



Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman (MEW) Study Area

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Mountain View, California

Groundwater Sampling Notice

During the next several weeks, you may see field crews in your neighborhood conducting groundwater sampling. This sampling is part of an EPA-approved groundwater investigation in the area west of Whisman Road and south of Highway 101 (see Figure 1). The groundwater in this area is not used for drinking or other household purposes. Drinking water in this area comes from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and is treated to meet all state and federal drinking water standards.

Previous groundwater studies have found volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including trichloroethene (TCE) and cis-1,2-dichloroethene (cis-1,2-DCE), in groundwater beneath the Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman Area. The current groundwater sampling is part of an effort to assess the extent of VOCs in groundwater west of Whisman Road.

The field activities will begin on November 26, 2012, and will continue for approximately two weeks.

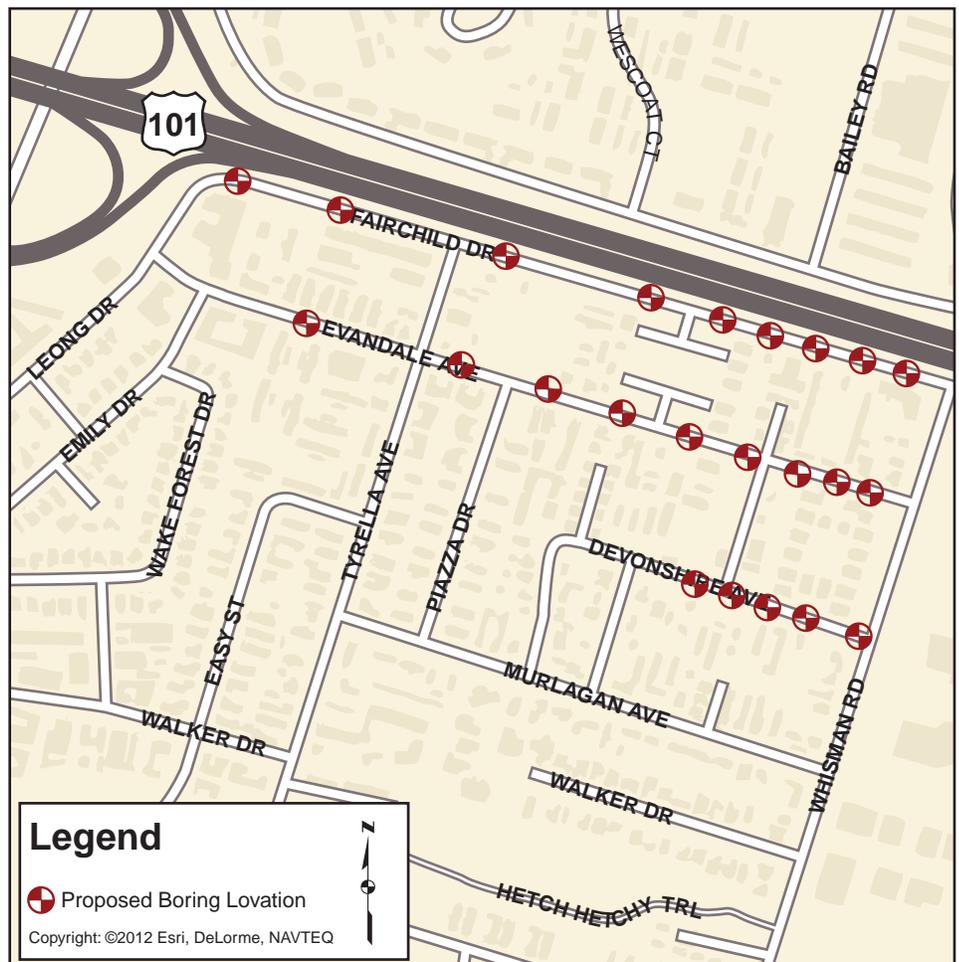
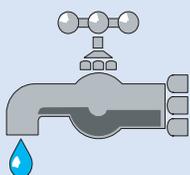


Figure 1: EPA Proposed Sampling Locations



Note: The groundwater in this study area is not used for drinking or other household uses. Drinking water in this area comes from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and is treated to meet all state and federal drinking water standards.

Proposed Groundwater Sampling Locations

Figure 1 shows the approximate groundwater sampling locations that are proposed for this effort. Each sampling location should take approximately two to four hours to complete. Up to three locations will be sampled each day.

What You May See and How You May Be Impacted

- Workers will be wearing protective clothing such as safety vests, hard hats and protective glasses
- Traffic and parking in the immediate vicinity of the sampling locations may be impacted at various times
- All sampling in the neighborhood will be done in the street or on public property, not on residential property
- All work will be done during the day
- A large drilling truck will be moving in and out of the area (see Figure 2)
- The work area will be taped or coned to alert residents and the general public and ensure they remain outside the work zones



Figure 2: Example of the type of truck used for field and groundwater sampling activities

Field Activities

The truck used will contain a drilling device that makes a small hole (less than 2 inches in diameter) in the street. As it passes through the ground, the drill probe helps determine the composition of subsurface soils, including the location of water-bearing zones that might hold VOCs.

Groundwater samples in different water-bearing zones will be collected and shipped to a laboratory for analysis. Following completion of groundwater sample collection at each location, the hole will be filled and re-graded to match the surface asphalt.

For More Information

If you have questions or need more information about this groundwater investigation, please call or email Penny Wilson Reddy, EPA Project Manager at (415) 972-3108 or reddy.penny@epa.gov.

