



Del Amo and Montrose Superfund Sites

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General Community Notice: Del Amo and Montrose Superfund Sites

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the State of California's Executive Order N-33-20 (Stay at Home Order), County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health order dated March 19, 2020 (Safer at Home Order for Control of COVID-19), and City of Los Angeles Public Order dated March 19, 2020 (Safer at Home), additional hygiene and social distancing practices have been put in place at both the Del Amo and Montrose Superfund sites. Companies working on both sites have established social distancing practices, temperature checks, additional personal protective equipment (PPE) use, extensive cleaning and sanitation of workspaces and tools, and increased communication protocols to protect the health and well-being of workers and residents in the area.

Site History

The Montrose Chemical Corporation Superfund site ("Montrose site") includes the location of a former dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) manufacturing plant. The plant made the chemical from 1947 to 1982. DDT manufacturing work had severely contaminated (polluted) the soil and groundwater beneath and nearby the former plant property. In 1989, EPA added the Montrose site to its Superfund cleanup program. The Del Amo Superfund site ("Del Amo site") is made up of three former manufacturing plants built to support World War II efforts. The former Del Amo facility is east of the Montrose site. In 2002, EPA included the Del Amo site as part of its Superfund cleanup program. Operations at the Del Amo site, like at the Montrose site, had contaminated soil and groundwater beneath and nearby the former facility. Groundwater contamination from both sites has mixed; therefore, EPA is managing the cleanup of the groundwater contamination at both sites as one project.

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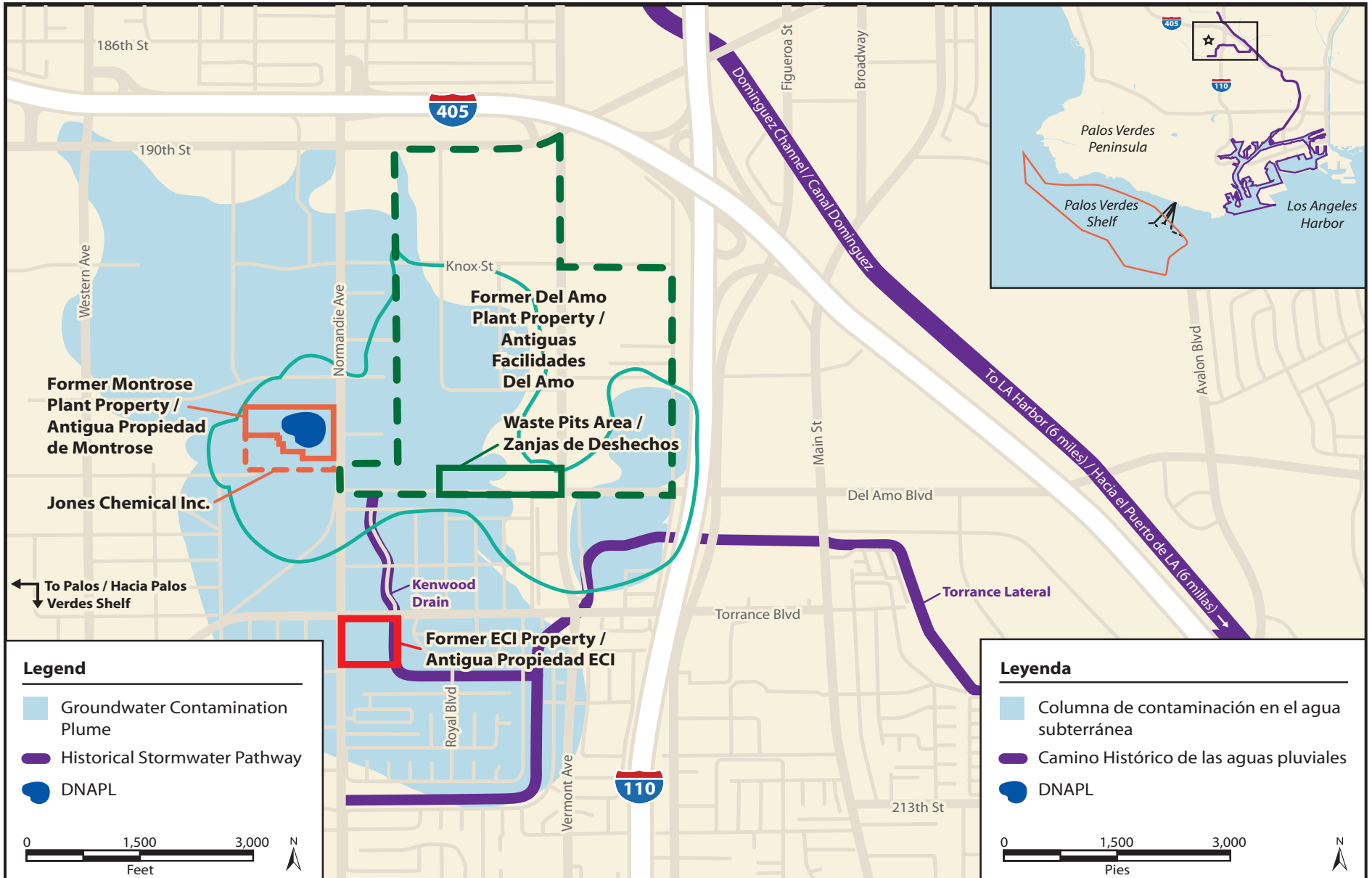


What is a Superfund Site?

Superfund is the environmental program established in 1980 by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) to address hazardous waste sites that threaten public health and the environment. This law was passed in response to public concern about health and environmental risks from hazardous waste sites. The Superfund cleanup process involves identifying hazardous waste sites that threaten public health and the environment. Other types of pollution are handled by other environmental laws.

Site Map: Montrose and Del Amo Superfund Sites

Harbor Gateway, Los Angeles County, CA / Harbor Gateway, condado de Los Angeles, CA



Commercial Building Indoor Air Investigation at the Del Amo Site

Vapor intrusion occurs when certain chemicals underground volatilize (evaporate) and move into the air inside buildings on the surface. The chemicals can enter a building by moving through cracks and/or openings in the building's foundation. As a follow up to the Del Amo site's 2015 Five-Year Review—a report done every five years to ensure EPA's cleanup plan continues to protect public health—EPA evaluated historic soil vapor data to see if vapor intrusion should be investigated. EPA found that vapor intrusion investigations were needed at nine commercial buildings on the site.

Since September 2017, under EPA oversight, soil gas, indoor and/or outdoor air has been sampled at eight properties on the Del Amo site. Sampling was done over multiple seasons to ensure results are accurate under all indoor conditions.

The sampling data collected to date indicates no vapor intrusion issues exist at the Del Amo site.

Additional sampling is scheduled to take place in 2020. EPA will continue to evaluate the results.



Figure 2: Areas in orange are the location of properties where sampling data has been collected.

Soil Cleanup Work at the Del Amo Site

EPA hosted a community open house in September 2019 to share the results of a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system pilot study at the Coca-Cola property. SVE creates a vacuum to remove contaminated vapors from the soil. The results of the pilot study showed the SVE system will effectively remove contaminants from the soil while protecting property workers and nearby residents.

The companies responsible for cleaning up the pollution at the Del Amo site, under EPA oversight, are planning a full-scale SVE system. Construction of this system should start in 2021.

Five-Year Review

According to the Superfund law, EPA is required to review its cleanup plan, or “remedy,” every five years if either: the cleanup takes more than five years to complete; or, if waste remains on site. EPA did its first Five-Year Review for the Dual Site groundwater remedy and its third Five-Year Review for the Del Amo waste pits and soil remedies in 2015. EPA will be doing two new Five-Year Reviews in 2020.

As part of these reviews, EPA is required to interview and collect comments with from community members on how the cleanup is going. EPA has an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for it to independently evaluate data and reports from the past five years. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prepares reports with its evaluations and recommendations for each site. These reports will be completed no later than September 30, 2020 and posted on the sites' webpages soon after.

What is included in a Five-Year Review?

The Five-Year Review includes a/an:

- inspection of the site and cleanup technologies;
- review of data and maintenance records; and
- check for any changes to relevant regulations (such as new state or local laws) or new information about the site contaminants.

If any issues are found that affect the remedies ability to protect the community from site chemicals or achieves cleanup goals, EPA makes recommendations to address them.

Soil Gas Investigation Continues at JCI Jones Property

On March 30, 2020, the company JCI Jones submitted a draft soil gas investigation report to EPA. JCI Jones, as explained in previous factsheets, are responsible for cleaning up pollution on its property, which is part of the Montrose site. EPA will review this document and provide comments to JCI Jones. Once all comments have been addressed, JCI Jones will submit a final copy of their report to EPA, which will be made available online.

Second Pilot Study Begins at Montrose to Treat DNAPL

EPA completed a very successful Electrical Resistance Heating (ERH) pilot study in 2019. The pilot study removed more than 26,000 pounds of the contaminants from beneath the former Montrose plant!

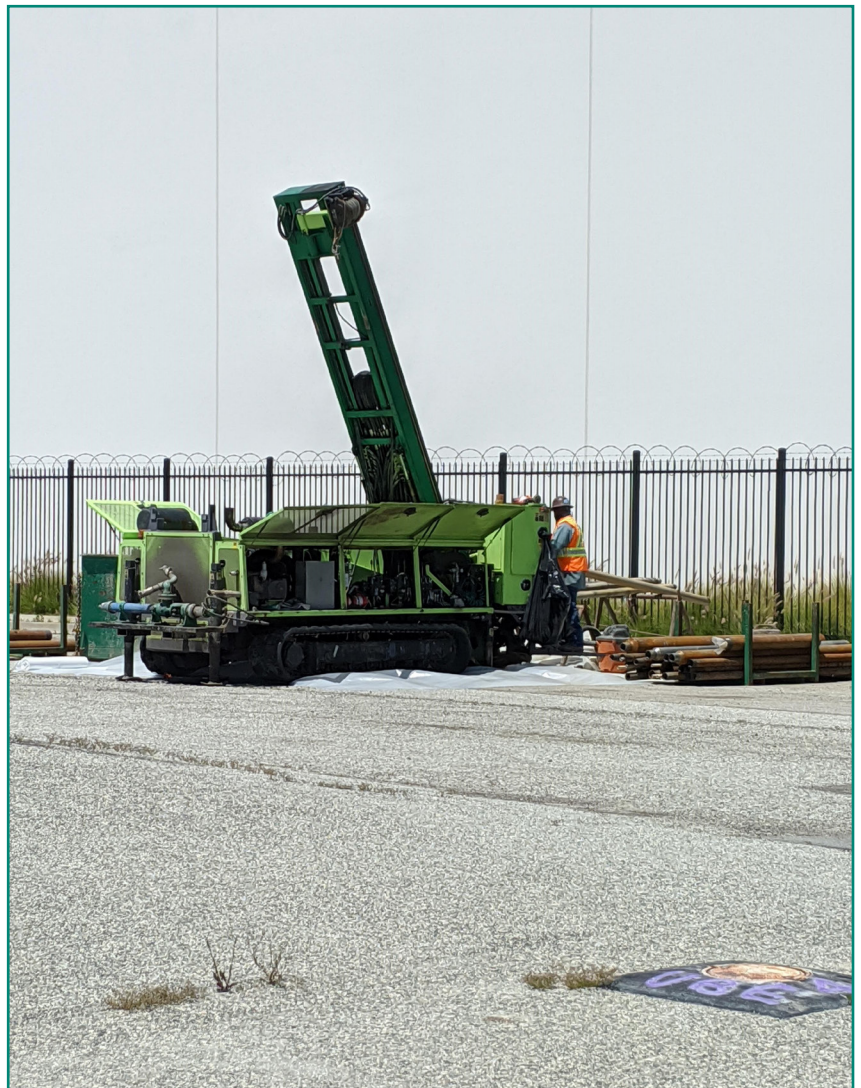
The pilot study report is now available on the Montrose site webpage:

www.epa.gov/superfund/montrose

Montrose Chemical Corporation (Montrose), which is responsible for cleaning up most of the contamination at the Montrose site, created a workplan under EPA's supervision for a second pilot study. After ensuring proper monitoring and controls were in place, Montrose started the second pilot study on March 2, 2020. As of April 28, more than 11,000 lbs of chemicals were removed from the site using this method.

EPA is working on a final cleanup plan (called a "Record of Decision") for cleaning up chlorobenzene and other dense chemicals called "Dense Nonaqueous Phase Liquid." The document is expected to be complete in Fall 2020.

Figure 3: Angled DNAPL sample for Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (DNAPL) in the northern part of the former Montrose Property.



How does the ERH Technology work?

The technology sends electricity through long metallic rods, called “electrodes,” installed underground throughout the property. The rods heat the underground soil and vaporize the contaminants. The system collects the vapor through an underground network of vacuum wells and moves it to an above-ground treatment system.

More Groundwater Wells to Be Installed

As EPA gathers more groundwater sampling data, we have been able to identify key areas where more information is needed. Additional wells will be installed in the area, which includes the well that Montrose has installed and sampled on Kenwood Avenue (north of W. Milton Street, south of W. 204th Street).



Figure 4: May installation of LW-12. This monitoring well was installed to check contaminants in the deeper aquifer (225 to 245 feet below ground surface).

Testing the Groundwater System

In 2013, Montrose began building a groundwater treatment system on the former Montrose property. Montrose began testing the system in 2015 and found it was not operating properly. Since then, Montrose has been working with EPA to redesign and rebuild portions of the system. In February 2019, Montrose started operating the system at a low pumping rate and has slowly increased the rate. The system has met and/or exceeded all clean up goals, removing over 16,000 pounds of contaminants since February 2019. Montrose, under EPA and State of California oversight, continues to make improvements and upgrades to the treatment system. The system is expected to be fully tested in early 2021 and will continue to operate until cleanup goals are met.

Community Involvement Plan

EPA has completed its revision of the Montrose and Del Amo Community Involvement Plan (CIP). Because the Montrose and Del Amo Superfund sites impact the same community, EPA has one CIP for community involvement and outreach. The CIP is intended to allow for meaningful community involvement throughout the Superfund process.

The final CIP in English can be viewed on both site webpages with a Spanish version coming soon.



Get Involved!

Sign up for the Del Amo & Montrose Superfund sites email list by clicking on the link in the bottom-right corner of either of the sites' websites.



Del Amo and Montrose Superfund Sites

How Do I Get More Information?

EPA Contact

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Information Repositories


At an information repository you can find documents, reports and letters about site cleanup activities. Call ahead to library for hours of operation.

Carson Public Library
151 East Carson Street
Carson, CA 90745
(310) 830 – 0901

Katy Geissert Civic Center Library
3301 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503
(310) 618 – 5959

Websites

Del Amo: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/delamo>
Montrose: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/montrose>

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