SEMS-RM DOCID # 100046257

Orange County North Basin Superfund Site
PROPOSED PLAN FOR INTERIM REMEDIAL ACTION

Orange County, California • Region 9 • January 2026

Introduction

The Orange County North Basin (OCNB) Superfund site is in the northern part of the Orange County Groundwater Basin in Orange County, California (see Figure 1 site map). Past industrial activities across the North Basin area contaminated a large area of groundwater. This groundwater plume is beneath parts of the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Buena Park.

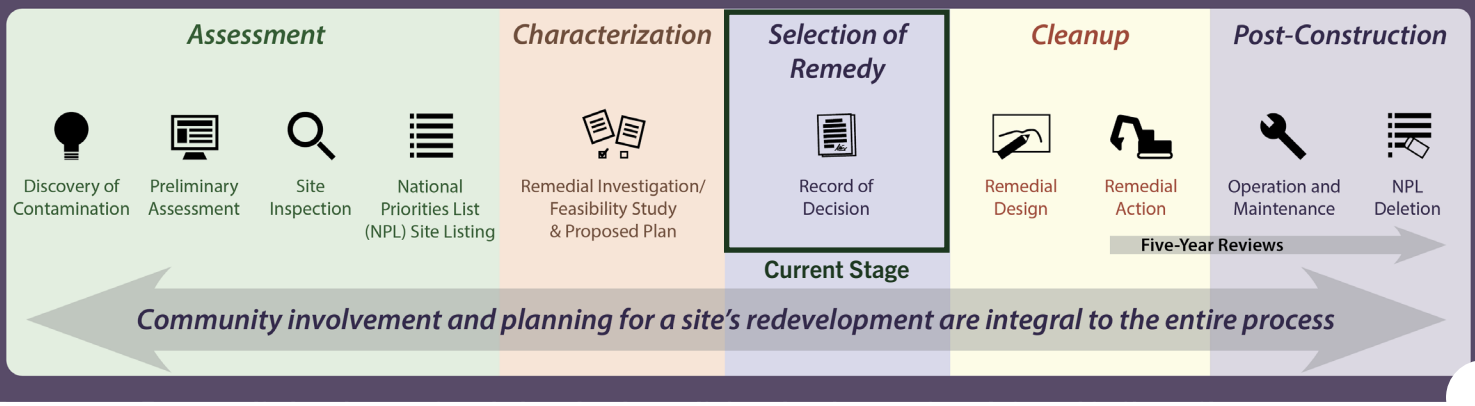
EPA's goal is to protect people's health and the environment. EPA developed a Proposed Plan for an interim remedy to contain the most contaminated part of the groundwater (see Target Area in Figure 1) and stop the contaminated groundwater from spreading to clean drinking water wells. EPA is working on a future plan for the whole area of groundwater contamination. This fact sheet summarizes the Proposed Plan for the interim remedy. The plan itself and other supporting site documents are available at www.epa.gov/superfund/orange-county-north-basin.

EPA would like you to read the Proposed Plan for the interim remedy and come to a public meeting to share your comments. You can also submit comments in writing. Your feedback is key to the agency choosing the best plan possible. EPA will choose the interim remedy after considering all comments received. There will be public meetings in Anaheim, Buena Park and Fullerton. The presentation is the same at each location. People in the area can listen and get their verbal comments recorded. If you cannot attend one of the following public meetings, EPA has a recorded presentation online at www.epa.gov/superfund/orange-county-north-basin. Please send your written comments no later than February 19, 2026. Comments received at these meetings and in writing will be considered before a decision is made.

Upcoming Public Meetings in Orange County, California

Date	Time	Location	45-Day Comment Period
January 21, 2026	6:00 p.m.	Buena Park Community Center 6688 Beach Blvd, Buena Park, CA 90621	EPA will accept written comments on the Proposed Plan for the interim remedy during the public comment period **from January 5, 2026, to February 19, 2026.** You can share comments at the meeting(s) or submit comments to EPA in writing or email to the contact on page 5.
January 22, 2026	5:30 p.m.	Fullerton Community Center Grand Hall 340 W Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832	
January 29, 2026	5:00 p.m.	Brookhurst Community Center 2271 W Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801	

THE SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS



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.

Proposed Plan for the Interim Remedy: Containing Contamination in the Target Area

Contaminated groundwater is known as a "plume." Plumes start at a source where a contaminant is released and spread out into other areas. EPA intends to stop the plume from speading further with this interim remedy. The interim remedy focuses on the most contaminated part of the plume, the Target Area (Figure 1). Containing contamination in the Target Area aims to support the final goal for the site, which is protecting the beneficial use of area groundwater as a future drinking water source.

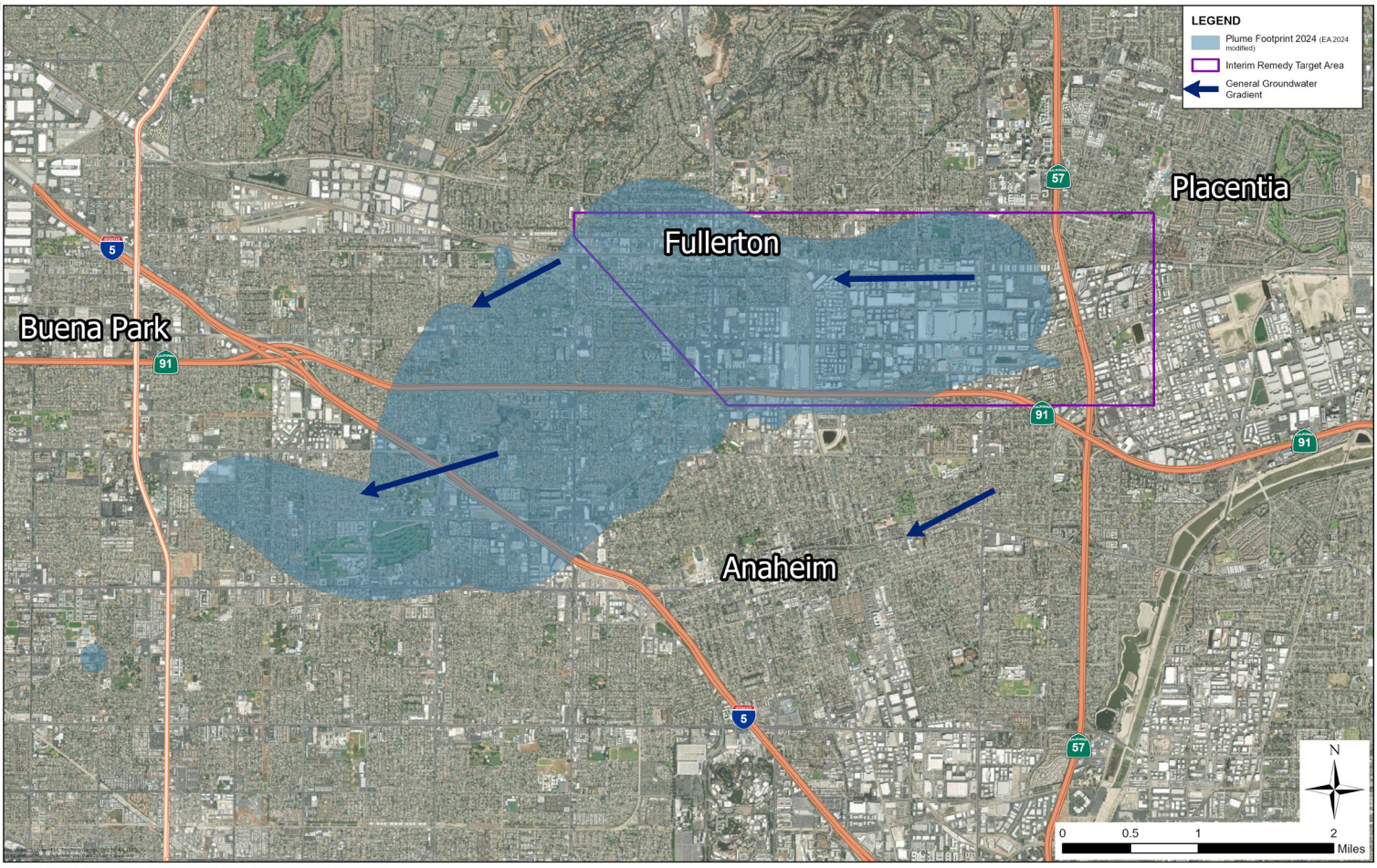


Figure 1: Contaminated groundwater in the Target Area is spreading toward the southwest. EPA has detected contamination up to 500 feet below ground surface.

The Proposed Plan for the Interim Remedy

EPA evaluated six potential containment options in the feasibility study report for the interim remedy. This report considered whether these options were effective at reducing contamination, were possible to implement at the site, and how much they would cost. Five options were valid and investigated further in the Proposed Plan for the interim remedy (see Table 1). All five alternatives include beneficially reusing the extracted and treated groundwater so that none is wasted. The Proposed Plan shares EPA's preferred way to:

- Contain the groundwater plume.
- Prevent exposure to contaminants from people drinking or touching the contaminated water, or inhaling vapors from contaminated water.
- Prevent further spread of contamination to other less contaminated areas in the Basin.

EPA's Nine-Criteria Analysis

EPA will evaluate each containment alternative using these nine criteria:

1. Overall Protection 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

Brief descriptions of the containment alternatives are below.

Table 1: Summary of five containment alternatives included in the Proposed Plan for the interim remedy.

Alternative 2: Groundwater Extraction with Discharge to Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)/Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), Institutional Controls. Cost: $301.4 million Drawing out contaminated groundwater and sending it through existing sanitary sewers for treatment at the POTW, which discharges to GWRS for advanced treatment and managed aquifer recharge, and restricting groundwater use.
Alternative 3: Groundwater Extraction and Treatment at a Centralized Treatment Plant with Discharge to Direct Potable Use, Institutional Controls. Cost: $234.1 million Drawing out contaminated groundwater, treating it at a new centralized treatment plant, sending treated water to a locality (the city of Fullerton) to distribute and use as drinking water, and restricting groundwater use.
***Alternative 4: Groundwater Extraction and Treatment at a Centralized Treatment Plant with Discharge to Injection Wells, Institutional Controls.* Cost: $248.9 million** Drawing out contaminated groundwater, treating it at a new centralized treatment plant, sending treated water back underground through injection wells at a new injection wellfield and restricting groundwater use.
Alternative 5: Groundwater Extraction and Treatment at a Centralized Treatment Plant with Discharge to Infiltration Basin, Institutional Controls. Cost: $271.9 million Drawing out contaminated groundwater, treating it at a new centralized treatment plant, sending treated water to a new infiltration basin to slowly sink back underground and restricting groundwater use.
Alternative 6: Groundwater Extraction and Treatment at Dual Treatment Plants with Discharge to Infiltration Basin and Injection Wells, Institutional Controls. Cost: $300.5 million Drawing out contaminated groundwater, treating it at two new treatment plants where one plant would discharge treated water to a new infiltration basin to slowly sink back underground and the second plant would discharge treated water to a new injection wellfield, and restricting groundwater use.

The Preferred Containment Alternative

EPA proposed *Alternative 4 – Groundwater Extraction and Treatment at a Centralized Treatment Plant with Discharge to Injection Wells, Institutional Controls.*

The Preferred Alternative includes:

- Putting in about 17 extraction wells to draw out groundwater.
- Building a treatment plant to clean groundwater.
- Installing pipes to transport contaminated groundwater to the treatment plant.
- Putting in about 17 injection wells.
- Installing pipes to return treated groundwater underground using injection wells.
- Designing a monitoring program to track groundwater contamination levels over time to identify the need for any changes to the treatment program.
- Installing about 20 monitoring wells.
- Restricting groundwater use.

EPA believes that the Preferred Alternative is the most effective way to stop the spread of the contaminated groundwater to other areas. Because the other alternatives that EPA considered were also environmentally acceptable, EPA may also incorporate parts of the other alternatives into the interim remedy construction with necessary modifying documents. EPA will make a decision after considering input from state officials and area communities regarding the alternatives presented.

Public Comment Period for the Orange County North Basin Superfund Site Proposed Plan for the Interim Remedy

The Proposed Plan for the interim remedy is available for public comment from January 5, 2026, to February 19, 2026. The public comment period is a way for the public to participate in and contribute to site decisions.

To provide your comments to EPA, please:

- Review the document (available online at www.epa.gov/superfund/orange-county-north-basin).
- Share your comments with EPA by speaking at a public meeting, mailing your written comment or emailing your written comment.

What's Next? EPA's Decision Document

After the public comment period ends, EPA considers the comments and will present a Record of Decision for the interim remedy. This document includes the selected alternative for the interim remedy at the site. Once a containment plan is selected, EPA will work with responsible parties to design, construct and perform the remedy.

EPA reviews possible alternatives in the interim remedy feasibility study report. ➤ **EPA identifies preferred alternative in the Proposed Plan for the interim remedy.** ➤ **The public submits comments during the public comment period (Jan. 5 to Feb. 19, 2026).** ➤ **EPA considers comments and selects an interim remedy in the interim Record of Decision.** ➤ **EPA designs, constructs and performs the selected interim remedy.**

Glossary

Centralized Treatment Plant: Alternatives 3, 4 and 5 include the construction of a single new water treatment plant. The location of the treatment plant and design capacity varies slightly between alternatives based on treated water discharge assumptions. For the preferred alternative (Alternative 4), the treatment plant is assumed to be located near West Rosslynn Avenue and Harbor Boulevard in the City of Fullerton.

Dual Treatment Plants: Alternative 6 includes the construction of two new treatment plants to treat the total volume of extracted groundwater, with differing discharge options for each plant. One plant would discharge treated water to injection wells and the second plant would discharge treated water to an infiltration basin.

Extraction Wells: These are used to pump contaminated groundwater to the ground surface, either directly into a treatment system or into a holding tank until treatment can begin. The final number, location, and pumping rates of extraction wells will be determined during the Remedial Design phase, following interim remedy selection.

Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS): The GWRS is operated by the Orange County Water District and is currently under construction for its third and final expansion. The GWRS treats water and discharges it to an existing infiltration basin to slowly sink back underground.

Infiltration Basin: This is a shallow impoundment that allows stormwater to enter the soil and slowly sink back underground into aquifers. This is effective at increasing groundwater recharge and can also help remove contaminants from stormwater. An infiltration basin would need to be constructed to perform alternatives 5 and 6, and is assumed to be located east of state route 57 and north of state route 91, approximately 2,200 feet south of OCWD's La Jolla Recharge Basin, in the City of Anaheim.

Injection Wells: Alternatives 4 and 6 would use injection wells to pump treated water back underground. The preferred alternative (Alternative 4) includes the construction of a wellfield assumed to be located on North East Street in the area between the 91 Freeway and the Raymond Flood Control Basin, in the City of Anaheim.

Institutional Controls: These are non-engineered instruments such as administrative and legal controls that help minimize the potential for human exposure to contamination and/or protect the integrity of the remedy.

Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW): The current POTW is operated by Orange County Sanitation District.

EPA must receive your written comments no later than February 19, 2026, to the following contact.

Amanda Cruz, Remedial Project Manager
EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
cruz.amanda@epa.gov

Drilling and well installation at the Orange County North Basin Superfund site.