

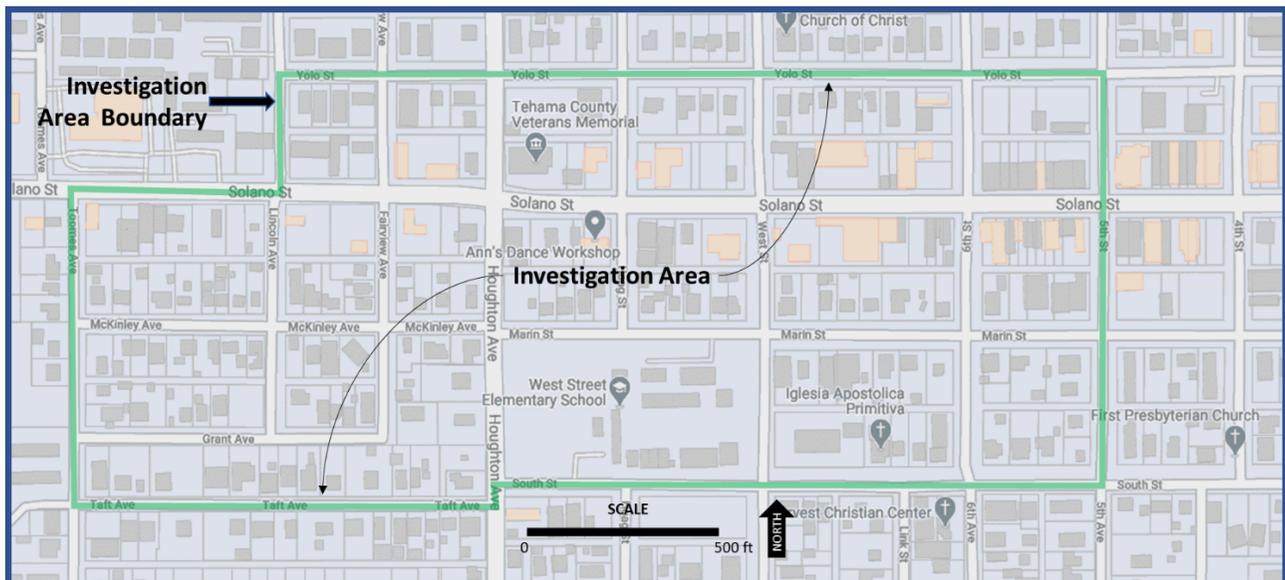


Environmental Investigation Along Solano Street Corning, Tehama County Fact Sheet, June 2020

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) is overseeing a publicly funded investigation of perchloroethylene (PCE) contamination along Solano Street. PCE is a chemical used in dry cleaning and as a metal degreaser in many industries. When released to the subsurface on dirt or gravel, PCE sticks to the soil and can be in the form of liquids or vapors. Exposure to PCE at certain levels can cause cancer and other health effects. As part of this investigation, an environmental consultant (Contractor) is scheduled to collect groundwater samples along Solano Street in late June 2020.

Background

In 1992, the City of Corning found levels of PCE at the Houghton Avenue municipal supply well and took the well out of service. The levels were below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 5 ug/L (parts per billion). However, PCE and other chemicals have been found at different levels in monitoring wells along Solano Street. This does not pose a risk for drinking water in the area. However, PCE vapors may be entering homes or businesses above the areas of contamination. This is known as vapor intrusion. Since the mid-2000s, the Central Valley Water Board has been investigating PCE contamination sources along Solano Street. A former dry cleaner and a former gas station were identified as the likely sources. Soil samples collected at the former gas station contained PCE. Prior to 2019, sampling at the former dry cleaner did not take place due to lack of funding.



What work has been completed?

The Contractor completed soil, soil gas (vapors) and groundwater sampling along Solano Street, between Edith Avenue and Fourth Street, in two phases. The first phase was completed in summer 2019 and provided initial soil gas data. The second phase used this data to guide additional soil, soil gas, and groundwater sampling in May and

June 2020. These samples will help us better understand the level of PCE contamination.

Results from these work activities show high levels of PCE in soil gas samples collected from an alley between Solano Street and Marin Street, and from 5th Street and Toomes Avenue. Chemical vapors can sometimes enter buildings above the area of contamination through cracks in the foundation or through sewer lines. This process is known as vapor intrusion. Additional sampling is needed to determine if vapor intrusion is taking place in homes and businesses in the area.

PCE was not detected in soil vapor at the sampling locations nearest the West Street Elementary School during the recent investigation.

What are the next steps?

The Central Valley Water Board will work with the Contractor, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and local agencies to prepare a risk assessment using the sampling data. The risk assessment will be used to identify and prioritize homes or businesses that should have their indoor air tested for PCE vapors. Sampling results will be shared with the public and will be used to determine the next steps. If indoor air test results show harmful levels of PCE, the agencies will work with residents to identify ways to reduce exposure.

If vapors are entering my home, how can I reduce exposure?

You can keep your windows open or run your heating or air conditioning system until your home can be evaluated. Increasing the air circulation of your indoor air will help to disperse vapors in your home.

For more information:

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To review project documents, please call (530) 224-4845 to make an appointment or visit [GeoTracker](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov) at: <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>.

PCE Fact Sheet: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts18.pdf>

To receive project updates, please subscribe to:

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