



# San Gabriel Valley Area 2 Superfund Site

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## EPA Completes “Five-Year Review” of Azusa/Baldwin Park Groundwater Cleanup

In September 2012, EPA completed an evaluation of the Azusa/Baldwin Park groundwater cleanup project. After reviewing test results and other site documents, interviewing water agency personnel, and inspecting the cleanup facilities, EPA concluded that the Superfund cleanup project continues to meet its primary goals. The goals are to limit further spread of the contaminated groundwater, begin the long-term process of removing the chemical contaminants from the groundwater, and ensure that the treated water meets all drinking water standards. EPA also concluded that the cleanup project, also known as the Baldwin Park Operable Unit, continues to be protective of human health and the environment.

A September 24, 2012 report describing the results of the evaluation is available on EPA’s webpage at <http://epa.gov/region9/sangabrielbaldwinpark> and at the local site repository listed on the back. This year’s review was the second “Five Year Review” completed at the Site.

Cleanup of the groundwater is expected to continue for decades, with the next formal review scheduled for 2017. The Azusa/Baldwin Park cleanup addresses an eight mile long area of groundwater contamination underlying portions of the cities of Azusa, Irwindale, Baldwin Park, West Covina, La Puente, and City of Industry. The contamination is believed to be the result of decades of improper chemical handling and disposal.



The four large water treatment systems constructed as part of the cleanup were designed and built between 2000 and 2006. The four systems, operated by local water utilities, remove the chemical contaminants and supply drinking water to approximately 150,000 homes and businesses in the region.

### Importance of the San Gabriel Valley’s Groundwater Supply

Groundwater in the San Gabriel Valley is a critical source of drinking water for Southern California. The groundwater provides approximately 90 percent of the drinking water used by San Gabriel Valley businesses and residents.

### Responsible Companies Continue to Pay Most Cleanup Costs

The cost of cleaning up groundwater in the Azusa/Baldwin Park area will run into the hundreds of millions of dollars. Most of the cleanup costs are being paid by companies that EPA identified as contributors to the contamination. These companies are sometimes called Potentially Responsible Parties. Some cleanup costs have also been paid with Federal and State funds.

### Over 50,000 Pounds of Contaminants Removed from the Groundwater

As of November 2012, an estimated 66 billion gallons of contaminated groundwater have been pumped to the surface and treated to remove the chemical contaminants from the groundwater. An estimated 58,000 pounds of contaminants have been removed. Currently, the project is removing approximately 8,000 pounds of chemical contaminants per year from the groundwater. To date, more than \$200 million has been spent on the cleanup.



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## For More Information

Please visit EPA's website for the San Gabriel Valley, Area 2 Site: [www.epa.gov/region09/SanGabrielBaldwinPark](http://www.epa.gov/region09/SanGabrielBaldwinPark). Or visit the information repositories to review the administrative record for the Site.



### West Covina Library

1601 West Covina Parkway  
West Covina, CA 91790  
Telephone: (626) 962-3541  
Hours: Tue – Thu, 10 am – 8 pm;  
Sat, 8 am – 6 pm;  
Sun, Mon & Fri, Closed

### U.S. EPA Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne Street, Room 403  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901  
Hours: Mon – Fri, 8am – 5pm

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