

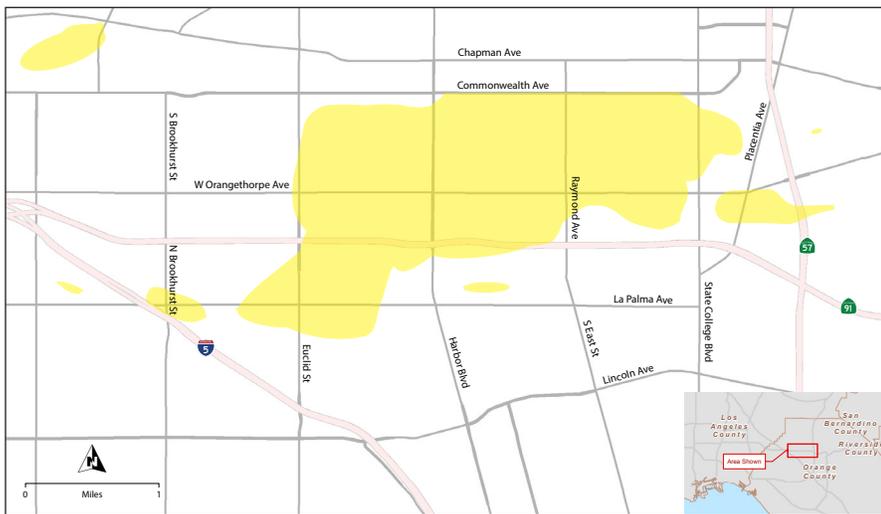


# Orange County North Basin Site Proposed for Superfund List

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • January 2018

## Comment Period Now Open

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently accepting comments on its proposal to add the Orange County North Basin site (the Site) to the National Priorities List (NPL), commonly called the "Superfund List". The Site, located in Northern Orange County, is a comingled groundwater plume of chlorinated solvents and other contaminants covering more than five square miles, primarily beneath the cities of Anaheim and Fullerton (see Figure 1 below). **All drinking water currently served by water purveyors meets federal and state drinking water standards.**



**Figure 1:** Approximate location of the contaminant plume based on maximum PCE, TCE, and 1,1-DCE concentrations in groundwater monitoring wells during the period 2010–2014.

EPA's Superfund program identifies sites that may pose actual or potential threats to public health or the environment due to contamination in groundwater, surface water, soils, and air. EPA may conduct investigations, assess cleanup alternatives, and conduct certain response actions at such sites without those sites being on the NPL. However, placing a site on the NPL allows EPA to use federal resources to conduct cleanup activities and require potentially responsible parties to conduct or fund that work.

## What are the Environmental Problems at the Site?

The groundwater plume provides much of the area's drinking water. Contamination is continuing to migrate vertically and horizontally into this aquifer, which includes at least 46 active production wells. Four drinking water wells in Fullerton and Anaheim were shut down due to this contamination. Recently, one additional well has been taken out of service due to site-related contamination. The contamination appears to have come from facilities in the area that are known to have used chlorinated solvents, including metal manufacturing and plating operations, aerospace manufacturers, and equipment repair and calibration operations.

## Ongoing Activity to Protect Orange County North Basin's Groundwater Supply

Several known sources of the contaminated groundwater are already being actively remediated by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). EPA also conducted a cleanup action at one of the DTSC-lead sites.

## Public Comment Period

**January 18 – March 19, 2018**

Documents related to the proposed listing can be viewed at:

**Fullerton Public Library**  
353 W. Commonwealth Ave.  
Fullerton, CA 92832

**Anaheim Central Library**  
500 W. Broadway  
Anaheim, CA 92805

**Placentia Library**  
411 E. Chapman Ave.  
Placentia, CA 92870

**Online:**

**[www.epa.gov/superfund/  
orange-county-north-basin](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/orange-county-north-basin)**

Information on how to comment is located on Page 2 of this fact sheet. Comments on the proposed listing must be received online or postmarked by March 19, 2018.

For information in Vietnamese or Spanish please contact the number below.

Đối với thông tin trong tiếng Việt, xin vui lòng liên hệ số dưới đây.

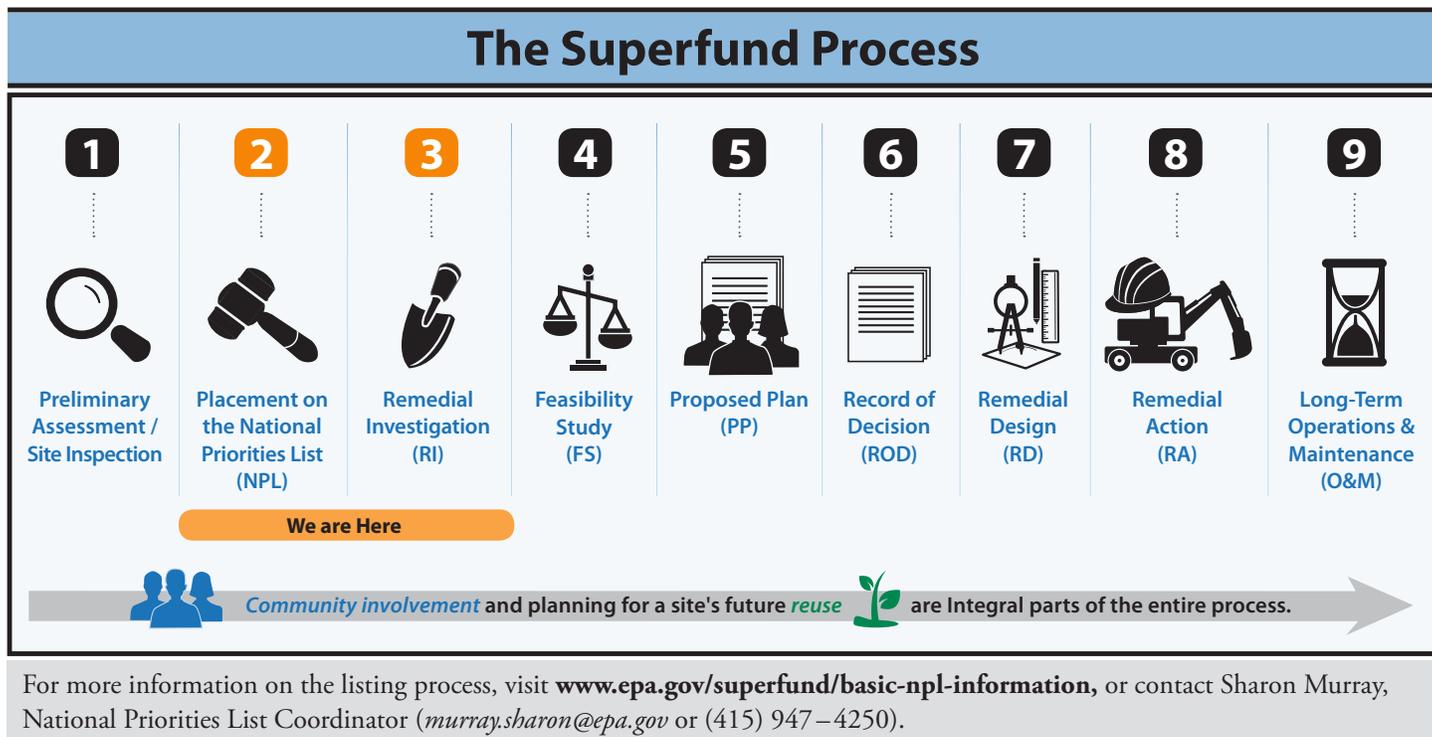
Para información en español, por favor llama al número a continuación.

**Toll Free: 1-800-231-3075**

Concurrent with this NPL proposal, Orange County Water District (OCWD) is conducting an interim Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) under the oversight of EPA, pursuant to an Administrative Settlement. The RI/FS performed by OCWD will support a proposed interim remedy. The interim remedy will stop plume migration near or in the path of existing drinking water supply wells. A final remedy would address remediation of the contamination as a whole and restore the aquifer. If the site is not on the NPL, it will not be eligible for remedial funding or EPA oversight for either the interim or final remedy.

## Why the NPL?

The State of California referred the Site to EPA to prevent further migration of contamination into the groundwater, which is the primary drinking water source for Orange County. Other cleanup programs were evaluated, but could not adequately address the plume as a whole due to the number of sources and jurisdictions involved. EPA received a letter from the State of California on June 28, 2017, in support of placing this site on the NPL.



## How Do I Comment on the Proposed Listing?

A 60-day public comment period is currently underway to receive community input on EPA's proposal to add the Orange County North Basin site to the NPL. The documents that form the basis for EPA's proposed listing of the Site are available at the information repositories listed on the first page, and online at [www.epa.gov/superfund/orange-county-north-basin](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/orange-county-north-basin).

Documents that support the evaluation of the Site are also available at the information repositories listed on page one.

During the comment period, comments are placed in the EPA docket and are available to the public on an "as received" basis. A complete set of comments will be available for viewing approximately one week after the formal comment period closes.

EPA considers all comments received during the 60-day public comment period before making a final listing decision. Public comments must be postmarked by **March 19, 2018**.

Please include the docket identification number when submitting comments. The FDMS Docket Number is: **EPA-HQ-OLEM-2017-0603**.

Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (preferred)
- Mail comments (no faxes or tapes) to:  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
 EPA Docket Center  
 Superfund Docket [**EPA-HQ-OLEM-2017-0603**]  
 Mail Code 28221T  
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
 Washington, DC 20460

For more information on submitting comments please visit: [www.epa.gov/superfund/public-comment-process](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/public-comment-process)

## What Happens Next?

Once the site is added to the Superfund list and the cleanup investigation and Feasibility Study is complete, EPA will identify the preferred cleanup remedy for the site. This preferred remedy will be described in a document called a Proposed Plan that will be shared at a public meeting, posted online, and placed in the information repositories listed on page one. The Proposed Plan will be open for public comment when released. After all public comments are considered, EPA finalizes the selected remedy in a document called a Record of Decision (ROD). Following the ROD, EPA oversees or performs the design, construction, testing, and operation of necessary cleanup activities. The public is encouraged to participate throughout the Superfund process.

## Community Involvement

EPA is committed to involving the public in its cleanup process. The OCNB site is at the beginning of the Superfund process, and it may or may not be placed on the Superfund list. Nevertheless, EPA is issuing this fact sheet, and publishing a public notice to include the public in its decision-making process.

Our Community Involvement program focuses on answering the community's questions about the cleanup effort, providing information to the community about site activities, and incorporating community issues and concerns into Agency decisions.

EPA organizes its involvement effort by developing a Community Involvement Plan. The plan identifies sites issues and concerns, and notes the various tools and techniques EPA can use to keep the public involved. The focus of the plan is based

## What is Superfund?

Superfund is the commonly-used name for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), a federal law that enables EPA to respond to hazardous waste sites that threaten public health and the environment.

Where there are potentially responsible parties identified for a hazardous waste site, CERCLA authorizes EPA to require those parties to fund site cleanup and/or perform remediation activities under EPA oversight. If no responsible party is identified, EPA may perform the cleanup itself using Superfund funding. Importantly, if a site is not on the NPL, EPA will not be able to access Superfund money to conduct significant, long-term groundwater cleanup.

on one-on-one interviews with residents and other stakeholders. If you are interested in being interviewed to help us with this effort, please contact Carlin Hafiz, Community Involvement Coordinator (*hafiz.carlin@epa.gov* or (213) 264-6222).

Documents related to the Site are available in EPA's Information Repositories listed on the first page or online at: [www.epa.gov/superfund/orange-county-north-basin](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/orange-county-north-basin).

If the Site is added to the Superfund list, EPA will publish a notice in the newspaper and will issue a fact sheet announcing next steps.



### Mailing List Coupon

If you would like to be on EPA's e-mail list for the Orange County North Basin Site, please send an e-mail or return the coupon below to Carlin Hafiz (U.S. EPA Region 9, 600 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1460 (SFD-6-3), Los Angeles, CA 90017, *hafiz.carlin@epa.gov*).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you prefer communication via U.S. Mail:

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_



# Orange County North Basin Site Proposed for Superfund List

## Comment Period Now Open

### Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact:

**EPA Contacts:**

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75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-6-3)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Attn: Carlin Hafiz (Orange County North Basin Site 1/18)