

 United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Don Hodge

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SAN GABRIEL VALLEY-
WHITTIER NARROWS OU

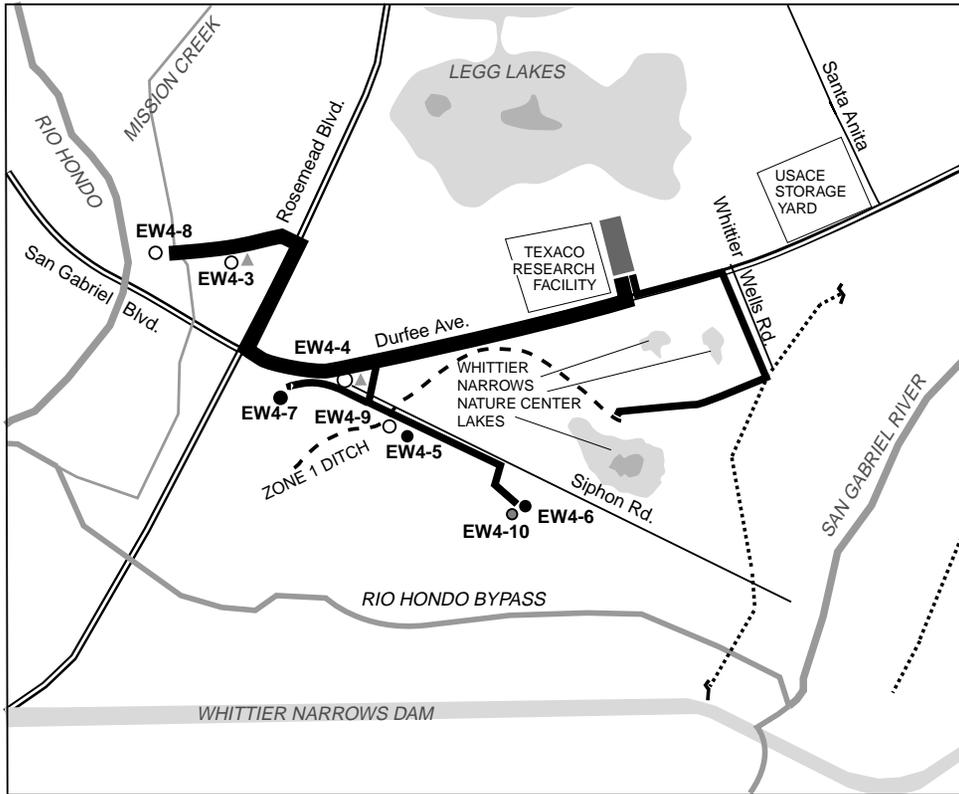
• UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY •
REGION IX • MAY 2002

U.S. EPA COMPLETES WHITTIER NARROWS GROUNDWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, in cooperation with the California Environmental Protection Agency and other federal, state, and local agencies, has completed a system to pump polluted water from under the Whittier Narrows and treat it to drinking water standards. The system prevents contaminated groundwater from spreading beyond the Narrows into the Central Basin and will eventually provide drinking water to local agencies and water purveyors.

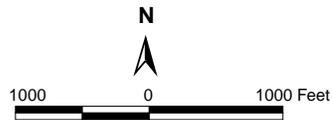


Dedication Ceremony: Friday, June 7, 2002, 10:00 a.m.
at the Whittier Narrows Groundwater Treatment Plant,
331 N. Durfee Avenue, South El Monte



LEGEND

- SHALLOW DEPTH EXTRACTION WELL
- INTERMEDIATE DEPTH EXTRACTION WELL
- POTENTIAL WELL EW 4-10
- CENTRALIZED GROUNDWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
- ▲ WELLFIELD POWER/CONTROL CENTERS
- GROUNDWATER PIPELINES
- - - ZONE 1 DITCH AND NATURE CENTER LAKE DISCHARGE
- EXISTING WATER TRANSMISSION MAINS



Wells and Pipelines for Whittier Narrows OU Remedy

FOR MORE INFORMATION



For further information on the Whittier Narrows OU of the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site, you may contact the following:

Patricia Bowlin
 Remedial Project Manager
 U.S. EPA, Region 9
 75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-7-3)
 San Francisco, CA 94105
 Telephone: (415) 972-3177

Don Hodge
 Community Involvement Specialist
 U.S. EPA, Region 9
 75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
 San Francisco, CA 94105
 Telephone: (415) 972-3240
 Fax: (415) 947-3528

...or you may leave a message on EPA's Office of Community Involvement toll-free line at **(800) 231-3075** and your call will be returned.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Copies of site-related technical documents for the Whittier Narrows Operable Unit of the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site are available for review at the locations listed below. These documents are part of the Administrative Record for the Whittier Narrows Operable Unit.

U.S. EPA Superfund Records Center
 95 Hawthorne Street, Suite 403S
 San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
 Phone: (415) 536-2000;
 Fax: (415) 764-4963
 Hours:
 Mon.-Fri: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Closed Sat. & Sun.

Rosemead Library
 8800 Valley Boulevard
 Rosemead, CA 91770
 Telephone: (626) 573-5220
 Hours:
 Tue. & Wed. 12:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
 Thur. 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
 Fri. 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Sat. 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Closed Sun. & Mon.

West Covina Library
 1601 West Covina Parkway
 West Covina, CA 91790
 Telephone: (626) 962-3541
 Hours:
 Monday to Wednesday
 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Thursday to Saturday
 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Closed Sunday



Other cooperating agencies

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- County of Los Angeles' Department of Parks and Recreation
- ChevronTexaco
- City of Whittier
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Health Services

The Whittier Narrows Groundwater Treatment Project

The groundwater in the Whittier Narrows has become contaminated from sources primarily north of Highway 60. The Whittier Narrows groundwater treatment system intercepts the contaminated groundwater before it moves from the San Gabriel Basin through the Narrows and affects drinking water supply wells in the Central Basin. The system includes seven extraction wells, four in the shallow groundwater zone and three in the deep zone. It will pump an average of 11,000 gallons per minute of contaminated water from the wells and pipe it to the treatment plant on Durfee Avenue near Rosemead Boulevard. Twenty pairs of activated-carbon filter vessels remove the contaminants and purify the water to drinking water standards. The treated water is currently discharged to surface water bodies. When the necessary agreements and pipelines are in place, the water will be available to local agencies for beneficial uses. The system will operate for 30 years or more until the contamination is reduced to a level that protects human health.

Maintaining a Sense of Place

Realizing the value of the Whittier Narrows open space to the wildlife and people of the Los Angeles area, EPA worked closely with the cooperating agencies to identify and mitigate the project's effects on the aesthetics and habitat of the area, to repair temporary disturbances, and to improve the area after construction.

- EPA located the wells and pipelines along existing roads in the area to minimize effects on wildlife habitat and cultural resources while keeping trails in the area open.

- EPA scheduled construction to avoid affecting the Least Bell's Vireo, a rare songbird, and to minimize effects on vireo habitat. An environmental monitor was on-site during construction activities to prevent disturbance to wildlife.
- EPA replanted all disturbed habitat, removing non-native plants and replacing them with native species. EPA also helped the County replace deteriorating fences around the natural area.
- An archeologist monitored the work for cultural resources during ground-disturbing activities. EPA stopped construction temporarily when necessary to ensure identification of cultural resources.
- EPA sited the treatment plant in the most industrialized location in the area of the extraction wells and put landscaping around the filter vessels to minimize their visual impact.

Whittier Narrows Site History

The Whittier Narrows Operable Unit is part of the four San Gabriel Valley Superfund sites in eastern Los Angeles County, California.

In 1987, EPA began to study the nature and extent of groundwater contamination in the Whittier Narrows. Although early sampling indicated low levels of volatile organic compounds in some area wells, all drinking water suppliers were able to meet State and federal standards for drinking water quality. The investigation led to a Record of Decision (ROD) in 1993 that required continued monitoring and evaluation of the groundwater but no immediate action.

Beginning in 1996, contaminant levels increased steadily and, in April 1998, EPA released a study of options for preventing groundwater contamination from leaving the San Gabriel Basin and entering the Central Basin, where it would affect drinking water supplies for the greater Los Angeles area. In November 1999, after considering public input, EPA amended its 1993 ROD to require the Whittier Narrows cleanup project.