

# Leaking Underground Fuel Tank (LUFT) Program, GeoTracker and Low Threat Closure Policy Awareness Information Sheet

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**GeoTracker** is a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) data management system, used to provide real-time case information on all open and closed sites in California. The SWRCB, uses GeoTracker to track information and manage their programs. GeoTracker is an online database that (1) provides access to statewide environmental data, and (2) tracks regulatory data for the following types of sites: LUFT cleanup sites; Cleanup Program Sites (CPS), also known as, Site Cleanups (SC) and Spills, Leaks, Investigation and Cleanups (SLIC) sites; Military Sites (consisting of UST, Military Privatized, and Military Cleanup sites [formerly known as DoD non-UST]); Land Disposal sites (Landfills); and Permitted UST facilities. These programs are overseen by the State and Regional Water Boards, and local agencies, including the Santa Barbara County Site Mitigation Unit (SMU), for hazardous materials and oilfield cleanups.

The LUFT program has changed dramatically in the last 2-3 years, moving from very conservative cleanup levels, to ones that are risk-based. The Low Threat Closure Policy (LTCP) criteria evaluations are based on current land use and the primary concerns are "water supplies and human health." Sites are being aggressively closed at levels, which are above previous goals, but which have been determined to be acceptable based upon the current specified land use. Historic cleanup levels were set to be protective of all potential future land uses including residential. If a site is currently being closed, meeting the closure criteria for commercial/industrial, it may need more work if future land use changes involve more sensitive uses, such as day care, extended care, schools, and residential use, etc.

**For more information on the LTCP please go to:** [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/lt\\_cls\\_plcy.shtml#policy081712](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/lt_cls_plcy.shtml#policy081712)

The State of California expects ALL Planning and Building and Safety Departments to use GeoTracker as a resource when reviewing project development plans. This in turn means that ALL local Departments involved in permitting changes in land use must access data in GeoTracker to make informed decisions with respect to projects under their review. You should also inquire with EHS using Public Record Review Agreement form, as information for some older sites have not been uploaded to GeoTracker.

The following is a quick presentation with links to help you with this, or refer to the "*Search GeoTracker by County*," Powerpoint presentation:

The GeoTracker website is located at <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>. Instructions and tips for searching GeoTracker are provided below:

### **Instructions to obtain a list of OPEN and CLOSED CASES in Santa Barbara County:**

- 1) Locate the "REPORTS" section on the left hand side of the GeoTracker home page.
- 2) Click on "By County".
- 3) Click on "Santa Barbara County".

### **Instructions to obtain a list of OPEN CASES in Santa Barbara County:**

- 1) Locate the "TOOLS" section on the left hand side of the GeoTracker home page.
- 2) Click on "Advanced Search".
- 3) Under "SITE / FACILITY TYPE(S)", check the following boxes:

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- a) "Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Cleanup Sites"
- b) "Other Water Board Cleanup Sites"
- c) and others as you so choose
- 4) In the "CLEANUP STATUS" box, use the dropdown menu to select "All Open Cases".
- 5) In the "REGIONAL BOARD" box, use the dropdown menu to select "Central Coast RWQCB (REGION 3)."

Lists of All Cases and Open Cases can easily be exported to Excel by selecting the "EXPORT TO EXCEL" link at the top of the site list just above "CLEANUP STATUS". The exported file will provide enhanced searching options and allow you to view the entire list at once. Please note the default is to save this file as a .txt (text file) file unless you select one of the \*.xls formats from the drop down choices or by adding it manually. (There are approx. 1200 sites in SB County? as of April 2014).

## **Instructions to search for a specific area or site:**

There are two ways to search for specific geographic areas or sites on the GeoTracker website as follows:

- 1) By using the search box in the center of the GeoTracker home page that states "Enter an Address, City," or just the "City" under the heading "**MAP LOCATION OF INTEREST**". Enter the address for the property. Follow the example format provided above the information entry box. This search displays a map of the address or city entered with the ability to identify the following:
  - Leaking Underground Tank (LUST) Cleanup Sites
  - Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
  - Permitted Underground Storage Tank (UST) Facilities
  - DTSC Cleanup Sites
  - Military Sites
  - Other Cleanup Sites
  - Land Disposal Sites
  - Monitoring Wells
  - DTSC Haz Waste Permit
  - WDR Sites
- **Other Cleanup Sites – Includes Santa Barbara County Site Mitigation Unit (SMU) sites**

This provides a Google Map with scroll, zoom, and alternate view functions. Clicking on the sites identified on the map will display the site name, address, case number, and type of case. Clicking on the site name, highlighted in blue, will load a separate web page with all information regarding the case. The type of cases to display can be modified by checking the boxes to the left of the map under "LAYERS". A list of sites displayed on the map is available at the bottom of the page.

***Note that the location of the case as shown on the map may be incorrect. The address of the site should be checked to ensure that it matches the location displayed on the map.***

- 2) By using the "**Advanced Search**" option found on either the left sidebar or under the "**TOOLS**" tab on the GeoTracker home page. The following fields are available under "Advanced Search" which can narrow search criteria:
  - a. CASE ID / GLOBAL ID: EHS's case number is the LOP CASE ID; the Global ID is assigned by GeoTracker as a "primary key."
  - b. SITE / FACILITY NAME:
  - c. ADDRESS (OR PARTIAL ADDRESS):

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- d. CITY, ZIP, and COUNTY are other fields you can select.
- e. **PLEASE NOTE:**
  - i. The search results for specific addresses in this field are dependent upon how the site address was entered into GeoTracker. For example, if the address associated with the case is "31577 HY 94", searching for "31577 HWY 94" will result in "NO PROJECTS FOUND WITH THOSE SEARCH PARAMETERS".
  - ii. For this reason it is advisable to search with only the **numerical portion of the address and city**. You can use other pertinent site information such as "Regional Board" or "Cleanup Status" to narrow the search or use the "MAP LOCATION OF INTEREST" search box described above.
  - iii. **SITE / FACILITY TYPE(S)**: Check the boxes for "For Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Cleanup Sites" and "Other Water Board Cleanup Sites" will narrow the search to environmental cases.
  - iv. **CLEANUP STATUS**: Allows searching for "Open" or "Closed" cases as well as the stage of the investigation.
  - v. **REGIONAL BOARD**: Santa Barbara County is part of "**Central Coast RWQCB (REGION 3)**".
  - vi. **PARENT MILITARY BASE**

For more information about the LUFT Program or Low Threat Closure Policy, visit the California State Water Resources Control Board

webpage: [http://waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/](http://waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/)

- UST Site Cleanup Program Fact Sheet (June 12, 2014)
- Leaking Underground Fuel Tank (LUFT) Manual Program (September 2012)
- Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Closure Policy (effective August 17, 2012)

For more information about the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (USTCF), the following webpage: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ustcf/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/)

**For further assistance, please contact the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, Environmental Health Service Division offices in Santa Maria, at 805-346-8460, and ask to speak to a LUFT/SMU staff member.**