

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region
February 5, 2021
Staff Report

Item: 12

Subject: An Overview of Groundwater Contamination within the Santa Ana Region

DISCUSSION:

Many individual sources of groundwater contamination have been identified throughout California, and there are hundreds of individual sites within the Santa Ana Region. Some examples, both recent and historical, include: leakage of fuel from underground storage tanks; seepage of leachate from older landfills and waste management facilities; chemical disposal practices at military facilities; and contaminated industrial sites that historically used chlorinated solvents and other chemicals in manufacturing, dry cleaning operations, and weapons systems development.

The Site Cleanup Program (SCP) currently provides regulatory oversight on approximately 170 cases that are mostly under the category of contaminated industrial sites. Additionally, some SCP staff provide technical assistance to the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Financial Assistance for the evaluation of applications for State funding in the form of grants under the Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability Program. SCP staff also provides guidance to local oversight agencies when requested.

Staff will present maps depicting numerous areas of chemical and fuel storage; industrial activities; military facilities; and waste disposal operations in the Region. Staff will also describe their involvement in the investigation and cleanup of several of the largest plumes, including comingles plumes, of groundwater contamination in the Region:

- Lockheed-Martin/former Norton Air Force Base – Mentone, Redlands, Loma Linda;
- Rockets, Fireworks, and Flares Superfund site/Mid Valley Sanitary Landfill – Rialto, Colton;
- GE Flatiron and GE Test Cell – Ontario;
- South Archibald – Ontario;
- Chino Airport – Chino;
- Orange County Water District's South Basin – Santa Ana, Tustin, Irvine;
- Orange County Water District's North Basin – Placentia, Fullerton, Anaheim;

- Boeing/Baker-Hughes (Centrilift)/Weiserlock – Huntington Beach.

Because Orange County's North Basin was recently added to the National Priority List by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), additional information will be provided by staff from the EPA, including a description of the history of the "Superfund" listing of this comingled plume of groundwater contamination, and an overview of the Superfund process.

Recommendation

This is an Informational Item - no action is required.