San Gabriel Valley Area 2 Superfund Site Baldwin Park Operable Unit

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency $ Region 9 $ San Francisco, CA $ August 2007

Azusa / Baldwin Park Groundwater Cleanup

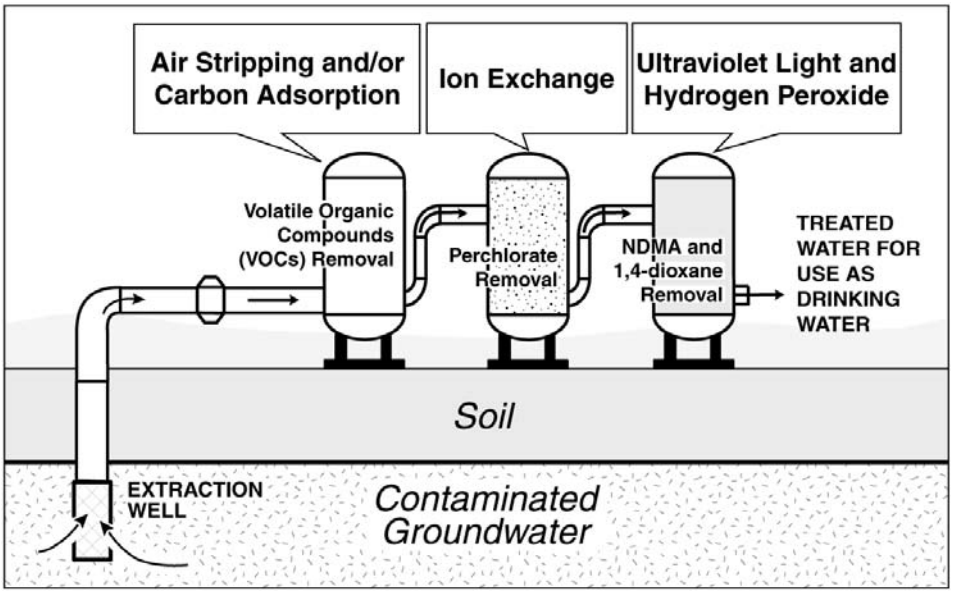
This fact sheet provides updated information about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) efforts to clean up the groundwater in the Azusa/Baldwin Park area and other parts of the San Gabriel Valley. Contamination of the Valley's groundwater began decades ago when the use and disposal of toxic chemicals was loosely regulated. In the 1980s, EPA added four areas of groundwater contamination in the Valley to the EPA's Superfund list. Cleanup work is planned or underway in all four areas. See Table 2 for details. For more information, please visit our websites at:

www.epa.gov/region09/SanGabrielAllAreas or **www.epa.gov/region09/SanGabrielBaldwinPark**

Five-Year Review

EPA is evaluating the progress made over the last five years in cleaning up the groundwater in the Azusa/Baldwin Park area. Under the Superfund law, EPA is required to review cleanup actions every five years whenever contaminants remain at a site. EPA's evaluation will look at whether the cleanup is occurring as planned, previously adopted cleanup levels are still appropriate, and risks to human health are being adequately addressed. The results of the review will be summarized in a report to be prepared in September 2007 known as a Five-Year Review report.

If you would like to provide input into the five-year review, please contact the EPA project manager or community involvement coordinator listed at the end of this fact sheet.



Schematic of treatment system

The Azusa / Baldwin Park Cleanup

Extent of Groundwater Contamination

The Azusa /Baldwin Park cleanup addresses groundwater contamination underlying portions of the cities of Azusa, Irwindale, Baldwin Park, West Covina, La Puente, and City of Industry. The area of contamination is more than 8 miles long and 1 mile wide. Groundwater in the Azusa/Baldwin Park area typically is found starting at depths of 100 to 300 feet below ground.

The primary contaminants in the groundwater are trichloroethene (TCE), perchloroethylene (PCE), carbon tetrachloride, perchlorate, N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP), and 1,4-dioxane. The map on page 3 shows the approximate extent of TCE contamination in the groundwater.

Cleanup Facilities

The Azusa /Baldwin Park cleanup consists of four large multimillion dollar groundwater extraction and treatment "subprojects." Each subproject

consists of groundwater extraction and monitoring wells, pipelines, and multiple water treatment processes for removal of VOCs, perchlorate, NDMA, and 1,4-dioxane. The water treatment processes include air stripping, granular activated carbon, ion exchange, and ultraviolet light. A local water supplier owns and operates each subproject. The clean water produced by the four subprojects is supplied to local residents and businesses. When operating at capacity, the subprojects supply enough water for approximately 100,000 homes. EPA is also overseeing a comprehensive performance evaluation program to ensure that the four subprojects meet EPA's cleanup goals. Seven companies that EPA has identified as responsible for the contamination are paying much of the cost of the cleanup in compliance with a June 2000 EPA order. In addition, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority has distributed more than $36 million in federal funds to support the cleanup.

Current Status

More than $100 million has been invested to date in the design, construction, and initial operation of the four subprojects. All four subprojects have been constructed and are operating, as summarized in Table 1. Operation and maintenance costs are currently $14 million per year.

Additional construction is underway or planned to improve the operation of the four subprojects. At the La Puente Valley County Water District (LPVCWD) system, a new groundwater extraction well will be constructed to supplement two existing wells, and the ion exchange process used for perchlorate removal will be replaced. At the San Gabriel Valley Water Company (SGVWC) B6 system, the perchlorate removal process may also be replaced. At the Valley County Water District (VCWD) system, an additional VOC removal process (liquid phase granular activated carbon) has been installed for removal of 1,2,3-trichloropropane from the groundwater, the air pollution control process is being replaced, and the perchlorate removal process is likely to be replaced.

Your drinking water is safe

All drinking water provided by public water suppliers in the San Gabriel Valley is required to meet Federal and State drinking water safety standards.

Table 1

THE AZUSA/BALDWIN PARK CLEANUP

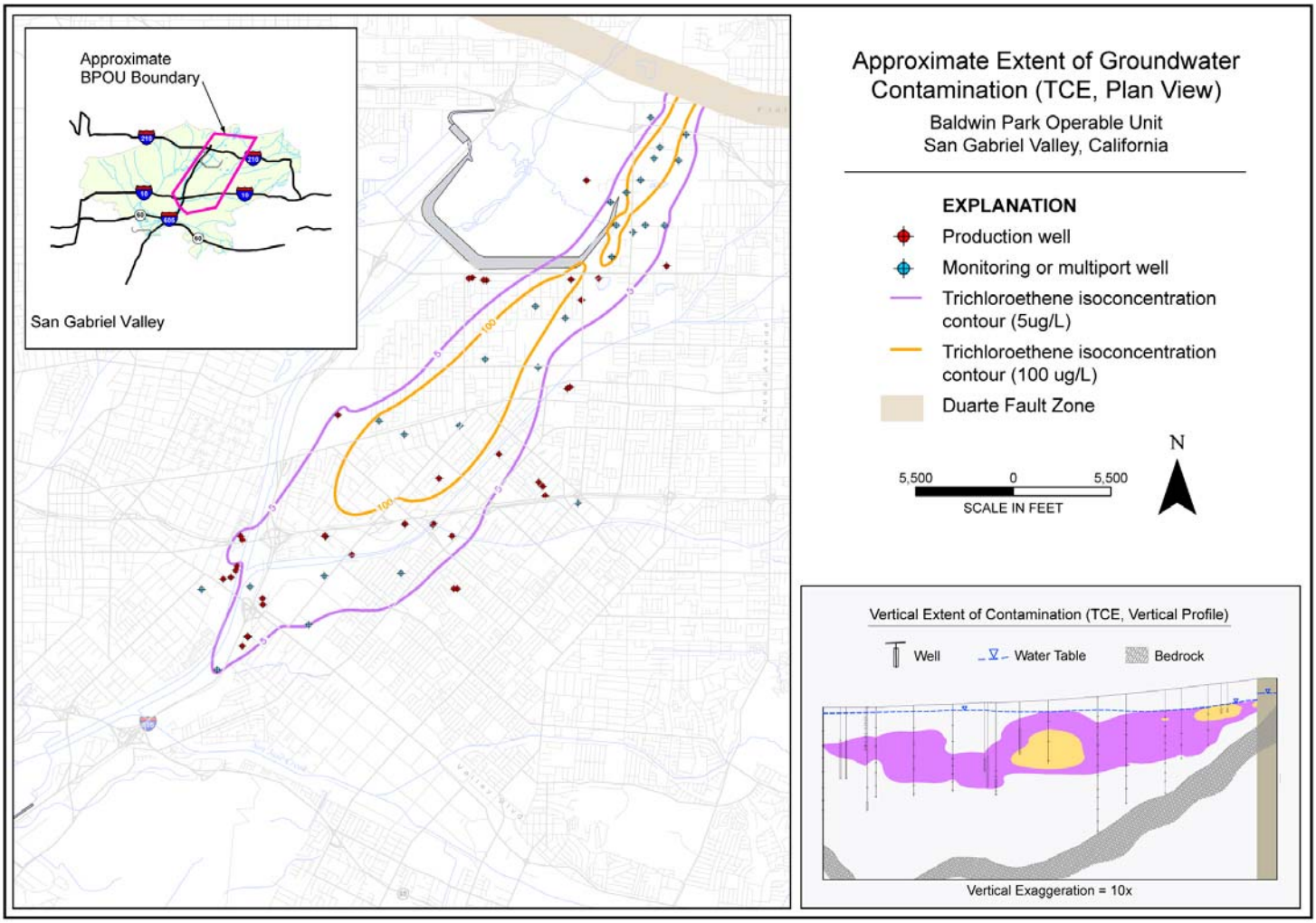
Subproject	Status	Design and Construction Cost
La Puente Valley County Water District (LPVCWD)	Operating since 2000	$7 million
San Gabriel Valley Water Company (SGVWC) Plant B6	Operating since 2005	$30 million
Valley County Water District (VCWD)	Operating since 2006	$48 million
SGVWC Plant B5	Operating since 2007	$21 million
	Project-wide costs	$9 million
	TOTAL:	$115 million

Milestones in the Azusa / Baldwin Park cleanup

- $ 1994 EPA adopts cleanup plan for Azusa/Baldwin Park area ("Record of Decision")
- $ 1995 EPA begins to name "Potentially Responsible Parties" (PRPs)
- $ 1999 EPA updates cleanup plan ("Explanation of Significant Differences")
- $ 2000 EPA orders PRPs to clean up groundwater
- $ 2002 Agreement specifies local water agency role in cleanup
- $ 1999-2006 Groundwater cleanup facilities built at cost of more than $100 million
- $ 2002-2006 EPA reaches agreements with 18 PRPs to reimburse more than $25 million

Table 2

THE SIX SAN GABRIEL VALLEY GROUNDWATER CLEANUP PROJECTS		
Project Name	**Status**	**Estimated Design and Construction Cost**
San Gabriel Valley Area 2 - Baldwin Park	Operating. See Table 1 and Text for more details	$115 million
San Gabriel Valley Area 1 - El Monte	In design	$15 million
San Gabriel Valley Area 1 - South El Monte	Negotiations underway for use of existing facilities	NOT YET DETERMINED
San Gabriel Valley Area 1 - Whittier Narrows	Operating	$16 million
San Gabriel Valley Area 3 - Alhambra	Investigations underway	NOT YET DETERMINED
San Gabriel Valley Area 4 - Puente Valley	In design and construction	$23 million



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Importance of the San Gabriel Valley's Groundwater Supply

The San Gabriel Basin aquifer is a critical source of drinking water for Southern California. Despite the contamination, the Valley's groundwater continues to provide approximately 90 percent of the drinking water used by San Gabriel Valley businesses and residents. EPA's Superfund projects are assisting in restoring water supplies that have been affected by the contamination. Additional projects have been funded by Federal grants, local assessments on water sales, and water rates.

EPA San Gabriel Valley Area 2 Superfund Site Contact Information

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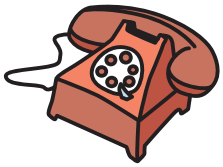

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