

CONSTRUCTION OF GROUNDWATER TREATMENT EXPANSION

Beginning in August 2023, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be overseeing construction activities in the Cities of Rosemead and El Monte as part of its groundwater cleanup for the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site, El Monte Operable Unit (EMOU). This project is an expansion of one of the original cleanup systems to improve cleanup of shallow groundwater in the EMOU. Construction activities will include installation of water pipelines and electrical conduit from existing extraction wells to the existing groundwater treatment facility located at 4232 Temple City Blvd. The extraction wells will pump groundwater and transport it through the new underground pipelines to the treatment facility, where contamination will be treated to levels that are protective of human health and the environment prior to discharge to surface water. Most equipment, including the wells and electrical control panels, will be installed in underground concrete vaults so that there is limited above-ground impact to city residents.

Under EPA oversight, and with extensive coordination with the Cities of Rosemead and El Monte, one of the potentially responsible parties, AMETEK, Inc., and its contractors will install approximately one mile of new underground pipeline along Valley Blvd, Temple City Blvd, and side streets (see Figure 1). Construction is anticipated to start this summer and take approximately eight months to complete the following activities:

1. Digging small holes (potholes) to locate utilities on select streets in El Monte and Rosemead
2. Digging trenches and installing piping and concrete vaults
3. Restoring the affected areas as close to their former state as possible

Once construction of the treatment system expansion is complete, EPA will oversee the testing and startup of the system.

While EPA will ensure contractors take extensive measures to reduce potential impacts in the construction areas, the pipeline installation may be disruptive at times, especially along Valley Blvd. and Temple City Blvd. EPA appreciates the cooperation and patience of residents and business owners and will continue to work with the community to minimize impacts.

Construction Schedule and Work Hours

The planned schedule for the expansion work is shown in the table below. Schedule changes, if any, will be posted at:

- https://www.cityofrosemead.org/government/city_departments/public_works
- <https://www.ci.el-monte.ca.us/291/Public-Works>



Location	Potholing	Trenching	Restoration
Temple City Blvd (Treatment Plant to Valley Blvd)	Mid-Aug to early Sep 2023	Early to late Sep 2023	Early Oct 2023
Baldwin Ave		Late Sep to early Oct 2023	Mid- to late Oct 2023
Valley Blvd (Eaton Wash to Shirley Ave)		Early Oct to early Nov 2023	Mid-Nov 2023
Valley Blvd (Temple City Blvd to Eaton Wash)		Nov 2023	Early Dec 2023
Lorica St		Late Nov to mid-Dec 2023	Mid- to late Dec 2023
Rio Hondo Ave/Steele St		Mid-Dec 2023 to early Jan 2024	Mid-Jan 2024
Shirley Ave		Early to mid-Jan 2024	Late Jan 2024
Eunice Ave		Late Jan to early Feb 2024	Mid-Feb 2024
Rowland Ave		Early to mid-Feb 2024	Mid- to late Feb 2024
Valley Blvd (bridge crossing)		Mid-Feb to early Mar 2024	Mid- to late Mar 2024

City of Rosemead work hours: 7 A.M. to 4 P.M., Monday – Friday

City of El Monte work hours: 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday – Thursday

Community Notification

Informational flyers will be mailed to homes and businesses prior to the beginning of work, providing a construction map, schedule, and contact information. All work will be performed in the right of way to allow access to businesses and residences, except for possible temporary interruptions (less than an hour). The work will **not** affect water or other utility services to homes or businesses.

Safety Measures and Traffic Impacts

EPA will ensure the following measures are implemented to maintain workers' health and safety and minimize community impacts:

- Deploy safety barriers, traffic cones, and electronic signage
- Cover open trenches and excavations at night and weekends
- Spray water during trench excavations and soil backfill to reduce dust emissions
- Make every effort to avoid blocking driveways, keep traffic flowing, and provide alternative pedestrian and vehicle routes as necessary. All public rights-of-way will remain open during the work; however, traffic will be impacted, and alternative routes or detours will be provided to allow residents and businesses access to side streets and driveways. Traffic markers and signs will re-route traffic around the construction areas. Parking may be temporarily limited.

Is my drinking water safe?

Multiple drinking water companies provide water to the Cities of Rosemead and El Monte. All drinking water served by these companies meets state and federal drinking water standards. Water is treated and monitored at water treatment plants before making its way to your tap.

Background Information on the EMOU

In May 1984, **groundwater** contamination within San Gabriel Basin was listed on USEPA's National Priorities List, as part of the **Superfund** program, and divided into eight **Operable Units (OUs)**. The groundwater contamination is the result of decades of poor chemical handling and disposal practices. Most of the activities that led to the contamination likely occurred between the 1940s and 1980s. This period was before EPA established the Superfund cleanup program and environmental laws covering hazardous waste.

EMOU lies in the central portion of the San Gabriel Basin and covers approximately ten square miles. The West Side EMOU is situated within the boundaries of City of El Monte, City of Temple City, and the City of Rosemead. The main chemicals found in EMOU are **volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**, **perchlorate**, **hexavalent chromium**, and **1,4-dioxane**.

Investigation in the 1990s led to EPA's decision to address EMOU's VOC contamination by extracting and treating groundwater.

EMOU is divided into East and West portions by Baldwin Avenue. The West Side EMOU **Remedial Design/Remedial Action** Schedule was updated and approved by the EPA in 2023. This revised schedule outlines the time frame for implementing the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Western Shallow Zone treatment system. Treated groundwater from the shallow zone is discharged to Eaton Wash and is not used for drinking water purposes. The treatment system is in place to prevent contamination from spreading into cleaner areas.

The deep zone portion of the West Side EMOU remediation has been underway for approximately 21 years, through a cooperative agreement between Hermetic Seal Corporation and Golden State Water Company.

Who is doing the cleanup work?

While multiple individual facilities have contributed to contamination in the area, AMETEK, Inc. is responsible under a federal consent decree to construct, operate, monitor, and maintain the groundwater treatment systems in the West Side EMOU until a final groundwater remedy is in place.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

Also referred to as "Superfund", the law enacted in 1980 that created the Superfund program. CERCLA established prohibitions and requirements concerning closed and abandoned hazardous waste sites, provided for liability of persons responsible for releases of hazardous waste at these sites, and established a trust fund to provide for cleanup when no responsible party could be identified.

Consent Decree

Legal document, approved by a judge, that formalizes an agreement between EPA and potentially responsible parties (PRPs) through which PRPs will conduct all or part of a cleanup action at a Superfund site.

Groundwater

The water found beneath the earth's surface that supplies wells and springs.

Hexavalent chromium

A heavy metal, also known as chromium 6, used for the production of stainless steel, textile dyes, wood preservation, and for anti-corrosion and electroplating. It can occur naturally, but for EMOU, the major source of hexavalent chromium is from spills and leaks at industrial plants.

Operable Unit

A distinct area within a Superfund site. Operable Units may be divided based on geographic areas, specific site problems, or locations where specific actions are required.

Perchlorate

Used as the primary ingredient in solid rocket fuel and explosives.

1,4-Dioxane

An organic chemical used as stabilizer in solvents.

Remedial Design/Remedial Action

Includes both phases in the Superfund site cleanup process. During Remedial Design, the technical guidelines for cleanup solutions are designed. During Remedial Action, which follows Remedial Design, the design is implemented, constructed, and maintained.

Superfund

Also referred to as CERCLA, this is the environmental program established by EPA to address abandoned hazardous waste sites.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

Organic (carbon-based) chemicals that vaporize and enter the atmosphere under normal conditions; commonly used in dry cleaning, machinery degreasing, and metal plating. The main VOCs found in EMOU are tetrachloroethene (also known as PCE), and trichloroethene (TCE).