



Los Angeles
Department of
Water & Power

THE FUTURE OF WATER IN LA

Project Schedule

Apr 2021 – Dec 2026

Region

Southeast San Fernando Valley

Project Manager

Randall Hirata | (213) 367-4180

Randall.Hirata@ladwp.com

Community Liaison

Christina Holland | (213) 367-1076

Christina.Holland@ladwp.com

Southern San Fernando Well Fields Remedial Investigation

Project Description

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

(LADWP) is conducting a Remedial Investigation of the San Fernando Basin (SFB) in the vicinity of its Erwin, Whitnall, Verdugo, Headworks, and Pollock Well Fields (collectively the

“Southern SFB Well Fields”) in response to historic release and threatened future release of hazardous substances. This work complements other response actions in the SFB in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance.

LADWP’s planned Remedial Investigation will support efforts to:

- ✓ Characterize the nature and extent of contamination and evaluate the appropriate environmental response(s), if any;
- ✓ Address public health threats posed by the release or threatened future release of hazardous substances to support surface and subsurface land use; and
- ✓ Address public health threats posed by the release or threatened future release of hazardous substances to support operational flexibility.

Project Background

Improper storage, handling and disposal of hazardous substances – primarily chemical compounds used in aircraft manufacturing and heavy industrial activities dating back to the 1940s – have created contaminant plumes in the SFB.

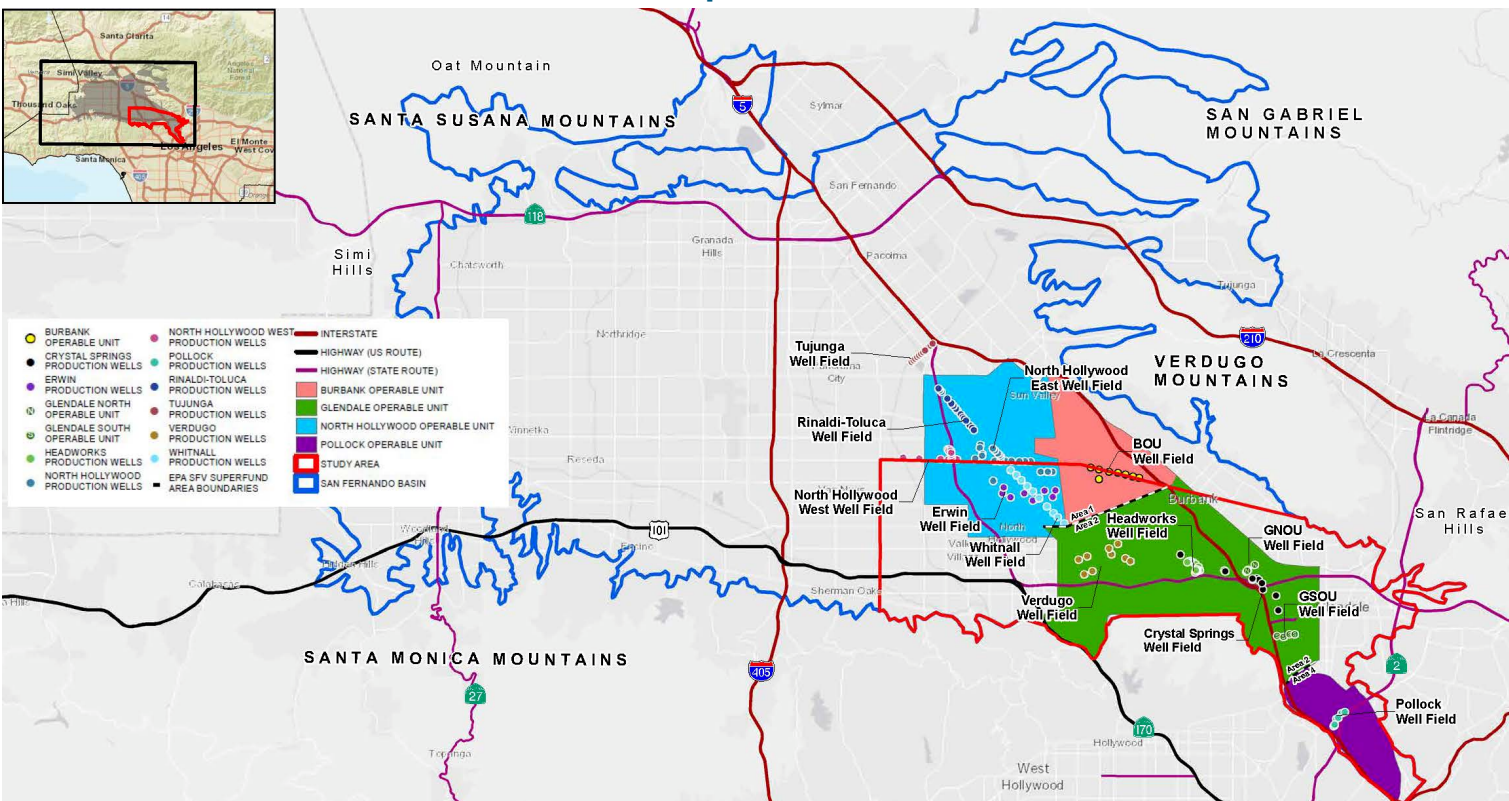
Plumes are volumes of groundwater containing detectable concentrations of hazardous substances. In some areas of the SFB, these plumes are widespread and move in the direction of water flow, predominantly towards active groundwater production wells. This contamination has led to LADWP progressively inactivate more wells as the contaminants migrate through the groundwater system.

Since the 1980 discovery of volatile organic compounds in the SFB, LADWP, Burbank Water and Power, and Glendale Water and Power have been working with state and federal agencies to contain and remediate these man-made contaminants. Chlorinated solvents, such as trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE), account for the majority of this groundwater contamination. Other hazardous substances or constituents of potential concern that have been detected within the SFB are 1,4-dioxane, 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP), total chromium, and hexavalent chromium. Potentially responsible parties are still being identified.

Environmental Process

The CERCLA remediation process starts with site identification, followed by the preliminary assessment/site inspection, and then the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study phases. These initial phases pave the way for a proposed plan, a record of decision, a remedial design, and an eventual remedial action. A removal action may be taken at any point in the process to immediately stop, prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threatened release of contaminants to the environment.

San Fernando Well Fields Locations Map



Remedial Investigation Field Activities

The Southern SFB Well Fields Remedial Investigation is part of an ongoing investigation, and will supplement the 1992 Remedial Investigation and Groundwater System Improvement Study, a six-year study that LADWP completed in 2015.

Remedial Investigation field activities began in April 2021 and will include:

- Conduct well reconnaissance and assess well conditions;
- Conduct groundwater level monitoring and sampling activities concurrent with EPA-planned San Fernando Valley (SFV) basin-wide monitoring activities;
- Collect soil samples during the installation of new Remedial Investigation monitoring wells for analysis of physical properties;
- Install, develop and sample new Remedial Investigation monitoring wells, subject to the applicable administrative and technical requirements;
- Manage and dispose of investigative-derived waste at appropriate disposal and recycling facilities.

At the conclusion of these field activities, LADWP will prepare a Remedial Investigation Report. The report will document the Remedial Investigation field program, the nature and extent of hazardous substances detected in the vicinity of the Southern SFB Well Fields, the analysis of contaminant fate and transport, and the assessment of hazards and risk from hazardous substances to human health and ecological receptors.