



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Lahontan Region



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Lahontan Water Board Continues Investigation of Perchlorate in the Barstow Area

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) will resume its investigation of perchlorate in groundwater in the northeastern area of Barstow starting the week of December 12. The investigation, consisting of drilling soil borings and sampling groundwater at 20 locations, will assist Water Board staff in assessing where the perchlorate has migrated in groundwater.

The data collected will be evaluated along with data collected earlier by the Water Board from private water supply wells in the area. Work will be conducted by a private contractor, primarily on private property within the area of Poplar Street to the west, Soapmine Road to the north, Webster Road on the east and the Mojave River to the south. The Water Board has received permission from owners to conduct this investigation. The fieldwork is expected to take about two weeks to complete. Results of the investigation will be available in early 2012.

The Water Board, with the assistance of federal, state and local agencies, is investigating the residence of the owner of the former Mojave River Pyrotechnics Company as a potential source of the perchlorate contamination. The pyrotechnics company ceased operation in the mid-1980s. The residence, located on Poplar Street in Barstow, is believed to be where chemicals containing perchlorate salts were illegally dumped. A recent investigation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has shown high concentrations of perchlorate in soil at the Poplar Street location and in groundwater from two private water supply wells and one public water supply well down gradient of the Poplar Street property. The owners of these wells have been notified of these results.

Fact Sheets describing additional information about the site can be accessed at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/available_documents/barstow/index.shtml

The Lahontan Water Board is one of nine regional water boards in the state. The Water Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.