



November 12, 2021

Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services Site Mitigation Unit

Public Notice of Remedial Action Plan

6525 Dominion Road, Santa Barbara County, CA
Public Comment Period
SMU #20059

The Santa Barbara Public Health Department, Environmental Health Services (EHS) Site Mitigation Unit (SMU) is providing this notification to the landowners, residents/occupants, tenants, and interested parties near this site to notify you of proposed upcoming corrective actions and to solicit comments. This notification describes the site background and proposed mitigation approach to protect human health and the environment.

Introduction

Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, Environmental Health Services Division (EHS) Site Mitigation Unit (SMU) Programs provide regulatory oversight for the cleanup of contamination to the environment at the subject site. The purpose of this notification is to provide the public with a summary of the mitigation actions planned for the Site by Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. on behalf of the responsible party, California Resources Corporation, and to solicit your comments. More information about this cleanup site is available on the State Water Resource Control Board's GeoTracker website:

https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000001823

Site Background

The Site is located approximately seven miles southeast of the City of Santa Maria, California. The Site consists of idle and plugged and abandoned oil wells, well pads, and is currently used for cattle grazing, and cultivation of hay and vineyards. Limited petroleum impacts associated with past oilfield operations have been observed in soil in the vicinity of the historical oilfield infrastructure. The Remedial Action Workplan dated July 2021 presents an overview of the planned remedial activities at the Site, which was prepared in response to the findings of the investigations conducted at the Site in 2003 and 2019. The results of these investigations indicated that petroleum hydrocarbon and related impacts are present in soil above the site-

specific cleanup goals (SSCGs) at three former diluent pipeline areas at the Site (identified as investigation areas A5-01, B5-02/B5-03 and B6-03).

The Site is bounded on the west by the United California Lease and on the south by the Bradley Lease. Bradley Canyon Creek is an ephemeral stream that bisects the Site along a southeast/northwest trend. The Site elevation ranges from approximately 600 feet above mean sea level (amsl) near the seasonal stream to 800 feet amsl along the eastern edge of the Site.

In 2000 and 2001, Waterstone Environmental Inc. (Waterstone), identified areas with potential impacts at the Site. The analytical results from Waterstone's investigation indicated which former Site features contained soils with impacts above or below 1,000 part per million for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH).

In 2016, at the request of SBCEHS, The Source Group, Inc. (SGI) conducted further investigation of the impacted areas. The purpose of this additional investigation was to document the Site conditions in an effort to make recommendations for remediation, additional assessment or site closure. These assessments used a combination of exploratory trenches and soil borings to further identify impacts at three identified areas (identified as investigation areas A5-01, B5-02/B5-03 and B6-03). Visually identifiable petroleum hydrocarbon impacts were observed and subsequently sampled and analyzed (to characterize the chemical composition of the contaminants) during both assessments conducted by Waterstone and SGI. SGI recommended further investigations and remedial actions.

In 2019, Langan further investigated soil and perched groundwater conditions at the Site. Soil and perched groundwater analytical results from the investigation areas were compared to SBCEHS Investigative Levels (ILs) and the SSCGs, as established in SGI's *Proposed Cleanup Goals, Oil Processing Area and Adjacent Areas, United California Lease, North Cat Canyon Oilfield*, dated 14 August 2014. Based on Langan's investigation results (presented in Langan's *Site Investigation Report* dated 30 March 2020), the three investigation areas contained soil with detected chemicals of potential concern (COPCs). Concentrations of TPH and naphthalene were detected in soil above their respective SSCGs and TPH was detected in perched groundwater. COPCs in soil were delineated laterally and vertically to SBCEHS ILs, with the exception of COPCs in the western portion of investigation area, where access was limited due to terrain and the presence of protected oak trees and riparian vegetation. In a May 29, 2020 response letter to Langan's *Site Investigation Report*, SBCEHS agreed with Langan's recommendation for further risk evaluation or targeted remediation at the three investigation areas. SBCEHS also requested further investigation and delineation of the perched groundwater in the area.

Cleanup Approach

The proposed remediation within three former diluent pipeline areas is designed to meet SSCGs through soil excavation. The proposed remedial activities presented in the Workplan will accommodate protection for oak trees and ephemeral stream boundaries at the Site, and will include backfill and restoration after removal actions are complete. The proposed remedial action will remove COPC-impacted soil exceeding the SSCGs for total TPH. Specifically, impacted areas with COPC concentrations in soil above total TPH SSCGs at three former diluent pipeline areas (A5-01, B5-02/B5-03 & B6-03) will be removed with the provision that TPH as gasoline and diesel are below their current ELS for residential land use (430 mg/kg and 260 mg/kg, respectively). The proposed remedy will target mass removal through soil excavation. Prior to commencing earthwork, the required permits and approvals will be obtained from the appropriate agencies. Excavated material will be disposed of at a State of California-licensed disposal facility. Dewatering activities may also be conducted if perched groundwater is encountered in the

excavations. If dewatering is required, the extracted groundwater will be properly tested and, if necessary, treated prior to discharge under permit or properly recycled. Following removal of impacted soil at the three areas, soil samples will be collected to confirm that the remaining soils are below SSCGs prior to backfilling excavation areas. Using confirmation sample results, a risk evaluation for the COPCs remaining in soil will be conducted once the remedial action is completed. Following excavation of impacted soils, the disturbed areas will be backfilled and graded for positive drainage. Erosion and sediment controls, including dispersal of locally sourced, native seeds, will be applied to the ground surface. SBCEHS is the lead agency overseeing the cleanup. Permitting agencies involved include the County of Santa Barbara, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Upon completion of remedial activities, EHS will evaluate the mass and volume of material closed in place and determine if any future site management or land use restrictions are appropriate. Groundwater monitoring wells are proposed to be installed and monitored for a period of two years.

Next Step

The SMU Program plans to approve the Workplan after consideration of public comments. SMU staff will oversee the implementation of remedial excavation and will determine when the corrective action is complete. Cleanup is expected to start in late spring 2022 and to be completed within one year of commencement. After completion, the Site will be restored with native vegetation.

Public Comment Period

The public has 30-days to comment on the *Remedial Action Workplan (RAW)*. Copies of the Workplan and other reports are available under the "Site Maps/Documents" tab on the GeoTracker website:

https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000001823

If you would like more information, wish to comment on the information provided, or would like to receive future correspondence or an explanation about the technical aspects of this work for this cleanup site, please contact Marissa Censullo at the EHS SMU Program. All interested parties are required to submit their comments to the EHS SMU Program in writing (by email or letter) on or before **December 13, 2021** to be considered. Comments should be sent to:

Marissa Censullo
Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services
2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway, Room 333
Santa Maria, CA 93455
1-805-346-8345
Email: Marissa.censullo@sbcphd.org

Sincerely,



Marissa Censullo, REHS
Hazardous Materials Specialist
SMU Program

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Cc: Mr. Mark Ontiveros Trustee, Ontiveros Family Trust
Ec: Mr. Cory Lavoie, Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (clavoie@langan.com)
Mr. Mike Glavin, California Resources Corporation (Mike.glavin@crc.com)
Ms. Katie Nall, Planning and Development (nalk@countyofsb.org)
Mr. Greg Bishop, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (greg.bishop@waterboards.ca.gov)
Ms. Pam McNulty, Santa Barbara County Petroleum Division (pmcnult@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)
Mr. Brian Trautwein, Environmental Defense Center (btrautwein@environmentaldefensecenter.org)
Geotracker Database