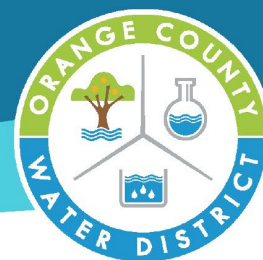
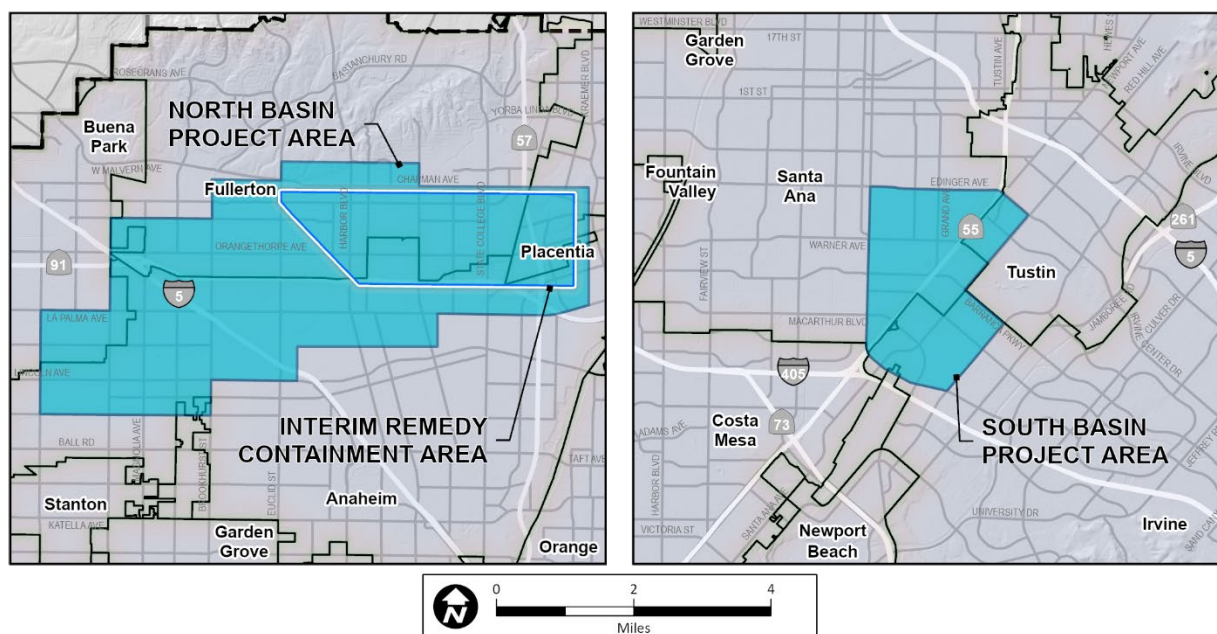


North & South Basin Groundwater Cleanup Update January 2024



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). OCWD is proactively seeking ways to clean up the pollution in a united effort with state and federal regulatory agencies.



Below is an update on activities in and around the North Basin and South Basin areas. OCWD will continue to update stakeholders as the need arises.

North Basin

- With oversight from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), OCWD is conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to further characterize areas with elevated contaminant concentrations (the RI) and develop and evaluate alternatives (the FS) for an Interim Remedy to remediate parts of the plume that contain the highest VOC concentrations. In October 2023, a Revised Draft FS was submitted to EPA, State agencies, and the cities of Fullerton, Anaheim and Buena Park for review. A final FS Report is expected to be completed in early 2024.
- Following completion of the Interim Remedy FS, EPA will prepare a proposed remedial action plan (Proposed Plan) for the Interim Remedy. The Proposed Plan will be available for public review and comment.

- Currently, EPA does not plan to install additional monitoring wells for the Comprehensive RI.

South Basin

- The South Basin Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study was reviewed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Department of Toxic Substances Control and was finalized in January 2023.
- A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report 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 is currently preparing an Interim Remedial Action Plan and CEQA evaluation, both of which will continue to involve public participation.
- 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, 26 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
 - 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 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/>
- South Basin general information and past updates: <https://www.ocwd.com/what-we-do/water-quality/groundwater-cleanup/south-basin/>