



San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site

South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU)

November 2012

INSTALLATION OF GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS

EPA contractors will be installing a network of groundwater monitoring wells in El Monte, South El Monte, and Rosemead as part of the Agency's efforts to investigate and clean up groundwater pollution.

WHAT:

Drilling and construction of groundwater monitoring wells up to 500 feet deep

WORK SCHEDULE:

Typically Monday through Friday, 7 AM to 5 PM

HOW LONG:

Heavy construction for about 4 to 6 days at each location, followed by more limited activity for 2 to 4 days

WHERE:

See Figure 2 for planned locations

WHY:

To provide information EPA needs to clean up groundwater pollution in the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site

WHO:

Private contractors working for EPA



Figure 1: Typical well installation equipment

Sound-reducing blankets will be used to reduce noise in residential drilling locations, but well-drilling may be noisy at times, and vehicle traffic may need to be rerouted temporarily. We will work to minimize the impact on neighboring residents and businesses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/SouthElMonte>



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BACKGROUND:

Four areas of groundwater contamination in San Gabriel Valley have been placed on EPA's National Priorities List. The South El Monte cleanup project (Operable Unit) is part of the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site, and addresses contaminated groundwater under the cities of South El Monte, El Monte, and Rosemead. The groundwater contamination is the result of decades of poor chemical handling and disposal practices by hundreds of industrial facilities. The primary chemical contaminants in the Site's groundwater are tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE), both industrial solvents; 1,4-dioxane, used as a stabilizer in chlorinated industrial solvents; and perchlorate, used in fireworks and rocket fuel. EPA's ongoing remedy includes extracting and treating contaminated groundwater. The new monitoring wells will help EPA investigate the extent of contamination and evaluate the effectiveness of the existing remedy.

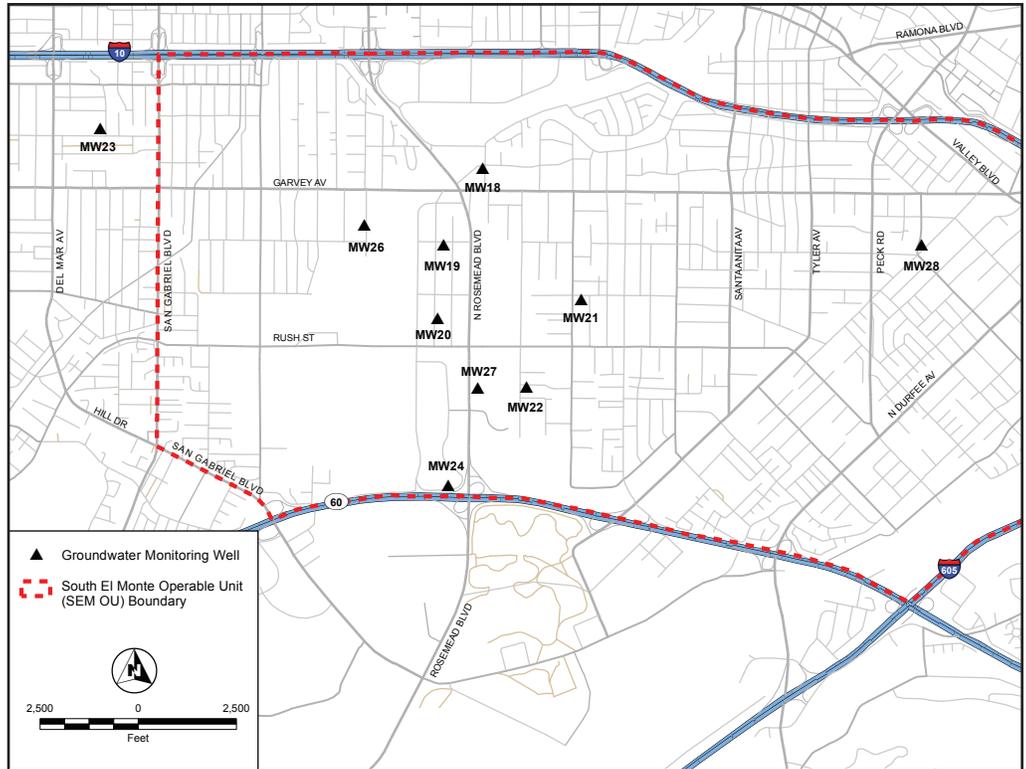


Figure 2: Planned groundwater monitoring well locations

Groundwater continues to be an important source of drinking water to residents and businesses in the San Gabriel Valley. Local water utilities continue to pump water from clean areas, and in locations affected by the pollution have installed water treatment equipment to remove the pollutants.

What is Superfund?

It is the environmental program established in 1980 to address abandoned hazardous waste sites. The process involves the steps taken to assess sites, place them on the National Priorities List, and establish and implement appropriate cleanup plans. To accomplish its mission, EPA works closely with communities, Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs), scientists, researchers, contractors, and state, local, tribal, and federal authorities. For more information on the Superfund Program visit www.epa.gov/superfund.

Visit EPA's website for the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site to learn more

