



**FACT SHEET April 2017**

# **Proposed Groundwater Cleanup Plan (Phase III) for Former Athens Tank Farm Site, Willowbrook Now Available for Public Review & Comment**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) with support from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites the public to review and comment on a proposed plan, called a Phase III Groundwater Remedial Action Plan (Phase III Groundwater RAP), for the former Athens Tank Farm (Site). If approved, the draft Phase III Groundwater RAP will continue the cleanup of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as hexane and benzene, and petroleum products in the underlying groundwater.

122-acre Site is in the Willowbrook area of unincorporated Los Angeles County and includes the Earvin Magic Johnson Regional Park (Park), the Ujima Housing Corporation (UHC) properties, and the former Ujima Village apartment complex. Environmental work is being conducted by ExxonMobil Environmental Services (ExxonMobil). All environmental work is directed by the Regional Board with support from DTSC.

This Fact Sheet provides information on:

- Why Cleanup is Needed
- Cleanup History
- Proposed Cleanup Plan (Phase III Groundwater RAP)
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- How You Can Participate
- How to Find Site Documents
- Next Steps
- Who To Contact for More Information

### **Why Cleanup Is Needed**

The former Athens Tank Farm used to be a petroleum storage facility operated by ExxonMobil and its predecessor entities that stored crude oil, gasoline, diesel fuel and fuel oil in large storage tanks and concrete-lined reservoirs. These tanks leaked and released petroleum related contamination into soil and groundwater. Following the end of operations at the former Athens Tank Farm detectable levels of petroleum products and VOCs were found in soil and groundwater at the Site. Other compounds detected include lead and arsenic in soil and groundwater.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

A 30-day public comment period on the Phase III Groundwater RAP begins **April 13th, and ends May 13th, 2017. All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by May 13th, 2017, and sent to:**

Dr. Teklewold Ayalew  
Regional Board Project Manager  
320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1105  
E-mail: [teklewold.ayalew@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:teklewold.ayalew@waterboards.ca.gov)

### **\*OPEN HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT\***

DTSC and Regional Board will host an **Open House** to learn more about the draft Phase III Groundwater RAP and receive public comments. Please join us:

**Saturday, April 29th, 2017  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Enterprise Park Gymnasium  
13022 Clovis Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90059-3432**





Although sampling data do not show a health risk, DTSC and the Regional Board recommended that cleanup actions be developed and implemented to ensure long-term public and environmental protection. Since the first cleanup plan was approved, substantial progress has been made in the cleanup effort.

### Cleanup History

Cleanup of the former Athens Tank farm began in October 2014 in two phases:

1. The *Phase I Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) system* has been in operation since October 2014. This cleanup system is removing VOCs from below ground for treatment above ground by using a vacuum blower and two internal combustion engines (permitted through the South Coast Air Quality Management District – SCAQMD) that pull soil vapor from SVE wells located in the eastern area of the site. To date, an estimated 312,960 pounds of VOCs and 34,813 pounds of methane has been removed.
2. The *Phase II Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) system* will include the installation of horizontal SVE wells beneath the former Ujima Village Apartment complex, Ujima Housing Corporation property, and beneath portions of the Park. It will include a new vacuum blower, permitted through SCAQMD. Installation is expected to take place during the second quarter of 2017.

### Proposed Cleanup Plan (Phase III Groundwater RAP)

Data from on-site and off-site monitoring of 32 wells (12 shallow and 20 deep wells) was used to determine that the groundwater beneath the Site is contaminated by VOCs and petroleum products. In addition non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL - liquid solution of compounds that do not dissolve easily in water, like oil and gasoline) has been detected in one shallow-zone well and five deep-zone wells in the southern portion and south of the former Athens Tank Farm. To achieve cleanup goals for groundwater, three cleanup technologies are proposed:

1. Sparge system (bio-sparging/air sparging)
2. NAPL recovery
3. Monitored natural attenuation

#### **What Is A Sparge System?**

The sparge system consists of injecting air into the groundwater to help remove petroleum products. The injected air helps naturally occurring microorganisms break down the petroleum products. This will take place along the eastern site boundary. The air injection into groundwater has two variant forms of cleanup that work hand-in-hand as follows:

1. Air sparging involves direct injection of air into underlying groundwater. Air sparging is performed concurrent with soil vapor extraction to capture VOCs.
2. Biosparging is a particular mode of air sparging used to transfer oxygen to the underlying groundwater to enhance biodegradation of petroleum products by naturally occurring microbes.

#### **What Is Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (NAPL) Recovery?**

NAPL Recovery is a technology to remove or treat non-aqueous phase liquid, which is a liquid solution of compounds that do not dissolve easily in water, like oil and gasoline, to clean up the groundwater. The proposed recovery of NAPL will be performed in one shallow on-site well and three deep (two on-site and one off-site) wells.

#### **What Is Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA)?**

MNA is a natural process where concentrations of contaminants in groundwater decrease over time. Regular monitoring and evaluation of groundwater conditions will be conducted to ensure that MNA is working.





## California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The Phase III Groundwater RAP will not result in any additional environmental impacts not already evaluated in the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The MND encompasses the activities to be conducted in this Phase III Groundwater RAP project. The Regional Board has determined that no changes are needed in the Regional Board adopted MND dated September 12, 2012.

## Drinking Water Has Been and Continues to Be Safe

There is no risk to the public from drinking and using water from your homes, schools, businesses, or places of work because:

- Groundwater beneath the site is not a source of drinking water.
- Water is supplied by the Metropolitan Water District and Golden State Water Company from many different sources outside your community.
- The water is tested regularly to ensure all federal and state drinking water standards are met before it reaches you.

## How You Can Participate – Public Comments and Open House

The Regional Board and DTSC invites and encourages you to learn more about this Site and provide public comment on the draft Phase III Groundwater RAP. **The 30-day public comment period on the draft Phase III Groundwater RAP begins April 13th, and ends May 13th, 2017. All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than May 13th, 2017, and sent to:**

**Teklewold Ayalew, Project Manager**  
**Regional Water Quality Control Board**  
**320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90013-1105**  
**E-mail: [teklewold.ayalew@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:teklewold.ayalew@waterboards.ca.gov)**

The Regional Board and DTSC also invite you to an Open House information session to learn more about the draft Phase III Groundwater RAP, ask questions, and provide comments and feedback. Regional Board and DTSC staff will available. Please join us:

***Saturday, April 29th, 2017, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM***  
**Enterprise Park Gymnasium**  
**13055 Clovis Avenue**  
**Los Angeles, 90059-3432**

## How to Find Site Documents

The draft Phase III Groundwater RAP is available for public review at the following Information Repositories:

AC Bilbrew Library  
150 East El Segundo Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90061  
(310) 538-3350  
M-Th: 10 am – 8 pm  
Fri: 10 am – 6 pm, Sat: 9 am – 5 pm  
Sat: 9 am – 5 pm  
Sun: Closed

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
320 West 4th Street, #200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
Phone: (213) 576-6600  
Fax: (213) 576-6717  
Monday – Friday: 8 am – 5 pm by appointment





The draft Phase III Groundwater RAP and the administrative files for the Site are also available for review electronically at: <http://www.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/search.asp>

### Next Steps

The Regional Board and DTSC will review and consider all public comments before approving the Phase III Groundwater RAP. If approved, the Phase III RAP activities will begin the third quarter of 2017.

### For More Information

Copies of investigation results and other related project documents are available for public review at the following Information Repositories:

#### Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1105  
(213) 576-6600 by appointment  
or (213) 576-6717 fax request

#### Dept. of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630-4732  
(714) 484-5337 by appointment

### Who to Contact at the Regional Board or DTSC for More Information

If you have any questions about the project or project related activities please contact the following Regional Board or DTSC staff:

Dr. Teklewold Ayalew  
Regional Board Project Manager  
320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1105  
(213) 576-5739  
E-mail: [teklewold.ayalew@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:teklewold.ayalew@waterboards.ca.gov)

Stacey Lear  
DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630-4732  
(714) 484-5354  
E-mail: [Stacey.Lear@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Stacey.Lear@dtsc.ca.gov)

### Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Ms. Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866-495-5651.

All documents made available to the public by DTSC can be made available in an alternate format (i.e., Braille, large print, etc.) or in another language as appropriate, in accordance with State and Federal law. Please contact: Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, for assistance with alternative information formats.





**PUBLIC COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON  
30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR  
DRAFT PHASE III GROUNDWATER REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN (RAP)  
FORMER ATHENS TANK FARM SITE, WILLOWBROOK, LOS ANGELES, CA**

You can use this form to send in your written public comments on the draft Phase III Groundwater Remedial Action Plan (RAP). You may also ask to be added or deleted from the former Athens Tank Farm Site mailing list. If you know of anyone or any organizations that would like to be on the project mailing list, please use this form to notify us. Please address all mailings to: Teklewold Ayalew, Regional Board Project Manager, 320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013-1105. You may also e-mail this same information to: Dr. Teklewold Ayalew, Regional Board Project Manager at: [teklewold.ayalew@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:teklewold.ayalew@waterboards.ca.gov)  
**Reminder: All public comments on the draft Phase III Groundwater RAP must be postmarked or e-mailed by May 13th, 2017.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone  
# \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to the former Athens Tank Farm Site mailing list.

Please delete from the former Athens Tank Farm Site mailing list.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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*DTSC mailings are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.*



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

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320 West 4<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles)



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**Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist**  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630-4732

***Inside: Information on the former Athens Tank Farm Site***  
*For more information about the DTSC, please visit our web site at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)*



MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

