SEMS-RM DOCID # 100016368

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY AREA 1 SUPERFUND SITE

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

United States Environmental Protection Agency

NOVEMBER 2018

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INTRODUCTION

The goal of this Community Involvement Plan (CIP) is to encourage and facilitate community engagement throughout the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site (Site) cleanup. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the community will join in participatory two-way communication by applying the tools described in this plan. Active public involvement is crucial to the success of any project. EPA's community involvement activities at the Site are designed to inform the public of all cleanup activities and include the community in the decision-making process.

EPA defines the "community" as those individuals and entities who have an interest in or are impacted by the Site. EPA also recognizes that other stakeholders, including local, state and federal agencies, may have an interest in the Site. This CIP is based on a series of community interviews conducted in 2016-2017 with the affected community and stakeholders in accordance with EPA's Superfund community involvement and cleanup guidance. The CIP is a "living document," meaning that it can be updated or revised over the course of site cleanup to reflect long-term changes in the community.

Community Involvement at the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site

Active and participatory community involvement is an important part of the cleanup process and it is also a requirement of Superfund law. Community involvement is regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as "Superfund." This CIP follows community involvement requirements in the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) §117 and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) §300.430. EPA's Community Involvement Program is designed to facilitate participation of community members throughout the cleanup process, including the investigation phase and the remedy selection phase. EPA works closely with state and local agencies to provide community involvement throughout the Superfund process.

THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Site Overview

The San Gabriel Valley Superfund Sites are divided into four areas: Area 1, Area 2, Area 3 and Area 4. The San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site (also referred to in this CIP as the "Site") consists of five operable units (OUs) – the El Monte OU (EMOU), the Whittier Narrows OU (WNOU), the Richwood OU (ROU), the Suburban OU (SOU) and the South El Monte OU (SEMOU). Area 1 includes about 11 square miles of groundwater contamination underlying portions of the cities of El Monte, Rosemead and South El Monte and unincorporated parts of Los Angeles County. The primary contaminants of concern include volatile organic compounds (VOCs), primarily tetrachloroethylene (PCE), 1,4-dioxane, perchlorate and trichloroethylene (TCE). Drinking water supplies in the area are tested regularly to make sure they meet federal and state drinking water standards.

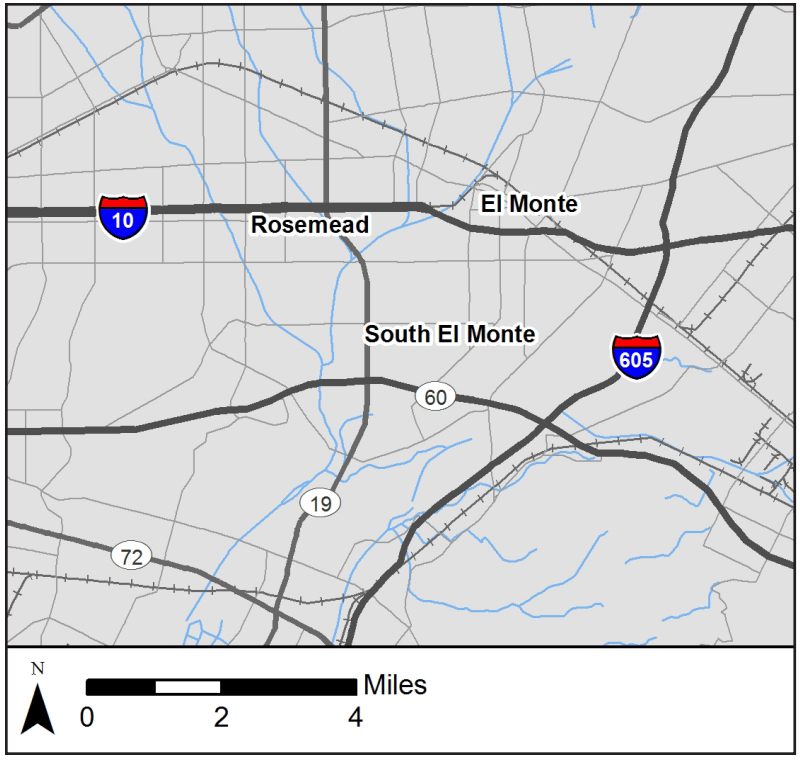
For more information about drinking water, contact your local water utility or:

San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA)
1720 W. Cameron Avenue
Suite 100
West Covina, CA 91790
(626) 338-5555
http://www.wqa.com

The California State Legislature created the WQA to cooperate with EPA and other agencies to clean up contaminated groundwater in the San Gabriel Basin.

Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster
725 N. Azusa Avenue
Azusa, CA 91702
(626) 815-1300
http://www.watermaster.org

The Los Angeles County Superior Court created the Watermaster to administer the San Gabriel Basin's adjudicated water rights and manage water resources across the basin.



The San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site includes portions of the cities of El Monte, Rosemead and South El Monte and unincorporated parts of Los Angeles County. *(Map sources: Esri, DeLorme, AND, Tele Atlas, First American, UNEP-WCMC and USGS)*

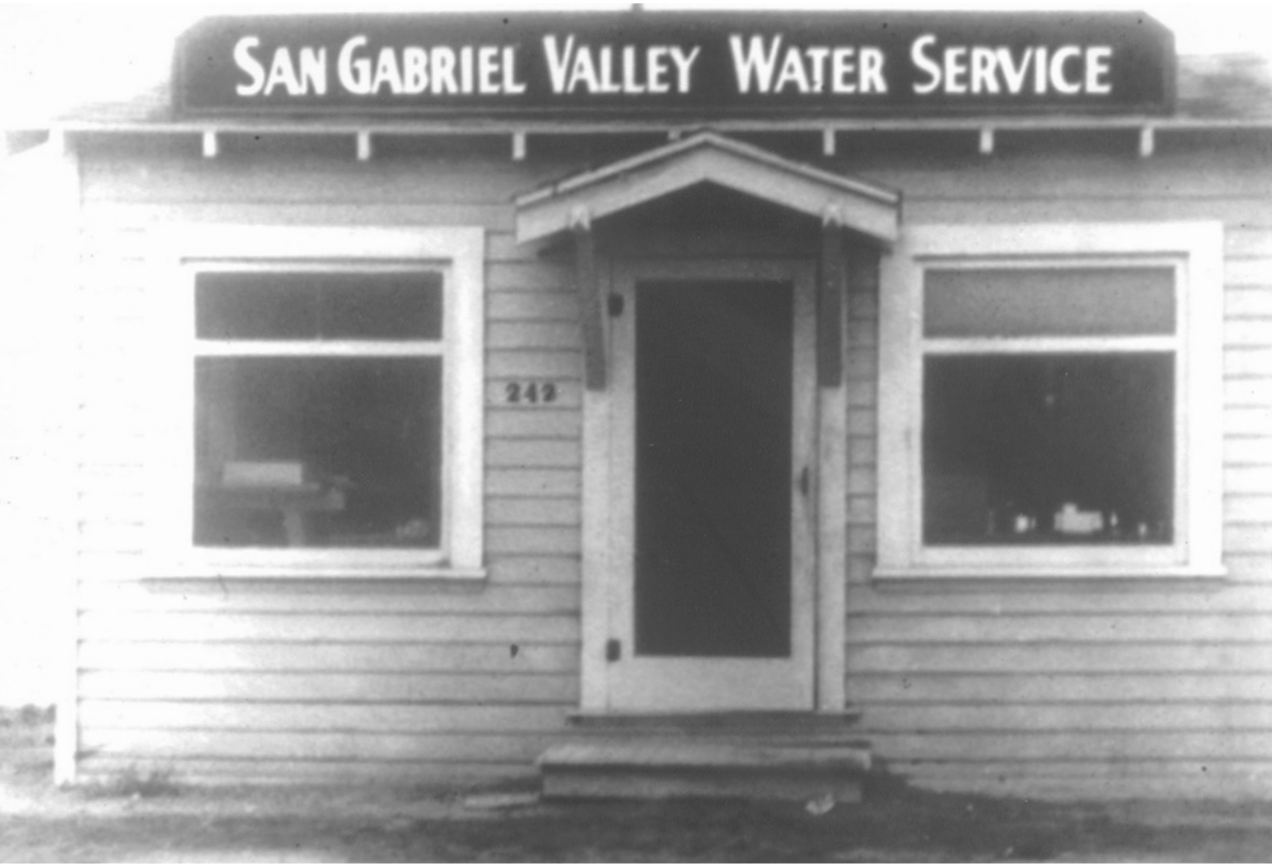
History of the Community

Dating back to the early 18th century, the present-day areas of El Monte, South El Monte and Rosemead were home to Spanish missions and rest stops for Spanish soldiers. The area continued to serve as a resting place for travelers into the mid-19th century, as many exploration parties passed through the area. Some of the area's first permanent residents came with the California Gold Rush in the 1850s, but agriculture soon came to dominate the area as the fertile soil allowed many crops to flourish. Following World War II, agriculture continued, but the population grew rapidly with increased suburbanization. Area land uses became predominantly residential, commercial and industrial, which continues today. Several cultural landmarks stand out in the area. In 1919, Charles Gay began raising and training lions in El Monte for use in Hollywood movies, and it soon became a must-see attraction. The farm operated until 1942 and attracted over a million visitors during its operation. As the oldest settlement in the San Gabriel Valley, El Monte houses the 8,500-square-foot El Monte Historical Museum, filled with historical artifacts celebrating the heritage of the city. The area near South El Monte contains several natural recreation areas, including Turnbull Canyon, Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and Whittier Narrows Natural Area Park. Turnbull Canyon contains four miles of trails through the Puente Hills, while Whittier Narrows Recreation Area has three lakes, open fields for athletic events and an urban farm. Whittier Narrows Natural Area Park is a 419-acre park in South El Monte featuring a wide range of endangered wildlife, hiking trails and a new nature center. Today, the cities of El Monte, South El Monte and Rosemead are home to over 190,000 people and consist largely of residential, commercial and industrial areas.

The El Monte Historical Museum.

A statue honoring Gay's Lion Farm.

For more information about the San Gabriel Valley, including information about its history, community and demographics, please refer to the site-wide Community Involvement Plan.



A historical image of the San Gabriel Valley Water Company, previously known as the San Gabriel Valley Water Service.

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate burden of environmental harms and risks, including those resulting from the negative environmental consequences of industrial, governmental and commercial operations or programs and policies.

For more information about environmental justice, please refer to the site-wide Community Involvement Plan.

EJSCREEN

EJSCREEN is an environmental justice mapping and screening tool. It uses environmental indicators of a community to indicate potential exposures and demographic factors to indicate potential susceptibility. An EJSCREEN analysis conducted for the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site in 2018 demonstrated environmental justice concerns in Area 1 communities, where nine indicators were at the 80th percentile or above compared to the rest of the United States.

COMMUNITY ISSUES, CONCERNS & DISCUSSION

Community concerns are fundamental to CIP development and community outreach activities. Starting in November 2016 and continuing through November 2017, EPA conducted in-person interviews with interested individuals for the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site. Some of these interviews were conducted with water organizations and other stakeholders involved in other areas of the San Gabriel Valley, and those interview responses may apply to the greater San Gabriel Valley. Some community interviews were conducted in Spanish. For a full list of the interview questions, please refer to the appendices. Interviewees were asked a variety of questions about their personal history with the Site, their understanding of the Site, and their preferred methods of communication regarding the Site. These interviews provided EPA with useful and valuable information that has been incorporated into the CIP.

Most of the interviewees have extensive familiarity with the Site. Interviewees who have had contact with EPA and state and local agencies indicate that the relationships have been mostly good, helpful and productive. While the interviewees and their responses were diverse, comments from the stakeholder interviews can be grouped into three main categories: Site History and Environmental Cleanup, Community Involvement, and Method of Communication. The following section summarizes interview findings in each of these categories.

Comments/Issues Directly From Community Interviews

Site History and Environmental Cleanup

Most interviewees were extensively familiar with the Site, from the history of the contamination through ongoing remediation efforts. Concerns raised by community members included the perceived pace and long-term nature of the cleanup, the availability of adequate long-term cleanup funding, the need to focus on environmental justice, the potential for cleanup costs to be passed on to residents and businesses in the form of higher water utility bills, source control, vapor intrusion and air quality issues, the adequacy of cleanup standards, and potential property value and development impacts. Discussions also centered around the roles and responsibilities of EPA, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), area organizations and the potentially responsible parties (PRPs). Interviewees emphasized the importance of protecting public health and the Valley's water supply over the short and long term.

Community Involvement

About half of the interviewees currently receive regular information regarding the Site. Information comes from several sources, including EPA, DTSC, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority and site PRPs. Interviewees living closest to affected areas felt informed through flyers, fact sheets and conversations with EPA. The majority of the interviewees from water organizations and cities have attended a meeting regarding cleanup activities, but some community members have not.

Broader public awareness was a concern raised by many of the interviewees, who believe the community needs to be educated on the history of the Site, cleanup work completed to date, and ongoing and future efforts to clean up the Site.

Construction activities at the SEMOU.

Statue of Liberty replica in front of El Monte City Hall.

Method of Communication

Overall, public awareness of the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site and ongoing remediation efforts could be increased. Outreach efforts by EPA and state and local agencies should be coordinated and clearly distinguish Area 1 from other parts of the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Sites. Interviewees expressed interest in EPA jointly hosting community meetings with local governments as well as community organizations such as the El Monte Promise Foundation, BikeSGV and Amigos de los Rios to provide timely site updates. Other potential community partners noted by interviewees include the Council for Watershed Health, Day One El Monte, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, San Gabriel Mountains Forever, the El Monte Boys and Girls Club, and Communities for a Better Environment.

Outreach efforts also need to continue to take community members' diverse backgrounds and language needs into account. In addition to English and Spanish, other languages spoken in the Valley include Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Arabic, Armenian and Japanese.

Emails and mailings were the primary forms of communication requested by interviewees for information on the Site. Attachments such as fact sheets, meeting announcements and minutes, and newsletters could be included in the emails and mailings. Regular site updates via social media (including nextdoor.com) were suggested by several interviewees. Door-to-door outreach was suggested by one interviewee. Several interviewees recommended locating educational signage with maps and other visual materials near major remedial features. The suggested frequency of updates

was mixed, ranging from monthly to quarterly to whenever significant new site information is available. The information should be easy to understand because the general public may not want to know about the detailed technical aspects of the remediation efforts.

Interviewees recommended ongoing coordination with area water suppliers, city and county staff and elected officials, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, area school districts, the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, other community organizations (see previous) and state agencies. For community meetings, interviewees distinguished between current quarterly technical stakeholder meetings, attended by site agency staff, and the need for public meetings with site information that everyone can understand. Interviewees said that presentations, workshops and technical assistance services that provide general and timely site updates using plain language and infographics, maps and other visual aids could be helpful.

Most people requested that community meetings be held in the evenings mid-week, with a few suggestions to consider afternoon and weekend times. Several interviewees suggested that information should be available and distributed in English and Spanish, with consideration also given to other language needs in the community, including Cantonese, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

The San Gabriel Mountains.

Community Resources

City of El Monte
City Hall
11333 Valley Boulevard
El Monte, CA 91731
(626) 580-2001
http://www.ci.el-monte.ca.us

City of Rosemead
City Hall
8838 East Valley Boulevard
Rosemead, CA 91770
(626) 569-2100
http://www.cityofrosemead.org

City of South El Monte
City Hall
1415 Santa Anita Avenue
South El Monte, CA 91733
(626) 579-6540
http://www.ci.south-el-monte.ca.us

THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTION PLAN

EPA spoke with 19 key stakeholders representing a cross section of the community and conducted interviews in November 2016 and January, February, May, June, August and November 2017. These interviews significantly contributed to the creation of this CIP, determining how EPA will continue to develop and enhance communications regarding the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site.

Ongoing Communication

EPA will continue to work with area water suppliers, city and county staff and elected officials, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, DTSC, and community organizations and community members to ensure that any important update or information regarding the Site is shared directly with the public. It has been made clear in interviews that an ongoing EPA presence is important to the community. The community has been supportive and appreciative of EPA's efforts and encourages updates, information sharing and enhanced coordination with the agencies and organizations listed above.

Communication Tools

Community members expressed a preference for a combined approach to information sharing. This means that EPA will use various methods to provide the community with information, including printed and online materials and public meetings. The most common tools that EPA will implement are fact sheets, community meetings, presentations and outreach at existing community events, briefings with city and county officials, and print and social media updates. These communication tools will continue to promote collaboration and establish a deeper connection between EPA and the community. EPA is committed to using various methods to provide the community with information and to communicate the progress of the cleanup with the public.

1. Fact Sheets and Flyers

Fact sheets and flyers provide the public with regular updates on the cleanup, upcoming community meetings and other pertinent information. The fact sheets and flyers will be clear and easy to read (in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese) and contain graphics when necessary. EPA will continue to coordinate with DTSC to develop and distribute the fact sheets and flyers, and will distribute information to water suppliers about specific activities and findings that directly affect them, allowing them to respond to customer inquiries and provide feedback to EPA. Fact sheets will continue to be distributed via email, mail and door-to-door outreach. The materials will include contact information to allow direct access to EPA staff and ensure timely responses from EPA.

2. Community Meetings

EPA will host public meetings for community members to learn about the Site and the cleanup efforts and to provide the public with an opportunity to ask questions about the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site. A Spanish-speaking interpreter and translated materials will be available for the public. Other interpreters may be available as other language needs arise. Meetings will be held at a central location that is easily accessible. These meetings can be held at city halls in South El Monte, El Monte and Rosemead, community and senior centers, churches, area schools, the Jeff Seymour Family Center, or another location convenient for the majority of the community. The community has stated an overall preference for midweek evening meetings, with daytime meetings on weekends as an alternative option.

Community meetings could be held at South El Monte City Hall.

3. Stakeholder Meetings

EPA will continue to host periodic stakeholder meetings to update water providers, governmental agencies, schools and community organizations about site activities. These stakeholder meetings are currently held quarterly at the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority offices in West Covina.

4. Door-to-Door Outreach

EPA will continue to distribute flyers to the commercial businesses and residential neighborhoods where cleanup activities and investigations are ongoing.

5. Presentations and Outreach at Existing Community Events

EPA will ensure that site-related information is widely available in the community. Specific outreach opportunities include city council meetings, community meetings at the South El Monte Community Center, the South El Monte Senior Citizens Center, the El Monte Community Center, the El Monte Senior Citizens Center and the Rosemead Community Center, the annual Earth Day Community Festival hosted by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and Saturday Stewardship Days hosted by Amigos de los Rios.

6. Briefings with Local Officials

EPA will brief the El Monte, Rosemead, and South El Monte City Manager, City Council and Planning Commission as well as Los Angeles County and San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments officials upon their request for information or in correspondence with relevant site cleanup information.

7. Print and Online Media

EPA will use the daily *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* newspaper and the daily *Pasadena-Star News* newspaper to publicize important information or to give public notice related to the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site.

EPA maintains a website where site-related documents are available for viewing at www.epa.gov/superfund/sangabrielelmonte. Web pages and technical documents are in English only, but some site information, such as fact sheets, will continue to be posted in Spanish and other languages as well as English. EPA also will coordinate with several organizations that may link their websites to the EPA website.

8. Mailing List

EPA will continue to maintain and update the site mailing list. The list has been developed from meeting sign-in sheets, community interviews, and email and telephone inquiries. To be added to the mailing list, please send a request by email, telephone or standard mail to EPA (see "Key Contacts" on page 11).

9. Community Outreach and Education

Educating and informing the public on the history of the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site, progress of the cleanup efforts, and current and future cleanup and monitoring efforts was a reoccurring comment received from the interviewees. Efforts to reach community members will be made through previously discussed communication tools.

10. Information Repositories

EPA has established several locations in the community where site documents can be reviewed. Information repositories are maintained at the El Monte, Rosemead, South El Monte and West Covina public libraries, in addition to the EPA Region 9 Superfund Records Center. Each information repository includes copies of site deliverables (e.g., work plans and reports), monitoring and progress reports, Five-Year Reviews, the CIP, and other data and information designated by EPA. These documents may be reviewed during normal library hours. A complete copy of the Administrative Record is also available for review by community members and is maintained by EPA at its regional office in San Francisco.

Information Repository Locations:

El Monte Library – LA County Library
3224 Tyler Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731
(626) 444-9506

Rosemead Library – LA County Library
8800 Valley Boulevard
Rosemead, CA 91770
(626) 573-5220

South El Monte Library – LA County Library
1430 North Central Avenue
South El Monte, CA 91733
(626) 443-4158

West Covina Library – LA County Library
1601 West Covina Parkway
West Covina, CA 91790
(626) 962-354

EPA Region 9 Superfund Records Center
95 Hawthorne Street
Room 403
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 820-4700

Site documents can be found at the Rosemead Library.

Key Contacts

EPA Region 9

Kathleen Aisling
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA, Southern CA Field Office
600 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 940
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 244-1823 or (800) 231-3075
aisling.kathleen@epa.gov

Viola Cooper
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Mail Code SFD-6-3
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 972-3243 or (800) 231-3075
cooper.viola@epa.gov

California Department of Toxic Substances Control

Christine Bucklin
Geological Services Branch, Unit 3
South El Monte Operable Unit
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 484-5393
christine.bucklin@dtsc.ca.gov

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Shervin Milani
Water Resource Control Engineer -
Site Cleanup Unit 5
320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 576-6705
shervin.milani@waterboards.ca.gov

California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water

Shu-Fang Peng Orr
500 North Central Avenue, Suite 500
Glendale, CA 91203
(818) 551-2004
shu-fang.orr@waterboards.ca.gov

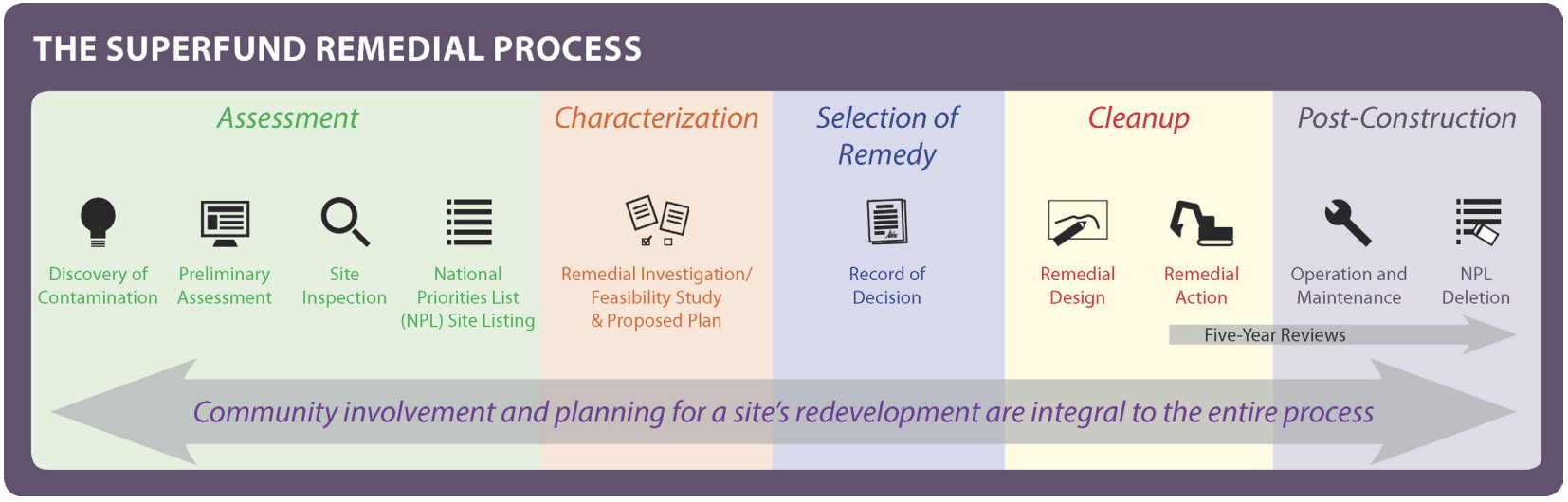
Dmitriy Ginzburg
500 North Central Avenue, Suite 500
Glendale, CA 91203
(818) 551-2022
dmitriy.ginzburg@waterboards.ca.gov

APPENDICES

OVERVIEW OF THE SUPERFUND CLEANUP PROCESS

The Superfund cleanup process begins with site discovery or notification to EPA of possible releases of hazardous substances. Sites are discovered by various parties, including citizens, state agencies and EPA regional offices.

EPA then evaluates the potential for a release of hazardous substances from the site through the steps shown below.



For a technical overview of all the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Sites, please refer to the site-wide Community Involvement Plan.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY AREA 1 SUPERFUND SITE TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

The San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site consists of five OUs: the El Monte OU (EMOU), the Whittier Narrows OU (WNOU), the Richwood OU (ROU), the Suburban OU (SOU), and the South El Monte OU (SEMOU). Area 1 includes portions of the cities of El Monte, Rosemead, South El Monte and other areas. The primary contaminants of concern include VOCs, primarily PCE, 1,4-dioxane, perchlorate and TCE.

El Monte OU (EMOU)

The EMOU addresses a 1.5-square-mile area of groundwater contamination underlying parts of the cities of El Monte and Rosemead, and a small portion of Temple City. EPA selected a cleanup plan for the El Monte area in a 1999 Record of Decision (ROD). EPA updated the remedy in a 2002 Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) to address emerging contaminants perchlorate, N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), 1,4-dioxane and hexavalent chromium. The cleanup included controlling movement of contaminants in shallow and deep groundwater by extracting, treating, moving, discharging and monitoring groundwater contamination. Four water treatment systems are part of the remedy.

The El Monte Operable Unit Water Treatment System.

Two of the systems – the West Side systems – supply drinking water to El Monte area residents and discharge treated water to the Eaton Wash. One of these systems began operating in 2002. It removes VOCs from the water before its use for drinking water as part of Golden State Water Company's (GSWC's) Encinitas Well Field. The other system began operating in 2012. It removes VOCs, nitrates and perchlorate, and discharges treated water to the Eaton Wash. EPA also built a treatment facility in this region in 2015 to remove 1,4-dioxane, but the well is dry and the system is not currently in use. The two East Side systems were built in 2015 to treat VOCs from the southern deep zone and eastern shallow zone. Treated water from the east shallow zone is re-injected to recharge groundwater supplies. Treated water from the southern deep zone will be integrated into the City of El Monte's drinking water system.

The Whittier Narrows Operable Unit Treatment Plant.

Whittier Narrows OU (WNOU)

EPA issued an interim cleanup plan in March 1993 for groundwater monitoring. EPA updated the cleanup plan in 1999 to keep contaminated water from migrating near Whittier Narrows Dam. The remedy for the WNOU focuses on groundwater containment via extraction, treatment and monitoring. EPA constructed four wells in 2000 and a treatment facility in 2002.

EPA operated the interim remedy as a long-term response action from May 2003 until 2005. From 2008 to 2013, the City of Whittier operated the remedy on behalf of EPA through a Cooperative Agreement and received the treated intermediate zone water, which was used as part of its drinking water supply. The treated shallow zone water was discharged to Legg Lake under a three-party water production agreement between EPA, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster and Los Angeles County.

In May 2013, EPA transferred the operations and maintenance of the interim remedy for the regional aquifer (intermediate zone drinking water) to the State of California, through DTSC. Since that time, the San Gabriel Valley Water Company has operated the remedy for the State.

EPA discontinued pumping in the shallow zone in October 2012 because there were no shallow zone maximum contaminant level (MCL) exceedances in the WNOU, indicating that continued extraction was not needed to meet the remedial action objectives (RAOs) in the shallow zone. In the intermediate zone, the extent of contamination downgradient of the WNOU extraction wells has declined dramatically and provides evidence that the RAOs (hydraulic control of migrating contamination) can be met at a lower flow rate than the original intermediate zone target extraction rate of 6,000 gallons per minute (gpm). Pumping in the intermediate zone is currently at approximately 2,000 gpm, as the State and EPA complete modeling and discharge options studies for the treated water. In the interim, the treated intermediate zone water is discharged to Legg Lake.

EPA completed a Five-Year Review of the WNOU remedy in 2016. Since 2002, thousands of pounds of contaminants have been removed from the groundwater. As contaminant levels have decreased, EPA has modified the cleanup systems, reducing the number of active groundwater extraction wells from seven to three, and the number of active activated carbon treatment systems by half, from 20 to 10.

Richwood OU (ROU)

EPA selected a cleanup plan for the ROU in a 1984 ROD. The plan required the development of alternative water supplies or construction of treatment systems that would allow drinking water suppliers to supply clean drinking water to residents. EPA updated the remedy in a 1987 ESD after PCE levels declined. EPA decided that treatment was no longer necessary for one of the drinking water suppliers and signed off on a granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment system for the other drinking water supplier. EPA completed construction of the Richwood Treatment Plant in 1992.

The State of California assumed responsibility for the ROU in 1994 and the treatment system was dismantled. The San Gabriel Valley Water Company (SGVWC) acquired Richwood Mutual Water Company (RMWC) in 1999. RMWC production wells 1 South and 2 North were destroyed as part of a permit issued by the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster. Former RMWC customers are primarily supplied with water from SGVWC Plants 1 and 2.

Suburban OU (SOU)

EPA issued a cleanup plan for the SOU in 1988 to partially control the movement and spread of contaminants in the Whittier Narrows area of the San Gabriel Valley, and to address the potential public health threat posed by contamination of the Suburban Water System (SWS) Bartolo Well Field. Contaminant levels remained low throughout the 1990s. EPA amended the remedy in the fall of 1993 to include monitoring only, with a contingency plan to treat groundwater should contaminant levels again exceed federal drinking water standards. EPA did not implement the remedy because contaminant levels never reached levels that would affect human health and the environment. The 2016 EPA Five-Year Review concluded that the Suburban OU was protective of human health and the environment. The SWS Bartolo Well Field continues to extract water at high rates and represents a key component of the SWS water supply system.

The South El Monte Operable Unit Water Treatment System run by the City of Monterey Park.

South El Monte OU (SEMOU)

EPA selected an interim cleanup plan for the SEMOU in 2000 and updated it in 2005. EPA negotiated nine consent decrees with industrial facility PRPs to partially fund the implementation of the interim ROD remedy. The cleanup approach relies on eight groundwater extraction wells and four water treatment systems to remove PCE and TCE from the groundwater. EPA began funding treatment of the groundwater through a cooperative agreement in 2008.

Since August 2008, the cooperative agreement, administered by the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, has funded treatment of the intermediate zone water by the City of Monterey Park, the GSWC and the SGVWC. Drinking water is then served to residents and businesses in the area.

The City of Monterey Park facility treats water from three wells – Wells 5, 12 and 15. Well 5 treatment consists of VOC treatment using liquid GAC. Wells 12 and 15 are treated in a separate facility from Well 5 that uses an air stripper with vapor GAC off-gas treatment, acid injection to control precipitation, and a liquid GAC secondary barrier. In addition, a perchlorate treatment system using ion exchange (IX) was constructed for Well 12. The perchlorate treatment system is currently offline because concentrations have decreased to below the MCL and the concentration allowed in the State permit..

The GSWC facility treats water from two wells – San Gabriel Wells No. 1 (SG1) and No. 2 (SG2). The treatment facility consists of liquid GAC vessels. Elevated nitrate in Well SG2 affected GSWC's ability to provide potable water from this well, so it was not operated consistently for many years. Perchlorate was detected in both wells. To address perchlorate, carbon in one GAC vessel was replaced with IX resin. In early 2010, GSWC proposed a blending plan (i.e., blending water from different sources, thereby lowering the overall nitrate level) that would allow use of SG2. EPA approved the plan in 2012 with the condition that SG2 operate only when SG1 is in operation. The perchlorate treatment system is currently offline because concentrations have decreased to below the MCL.

The SGVWC facility treats water from Plant No. 8, which extracts water from five active production wells – Wells 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E and 8F. Only Wells 8B, 8C and 8D are part of the SEMOU; Wells 8E and 8F are perforated in a deeper portion of the aquifer below the vertical extent of contamination.

EPA used a Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) mobile laboratory during the vapor intrusion investigations to test for contaminants in indoor and outdoor air. These images show the exterior and interior of a TAGA mobile laboratory.

The treatment facility initially consisted of an air stripper and off-gas vapor GAC. A liquid GAC system serves as a dual barrier for water treated by the air stripper.

The groundwater extraction systems are in compliance with the interim remedy. There is no increase in contamination concentrations outside the OU boundary and a recent capture-zone analysis indicates that the extraction systems are achieving capture of the VOC plume.

Over the last five years, the project has treated more than 15 billion gallons of contaminated water and removed more than 7,000 pounds of contaminants from the aquifer. EPA conducted a Five-Year Review of the SEMOU in 2016.

The 2000 interim ROD for the SEMOU did not evaluate vapor intrusion as an exposure pathway. In 2011, sampling for the SEMOU supplemental intermediate groundwater RI/FS found areas of shallow contamination in some parts of the SEMOU. From 2011 to 2015, EPA did more soil gas and indoor air sampling at homes and businesses next to the contamination to see if vapor above protective exposure levels was getting into the structures. In 2013 and 2014, EPA installed mitigation systems (mainly subslab depressurization systems) at two businesses and six homes near the Hytone Cleaners and former Anchor Plating source areas to help keep residents and workers safe.

EPA planned to install mitigation systems at more properties and, if necessary, upgrade the previously installed mitigation systems. However, when sampling found existing mitigation systems were not working effectively, EPA decided to use a different strategy. Since 2015, EPA has provided portable air purifiers to homes and businesses that needed mitigation systems.

EPA continues to periodically monitor air inside the homes and businesses where vapor intrusion was found. The goal is to make sure the systems are working properly and that indoor air levels of vapors are within a protective exposure range. EPA will prepare a separate ROD to address future vapor intrusion investigation and mitigation if vapor intrusion is discovered in additional parts of the SEMOU.

The State of California, through DTSC and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, is responsible for cleaning up soil contamination at source facilities in the SEMOU. The State is currently designing a system to remove the contamination. The system will be funded using Proposition 1 grant money. Together, EPA and the State are working toward long-term, permanent cleanup solutions for areas with the highest concentrations of PCE in the soil that can lead to vapor intrusion.

TIMELINE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

Year	Activity
1940s - 1970s	Decades of poor chemical handling and disposal practices by hundreds of industrial/commercial facilities leads to contamination in the San Gabriel Valley's underground water supply.
1979	State-mandated testing of local drinking water supplies identifies groundwater contamination.
May 1984	EPA places four areas in the San Gabriel Valley on the National Priorities List (NPL), making the four sites eligible for federal Superfund monies to finance cleanup activities.
1985	EPA initiates enforcement efforts to identify site PRPs.
1985 - 1999	The first remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) for the SEMOU takes place.
September 1987	EPA updates the ROU ROD, revising the cleanup to use a carbon adsorption or GAC treatment system.
September 1988	EPA selects a cleanup plan for the SOU to partially control the movement and spread of contaminants in the Whittier Narrows area and to address the potential public health threat posed by contamination of the Bartolo Well Field.
January 1992	EPA completes construction of the Richwood Treatment Plant.
1993	The ROU remedy is transferred to the State of California, and the treatment system is dismantled.
September 1993	EPA issues a ROD Amendment for the SOU, putting construction of the treatment facility on hold.
1993 - 2000	EPA adopts initial cleanup plans for most of the contaminated areas in the Valley.
March 1994	EPA transfers responsibility for operation and maintenance (O&M) activities for the ROU to the State of California.

Year	Activity
1999	EPA amends its cleanup plan for the WNOU to partially control the movement and spread of contaminants into the Central Groundwater Basin.
September 2000	EPA issues an interim cleanup plan for the SEMOU. The selected remedy includes groundwater control, extraction, treatment and monitoring, with treated groundwater delivered to local water suppliers.
2002 and 2004	The State of California issues new drinking water advisory levels for perchlorate.
March 2002	Construction of the groundwater treatment system for the WNOU finishes.
August 2002	EPA issues an ESD for the EMOU to address four emergent chemicals: 1,4-dioxane, hexavalent chromium, NDMA and perchlorate.
November 2005	EPA issues an ESD updating the groundwater remedy selected in the interim cleanup plan for the SEMOU. The ESD adds perchlorate to the list of treated contaminants.
August 2008	Construction of water purveyor treatment facilities for the SEMOU finishes.
2011	EPA issues the first Five-Year Review Report for the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site.
2013 - 2015	EPA conducts air sampling to evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion and evaluates the need for additional cleanup.
2016	EPA issues the second Five-Year Review Report for the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site.
2018+	Groundwater treatment and vapor intrusion evaluations are ongoing.

GLOSSARY

Most of the terms defined below are used in this Community Involvement Plan.

1,1-Dichlorethene (1,1-DCE): A groundwater contaminant at some of the San Gabriel Valley Sites. 1,1-DCE has been used as an industrial solvent, in the manufacture of other solvents, and is a degradation product of the solvent 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA).

1,4-Dioxane: A groundwater contaminant at some of the San Gabriel Valley Sites. 1,4-dioxane has been used as a stabilizer in 1,1,1-TCA and other chlorinated solvents and is found in some consumer products.

Administrative Record: A collection of documents that contains information considered by EPA or other lead agency when selecting a response action under CERCLA. The Record is typically made available for public review at an information repository near the Site, at the regional EPA office, and on an EPA website.

Aquifer: An underground geological formation containing water. Aquifers are sources of groundwater for wells and springs.

Cleanup: The term used for actions taken to deal with a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance that could affect human health and/or the environment. The term is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms *remedial action, removal action, response action* or *corrective action*.

Community Involvement Plan (CIP): A document that identifies techniques used by EPA to communicate effectively with the public during the Superfund cleanup process at a specific site. A CIP typically describes the site history, nature and history of community involvement, and concerns expressed during community interviews. In addition, the plan outlines methodologies and timing for continued interaction between the agencies and the public at the site.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) (commonly known as Superfund): A law, enacted by Congress in December 1980, that created the Superfund program. CERCLA provides EPA with the authority to clean up contaminated sites and identifies parties that may be held responsible for performing cleanup work or reimbursing the government for cleanup costs.

The City of El Monte time capsule.

Well drilling at the South El Monte Operable Unit.

Concentration: The amount of a chemical in a given volume of groundwater or other medium.

Downgradient: The direction in which groundwater tends to move.

Environmental Justice: The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD): A document that describes significant changes to a Superfund cleanup plan (i.e., a Record of Decision) and the reasons for the changes.

Extraction Well: At the San Gabriel Valley Sites, extraction wells are used to pump groundwater to the surface, where the contaminants are removed.

Feasibility Study (FS): A process followed at most Superfund sites to evaluate potential cleanup alternatives.

Five-Year Review: A periodic review of a Superfund site that is generally required when hazardous substances remain on site above levels that permit unrestricted use and unlimited exposure. The purpose of a Five-Year Review is to evaluate the implementation and performance of a remedy and whether a remedy remains protective of public health and the environment.

Granular Activated Carbon (GAC): A material commonly used in the treatment of contaminated water. It is effective in removing a variety of organic compounds, including chemicals that affect taste and odor.

Groundwater: The supply of water found beneath the surface of the earth.

Hexavalent Chromium: A groundwater contaminant at some of the San Gabriel Valley Sites. Hexavalent chromium is a form of chromium used in some industrial processes.

Information Repository: A collection of technical reports and other documents regarding a Superfund site. The information repository is usually located in a public building that is convenient for local residents, such as a public school, city hall or library.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water by EPA or state regulations. These levels are based on consideration of health risks, technical feasibility of treatment and a cost-benefit analysis.

Monitoring Well: At the San Gabriel Valley Sites, monitoring wells are used to make subsurface measurements and collect samples to determine the amounts, types and distribution of contaminants in groundwater.

National Contingency Plan (NCP): The federal government's blueprint for responding to oil spills and releases of hazardous substances.

National Priorities List (NPL): EPA's list of uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term remedial action under the Superfund program. A site must be on the NPL to receive money from the Superfund Trust Fund for remedial action.

Nitrate: A groundwater contaminant in portions of the San Gabriel Valley, in part from historical agricultural practices.

N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA): A groundwater contaminant at some of the San Gabriel Valley Sites. NDMA has been found in some liquid rocket fuels and can be produced in a variety of chemical reactions.

Operable Unit (OU): A portion of a Superfund site at which site actions are separately planned, executed and monitored.

Perchlorate: A groundwater contaminant at some of the San Gabriel Valley Sites. Perchlorate has been used as an oxidizer in solid rocket propellant, flares, fireworks and other products.

Perchloroethylene (PCE): A groundwater contaminant at all of the San Gabriel Valley Sites. PCE was a widely used industrial solvent and used for dry cleaning.

Potentially Responsible Party (PRP): An individual, company or other entity that is potentially responsible for cleanup of a Superfund site.

Record of Decision (ROD): A public document that explains which cleanup alternative will be used at a Superfund site.

Remedial Action: The construction or implementation phase of a Superfund site cleanup.

Remedial Investigation (RI): An in-depth study designed to gather the data necessary to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a Superfund site and assess risks to human health and the environment.

Remedy: The method selected to clean up a Superfund site.

Removal Action: Short-term actions that address releases of hazardous substances that require expedited responses.

Superfund: The common name used for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. Superfund activities include conducting and/or supervising hazardous waste site cleanups and other remedial actions.

Technical Assistance: The provision of services focused on increasing community understanding of the science, regulations and policy related to environmental issues and EPA actions.

Trichloroethylene (TCE): A groundwater contaminant at all of the San Gabriel Valley Sites. TCE was a commonly used industrial solvent and is one of the most common contaminants at Superfund sites nationally.

Vapor Intrusion: A process where vapors from volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination in groundwater make their way into indoor air.

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC): Organic compounds that have relatively low boiling temperatures and high vapor pressure at room temperature. VOCs are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
EMOU	El Monte Operable Unit
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ESD	Explanation of Significant Differences

FS	Feasibility Study
GAC	Granular Activated Carbon
gpm	Gallons per Minute
GSWC	Golden State Water Company
IX	Ion Exchange
IZ	Intermediate Zone
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
NDMA	N-nitrosodimethylamine
NPL	National Priorities List
OU	Operable Unit
ppb	Parts per Billion
PCE	Perchloroethylene
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
RAO	Remedial Action Objective
RI	Remedial Investigation
RMWC	Richwood Mutual Water Company
ROD	Record of Decision
ROU	Richwood Operable Unit
SARA	Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986
SEMOU	South El Monte Operable Unit
SG	San Gabriel
SGVWC	San Gabriel Valley Water Company
SOU	Suburban Operable Unit
SWS	Suburban Water System
TAG	Technical Assistance Grant
TANA	Technical Assistance Needs Assessment
TASC	Technical Assistance Services for Communities
TCE	Trichloroethylene
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
WNOU	Whittier Narrows Operable Unit

Vapor intrusion investigations are taking place around Hytone Cleaners in El Monte.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Introduction

EPA requested support from its Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program to conduct a Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA) in conjunction with the Community Involvement Plan update. The purpose of this needs assessment is to better understand the current unmet technical assistance needs of San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site community and to provide recommendations to address those needs. TASC contractors provided needs assessment questions to EPA to include in the Community Involvement Plan stakeholder interview questionnaire, listened in on interviews, and reviewed interview notes to develop this summary and a set of recommendations.

Site Background and Past Community Involvement

Information about site background and past community involvement is documented in the main body of the Community Involvement Plan and is not repeated here.

Perspective on Community Technical Assistance Needs

Community members and stakeholders who participated in the Community Involvement Plan and TANA conversations shared their perspectives on community technical assistance needs as they related to Area 1 site communities. While participants felt fairly informed about site activities, they shared some potential technical assistance needs to improve community understanding of the cleanup. Although community participants felt that the information they receive about the Site is fairly accessible, many participants shared ways to make the information easier to understand for the general public. Some participants identified particular communities and entities that may benefit from enhanced outreach, and shared specific ways to approach this targeted outreach. Area 1 site communities have some residents who are directly impacted by the site contamination, and they may require more information updates than members of the general public. Additionally, Area 1 site communities are culturally and linguistically diverse, and participants emphasized the importance in considering this when conducting outreach.

In addition to receiving general updates about the Site's status, some participants indicated an interest in having fact sheets or information about specific topics related to the Site. These topics include:

1. The extent and type of contamination.
2. Potential health effects as they relate to the contamination.
3. Information about what the community is exposed to, including what people may be breathing in the air.
4. Information about the mitigation systems in homes and how they work, and why it is important to keep them running.
5. Information about the contamination: who is cleaning it up, what has been cleaned up, what cleanup options are available, how it will be cleaned up, how long it will take and how much it will cost.
6. Information about the dry cleaner's current operations and whether the dry cleaner is currently using harmful chemicals.
7. Information about water quality, how contamination affects groundwater and whether the water is safe to drink.
8. Information about how the community's water gets to residents.

Community participants also suggested that EPA partner with cities, elected officials and community organizations to improve community engagement and trust. These thoughts on effectively reaching area communities and potential community partnerships are summarized in the following table.

Community Benefitting from Additional Outreach and Engagement	Solutions to Improve Outreach and Engagement Offered by Participants
Area 1 site communities could benefit from more accessible information about the Site.	• Use more graphics, charts and maps in outreach materials and include references on what specific amounts mean (for example, providing a reference for how much 3 parts per billion is). • Provide information in plain language, relatable terms and examples, and avoid the use of acronyms. • Continue to provide information by postal mail. • Include information about the document repository on fact sheets and other materials. • Design a one-page, condensed fact sheet on site activities that provides a general overview so that readers are not overwhelmed by information. • Create a timeline on site activities for distribution. • Include photos in the fact sheets, such as photos of homes, to make them more accessible to readers. • Have non-technical meetings in a central location with easy parking. • Design a large map that clearly outlines site boundaries and the properties affected within each city. • Keep all the technical documents for the Site in one easily accessible place online. • Ensure that materials include information on costs and how any taxpayer dollars are being used, as well as how PRPs are paying to clean up contamination. • Use bright colors like hot pink or orange for the text and catchy headlines in documents to draw the reader's eye. • Consider the January/February timeframe each year for sending out documents, as it is winter, and many people are home. • Have meetings midweek in the evenings for the best turnout. • Make sure that if a contact is listed for additional information that person is ready and available to take calls, as people have complained about leaving messages and not receiving calls back. • Design and distribute a map of vapor intrusion areas and how long vapor intrusion is expected to last in each area. • For longer informational materials, provide the most important information on the front page. • Use small groups, questionnaires and posters with dot stickers at meetings to help attendees to stay engaged. • Set up a booth at events to conduct a survey for better response rates than through the mail. • Attend events in person. Emails and direct mailings do not always reach people as well as talking with them in person. • Update existing EPA maps and charts so that the materials are more recent. • Provide assistance with designing and posting site signage. • Provide information on a comparison of vapor intrusion versus other contaminants in the air. • Provide information directly from EPA so that residents are receiving materials from an organization other than the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority. • Engage a medical professional to help answer questions about health issues from residents living near a facility. The water companies, EPA and the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority are not equipped to answer those questions.

Community Benefitting from Additional Outreach and Engagement	Solutions to Improve Outreach and Engagement Offered by Participants
Residents directly affected by the Site could benefit from specific outreach.	• Hold separate meetings for residents directly affected by the Site, in a location convenient for them. • Provide outreach materials specifically for residents directly affected by the Site (such as those who have mitigation systems). • Continue to talk with residents one-on-one to answer their questions.
Non-English-speaking communities could benefit from culturally-sensitive and linguistically-specific outreach about the Site.	• Provide materials in English and Spanish at a minimum, and Chinese and Vietnamese when possible. • Provide translators at community meetings. • When working with some communities, make it clear that EPA is there to help protect them from the site contamination and will not involve other federal agencies. • Feature the primary language of the area on the front of a document, with English on the back, to provide a more targeted outreach. • Keep English language materials brief and written at a fifth-grade level, so that school-age children can read them to their non-native English-speaking family members. • Provide information to the non-English-speaking population currently distrustful of the safety of tap water to reassure them that it is safe to drink. • Ensure that the correct dialects are used in written translations, as it is possible to alienate the community if the wrong dialect is used.
Cities, elected officials and community organizations that community members may go to for questions could benefit from specific outreach.	• Provide materials for city and community organization staff to reference when they receive questions about the Site. These materials may include: ◦ A general site "cheat sheet" with key information about the Site. ◦ A list of resources/contacts for additional information. ◦ A list of health-driven questions-and-answers related to the Site. • Provide briefings for city staff and elected officials so they can better understand the Site. • Give a presentation on plans for work at contaminated areas in Rosemead to Rosemead City Council. • For community meetings, partner with cities to help build trust. • For community meetings, work with water organizations so they can help answer community questions. • Make use of the Jeff Seymour Family Center – it is a health and wellness resource in the area. • Consider partnering for outreach with area organizations such as Council for Watershed Health, Day One El Monte, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, San Gabriel Mountains Forever, the El Monte Boys and Girls Club, and Communities for a Better Environment. • Have a booth at the annual Earth Day Community Festival hosted by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County to reach people and update them on site-related activities.

Community Benefitting from Additional Outreach and Engagement	Solutions to Improve Outreach and Engagement Offered by Participants
Additional sectors of the community could benefit from specific outreach.	• Consider holding some meetings during the day at a senior center for older community members. • Partner with school districts and school boards for outreach. • Ensure that meeting facilities meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards, have ample parking and have restrooms. Provide water at meetings.

Recommendations for Technical Assistance

TASC contractors believe that the community would benefit from implementation of the recommendations described below. These recommendations are specific to technical assistance and could be fulfilled by EPA and the State of California, with support from the TASC program or other technical assistance programs where appropriate.

1. Implement the strategies outlined in the Community Involvement Plan, with the following additional considerations to further improve community understanding of the Site and cleanup:
   a. Provide one-to-two plain language fact sheets or informational handouts each year to address specific topics in addition to providing a general status update.
      i. Include information about the eight topics listed previously or new topics as they are identified by community stakeholders in the fact sheets and handouts.
      ii. Include graphics, charts and maps in fact sheets and handouts.
      iii. Translate fact sheets and handouts into Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese, and other languages as needed and coordinated with the community. When possible, work with the community to make sure that translations are appropriate. Consider sharing translations with community representatives for review.
      iv. Include information about the site repository. Many community members and stakeholders who participated in Community Involvement Plan interviews were not aware of the repository.
      v. Target fact sheet and handout distribution to address the needs of directly-affected residents, city and organization staff members, students, and the general public as appropriate.
      vi. Work with Area 1 communities, school officials, local governments, community organizations and PRPs on opportunities to locate educational signage, including maps and other visuals, near major remedial features.
   b. Host separate community meetings for directly-affected residents and the general public as appropriate. Work with cities and water organizations as appropriate and provide translators as coordinated with the community. Work with schools, senior centers and other organizations as appropriate to make sure meetings are accessible to everyone. Additionally, continue to talk with affected residents one-on-one to answer their questions. Continue to be considerate of cultural sensitivities in outreach.
   c. Provide regular briefings and site information to city staff, elected officials, and water and other organizations so that they can help distribute information to the community. Organizations may include those listed above and in the Community Involvement Plan.
      i. Consider providing a train-the-trainer-type workshop for city staff, as well as for representatives of elected officials and community organizations to help them better understand the Site and help them share information with community members.
      ii. Consider developing a question-and-answer fact sheet or a simple handout with key information so that city staff and representatives for elected officials and community organizations can easily help answer community questions and direct community members to appropriate contacts and resources.
2. Check in with community stakeholders after a specified period to revisit the TANA and review community needs. Based on community interest at that time, consider supporting the community in developing a plan for outreach to further enhance understanding of the Site, and reach community members who may benefit from targeted outreach.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: _____
Affiliation: _____
Date/Time: _____
Location: _____

An exhibit at the El Monte Historical Museum.

History

1. How long have you lived/worked in this area?

2. Are you familiar with the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site?

3. How did you first become aware of contamination associated with the Site?

4. What is your understanding of the history of the contamination at the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site and its effect on the community?

5. What are your concerns about the Site? Please explain.

6. Have you spoken to anyone about your concerns? If so, who and when? Do you know if anything has been done to address these concerns?

7. Are you aware of any activities that are currently underway to clean up environmental contamination at the Site?

Community Involvement

8. Are you currently receiving information about the Site's environmental issues? How are you currently receiving information about the Site?

9. Is the information clear and easy to understand? If not, describe the areas where you believe the community may need assistance understanding and responding to information about the Site. What additional information would you like to receive?

10. Have you attended any community meetings regarding the cleanup activities? If no, is there a reason why you have not attended?

11. How effective do you feel these community meetings have been?

12. Do you have any suggestions to improve the effectiveness of these meetings?

13. In your opinion, what days of the week (and times) are best for community meetings?

14. What are the issues or areas in which the community may require assistance in order to participate meaningfully in the Superfund decision-making process? What type of assistance do you believe would be most helpful?

15. Are there particular community members or stakeholders affected by the Site who may need additional assistance understanding site information and what it may mean to them? Are these stakeholder groups reached by existing organizations that serve the broader community?

EPA conducted some CIP interviews for the South El Monte community in Spanish.

Level of Confidence

16. What has your experience been with EPA and the State and any other government agencies or officials?

Communication

17. How do you feel about the level of community involvement and outreach from the project to the residents and businesses affected by the Site?

18. Do you feel you have been kept adequately informed? If not, what can be done to change this?

19. What is the best way to provide information to you (Facebook, email, open house, newsletters, fact sheets, community meetings, Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs), other)?

20. How frequently?

21. Are you aware of the information repositories for the Site? Are these locations convenient for the community?

22. Are you interested in being on the mailing list to receive information updates on environmental cleanup activities at the Site? If so, can we confirm your address (and e-mail address)?

23. Can you suggest any other individuals or groups that should be contacted for additional information or to be added to the mailing list?

24. Is there any other pertinent information you would like to share with us at this time?

CUESTIONARIO DE ENTREVISTA COMUNITARIA

Nombre: _____
Afiliación: _____
Fecha/Horario: _____
Sitio de entrevista: _____

Historia

1. ¿Cuánto tiempo ha vivido/trabajado en esta área?

2. ¿Está usted familiarizado con el Sitio Superfund Valle de San Gabriel y South El Monte?

3. ¿Cómo se enteró por primera vez de la contaminación asociada con el Sitio?

4. ¿Cuál es su conocimiento de la historia de la contaminación en el Sitio Superfund Valle de San Gabriel y sus efectos en la comunidad?

5. ¿Cuáles son sus preocupaciones acerca de este Sitio? Favor de explicar.

6. ¿Ha hablado con alguna otra persona sobre sus preocupaciones? Si es así, ¿con quién y cuándo? ¿Sabe si se ha hecho algo para abordar estas preocupaciones?

7. ¿Tiene usted conocimiento de las actividades que se están llevando a cabo para limpiar la contaminación ambiental en el South El Monte?

Participación comunitaria

8. ¿Está recibiendo información sobre los temas ambientales del South El Monte? ¿Cómo está recibiendo información sobre el sitio actualmente?

9. ¿Es la información clara y fácil de comprender? Si no es así, describe las áreas donde usted cree que la comunidad puede recibir ayuda en comprender y responder a la información sobre el Sitio. ¿Qué información adicional le gustaría recibir?

10. ¿Ha asistido a alguna reunión comunitaria con respecto a las actividades de limpieza de los sitios Superfund del Valle de San Gabriel? Si no es así, ¿hay alguna razón por la que no ha asistido?

11. ¿Qué tan efectivo cree que han sido estas reuniones?

12. ¿Tiene algunas sugerencias para mejorar la eficacia de estas reuniones?

13. En su opinión, ¿cuáles días de semana (y tiempos) son mejores para las reuniones comunitarias?

14. ¿Cuáles son los problemas o asuntos en los que la comunidad puede requerir de ayuda para que participe de manera significativa en el proceso de hacer decisiones relacionados al programa Superfund? ¿Qué tipo de asistencia cree que sería más útil?

15. ¿Hay miembros comunitarios o partes interesados particulares afectados por el Sitio que necesitaran ayuda adicional en entender información sobre el Sitio y qué significa para ellos? ¿Se están alcanzando estas partes interesadas por medio de las organizaciones existentes que sirven a la comunidad en general?

Nivel de confianza

16. ¿Cuál ha sido su experiencia con la EPA, el Estado y otras agencias u oficiales del gobierno?

Comunicación

17. ¿Cuál es su opinión sobre el nivel de participación comunitaria y la divulgación del proyecto a las comunidades afectadas por el Sitio?

18. ¿Siente usted que ha sido adecuadamente informado/a? Si no es así, ¿qué se puede hacer para cambiar esto?

19. ¿Cuál es la mejor manera de proveerle información? (Facebook, correo electrónico, exhibición pública, boletines, hojas informativas, reuniones comunitarias, Ayudas de Asistencia Técnica, otros)

20. ¿Con qué frecuencia?

21. ¿Tiene conocimiento del repositorio de información en South El Monte? ¿Es este lugar conveniente para la comunidad?

22. ¿Está interesado/a en estar en la lista de correo para recibir actualizaciones informativas sobre actividades de limpieza ambiental en el Sitio? Si es así, ¿nos puede confirmar su dirección (y correo electrónico)?

23. ¿Puede sugerir otros individuos o grupos que deben ser contactados para información adicional o para ser añadidos a la lista de correo?

24. ¿Hay alguna otra información pertinente que le gustaría compartir con nosotros en este momento?

Jacaranda trees in bloom.

San Gabriel Valley Area 1
Superfund Site
www.epa.gov/superfund/sangabrielelmonte

Community Involvement Plan
November 2018

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency