Brown and Bryant Superfund Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • October 2007

City of Arvin Water Quality

City Well - 1

The U.S. EPA has tested Arvin's drinking water well CW-1 for over ten years and no contaminants from the Brown and Bryant Superfund Site **have ever** been detected in it.

Brown and Bryant Chemicals

Chemicals of Concern associated with the Brown and Bryant Superfund Site but **never found** in CW-1 are:

- Chloroform
- 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP)
- 1,2-Dichloropropoane (DCP)
- 1,3-Dichloropropane (DCP)
- 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP)
- Ethylene Dibromide (EDB)
- Dinoseb

Arvin Ground Water

Ground water under the City of Arvin can be described as three distinct aquifers: A-zone, B-zone and C-zone. A-zone is the shallowest, B-zone is the middle aquifer and C-zone is the deep aquifer from where Arvin draws its drinking water. See Figure 1.

Drinking Water Protection

Arvin's drinking water is protected by the Corcoran layer, an impermeable layer of clay 45-75-feet thick that separates the upper aquifers A-zone and B-zone from the deep, drinking water aquifer, C-zone, approximately 300 feet to 530 below the ground surface (bgs). This is significant because the thick layer of clay creates a barrier that water cannot pass through. Therefore, upper-aquifers A-zone and B-zone do not influence deep-aquifer C-zone.

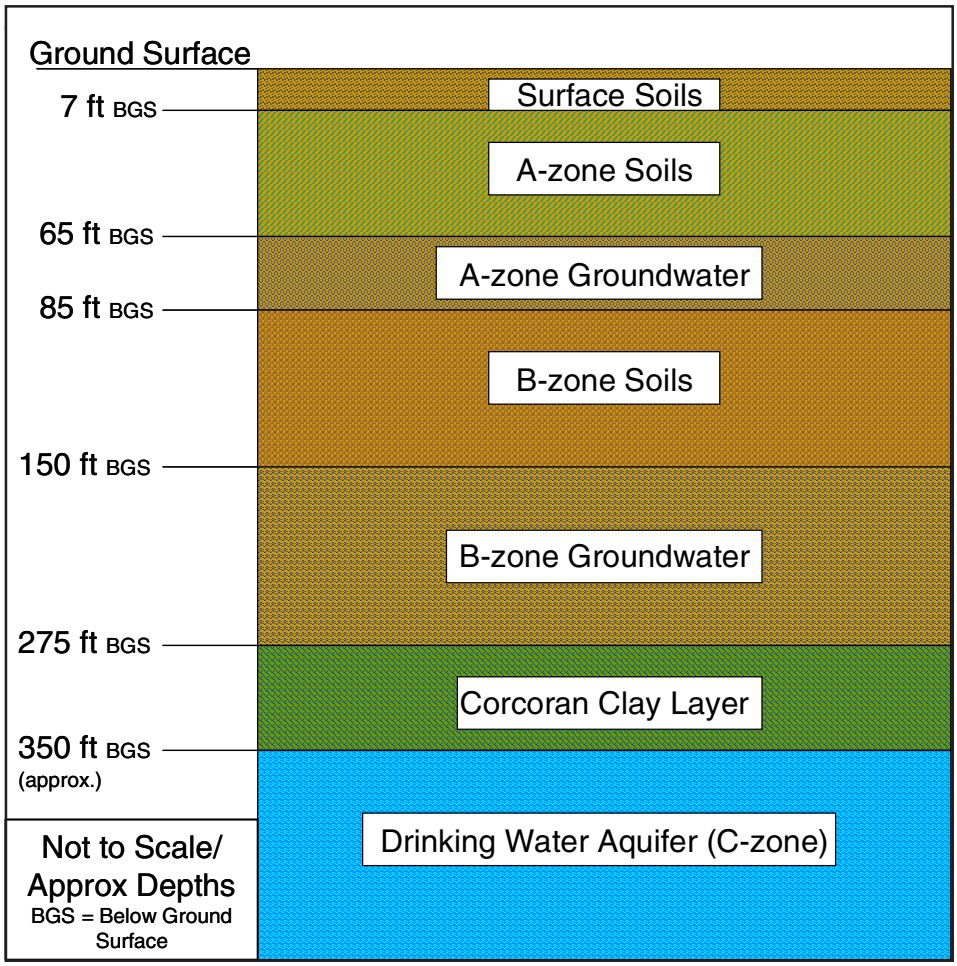


Figure 1: Soils Cross Section

Ground Water Contamination in Zones A & B

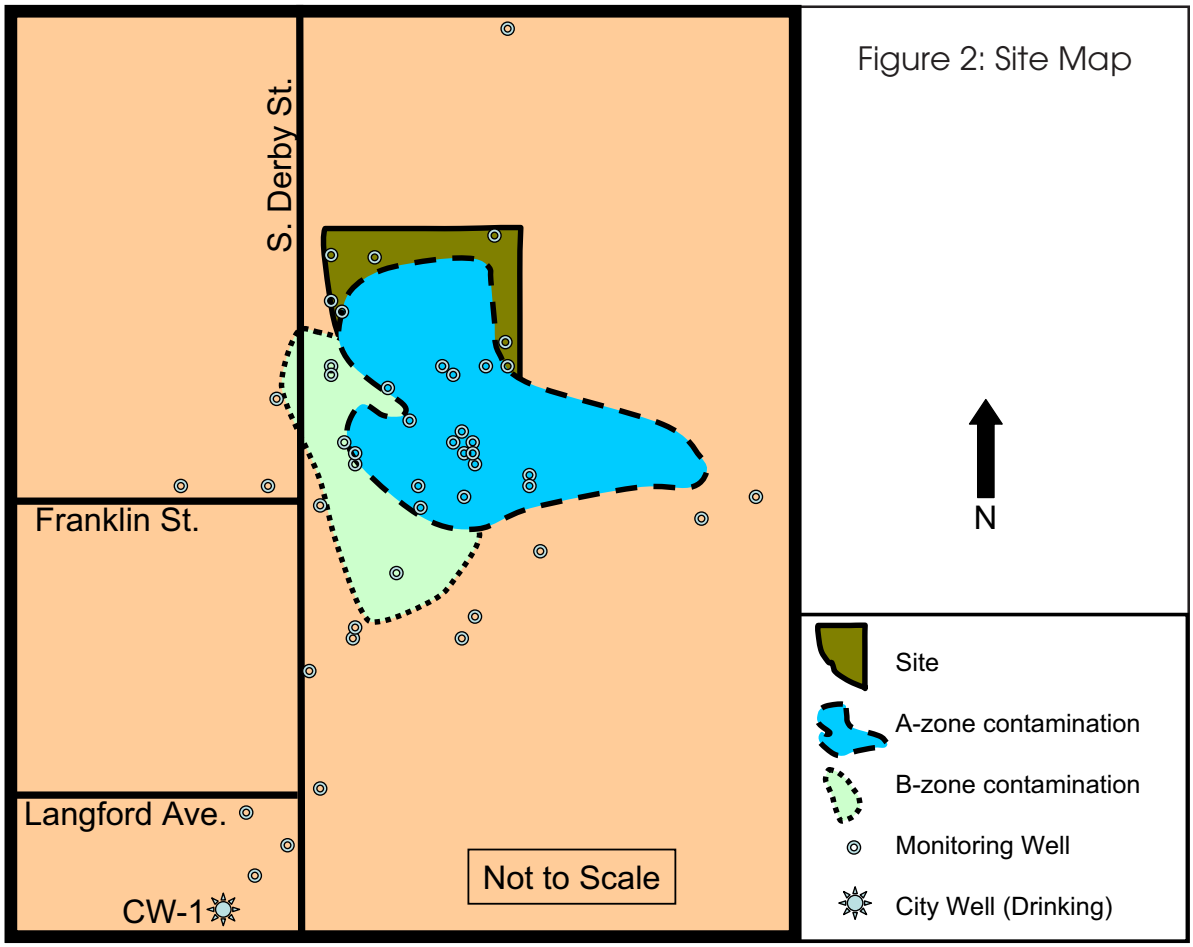
Contamination from the Brown and Bryant Superfund Site is confined to the upper-aquifers, A-zone and B-zone, with the source of the groundwater contamination in the upper-most A-zone aquifer. Contamination is spreading down from the A-zone to the B-zone at a very slow rate. The spreading has continued since 1960, the start of operation of the Brown and Bryant Facility. (Please see Figure 2 for lateral spread of the contamination over the past 45 years.)

Monitoring

Contamination at the Brown and Bryant Superfund Site is closely monitored by 44 monitoring wells on and around the Site (See Figure 2). The outer-most monitoring wells have been positioned to detect any contamination spreading from the Brown and Bryant Site in both the A-zone and B-zone. The Brown and Bryant monitoring program will continue until the site has been totally cleaned up and closed out. Reports of the monitoring will be made available to the public immediately after the data has been validated. Additionally, a review will be conducted every five years to determine the effectiveness of the remedy with a report made available to the public.

New Drinking Water Well

The U.S. EPA is currently proposing to construct a new drinking water well in accordance with current best practices and then close CW-1. CW-1 **will not** be decommissioned until a new well is operational. CW-1 was constructed in accordance with older standards where the casing was packed with gravel, and that may complicate clean up activities in the future. The Arvin Community Services District will be responsible for selecting and securing a location for the new well, and the U.S. EPA will construct the new well.



Who is Responsible for Arvin's Water?

The Arvin Community Services District is responsible for drinking water in the City of Arvin and is not allowed to serve water to the public that is contaminated above California drinking water standards. Nitrates, arsenic and other known contaminants exist naturally in the earth, and they are common in ground water. You may have received a notice by the Community Services District that states a reportable amount of these contaminants was detected. What that notice did not state was that drinking water standards were recently changed and made more stringent, and that Arvin's drinking water is the same as in years past. The Arvin Community Services District is regulated closely by the State of California Department of Health Services (CA DHS), and the results of the water sampling are available for public review.

Arvin's Water Quality Assurance

Water quality of CW-1 is sampled every three months by the Arvin Community Services District and sent to an independent, certified laboratory that tests for contaminants. These results are then reported to the regulating agencies and consumers. This document is a public document and you may ask to review it at you Arvin Community Services District office.

Problems with Tap Water

If your tap water appears brownish in color, consult with the Arvin Community Services District or a plumber because your water pipes may be rusty. The Arvin Community Services District has acknowledged that sands from the deep wells have been drawn up as a result of the pumping of the ground water, and when this happens, water may take on a brownish color.

If your tap water appears cloudy and the water clears after a few minutes if it is left to sit, that is the result of pressurized air in the water that results from the powerful water pumps at the drinking water wells. This is very much like carbonation in a soda.

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Brown and Bryant Superfund Site

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