



Groundwater Testing is Part of the Superfund Cleanup Program

This fact sheet provides test results of local groundwater quality. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began testing groundwater last year in the Area 3 portion of the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Sites in Los Angeles County, California. Area 3 includes the City of San Gabriel, and parts of Alhambra, Rosemead, San Marino, South Pasadena, Temple City, and unincorporated Los Angeles County.

As you may already know from previous community flyers and notices, EPA is testing regional groundwater to measure contamination from past industrial use of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs are liquid chemicals that can release vapors and are commonly used in dry cleaning, paint stripping, and machinery degreasing.

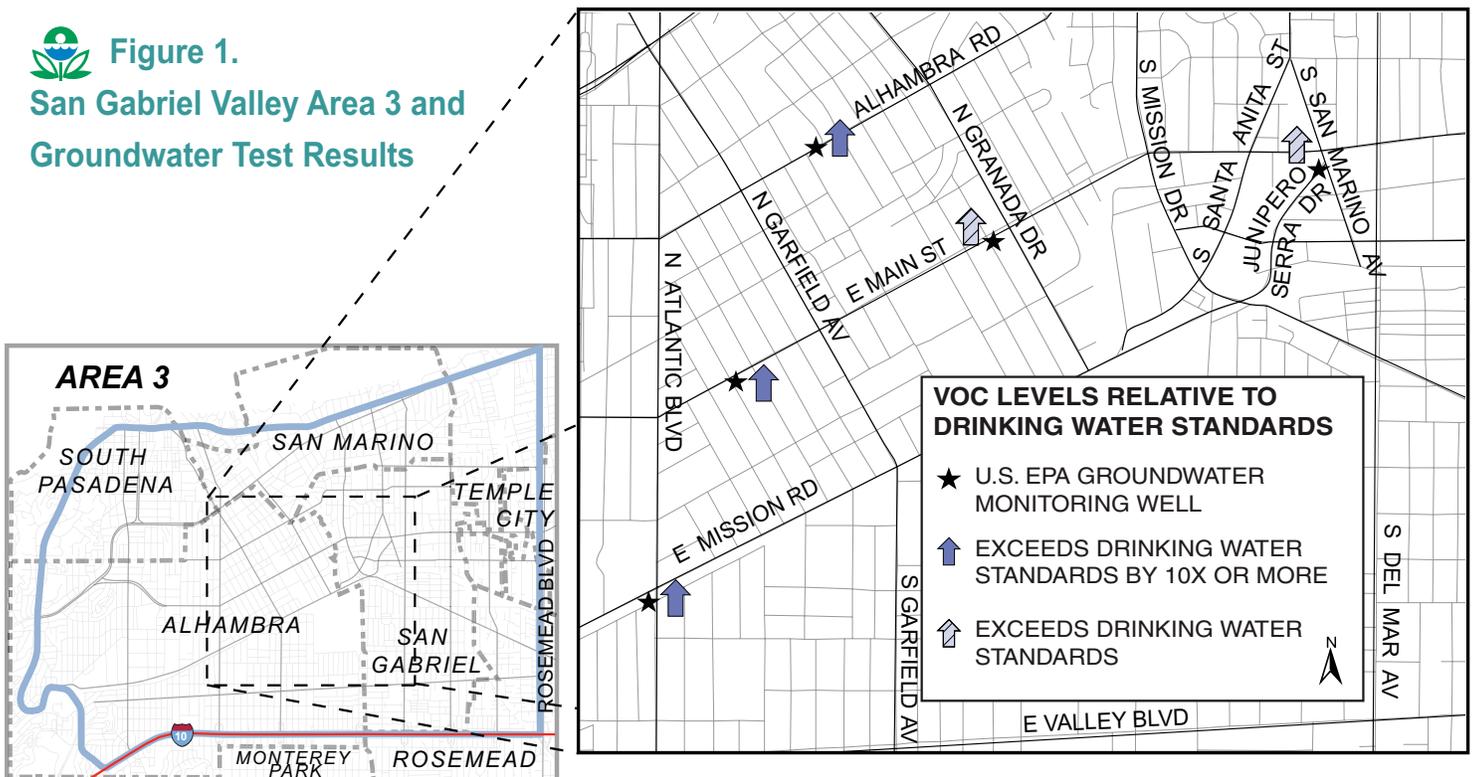
During 2003, EPA installed five groundwater monitoring wells to test groundwater from 150 to 300 feet below ground surface. This distance is roughly the height of a 15 to 30 story building. **Groundwater monitoring wells are used for testing only, and not to supply drinking water to local residents.**

Results of Groundwater Testing

Public health standards for drinking water are set by EPA and the State of California. These drinking water standards are used as guidelines for measuring chemicals in groundwater to protect public health, even if the groundwater is not presently used for drinking. The combined results of EPA's groundwater testing (three rounds) and locations of our monitoring wells are presented in Figure 1. Please contact EPA if you would like more detailed results. EPA will continue testing the groundwater every three months through the summer of 2005 or longer.



Figure 1.
San Gabriel Valley Area 3 and
Groundwater Test Results



What's Next?

As we continue our testing, EPA will provide you with updated information through fact sheets and public meetings. We will use the information we gather to develop a cleanup plan for the groundwater. EPA will then seek community feedback on a proposed cleanup plan.

We Want Your Input

EPA would like to continue to make sure your concerns are addressed and your questions answered. If you have questions or input, including how to best keep you informed and involved, please call one of the contacts listed below.

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EPA Toll-free Community Involvement Office message line (messages may be left in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese): (800) 231-3075

Media Inquiries:

Francisco Arcaute
EPA Southern California Press Officer
(213) 452-3378

For More Information

EPA provides general information on the Superfund Program, as well as copies of past fact sheets and technical documents on the San Gabriel Valley Superfund sites, at the locations below.

Alhambra Public Library

401 West Main Street
Alhambra, CA 91801
(626) 570-5008

Rosemead Library

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

West Covina Library

1601 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 EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov> (EPA Headquarters home page), <http://www.epa.gov/region09> (EPA Region 9 home page), and <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/overview.nsf> (Superfund site overviews). Documents and web pages are generally in English.



Despite contamination in the area, local water suppliers continue to provide water that meets federal and state drinking water standards. Your groundwater is tested to protect the water supply of the San Gabriel Valley. EPA is responsible for investigating and cleaning up contamination in the San Gabriel Valley according to the federal government's Superfund program.