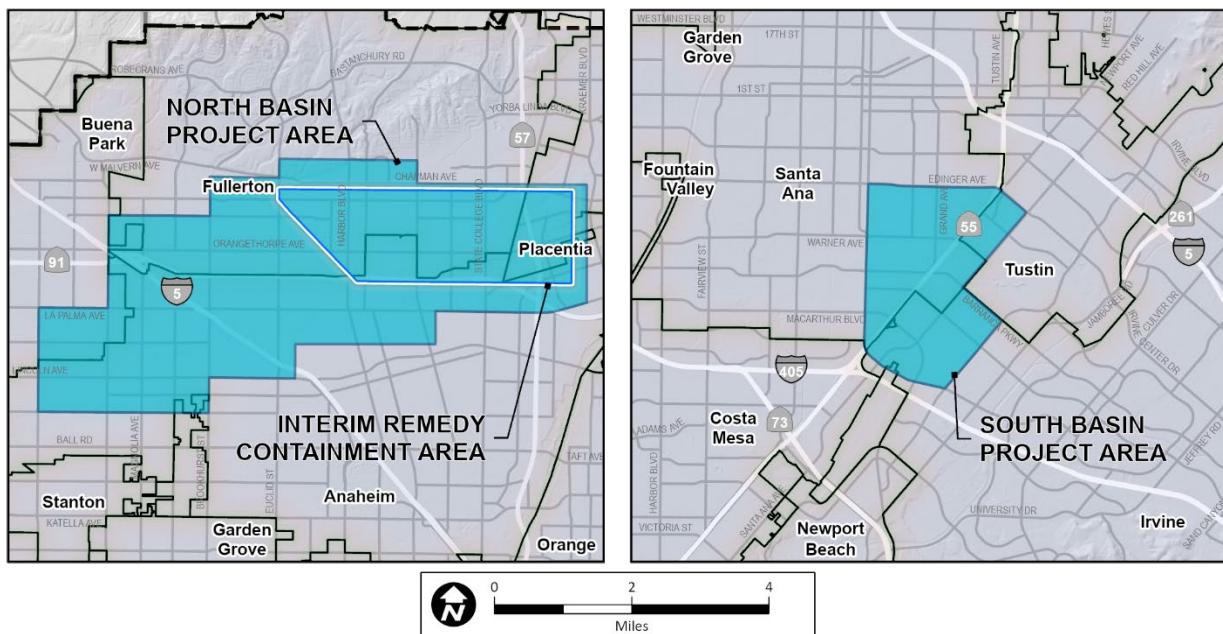


# North & South Basin Groundwater Cleanup Update January 2025



The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) manages and protects the Orange County Groundwater Basin which underlies north and central Orange County, and from which 19 cities and retail water districts draw their water supply. OCWD implements a proactive groundwater and surface water monitoring program to protect the quality of the groundwater basin and to ensure the water it provides meets all state and federal drinking water standards.

Industrial chemicals have impacted areas in the northern and southern parts of the groundwater basin; areas referred to as the **North Basin** (portions of Fullerton, Anaheim, Placentia, and Buena Park) and **South Basin** (portions of Santa Ana, Tustin, and Irvine). Higher contaminant concentrations are primarily in the shallow aquifers and any impacted wells have been turned off. This update is provided to inform stakeholders of how OCWD is working with state and federal regulatory agencies to clean up the pollution.



Below is an update on activities in and around the North Basin and South Basin areas.

## North Basin

- The North Basin remedial program is a National Priorities List (Superfund) site overseen by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Under a cooperative agreement with EPA, OCWD conducted a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to further characterize areas with elevated contaminant concentrations (the RI) and develop and evaluate alternatives for an Interim Remedy to remediate parts of the plume that contain the highest VOC concentrations (the FS).
- Following preparation of a draft FS Report by OCWD, EPA is in the process of making revisions and completing the FS Report.
- Following completion of the RI/FS, EPA will prepare a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (Proposed Plan) for the Interim Remedy. EPA will host a public meeting to inform the public

and solicit comments on the Proposed Plan. EPA will consider public comments before making a final decision on the Interim Remedy, which will be documented in EPA's Record of Decision (ROD).

- Following issuance of the ROD, EPA will mandate and oversee implementation of the Interim Remedy by the companies responsible for the contamination.
- Although OCWD is no longer actively working on the North Basin Interim Remedy RI/FS, OCWD continues to provide data and technical support to EPA and state agencies.
- For additional information on the North Basin remedial program, please refer to the EPA's Superfund website (see link below).

### **South Basin**

- The South Basin Groundwater Protection Project is led by OCWD which conducted a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The RI and FS Reports were reviewed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the FS Report was finalized in January 2023.
- A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Notice of a Public Scoping Meeting for the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project were sent to the State Clearinghouse, public agencies, and interested parties on October 5, 2023.
- The NOP public scoping meeting was conducted at OCWD on October 19, 2023, and written comments on the NOP were received by the District through November 6, 2023.
- OCWD reviewed the public comments on the NOP and prepared a Draft Interim Remedial Action Plan (IRAP) and Draft Program EIR.
- The Draft IRAP and Draft Program EIR were made available for public review and comment on December 13, 2024. The 45-day comment period remained open until January 27, 2025.
- Public meetings to discuss the Draft IRAP and Draft Program EIR and to receive public comments occurred on January 16, 2025, at the Delhi Center, Santa Ana, CA.
- South Basin documents may be accessed via OCWD's website (see link below) and are also available for public review at the following locations:
  - Santa Ana Public Library, 122 N. Newhope St., Santa Ana, CA 92703
  - Delhi Center, 505 E. Central Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92707
  - OC Library - Heritage Park, 14361 Yale Avenue, Irvine, CA 92604
  - Tustin Public Library, 345 East Main Street, Tustin, CA 92780

### **Additional Information**

For additional information, please contact Roy Herndon, chief hydrogeologist at [rherndon@ocwd.com](mailto:rherndon@ocwd.com) or (714) 378-3260.

- EPA North Basin website: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/orange-county-north-basin>
- North Basin general information and past updates: <https://www.ocwd.com/what-we-do/water-quality/groundwater-cleanup/north-basin/>
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