geologist
PG 5640, CHG 649

SHELTON R. GRAY
Senior Engineering Geologist

Attachments: 29 September 1998 Closure Letter
Gonzales Site Map

cc: Harry Yee & Vince Mendes, FCDEH, Fresno
Lois Arlene & Rowena Applewhite, Fresno
Tony Lopez, Mendota
Saboor Rahim, Fresno

Peter M. Rooney
Secretary for Environmental Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region

Fresno Branch Office
Internet Address: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/~rwqcb5/home.html
3614 East Ashlan Avenue, Fresno, California 93726
Phone (209) 445-5116 • FAX (209) 445-5910

1363.33

Ed J. Schnabel
Chair

29 September 1998

Mr. Joseph A. Aldridge
Ultramar, Inc.
P.O. Box 466
Hanford, CA 93232-0466

CASE CLOSURE - BEACON STATION NO 363, 1267 OLLER STREET, MENDOTA, FRESNO COUNTY

Dear Mr. Joseph A. Aldridge,

This letter confirms the completion of a site investigation and remedial action for the underground storage tank(s) formerly located at the above described location. Thank you for your cooperation throughout this investigation. Your willingness and promptness in responding to our inquiries concerning the former underground storage tank(s) are greatly appreciated.

Based on the information in the above-referenced file and with the provision that the information provided to this agency was accurate and representative of site conditions, no further action related to the underground tank release is required.

This notice is issued pursuant to a regulation contained in Section 2721(e) of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.

The groundwater monitoring wells that were used to investigate the release are no longer required. Accordingly, unless you choose to maintain the monitoring wells for future use, they must be properly abandoned in accordance with Fresno County Environmental Health Department requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please telephone Ray Bruun at (209) 445-5504.

Sincerely,

BERT E. VAN VORIS
Supervising Engineer
RCE No. 24105

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Pam Rarick, SWRCB, UST Cleanup Fund Program, Sacramento
Mr. Jim Armstrong, Fresno County Environmental Health System, Fresno
Mr. Gary D. Barker, Horizon Environmental, Inc., El Dorado Hills

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Ed J. Schnabel
Chair

TO: John Noonan
Senior Engineer

FROM: Ray Bruun
Associate Engineer

DATE: 29 September 1998

SIGNATURE: Roger Bruun

SUBJECT: ***CLOSURE SUMMARY FOR BEACON STATION NO 363, 1267 OLLER STREET, MENDOTA, FRESNO COUNTY***

Background

UST Removal - Four underground storage tanks (gasoline and diesel) were removed from the site in May 1986. The tanks were situated in two clusters of two tanks each: a 10,000-gallon diesel tank and a 6,000-gallon gasoline tank, in the north half of the property and two 10,000-gallon gasoline tanks in the south. Holes were noted in the three gasoline tanks; each had previously failed leak tests. New double-walled tanks have since been installed; piping and dispensers have also been upgraded.

Soil Investigation - About 17 soil borings were drilled on the property during the investigation phase. Depths drilled ranged from 30 to 77 feet below the ground surface (bgs). Groundwater was initially 16 feet bgs but later dropped to almost 65 feet bgs, necessitating deeper borings. Most of the contamination was near the former gasoline tanks to the south. At one point, over 11 feet of free product accumulated in a monitoring well.

In 1988 and again in 1989 soil gas surveys were completed. The initial survey included off-site locations. A follow-up survey and vapor extraction test were conducted on-site to gather more detailed information for feasibility and design of a planned soil vapor extraction (SVE) system.

Groundwater Investigation - Fifteen monitoring wells have been installed in several phases. The first eight wells were built in 1986, then as the water table lowered four more wells (1989), and as it lowered even further, an additional three wells were put in (1993). One of the original wells (MW-2) was destroyed in 1993. All are on the property.

Free floating product was found in seven of the eight original monitoring wells (not in MW-1). Product was sometimes greater than 10 feet thick within well casings. From August 1986 to January 1988, groundwater samples were not taken due to the presence of free product in the wells. On 11 February 1988, groundwater samples were collected from four wells without free product. Relatively high concentrations of gasoline related compounds (e.g., TPH-g at 143,000 μg/l and benzene at 20,200 μg/l) were detected.

Groundwater was about 35 feet bgs and flowed northerly in May 1998. Flow has generally been to the north, ranging from northwest to east. Groundwater flow measurements made after January 1991 may have been influenced by the SVE system. As mentioned earlier, depth to groundwater has varied considerably over the years, from 16 to 65 feet bgs.

Currently four wells are screened across the water table. Seven wells are dry and three have submerged screens. Three of the four wells screened across the water table have been nondetect for all constituents tested over the past year-and-a-half. The detection limits are: TPH-g < 50 µg/l; MTBE < 5 µg/l; BTEX < 0.5 µg/l. MW-10 has had comparatively low detections of TPH-g and BTX during the last three quarters of monitoring: TPH-g < 200 µg/l; B < 30 µg/l; T < 20 µg/l; X < 15 µg/l. The submerged wells have been nondetect (see previously listed detection limits) over the last three monitoring rounds. One well with submerged screen, MW-13, has not been sampled since August 1996; it could not be located.

Remediation - At least two thousand gallons of free floating product have been pumped or bailed from groundwater monitoring wells. A soil vapor extraction (SVE) system, operated from January 1991 to December 1996, removed about 192,000 pounds of hydrocarbons, or about 31,000 gallons of gasoline. An undetermined amount of soil-bound gasoline was removed when the tank pits were excavated to groundwater in 1986.

Request for Closure - Closure was requested in a 31 December 1996 letter report from Ultramar. Our 29 May 1997 response letter explained that further monitoring was needed before closure could be revisited. The requested monitoring was completed and on 24 June 1998, Ultramar again asked that we close the site.

Protection of Beneficial Uses - The quality of first encountered groundwater is poor. It is high in sulfates and contains about 5,000 mg/l total dissolved solids (TDS). To my knowledge, the upper portion of first groundwater in the vicinity of the site, that which was and still is affected to some extent, is not being used for any purpose.

The deeper regions of the aquifer within the City of Mendota are being used. The realized beneficial uses include Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN), Agricultural Supply (AGR), Industrial Service Supply (IND). In addition to the above, the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin - Second Edition* (Basin Plan) identifies the following potential beneficial uses of groundwater: Industrial Process Supply (PRO), Water Contact Recreation (REC-l), and Wildlife Habitat (WILD). The Basin Plan states that "[g]round waters shall not contain chemical constituents in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses."

At present, the remaining pollution is restricted to a zone of poor quality (saline) groundwater within a few feet of the groundwater surface near MW-10. Given the present regional practice of installing deeper well screens to avoid this saline groundwater, one could reasonably conclude that realization of beneficial uses of saline groundwater at the site will not happen in the near future. While the potential beneficial uses outlined in the Basin Plan may be realized at some point, I expect for the following reasons that pollutant levels in the aquifer will drop below regulatory levels (e.g., 1 µg/l for benzene) before the saline groundwater is utilized: 1) extensive remediation has occurred resulting in a markedly reduced groundwater plume, both in concentration and size; and 2) there is no reason to drill a water supply well at the site because it is hooked up to the municipal water supply system.

Threat to Human Health and the Environment - The site has been intensively remediated and the mass of pollutants greatly reduced. The installation has been upgraded to comply with the December 1998 deadline for replacing or retrofitting the USTs. Beneficial uses are being protected. I am currently unaware of any actual or potential risks to human health or the environment.

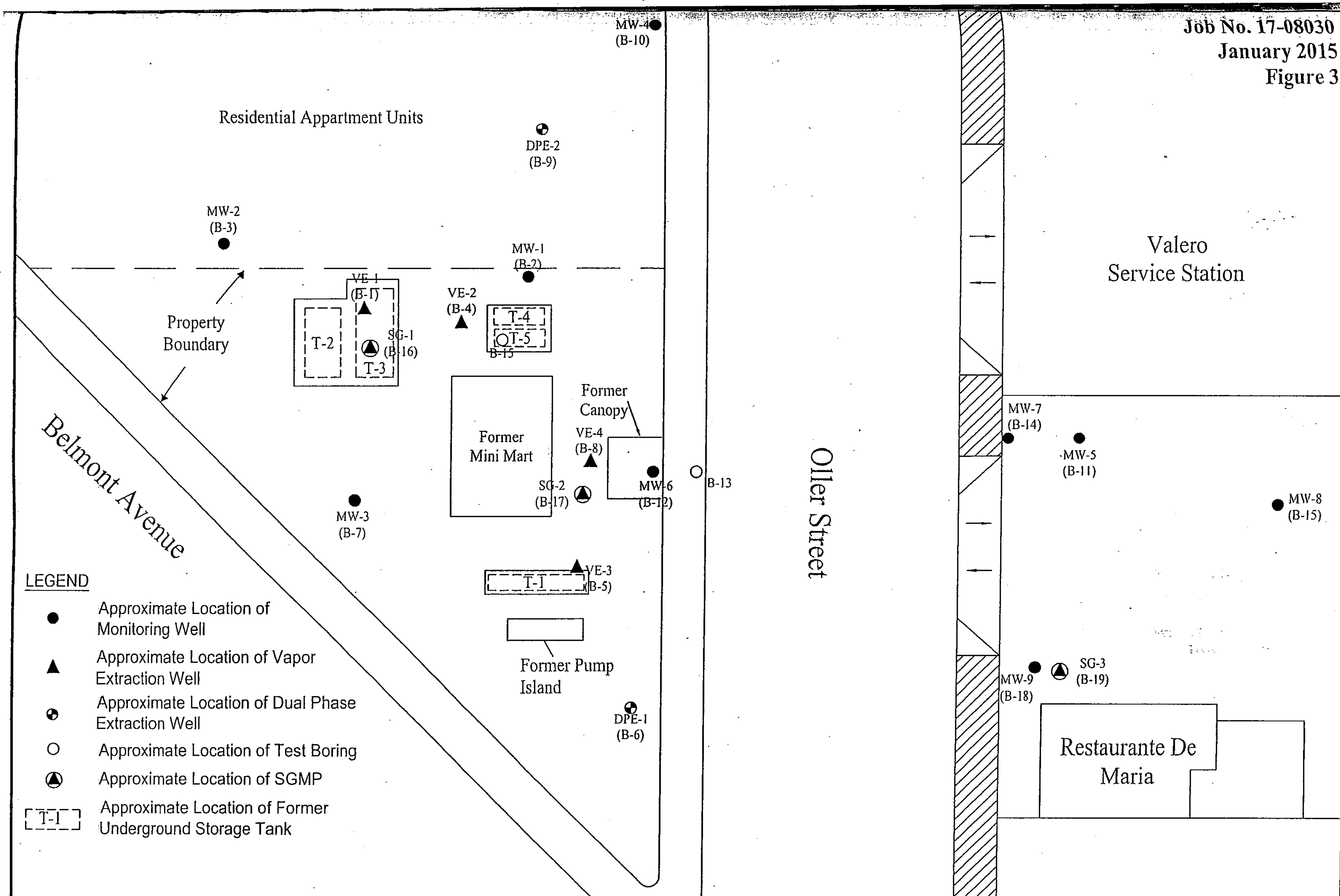
Summary and Conclusions

- The soil and groundwater investigations are complete.
- Practicable remediation has been done. Impacted soils were excavated to groundwater; free floating product was removed; and a soil vapor extraction system was operated to further reduce pollutant mass.
- Groundwater impacts resulting from the release have declined to almost nondetectable levels and are expected to reach full beneficial use protective levels prior to utilization of the groundwater resource.
- MTBE was tested for and was not found.
- The site does not pose a present or future threat to water quality or to human health and the environment.

Recommendation

The site should be closed.

Job No. 17-08030
January 2015
Figure 3



ASR Engineering, Inc.
GEOTECHNICAL • ENVIRONMENTAL • CONSTRUCTION TESTING
3629 W Gettysburg Ave, Fresno, CA 93722

Scale: 1 in. = 30 ft. (±)

TEST BORING LOCATION PLAN
GONZALES MINI MART
1278 OLLER STREET
MENDOTA, CALIFORNIA