

## **Attachment 1**

### **Description of Proposed Action**

It has been well-documented in the literature and through experience at individual Underground Storage Tank (UST) release sites that petroleum fuels naturally attenuate in the environment through adsorption, dispersion, dilution, volatilization, and biological degradation. This natural attenuation slows and limits the migration of dissolved petroleum plumes in groundwater. The biodegradation of petroleum, in particular, distinguishes petroleum products from other hazardous substances commonly found at commercial and industrial sites.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) proposes to adopt a Low-Threat UST Closure Policy (Policy). The purpose of the Policy is the establishment of low-threat petroleum site closure criteria. The Policy is consistent with existing statutes, regulations, State Board precedential decisions and resolutions, and is intended to provide clear direction to responsible parties, their service providers, and regulatory agencies. The Policy seeks to increase UST cleanup process efficiency. A benefit of improved efficiency is the preservation of limited resources for mitigation of releases posing a greater threat to human and environmental health.

The Policy is a state policy for water quality control and applies to all sites governed by Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10. The term "regulatory agencies" in the Policy means the State Water Board, Regional Water Boards and local agencies authorized to implement Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10.