

**Response to Comments posted to GeoTracker by Santa Clara County Environmental Health Department on November 6, 2015 Regarding the Closure Recommendation for Chevron #9-3400, Located at 2790 Homestead Road, Santa Clara Claim 3848**

The following exchange occurred within the 60-day public comment period. The italicized comments and conclusions are excerpts from the November 6, 2015 letter posted to GeoTracker. State Water Board staff has prepared a response beneath each comment.

*Comment 1: The [Santa Clara County Environmental Health Department (DEH)] believes that the site does not meet this criteria because a waste oil UST had a release and Poly- Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) have not been analyzed. A waste oil UST was located in the south-central portion of the site. A soil sample was collected at a depth of 9 feet below ground surface (bgs) next to the tank and contained several compounds including 0.43 parts per million benzene. The soil detections indicate that the tank had a release. PAHs including the seven carcinogenic compounds listed in the Policy were not included in the list of analytes.*

*Conclusion 1: The site fails the Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure criteria because the waste oil UST leaked and PAHs including the seven carcinogenic PAHs listed in the Policy were not analyzed.*

Response 1: Although PAH data is lacking, there is substantial supporting site information to demonstrate that the risk for Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure has been mitigated. The Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure criteria is provided to evaluate conditions where direct contact with contaminated soil between ground surface and 10 feet below ground surface or inhalation of contaminants volatilized to outdoor air potentially pose a threat to human health. The waste oil tank was removed in 1987, and the soil sample collected at 9 feet bgs from beneath the waste oil tank indicated a benzene concentration of 0.43 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) as stated above. The benzene and ethylbenzene concentrations reported in the 1987 sample were well below the Policy Table 1 concentration limits. In June 1996 the waste oil tank area was overexcavated to a depth of 15 feet and 183 tons of soil were removed and replaced with clean backfill material. The contaminated soil at 9 feet bgs was removed, as was underlying soil to 15 feet bgs. This remedial action essentially eliminated the possibility of direct contact with contaminated soil between ground surface and 10 feet bgs. Furthermore, a soil vapor barrier was installed prior to the construction of the building currently overlying the former location of the waste oil tank. This engineering control is an additional, acceptable mitigation measure. Exposure through direct contact or outdoor air is mitigated for several reasons: (1) the waste oil tank area is beneath a building and inaccessible; (2) the upper 15 feet of soil beneath the building in the area of the waste oil tank is clean fill, which does not pose a direct contact or inhalation risk; and (3) there is an engineering control (vapor barrier) between the base of the building and the clean backfill material in the waste oil tank area. No additional activities associated with the waste oil tank are reasonable or necessary.

*Comment 2: The Groundwater-Specific Criteria listed in the Policy, for sites with plume lengths between 100 and 250 feet, states that the nearest existing water supply well or surface body must be greater than 1,000 feet from the defined boundary of the plume. The groundwater plume is approximately 220 feet long and the closest stretch of Saratoga Creek is located approximately 543 feet from the edge of the mapped plume. Measured in a downgradient direction, the mapped plume is approximately 600 feet from the creek.*

*Conclusion 2: The site fails the Groundwater Specific Criteria because the plume is closer than 1,000 feet to a surface water body (i.e., Saratoga Creek). Saratoga Creek is located in a downgradient direction from the mapped edge of the plume.*

Response 2: The Policy presents five classes under which a site may meet the Groundwater specific criteria. Policy Criterion 1 by Class 5 may be used if the regulatory agency determines, based on an analysis of site specific conditions that 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. Saratoga Creek is approximately 600 feet west (crossgradient) from the defined plume boundary. However, groundwater flow direction at the Site has been historically consistent and parallel to the orientation of the creek, therefore, under present conditions and reasonably anticipated future conditions it is highly unlikely that the affected groundwater would migrate toward the creek. Based on these site-specific conditions, the contaminant plume poses a low threat to human health and safety and to the environment. If not for the creek this case would satisfy Policy Criterion 1 by Class 4. The contaminant plume that exceeds water quality objectives is less than 1,000 feet in length. There is no free product. The dissolved concentration of benzene is less than 1,000 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ), and the dissolved concentration of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) is less than 1,000  $\mu\text{g/l}$ .