



# EPA

## San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site Area 4 Puente Valley Operable Unit

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, California • February 2006

# EPA to Oversee Field Work to Install Groundwater Cleanup System in the Puente Valley Area

The Area 4 project is part of a continuing Superfund groundwater cleanup program in the San Gabriel Valley.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will oversee the installation of a **groundwater\*** cleanup system at the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site in Los Angeles County, California. This fact sheet informs the public of EPA's planned activities and describes the investigation and cleanup of groundwater contamination in the City of La Puente, City of Industry, and the surrounding community. Fifteen **extraction wells** are to be installed starting in late February and continuing through the spring, summer, and possibly fall of 2006.

## Groundwater Contamination in the Valley

The San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site consists of four areas. The site includes large areas of groundwater contamination that underlie significant portions of the Cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, City of Industry, El Monte, La Puente, Monrovia, Rosemead, South El Monte, West Covina, and other areas of the San Gabriel Valley. Contamination of the groundwater by **volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** was first detected in 1979. The Puente Valley Operable Unit is Area 4. The Area 4 site covers an approximately 7-mile-long by 2-mile-wide area of groundwater contamination extending beneath portions of the City of La Puente, City of Industry, and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County (see map on page 3). This project will not affect your drinking water or expose people living or working near the drilling sites to contaminated water or to hazardous chemicals.

## San Gabriel Valley Area 4 Groundwater Extraction Well Installation Project

### Work Schedules

Fifteen extraction wells (nine in the **Shallow Zone** and six in the **Intermediate Zone**) are planned to be installed with the oversight of EPA as part of a groundwater cleanup system to pump groundwater, remove the contaminants, and thus prevent the contamination from migrating further (see map on page 3). Each well will take approximately 1 to 2 weeks to drill and construct, followed by testing of the well, which will require a few days. The drilling crew will generally work between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. In some cases crews may work up to 24 hours per day. Neighboring areas will be notified of this 24-hour schedule on a case-by-case basis.

## Community Open House

EPA will host an Open House to answer questions, as well as to describe the Superfund process and the well installation project in more detail. Please join us!

**Date:** February 14, 2006

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** La Puente City Hall, 15900 East Main Street, La Puente

\* Words in bold are defined in the Glossary on page 3.

## Staff and Equipment on Site

To ensure public safety, drilling technicians will be health and safety trained. EPA representatives will periodically visit the site to insure that health and safety procedures are implemented and community impacts are minimized. In addition, the drilling sites will be patrolled during non-working hours.

The drilling crew will use a truck-mounted drilling rig to install the wells. Other support trucks and large containers for temporarily storing drilling soil and liquids will also be parked on the street. Sound barriers will enclose the drilling location to reduce the noise levels in the neighborhood. Safety barriers and traffic cones will ensure the safety of children, pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.



Well construction activities will not expose the public to contaminated soil or groundwater. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, contact information is provided on the back page.

## How Did the Contamination Get into the Groundwater?

The groundwater contamination is the result of decades of handling and disposal practices that released various industrial solvents into the soil and groundwater. The primary contaminants found in Area 4 are VOCs, including **tetrachloroethene (PCE)** and **trichloroethylene (TCE)**. Other newly detected chemicals include **1,4-dioxane**, an industrial solvent, and **perchlorate**, used in fireworks and rocket fuel.

## Who is Doing the Cleanup Work?

Under the oversight of the EPA, two **Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)** have been identified for the cleanup of the two impacted groundwater zones in Area 4 (the Shallow Zone and Intermediate Zone). Carrier Corporation is responsible for the cleanup of the Shallow Zone. The lead for cleaning up the Intermediate Zone will be Northrop Grumman Space & Mission Systems Corp. (formerly TRW Inc.). Both cleanup areas are at the gateway of the Puente Valley.

## What are the Cleanup Remedies?

The extraction wells will pump out the groundwater and it will be treated with the following processes:

- Liquid-phase **Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)** and/or **Air Stripping** for the removal of TCE, PCE, and other volatile organic compounds
- **Advanced Oxidation** for the removal of 1,4-dioxane
- **Ion Exchange**, if necessary, for the removal of perchlorate

Treated groundwater is anticipated to be delivered to a potable distribution system or to be discharged to Puente Creek.

**Your drinking water is safe.**  
**All drinking water provided by the utilities in San Gabriel Valley communities meets current federal and state drinking water standards.**



## Glossary

**1,4-dioxane** - Primarily used as a stabilizer in solvents, such as the degreasing chemical TCE, and as a solvent in lacquers, varnishes, paints, plastics, dyes, oils, waxes, and resins.

**Advanced Oxidation** - A water treatment process that uses chemical oxidants, often in combination with ultraviolet light, to treat organic chemicals that cannot be removed by GAC or air stripping.

**Air Stripping** - A treatment system that removes VOCs from contaminated groundwater by forcing an airstream through the water and causing the compounds to evaporate.

**Extraction Wells** - Wells used to pump groundwater for cleanup.

**Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)** - A carbon filtering system that removes organics from water.

**Groundwater** - The fresh water found beneath the Earth's surface that supplies wells and springs.

**Ion Exchange** - A water treatment technology capable of removing selected inorganic ions from the water. If used in the cleanup, ion exchange systems will be designed to remove perchlorate from the water.

**Intermediate Zone** - Three zones were defined to describe the groundwater bearing layers beneath Area 4: the Shallow Zone, Intermediate Zone, and Deep Zone. The Intermediate Zone is between the Shallow Zone and the Deep Zone. The Deep Zone is the depth from which the water supply wells pump groundwater for domestic consumption.

**Perchlorate** - Used as the primary ingredient of solid rocket fuel.

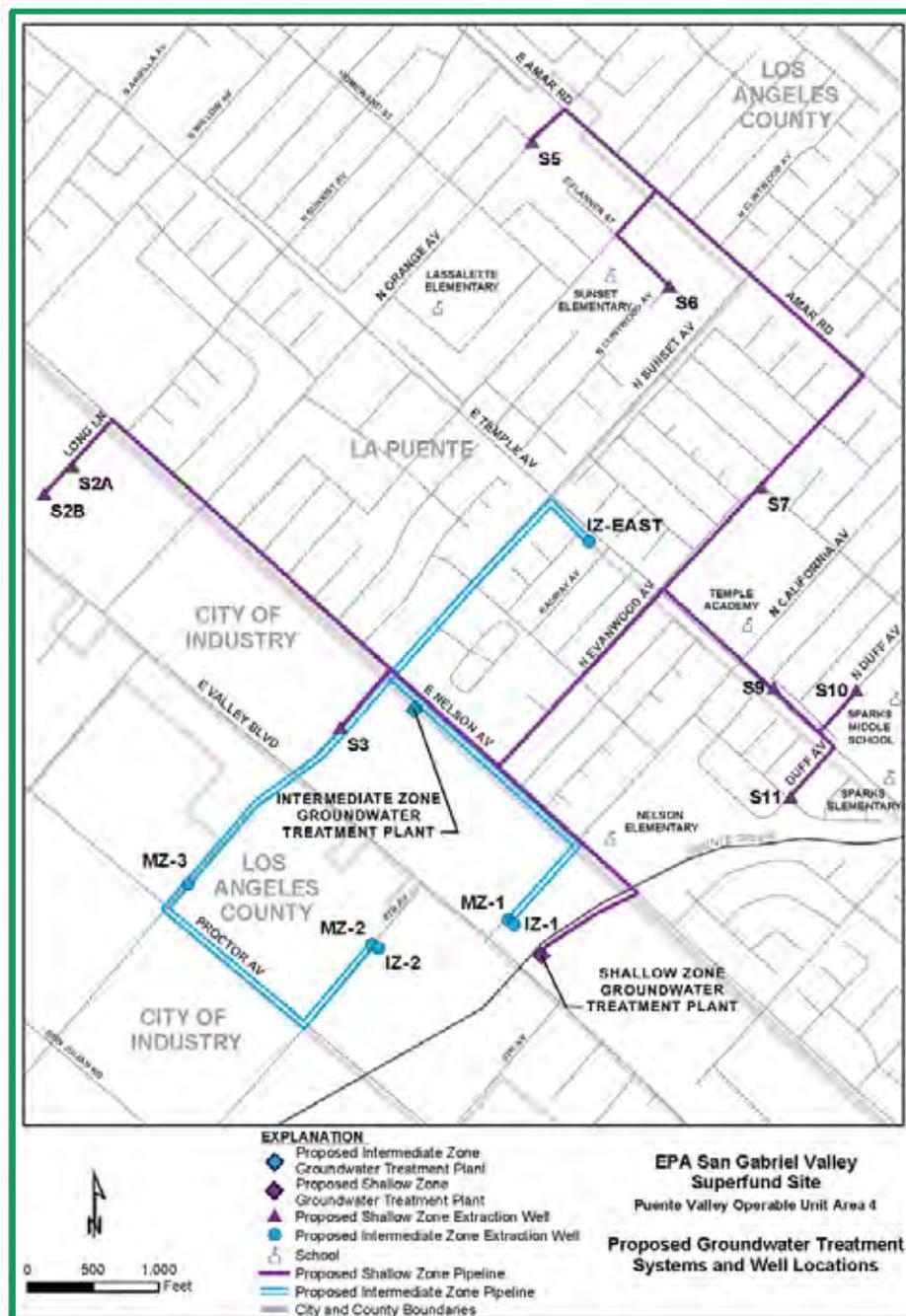
**Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)** - Any individual or company potentially responsible for, or contributing to, contamination at a Superfund site.

**Shallow Zone** - Extends from the water table to a depth of approximately 250 to 300 feet below ground surface.

**Tetrachloroethene (PCE)** - A colorless organic liquid with a mild, chloroform-like odor. Its greatest use is as a degreaser and in the dry-cleaning industry.

**Trichloroethylene (TCE)** - A colorless or organic liquid with a chloroform-like odor. The greatest use of trichloroethylene is to remove grease from fabricated metal parts.

**Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)** - Commonly used in dry cleaning, machinery degreasing, and metal plating.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### US EPA CONTACTS

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**Alhelí Baños**  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
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Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(213) 244-1808  
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Toll-Free (English and Spanish)  
Community Involvement Office  
message line: (800) 231-3075

### CITY OF LA PUENTE CONTACT

**Gregg Yamachika**  
Community Development Director  
(626) 855-1500

### CITY OF INDUSTRY CONTACT

**John Ballas**  
City Engineer  
(626) 333-2211

### INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

EPA provides general information about the Superfund Program, as well as copies of fact sheets and technical documents on the San Gabriel Valley Operable Units, at the locations below:

**Hacienda Heights Public Library**  
16010 La Monde Street  
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745  
(626) 968-9356



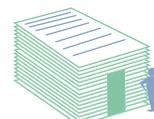
**Rosemead Public Library**  
8800 Valley Boulevard  
Rosemead, CA 91770  
(626) 573-5220



**West Covina Public Library**  
1801 West Covina Parkway  
West Covina, CA 91790  
(626) 962-3541



**Superfund Records Center**  
95 Hawthorne Street,  
Room 403 (SFD-7C)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 536-2000



Information is also available on US EPA's websites at <http://www.epa.gov> (EPA headquarters home page, <http://www.epa.gov/region09> (US EPA Region 9 home page), and <http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund/index.html> (Superfund site overviews). Under Programs & Resources, click on Superfund, click on Site Overviews, click on San Gabriel Valley (Area 4 - City of Industry and Puente Valley). Documents and web pages are generally in English only, but are sometimes translated.

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)  
San Francisco, CA 94105

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