Lahontan Water Board Program Fact Sheet
FY 2014-15
Site Cleanup Program (SCP)

Overview

The Site Cleanup Program (SCP) focuses on releases of pollutants to soils and groundwater, but in some cases also to surface waters and sediments. SCP sites include those with pollution from recent or historical surface spills and subsurface releases (e.g., pipelines, sumps), along with other unauthorized discharges that pollute or threaten to pollute surface waters or groundwater. Typical cleanup sites include soil and groundwater cleanups at large industrial facilities such as sawmills, power plants, and chemical milling plants, along with smaller facilities like dry cleaners and aboveground storage tanks. The types of pollutants encountered at SCP sites are diverse and include fertilizers, fuels, heavy metals, nutrients, salts such as perchlorate, and solvents.

A total of 25 SCP cases, such as PG&E Hexavalent Chromium, Hinkley, are in the cost recovery program wherein the responsible party (RP) covers staff costs for providing oversight. SCP cases *not* in cost-recovery are funded through the state General Fund, which has allocated 0.76 PY this fiscal year.

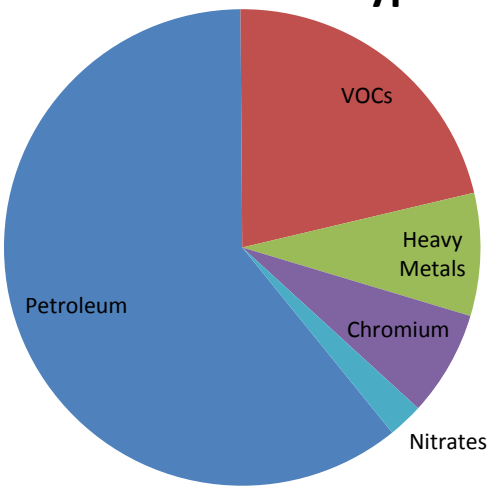
Goals

The primary goal of the SCP is to direct and provide oversight of site investigation and cleanup activities that will result in restoration and/or protection of water quality, human health, and the environment.

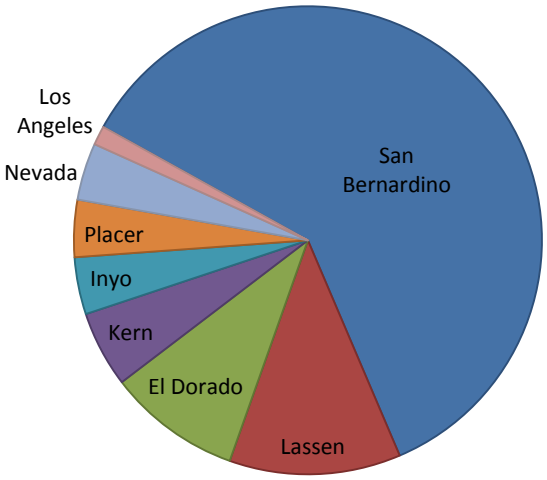
Continuing the management of the PG&E Hexavalent Chromium, Hinkley, groundwater cleanup is the highest SCP priority. Management of this site requires the equivalent hours for approximately three full-time staff.

General funded SCP case work is distributed based upon threat to water quality, the environment, and human health. There are insufficient hours for staff to work on all SCP sites each year. A continuing goal of the SCP program is to enroll dischargers in the cost recovery program to provide a funding mechanism to work on these cases.

Contamination Types



Cases by County



Accomplishments January 2014 to June 2015

PGE Hexavalent Chromium Plume, Hinkley

The Water Board adopted new WDRs to expand the use of agricultural treatment units (alfalfa fields) to remediate hexavalent chromium in extracted groundwater. Groundwater investigation and remediation continues, with new fields operating by spring 2015. Division of Drinking Water adopted new MCL of 10 micrograms per liter for hexavalent chromium. This new MCL prevents the Water Board from enforcing its order requiring replacement water for domestic wells that meet the drinking water standard. PG&E ceased its replacement water program fall 2014. Staff is drafting a new Cleanup and Abatement Order with specific interim cleanup targets. Public meetings and comment period will occur from January through summer, with a Water Board hearing scheduled for September 2015.

Lebec Cement Facility

The responsible parties, National Cement Company, Lafarge North America Inc., and the Tejon Ranch Company (land owners) demonstrated corrective action has been completed for a petroleum-contaminated site at the Lebec Facility. Staff continues to work with the RPs to clean up other sites at the Facility.

Mountain Pass Mine and Mill

Molycorp Minerals LLC submitted two reports: Site Soil Investigation and Groundwater Feasibility Study for the Mine site and offsite areas. Additional data is needed to design a final cleanup plan for past discharges of salts, nitrates, radionuclides, and metals to soils and groundwater. Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 6-98-19 was replaced with an updated Order that requires Molycorp to clean up and abate these releases.

Nitrate Plume, Barstow

The City of Barstow (City) has entered the cost recovery program to address a groundwater nitrate plume from its wastewater treatment plant. The City's nitrate plume is co-mingled with an existing upgradient perchlorate plume. Staff has met with the City to review a Feasibility Study addressing both problems.

Perchlorate Plume, Barstow

The Mojave Water Agency, on behalf of the community, applied to the Division of Drinking Water to form an entity that can receive grant money to fund a long-term solution to address the perchlorate issue. That grant was awarded in November 2014. Private domestic wells and City of Barstow wells are sampled to track the movement of this plume.

Oro Grande Cement Facility Hexavalent Chromium Release, Oro Grande

Riverside Cement Company has completed the second phase of an evaluation monitoring program for the release of hexavalent chromium to groundwater at the facility, including a bench-scale treatment study and proposed groundwater contingency measures study for offsite migration of hexavalent chromium in groundwater.

Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant, Palmdale

Staff accepted the Los Angeles County Sanitation District's feasibility and cost of nitrate plume cleanup plan and required additional work to address staff comments on the proposal.

Tahoe Meadows, South Lake Tahoe

Prior investigations did not identify a likely RP for groundwater contamination (VOCs) detected in certain Tahoe Meadows domestic wells. Therefore, Staff is assisting affected homeowners to obtain funds from the Division of Drinking Water for connection to the South Tahoe Public Utility District (District) municipal supply system. Staff continues to collect samples from select domestic wells on a semi-annual basis and provides the results to homeowners and other interested parties.

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), Susanville

In November 2014, SPI submitted a comprehensive corrective action plan for the Former Susanville Sawmill and Cogeneration Facility proposing final remedies for areas of concern at the site. SPI also submitted a public participation plan to support the Water Board's requirement for corrective action notification. SPI field work included closure of four former surface impoundments, investigation of shallow soil contamination, and continued operation of the land farm; report summarizing the 2014 field work submitted December 2014. Future actions will likely involve verification groundwater monitoring, a deed restriction evaluation, and additional limited removal actions.

Performance targets for fiscal year 2013/2014

	Target	Completed
• Number of Cases Closed	2	1
• Number of Cases into Active Remediation	1	1

Performance targets for fiscal year 2014/2015 – Progress to date

	Target	Completed
• Number of Cases Closed	9	5
• Number of Cases into Active Remediation	0	0