

Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Partnership: I-710 Corridor

Fact Sheet

April 2012



The I-710 freeway passes through 19 cities and unincorporated areas with a population of over 1 million residents – about 70% of which are minority and disproportionately low income. The area is dense with truck traffic, industrial facilities, houses, schools, day cares and senior centers. The area also has a high density of abandoned gas stations, some of which have not been operating for years, but have not gone through the cleanup process required by state and federal law. These vacant properties contribute to blight and are eyesores in the community, when they could instead be resources for community revitalization.

What

In December 2010, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched an Underground Storage Tank (UST) Cleanup Partnership (Partnership) in the I-710 Corridor aimed at:

1. Accelerating the cleanup of abandoned gas station sites; and
2. Improving the compliance of operating gas stations within the I-710 Corridor.

The Partnership is utilizing financial and technical resources, as well as enforcement tools, to address old abandoned gas station sites and cases where property owners or gas station operators have failed to comply with regulations. Resources being used include:

- Federal LUST Trust Fund
- Federal Brownfields Program
- State's Emergency, Abandoned, and Recalcitrant Account
- State's Orphan Site Cleanup Fund



Former Kim's ARCO Station in Compton, CA, destroyed during the 1992 Los Angeles Riots.

Project Objectives

- Conduct environmental site assessments at underground storage tank sites where the responsible party cannot or will not conduct assessment;
- Evaluate risks to human health and the environment from operating and abandoned gas stations; and
- Work with local agencies to improve the regulation of USTs in the I-710 Corridor.

Who - Project Partners

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB)
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- City of Bellflower
- City of Compton
- City of Long Beach
- City of Los Angeles
- City of Lynwood

How - Recent Activities

Since the Partnership's kickoff meeting in December 2010, local agencies have worked with the EPA and SWRCB to accomplish the following:

- Produced an inventory of 64 abandoned gas station sites as a first step toward cleanup and future development.
- Selected 29 sites in need of assessment and cleanup resources.
- Located current owners of 18 old gas station sites that have not gone through the required cleanup process and informed them they are responsible for site assessment and cleanup.
- Conducted initial assessments at seven (7) sites.
- Successfully secured federal funding for field investigations at eight (8) sites.
- Nominated six (6) sites for the State's Emergency, Abandoned, and Recalcitrant (EAR) Account to further site cleanup activities.
- Assisted with the closure of 37 cleanup cases.
- Conducted outreach to regulatory agencies, redevelopment agencies, water suppliers, and water management agencies to learn about local needs and identify ways in which the Partnership can better manage resources.

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