

Which contaminants were found in Area 3?

- The 7 key contaminants found at the Area 3 site, their levels in Area 3, and their MCLs are:

Chemical	Range of Levels Detected	California (CA) and Federal (F) MCLs
TCE	0 - 2,300 ppb	5 ppb (CA; F)
PCE	0 - 950 ppb	5 ppb (CA; F)
cis-1,2-DCE	0 - 98.8 ppb	6 ppb (CA); 70 ppb (F)
Nitrate	0 - 19 ppm	10 ppm (CA; F)
Perchlorate	0 - 7.1 ppb	6 ppb (CA); Unregulated (F)
Carbon tetrachloride	0 - 3.2 ppb	0.5 ppb (CA); 5 ppb (F)
1,2,3-TCP	0 - 0.413 ppb	Unregulated (CA; F)

- In high doses, or in small doses over a long period of time, these contaminants may cause:
 - liver and kidney damage (TCE; PCE; cis-1,2-DCE; Carbon tetrachloride; 1,2,3-TCP)
 - compromised immune system (PCE; Carbon tetrachloride; 1,2,3-TCP)
 - effects on nervous system (Carbon tetrachloride)
 - blood damage (cis-1,2-DCE; 1,2,3-TCP)
 - fetal development problems (TCE) and blue baby syndrome (nitrate)
 - hemorrhaging of the spleen (nitrate)
 - hyperthyroidism (perchlorate)
 - cancer of the lungs (TCE), liver (PCE), and thyroid gland (perchlorate)

Who is responsible for the contamination?

EPA has been working with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to identify responsible parties who might have caused the pollution in Area 3. No responsible parties for Area 3 have been identified to date.

What is being done to clean up this site?

- EPA recently completed a 9-year study of Area 3 and has detailed their findings in the Remedial Investigation (RI) report. The report includes:
 - which contaminants occur in the groundwater
 - how fast and where they are spreading
 - what risks they pose to residents
- EPA will now commence a Feasibility Study to weigh clean-up options.
- EPA is publishing fact sheets and holding public meetings.
- Water treatment facilities have been built to remove harmful contaminants before reaching the consumer.
- But data gaps exist in the EPA's RI report, and the full extent of clean-up requirements is not yet known.

Community Resources and Contacts

San Gabriel Oversight Group (SGVOG): Eric Sunada (Director), 626-589-0440, eric.sunada@sgvog.org

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Regional Office Representative: Susan L. Muza, 415-947-4316, muza.susan@epa.gov

Superfund Records Center: 95 Hawthorne Street, Room 403 (SFD-7C), San Francisco, CA 94105, 415-536-2000

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC): 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2828, 1-800-72T-OXIC

EPA Superfund Web Site:
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/index.htm>

EPA Toll-free Community Involvement Office message line (messages can be left in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese): 1-800-231-3075

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator: Svetlana Zenkin, (415) 972-3085, Zenkin.Svetlana@epamail.epa.gov

YOUR DRINKING WATER and the SAN GABRIEL VALLEY AREA 3 SUPERFUND SITE



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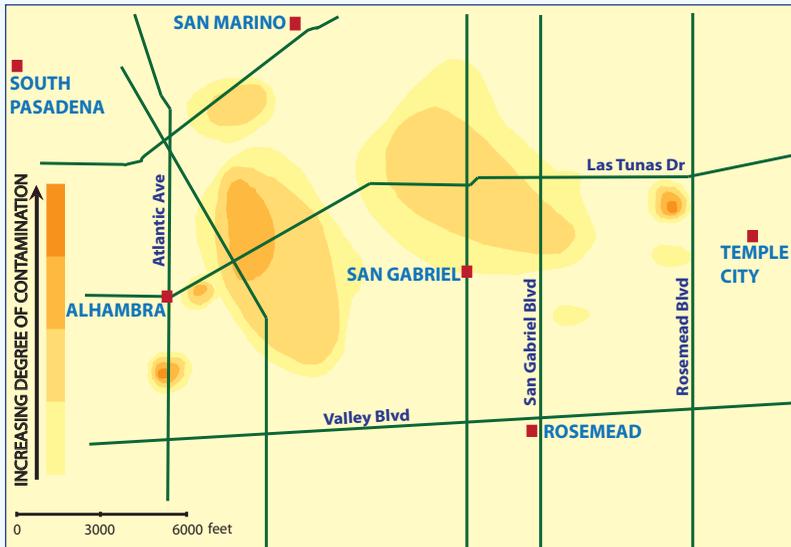
San Gabriel Valley Oversight Group (SGVOG)
805 East Pine Street, Alhambra, California 91801
Phone: 626-589-0440; Website: <http://www.sgvog.org/>

The Cadmus Group, Inc.
57 Water Street, Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-673-7000

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What is the San Gabriel Valley Area 3 Site?

- Area 3 is one of four sites in the San Gabriel Valley with soil and groundwater contaminants that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) national drinking water standard.
- Due to this contamination, these regions have been listed as National Superfund sites since 1984.
- Area 3 groundwater is used by residents of Alhambra, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena, and Temple City.



Map of San Gabriel Valley Area 3 Site showing plumes of groundwater contamination.

Is my tap water safe to drink?

Yes. Your tap water is regularly tested to meet federal and state health standards. It is a mixture of:

- groundwater from uncontaminated wells
- **treated** groundwater from contaminated wells
- surface water from the Colorado River and the State Water Project (which draws water from northern California)



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How widespread is the contamination?

- Area 3 has 18 square miles of groundwater contamination.
- Chemicals (Volatile Organic Compounds or VOCs) were first detected in wells in Area 3 in 1979.
- VOCs have been found in 59 public wells.
- As groundwater flows, the contamination spreads.

Why should I be concerned about Area 3?

- We need to clean up the contamination because:
 - groundwater is limited due to the closing of the most contaminated wells
 - it is expensive to treat contaminated water
 - water imported from other sources, such as the Colorado River, costs more and may not be enough
- State and federal standards for water quality are based on many factors, not all health-related. Cost-benefit analyses are also considered in setting MCLs.
- What is deemed safe today may not be in the future even if current detected levels do not change. Ongoing health studies continue to reassess the toxicology of many contaminants.
- What is considered a safe level of a contaminant (for example, perchlorate) varies in different regulations.

Differences in Perchlorate Regulations	
Regulatory Level	MCL part per billion (ppb)
Massachusetts	2ppb
California	6 ppb
Federal	Unregulated

Did you know that one part per billion (1 ppb) is less than a tablespoon of contaminant diluted in an Olympic size swimming pool?

1979

VOCs are first detected in Area 3

1984

EPA lists four areas of San Gabriel Valley as Superfund sites

1999

EPA begins investigating the extent of the contamination in Area 3

2000

EPA coordinates with LA Regional Water Quality Control Board to begin investigating sources of the contamination

Fall 2002

EPA conducts 22 community interviews

2003

EPA installs six monitoring wells in Area 3 and begins ongoing groundwater monitoring

2005

EPA installs three more monitoring wells in Area 3 and continues groundwater monitoring

Summer 2005

EPA conducts two workshops to solicit community input

Spring 2009

EPA completes studies of existing site conditions and releases its findings in the Remedial Investigation report