



# FACT SHEET #3: Former Athens Tank Farm

## Update – Offsite Plume Investigation and Demolition of Ujima Village

Ujima Village and Earvin Magic Johnson Regional Park May 2012

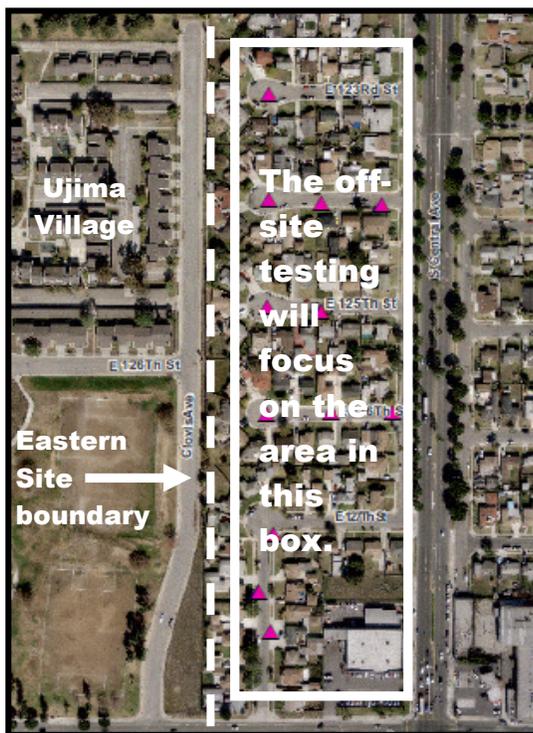


### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

This fact sheet provides information to the community about the ongoing environmental investigation of the site of the former Athens Tank Farm (referred to as the Site). Upcoming activities related to the Site include: (1) an offsite plume investigation; and (2) demolition of the Ujima Village Apartment Complex (UVA).

### OFFSITE PLUME INVESTIGATION

Previously, the onsite investigation helped to identify the shape and size of a large portion of the soil and soil vapor plume that has migrated offsite. Offsite soil vapor samples taken from five feet below ground level have shown elevated levels of chemicals. This indicates that the soil vapor plume extends east and southeast, beyond the Site boundaries. The Regional Board and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) have ordered additional offsite air quality investigation at 36 properties. This upcoming offsite air quality investigation will provide information for evaluating whether vapor intrusion into homes east of the Site is occurring. The 36 properties were identified based on proximity to sample locations with confirmed elevated levels of volatiles organic compounds (VOCs) and methane. If the results of the sampling indicate concentrations that pose an unacceptable risk to residents, further testing and abatement measures will be required to protect human health.



As part of this work, field teams will access private properties, only with consent of the residents, to conduct building surveys and collect soil vapor, crawl space and/or indoor air and outdoor air samples. In addition, the next phase of the investigations will focus on identifying the shape and size of the plume to the east and southeast of the Site.

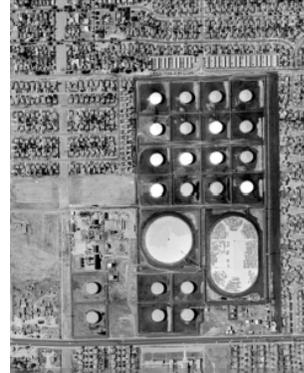
### DEMOLITION OF THE APARTMENTS

The Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles informed the Regional Board that demolition of the UVA will occur in 2012. Due to the potential impact of the planned UVA demolition activities on the immediate surroundings including Honey’s Little Angel Daycare, the Regional Board recommended that the demolition schedule accommodate the daycare relocation. Additionally the Regional Board has ordered the owner of the UHC (the landowner of Honey’s Little Angels Daycare) to provide a schedule for vacating the modular buildings housing a daycare center.

## SITE HISTORY AND INVESTIGATION

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) is directing the investigation with support from DTSC, and the Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). The Regional Board, DTSC, and OEHHA are part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA).

The Site is located in the Willowbrook area of Los Angeles and includes the Earvin Magic Johnson Regional Park, the vacant UVA, and the modular buildings of Honey's Little Angels Daycare (UHC). ExxonMobil Oil Corporation operated an oil storage facility from the mid-1920s to the mid-1960s at the Site. In the 1970s, the area was developed into a regional park and public housing. The public housing complex has since been vacated and is scheduled for demolition.



In 2007, the Regional Board became the lead agency for the current environmental investigation. The focus of the current investigation is on the levels of petroleum related chemicals in the soil and groundwater and where those chemicals (the soil vapor plume) have spread beneath onsite and offsite areas..

The Regional Board ordered the parties legally responsible for the discharges of waste (ExxonMobil Oil Corporation and the County of Los Angeles) to investigate and cleanup the Site. The investigation includes sampling and analysis of soil, soil vapor, indoor air, outdoor air, and groundwater, as well as, lake water, sediment, and fish tissues. Hundreds of samples have been collected at the Site and the neighborhood east and south of the Site. The results of the onsite investigation to date indicate that no immediate health risk is detected. The offsite health risk assessment is currently ongoing.

## HEALTH RISKS

Concerns have been raised about whether prior conditions at the Site may have caused illnesses in former residents of Ujima Village. While site data can be utilized today to estimate current and future health risks, current science does not allow a determination as to whether prior site conditions may have caused illness.

Former residents of Ujima Village and current residents in nearby communities who are concerned about their health are encouraged to seek the advice of their physicians. For residents with limited access to healthcare, the LA County Department of Health Services is engaged in efforts to assist the community in gaining access to healthcare.

## CHANGES TO MONITORING AT THE DAYCARE

The initial investigation included hundreds of samples taken from over two hundred individual locations at the site. From those samples, the Regional Board has determined that monitoring will continue at locations where a higher concentration of chemicals was discovered. In response to the priorities of the community, the Regional Board ordered an increase to the monitoring in and around the buildings that house Honey's Little Angel's Daycare – monitoring and sampling to date demonstrate the Daycare is not affected by chemicals present in subsurface soils.

## CLEAN-UP OPTIONS

A pilot test is currently underway to assess soil vapor extraction (SVE) as a potential clean-up technology. The SVE system is proving effective in areas of the housing complex and the park where it is being tested. Additional clean-up options will also be explored and the information gathered from this process will help the Regional Board make a final decision on a clean-up plan for the Site. The complete report documenting the pilot testing activities and the complete evaluation of potentially feasible remedial alternatives or Remedial Action Plan are expected no later than the end of summer.

## GROUNDWATER MONITORING

Based on current monitoring results, the average depth to groundwater at the Site is approximately 41 feet below ground level. The ongoing quarterly monitoring of the 26 groundwater monitoring wells at thirteen on-site and off-site locations indicates that groundwater is impacted with petroleum hydrocarbon and related compounds. This impacted groundwater is not used for drinking. Drinking water from the tap is safe and meets drinking water standards. Drinking water comes from sources outside of the community and is provided by the Metropolitan Water District, the Golden State Water Company, and Park Water Company.

## REPORTING RESULTS

Data and findings from the off-site investigation and increased sampling at the daycare site will be reviewed by the Regional Board. Based on the analysis of this information, the Regional Board will determine when the investigation is complete and what types of remedial activities may be necessary.

The aforementioned and upcoming work will be performed in accordance with appropriate methods and procedures approved by regulatory agencies, such as Cal/EPA and U.S. EPA. Sample collection is conducted under the supervision of registered professionals licensed by the State of California; testing of samples is performed by laboratories certified by the State of California. Efforts have been and will continue to be made to maintain public safety and to minimize the potential inconvenience to those living, visiting, or working in the area. Advance notice of any disruptive activity will be posted whenever possible.

All reports containing test results are available to the public for review at the locations listed below.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

The Regional Board invites and encourages you to learn more about and comment on the investigation. All work plans and sampling results are available for public review. For your convenience, core documents have been placed in the AC Bilbrew Library. The complete administrative file is available at the Regional Board office, by appointment. The technical and administrative files for the site investigation can be accessed at the State Water Board database by visiting the following website:

[https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=SLT4L3741812](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SLT4L3741812)

### AC Bilbrew Library

150 East El Segundo Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90061  
Phone: 310-538-3350

### Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

320 West 4th Street, #200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
Phone: 213-576-6600 Fax: 213-576-6717

Additionally, fact sheets, work notices, and other site-related announcements are mailed to individuals on the Site mailing list.

ExxonMobil maintains a toll-free project hotline at 866-278-7207.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or would like additional information about the environmental investigation being conducted at the Site, please contact: Rebecca Veiga Nascimento at (213) 576-6784 or [rveiga@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rveiga@waterboards.ca.gov).

For information about other activities at the Site, please contact:

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