

Orange County Water District

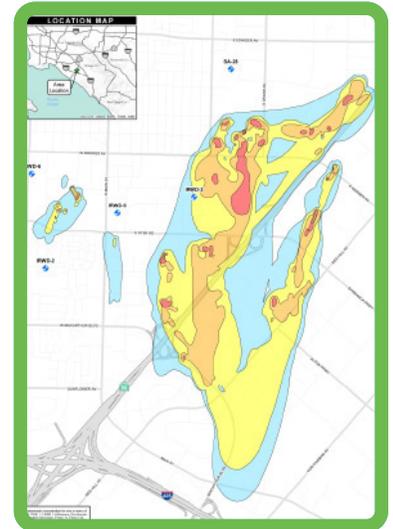
South Basin Groundwater Protection Project (SBGPP)

The **Orange County Water District** (OCWD) was established in 1933 by an act of the California State Legislature to manage and protect the groundwater basin that underlies north and central Orange County. Nineteen cities and water agencies draw approximately 75 percent of their water supply from the groundwater basin. OCWD ensures the water it provides is safe to drink and meets or exceeds state and federal drinking water standards. Through a proactive groundwater monitoring and surface water program is protects the high-quality of water in the basin and identifies potential risks.



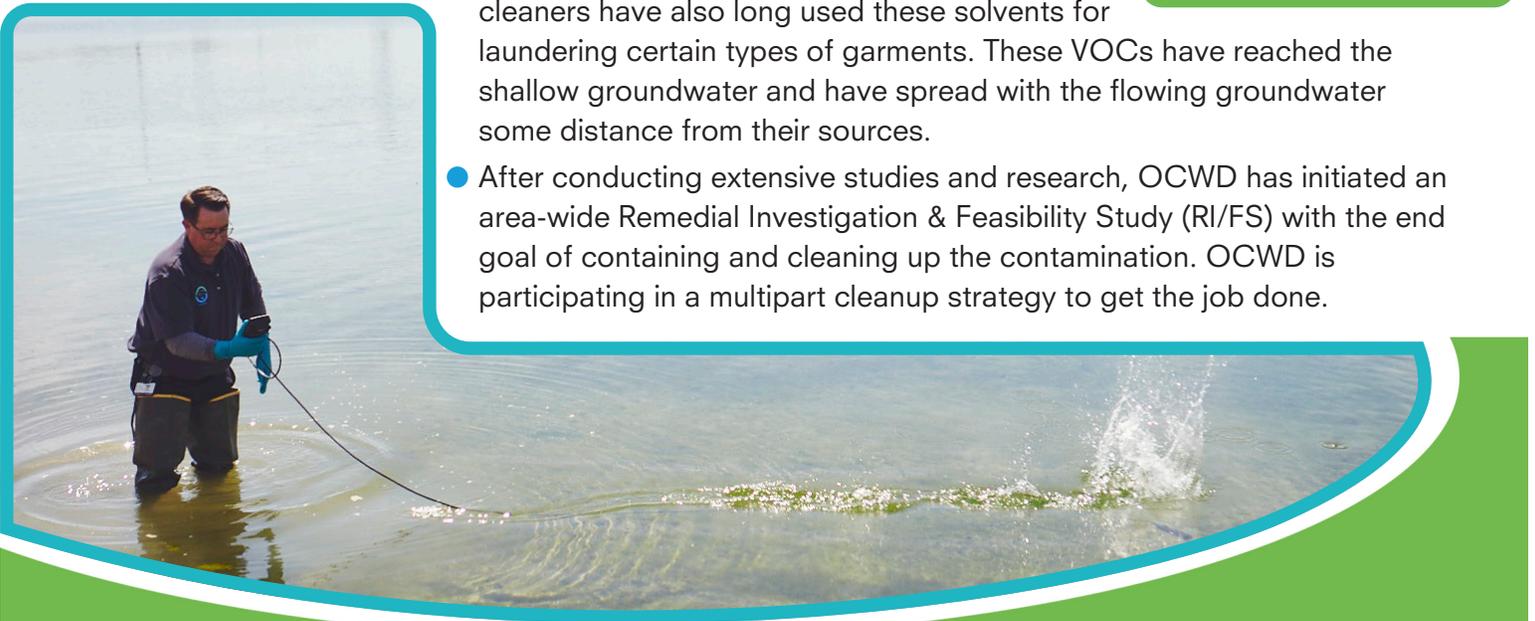
SBGPP at a Glance

- Chemical contamination is known to exist in the soil and shallow groundwater in the area known as the South Basin Plume located in the cities of Santa Ana, Irvine and Tustin. The contaminants within the plume must be controlled and cleaned up to prevent their possible migration into drinking water wells that draw from the deeper parts of the aquifer. Failure to deal with this underground problem would eventually constrain pumping and limit the availability of the local water supply, causing water agencies to purchase more costly and less reliable imported water supplies from Northern California and the Colorado River.
- The contamination is from chemicals referred to as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that spilled into the ground in an industrial area. They consist primarily of chlorinated solvents used for cleaning parts in manufacturing operations. Dry



cleaners have also long used these solvents for laundering certain types of garments. These VOCs have reached the shallow groundwater and have spread with the flowing groundwater some distance from their sources.

- After conducting extensive studies and research, OCWD has initiated an area-wide Remedial Investigation & Feasibility Study (RI/FS) with the end goal of containing and cleaning up the contamination. OCWD is participating in a multipart cleanup strategy to get the job done.





Cleanup Strategy

- State regulatory agencies have long led the effort to compel companies responsible for contamination to investigate its occurrence under their properties and clean it up.
- OCWD's self-directed RI/FS will study the larger plume that extends up to two miles in length and develop a proposed remedy.
- Civil litigation. OCWD has brought lawsuits against non-cooperative responsible parties seeking court orders that force them to clean up their plumes by either direct efforts or repayment of the work being done by OCWD.
- When investigations are complete, OCWD will present the best option to the public, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders for their review and input.

Your Water is Safe to Drink

Stringent and ongoing testing by the OCWD from hundreds of monitoring wells and all drinking water wells assures that your water supply is always contaminant free and perfectly safe to drink. To date, one South Basin water well has been removed from service because the arrival of contaminants was detected.

OCWD is committed to working with all interested parties to identify ways to address the issue, while being respectful of local business needs. As it has with state and federal agencies, OCWD seeks to work in collaboration with community groups, interested parties, and local civic organizations to ensure a speedy, cost-effective solution to eliminate groundwater contamination and protect the long-term health and viability of the Orange County Groundwater Basin.



Who Will Pay For The Cleanup?

OCWD is committed to a collaborative process that takes into account the environment, rate payers and businesses. It has also applied for and received preliminary approval for California Prop 1 grant funding to offset some of the investigative costs.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

OCWD is conducting informational briefings with cities, community groups, service organizations and others. If you have any questions or concerns about the South Basin Plume, please contact the OCWD hotline at (714) 378-8244.

For more information about OCWD, visit www.ocwd.com