



Orange County North Basin Superfund Site

Proposed Plan to Contain Contaminated Groundwater

OCWD Board of Directors
January 7, 2026
5:30 pm



Meet the Site Team here today



Amanda Cruz
Remedial Project
Manager



Jackie Lane
Community Involvement
Coordinator



EPA and OCWD

- Local government play an important role in the cleanup process
- Interagency cooperation is a win-win-win
 - Improves outreach efforts
 - Empowers communities to participate in the environmental decision-making process
 - Aligns cleanup plans and goals with the community's goals
 - Keeps communities informed

Thank you for supporting these efforts already!



Agenda

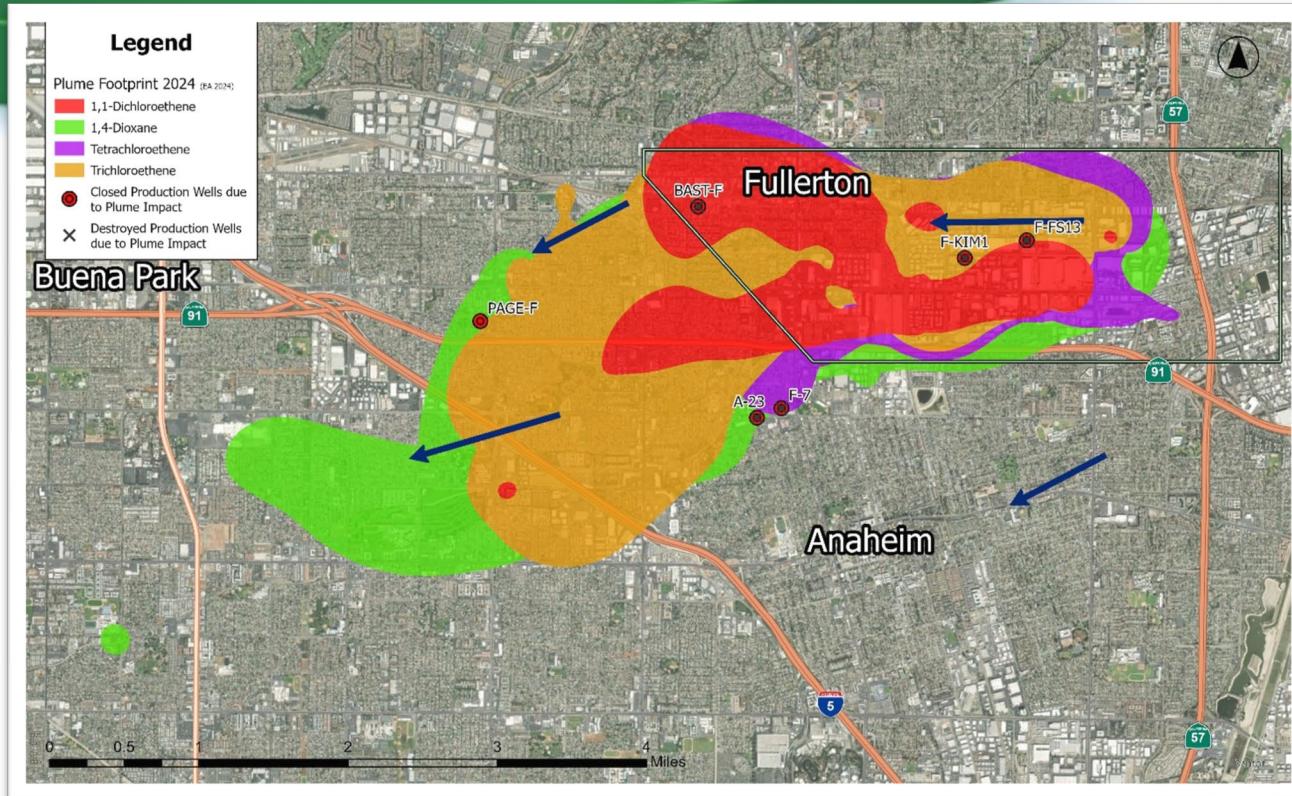
- I. Overview of Site Concerns
- II. Why is Public Comment Important
- III. The Superfund Process
- IV. What is an Interim Remedy
- V. The Investigation and Evaluation of Cleanup Options
- VI. Overview of Proposed Plan
- VII. Anticipating Community Questions
- VIII. Next Steps and EPA Contact Information



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Orange County North Basin Overview of Site Concerns



- The **groundwater contamination** is responsible **for the closure of 6 drinking water wells**. This is equal to a loss of water supply to 44,000 residents each year.
- Our goal is to address the contaminated OCNB groundwater to **ensure a stable and reliable water supply**.



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OCNB's Public Comment Period (January 5 to February 19, 2026)

- Public Comment is required during the Superfund process.
- There is a 45-day comment period on the Proposed Plan.
- EPA must consider all comments before making a decision.
- You can submit comments by mail or email or by speaking at the public meeting(s).



EPA must receive your comments by February 19, 2026.

Amanda Cruz, Remedial Project Manager

EPA Region 9, (SFD-10-1)

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

cruz.amanda@epa.gov



Presenting the Proposed Plan to the Public

Date	Time	Location	45-Day Comment Period
January 21, 2026	6:00 p.m.	Buena Park Community Center 6688 Beach Boulevard Buena Park, CA 90621	EPA will accept comments on the plan from January 5 to February 19, 2026. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Comments may be sent electronically or mailed.
January 22, 2026	5:30 p.m.	Fullerton Community Center Grand Hall 340 West Commonwealth Avenue Fullerton, CA 92832	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EPA will respond to submitted comments when it releases its interim Record of Decision.
January 29, 2026	5:00 p.m.	Brookhurst Community Center 2271 West Crescent Avenue Anaheim, CA 92801	



*We are distributing postcards and flyers.
Outreach is available in English and Spanish.*



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Orange County North Basin

The Superfund Process



THE SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS





Goals of the Superfund Program:

- Protect human health and the environment.
- Involve communities.
- Return Superfund sites to beneficial use.
- Require those responsible to pay for cleanup work.



Typical drill rig used to develop a monitoring well.



How is Superfund Funded?

- EPA's "Super" fund is paid by a Superfund tax placed on industries that sell chemicals.
- EPA identifies responsible parties and makes the polluter pay.
- This fund is used when there is no viable responsible party.





Where Are We in the Superfund Process at OCNB?

THE SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS



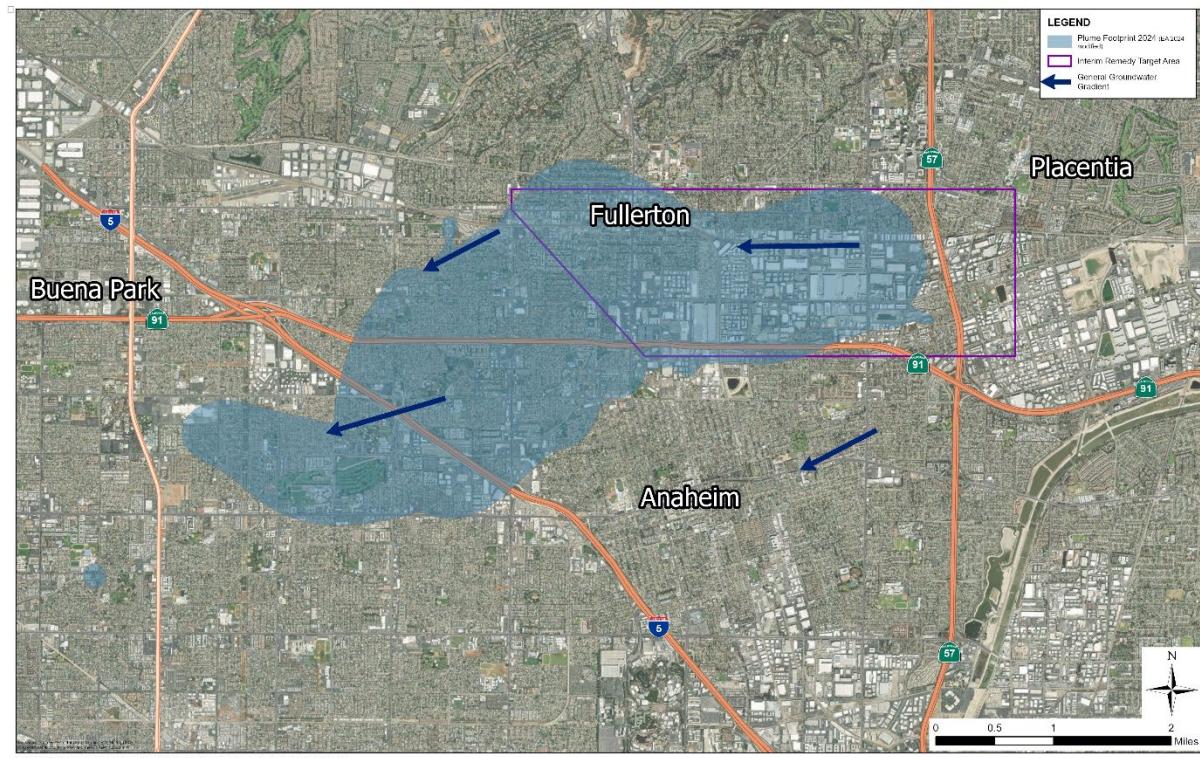
OCNB was added to
the NPL in 2020.

Remedial Investigation: 2022
Feasibility Study: 2025



Orange County North Basin (OCNB) Superfund Site

- Industrial activities contaminated groundwater with chlorinated solvents and other chemicals.
- A 6.4-square-mile area of groundwater is contaminated from different sources beneath parts of Anaheim, Fullerton and Buena Park.





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What is an Interim Cleanup?

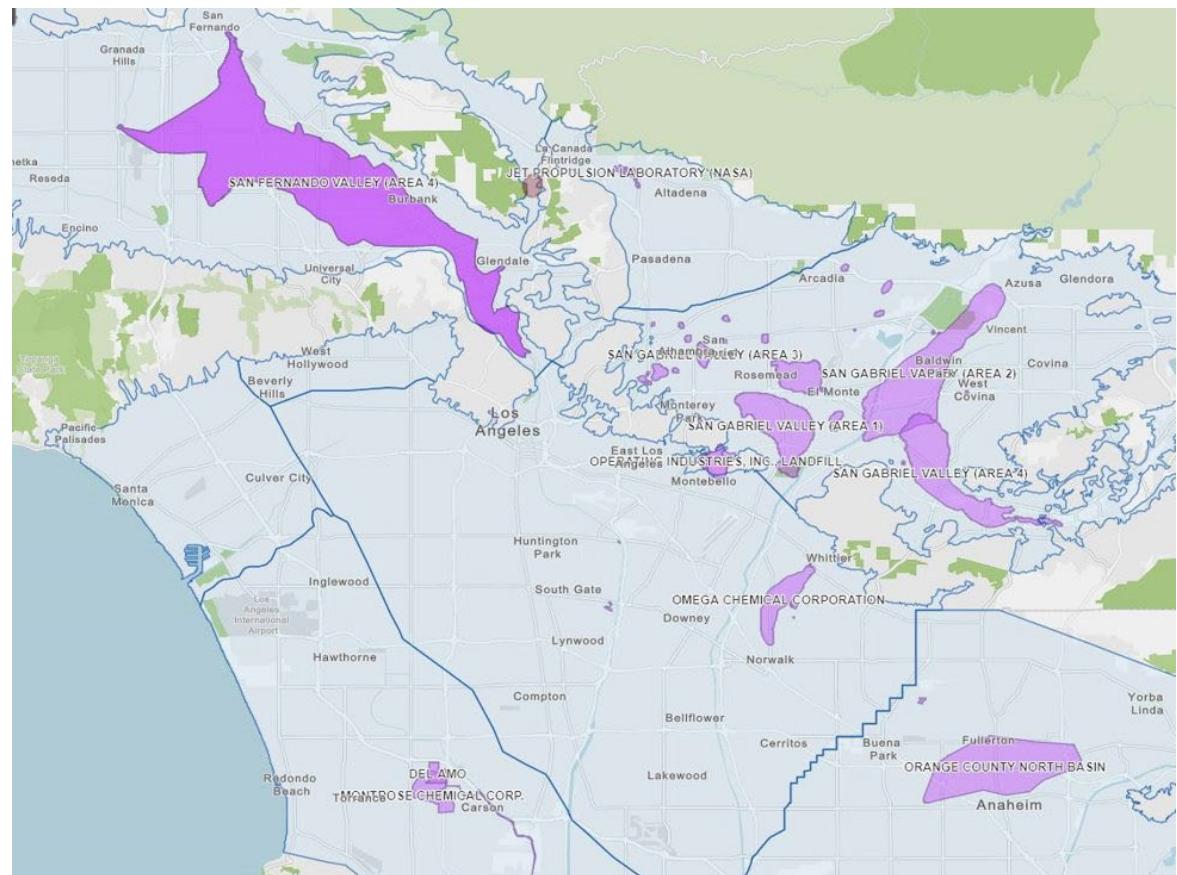
- EPA takes an interim action to protect human health and the environment while developing a long-term cleanup.
- These actions are consistent with the final cleanup selected for the site.



Pemaco Maywood Superfund site in Maywood, CA

Is this a Typical Approach?

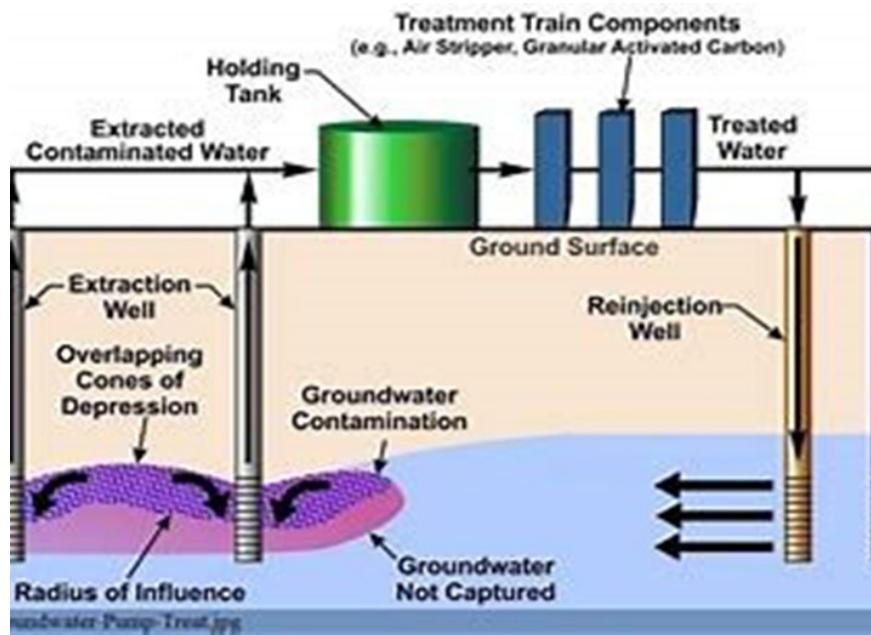
- Yes!
- Over 80% of California's Superfund sites have groundwater contamination.





Is this a Typical Approach?

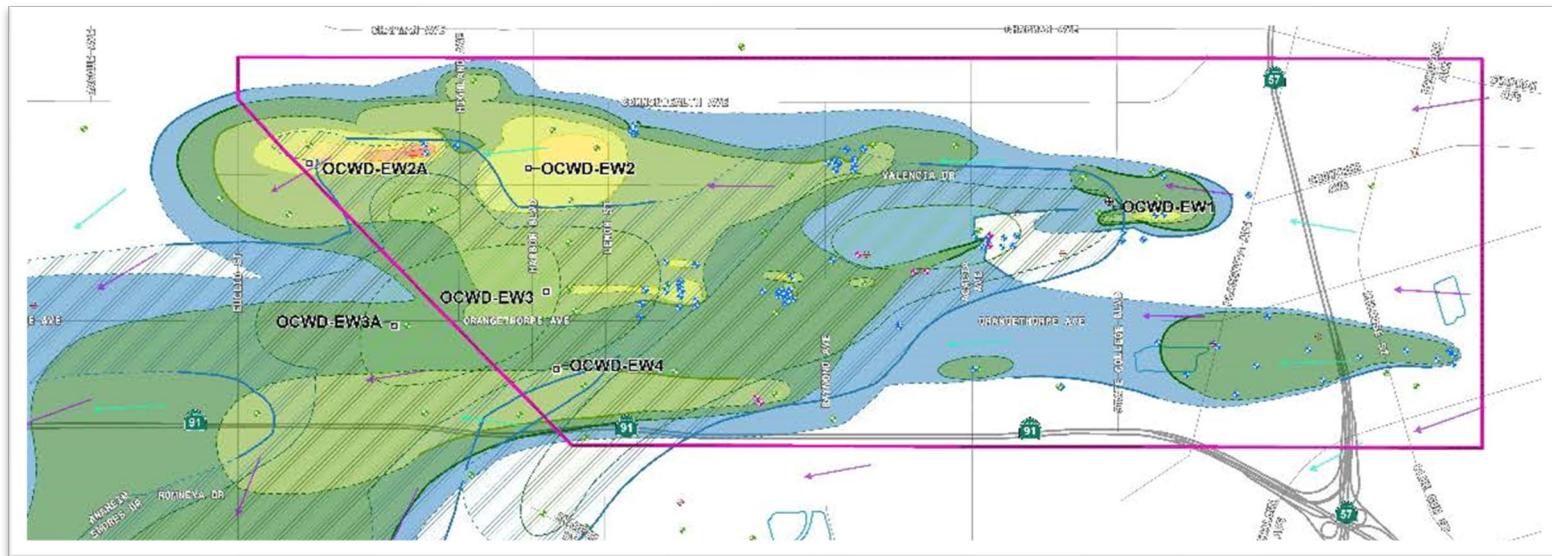
- San Fernando and San Gabriel Valley are examples of successful interim projects operating since the 1990s.
- *San Fernando Valley Superfund Site*: North Hollywood Operable Unit's two treatment units have removed over 9,000 pounds of mass.





OCNB Interim Cleanup – Proposed Plan

- The most contaminated part of the groundwater plume is the **Target Area**.
- EPA will address this area *first* to minimize the spread.
- Investigation of the long-term cleanup option is ongoing.



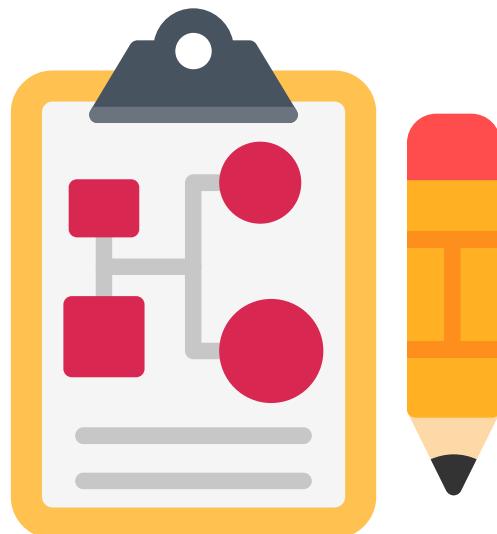


Cleanup Selection

After the public comment period ends on the Proposed Plan, EPA will respond in the decision document called an Interim Record of Decision (ROD). The Interim ROD will explain how EPA made the selection.

The Interim Record of Decision will:

- Summarize the investigation and evaluation process.
- Contain a description of the selected interim action.
- Include a responsiveness summary to comments received on the Proposed Plan.





What Happens After a Remedy is Selected?

THE SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS



Once a remedy is selected, it will be designed and implemented.



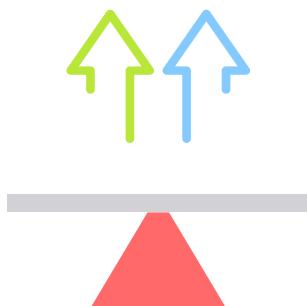
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What is an Investigation Study?

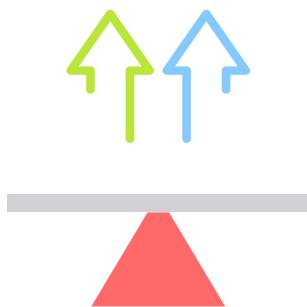
- The **investigation** helps EPA understand the following about the site:
 - How much contamination is present?
 - Where is the contamination?
 - How does it impact people and the environment?
- Formal name for this report is the **Interim Remedial Investigation Report** and it was published in June 2022.





What is an Evaluation Study?

- The investigation data is used in the **evaluation study** to:
 - Develop cleanup options to address site contamination.
 - Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each option.
- Formal name for this report is the **Interim Feasibility Study Report** and it was published in August 2025.





How Did We Evaluate the Cleanup Options?

- Reviewing preliminary interim cleanup options:
 - *Will this lower the toxicity?*
 - *Is this possible?*
 - *How much would it cost?*
- Narrowed down to **five cleanup options** that are most likely to be successful and practical—these were reviewed more closely in the **Proposed Plan**.





OCNB Evaluation Study Summary

#	Description of Alternative	Evaluated in the Proposed Plan for the Interim Remedy
1	No action (The law requires that EPA consider no action.)	No
2	Extract and treat groundwater, send water to Groundwater Replenishment System	Yes
3	Extract and treat groundwater, send treated water to local water purveyor to distribute for potable uses	Yes
4	Extract and treat groundwater, inject treated water back to aquifer	Yes
5	Extract and treat groundwater, send treated water to an infiltration basin to slowly replenish the aquifer	Yes
6	Extract and treat groundwater, inject some treated water directly to the aquifer and send some to an infiltration basin	Yes
<p><i>*Alternative 2 uses existing wastewater treatment plant. Alternatives 3 through 6 require new water treatment plants</i></p>		



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Goals:

- Prevent contamination from spreading.
- Continue to prevent residents from drinking contaminated groundwater.

To Pick the Best Cleanup Option to Meet These Goals:

- Consider the five cleanup options.
- Evaluate each option using EPA's "nine criteria."

EPA's Nine-Criteria Analysis:

1. Overall Protectiveness of Human Health and the Environment
2. Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements
3. Long-term Effectiveness
4. Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility or Volume through Treatment
5. Short-term Effectiveness
6. Implementability
7. Cost
8. State Acceptance
9. Community Acceptance



Overview of the Five Proposed Plan Cleanup Options

- The following cleanup options were deemed the most likely to be successful and practical in the evaluation study.

Alternative	Would the water be treated?	Where would the water be treated?	Where would the treated water go?	Cost (millions)
2 Groundwater Extraction with Discharge to Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)/Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRs), and Institutional Controls.	Yes	Treatment Plant	Publicly-Owned Wastewater Management Facility	\$301.4
3 Groundwater Extraction and Treatment at a Centralized Treatment Plant with Discharge to Direct Potable Use, and Institutional Controls.	Yes	Treatment Plant	City of Fullerton to distribute for potable use	\$234.1



Overview of the Five Proposed Plan Cleanup Options

Alternative	Would the water be treated?	Where would the water be treated?	Where would the treated water go?	Cost (millions)
4 Groundwater Extraction and Treatment at a Centralized Treatment Plant with Discharge to Injection Wells, and Institutional Controls.	Yes	Treatment Plant	Return to Aquifer	\$248.9
5 Groundwater Extraction and Treatment at a Centralized Treatment Plant with Discharge to Infiltration Basin, and Institutional Controls.	Yes	Treatment Plant	Infiltration Basin	\$271.9
6 Groundwater Extraction and Treatment at Dual Treatment Plants with Discharge to Infiltration Basin and Injection Wells, and Institutional Controls.	Yes	Treatment Plants	Aquifer and Infiltration Basin	\$300.5



Preferred Alternative 4 - Groundwater Extraction and Treatment at a Centralized Treatment Plant with Discharge to Injection Wells, and Institutional Controls.



What Is Needed to Implement This Cleanup Option?

- About 17 extraction wells.
- Construct a treatment plant, approximately 6,546 gallons per minute.
- About 17 injection wells.
- Pipelines for both extraction wells and injection wells.
- A performance monitoring program to track groundwater contamination levels over time. This will help identify the need for any changes to the treatment program.
 - About 20 additional monitoring wells.
- Restrict groundwater use.



Why is this EPA's Preferred Cleanup Option to Address Contamination at the OCNB Site (Alternative 4)?

EPA believes that Alternative 4 will be the most effective in preventing contamination in the Target Area from spreading.

EPA will make a decision only after considering input from state officials and the community regarding the preferred alternative.

The public comment period is January 5 to February 19, 2026.

Read the Proposed Plan for the interim remedy and get more details on the site's webpage at www.epa.gov/superfund/orange-county-north-basin.



EPA must receive comments by February 19, 2026.

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EPA Region 9
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San Francisco, CA 94105
cruz.amanda@epa.gov



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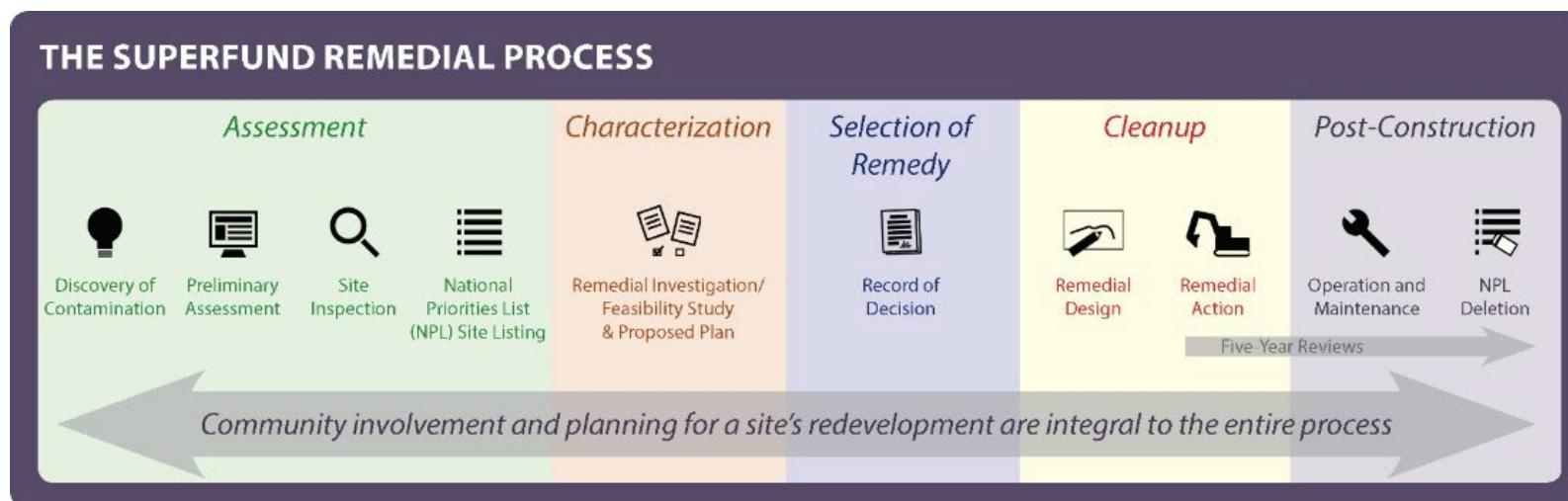


What is Superfund?

EPA's Superfund program is responsible for cleaning up some of the nation's most contaminated sites and responding to environmental emergencies.

What are EPA's Goals at Superfund Sites?

- Protect human health and the environment.
- Involve communities.
- Return Superfund sites to beneficial use.
- Require those responsible to pay for cleanup work.





How is Superfund Funded?

- EPA's "Super" fund is paid by a Superfund tax placed on industries that sell chemicals.
- EPA identifies responsible parties and makes the polluter pay.
- This fund is used when there is no viable responsible party.



Important Note on Funding

The cities will not need to utilize their own budgets for this work.

- If constituents have concerns regarding water bills/rates, you may share with them:
 - A goal of the Superfund Program is that the "polluter pays"
 - Information regarding the Superfund Tax, which funds the Superfund Program



Are Constituents Currently Exposed to Contaminants?

No one is currently exposed to contaminated groundwater above EPA's drinking water standards. Municipal water supplies are not accessing contaminated groundwater.

Is My Drinking Water Safe?



- Yes. Groundwater makes up 85% of the drinking water supply for central and northern Orange County.
- To ensure public safety, five municipal drinking water production wells and one private production well were taken out of service in Fullerton and Anaheim due to the contamination.
- All drinking water in the OCNB area is regularly tested for water quality and must meet or exceed all state and federal drinking water standards to be served.
- With this interim action, EPA is taking steps to protect future drinking sources.



Public Meetings

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Amanda Cruz

Remedial Project Manager

(415) 972-3084

Cruz.Amanda@epa.gov

Jackie Lane

Community Involvement Coordinator

(415) 972-3236

Lane.Jackie@epa.gov