

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
JULY 19, 2011**

ITEM 8

SUBJECT

INFORMATION ITEM ON THE LOW-THREAT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) CLOSURE POLICY

DISCUSSION

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) administers the petroleum UST (Underground Storage Tank) Cleanup Program, which was enacted by the Legislature in 1984 to protect human health, safety and the environment. The State Water Board also administers the petroleum UST Cleanup Fund (Fund), which was enacted by the Legislature in 1989 to assist UST owners and operators in meeting federal financial responsibility requirements and to provide reimbursement to those owners and operators for the high cost of cleaning up unauthorized releases from leaking USTs.

A stakeholder group was formed at the end of last year to review policy options for case closure in the UST Cleanup Program and to recommend a policy for the State Water Board to consider. The workgroup has developed a Low-Threat UST Closure Policy, which has the following attributes:

- The purpose of the Low-Threat UST Closure Policy is the establishment of low-threat closure criteria for petroleum release sites.
- Sites that meet the criteria in the policy are protective of human health, safety, the environment and water quality.
- Sites must be investigated to create a conceptual site model of the unauthorized release.
- Sites must undergo source removal as described.
- Includes criteria for residual petroleum that may be left in place in soil and groundwater.
- Sites that meet the criteria are eligible for case closure, but monitoring wells must be destroyed and waste materials removed before a closure letter is issued.
- Limits applicability of the policy to areas that are served by a public water supply system.

The policy is based on existing statutes, regulations, and resolutions and intends to provide clear guidance to responsible parties, environmental consultants, and regulatory agencies. The policy seeks to increase UST cleanup process efficiency.

POLICY ISSUE

This is an Information Item.

FISCAL IMPACT

None (Information Item only).

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None (Information Item only).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None (Information Item only).

"This item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 2 and 6 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012, (2) Improve and protect groundwater quality in high-use basins by 2030 and (6) Enhance consistency across the Water Boards, on an ongoing basis, to ensure our processes are effective, efficient, and predictable, and to promote fair and equitable application of laws, regulations, policies, and procedures."