



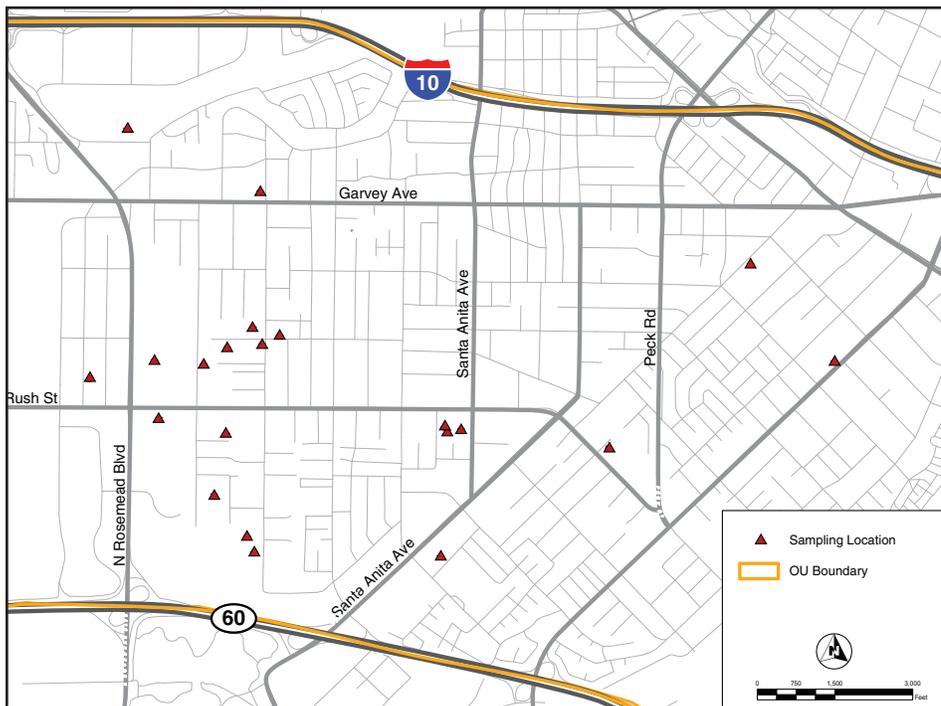
# San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site

## South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU)

April 2012

# Soil Gas Sampling in El Monte, Rosemead, and South El Monte

As part of the ongoing Superfund Site cleanup at the South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU), contractors working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be collecting soil gas samples in various locations in El Monte, Rosemead, and South El Monte (see Figure 1). The samples will help determine if additional testing is needed to evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion, a process where underground contamination can enter as vapors into buildings. Contractors will install temporary boreholes and collect samples up to 15 feet deep. Construction may be noisy at times, and vehicle traffic may be re-routed temporarily.



**Figure 1:** *Planned Soil Gas Sampling Locations*

**What:**

Drilling of temporary bore holes and collection of soil gas samples at depths of about 5-15 feet

**When:**

Typically Monday to Friday  
8am to 4pm

**How Long:**

Each location will take approximately 1 day to complete

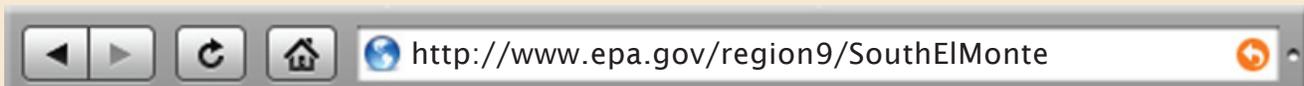
**Where:**

See Figure 1

**Why:**

To collect data for a preliminary evaluation of the potential for vapor intrusion, a process where underground contamination can enter as vapors into buildings; this will determine if additional testing will be needed

Visit EPA's website for the South El Monte Operable Unit Superfund Site to learn more





# San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site

## South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU)

April 2012

### Site History

The SEMOU 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. Other chemicals detected in the groundwater include 1,4-dioxane, used as a stabilizer in chlorinated industrial solvents, and perchlorate, used in fire-works and rocket fuel. EPA's ongoing remedy includes extracting and treating contaminated groundwater. The treated water meets all federal and state health protective standards for drinking water.

### What is Soil Gas?

Soil gas is the air present in the pore spaces in soil. Because PCE and TCE can volatilize (become gas) under certain conditions, they are called volatile organic compounds (VOCs). It is possible for VOCs in groundwater to volatilize and migrate up to the surface. Therefore, it is important to sample the soil gas near the surface in order to find out if additional testing around or inside buildings and homes will be necessary.



### For More Information, Please Contact:

#### Alejandro Diaz

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator  
(415) 972-3242  
[diaz.alejandro@epa.gov](mailto:diaz.alejandro@epa.gov)

#### Rachelle Thompson

EPA Project Manager  
(415) 972-3962  
[thompson.rachelle@epa.gov](mailto:thompson.rachelle@epa.gov)

**More information is available at:** <http://www.epa.gov/region9/SouthElMonte>

For information in Vietnamese, Spanish or Chinese please contact the number below.

Đối với thông tin trong tiếng việt, xin vui lòng liên hệ số dưới đây.

Para información en español, por favor llama al número a continuación.

有關中文信息，請打下列電話號碼和我們聯繫。

**Toll Free: 1-800-231-3075**