



**NEWS RELEASE**

**DATE: September 1, 2021**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Correction Issued 5:00 p.m.**

## **Action Memo Available for Saugus Formation Aquifer Non-Time Critical Removal Action**

**SANTA CLARITA** – SCV Water’s top priority is to ensure the Santa Clarita Valley has reliable supplies of wholesome, high-quality water. The Agency is keeping its water safe for drinking water consumption through minimizing and mitigating the public health and environmental effects of hazardous substances that have been identified in the Saugus Formation Aquifer.

SCV Water has actively sought input from stakeholders. A 30-day public comment period on a draft Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) and the associated Community Involvement Plan (CIP) was accompanied by outreach through the local media, social media, e-newsletters and website. Two virtual public meetings were also held earlier this year, and additional opportunities for input included via email and direct mail. An Action Memo has been developed that describes the background of the condition, as well as proposed remedial actions and their associated costs. The Action Memo along with the final EE/CA and CIP are available to view at <https://www.yourSCVwater.com/removal-action>.

The draft EE/CA evaluated five alternatives to address the threat posed by perchlorate and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in groundwater. After consideration of the public’s comments, the Action Memo identifies groundwater treatment of perchlorate and VOCs as the most appropriate response to the conditions.

The EE/CA addresses in further detail the groundwater containing the hazardous substances perchlorate and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which have entered four production wells (Saugus 1 and 2, V-201, and V-205) under active pumping conditions and ensures that the water produced by these wells satisfies drinking water requirements of the California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water. Future response actions may be necessary to address the sources of the hazardous substances released to the Saugus Formation, and the migration pathways between the sources and SCV Water’s production wells.

SCV Water has prepared this EE/CA consistent with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), to enhance their ability to recover costs from parties responsible for the perchlorate detected in well V-205, and the VOCs detected in wells Saugus 1, Saugus 2, V-201, V-205. SCV Water considers it important to implement a removal action to prevent, minimize, and mitigate damage to public health, welfare, and the environment.

Since first detected in groundwater wells in the Santa Clarita Valley in 1997, the predecessors to SCV Water (formerly Newhall County Water District, Santa Clarita Water Division, Valencia Water Company and Castaic Lake Water Agency) have worked diligently with state environmental and

health regulators to address the problem and seek reimbursement for groundwater cleanup and replacement water supply costs from responsible parties, the Whittaker Corporation and its insurers.

**More information and resources**

SCV Water is providing the community with information via its website at <https://www.yourSCVwater.com/removal-action>.

Copies of the documents are also available by contacting the SCV Water Project Manager Jim Leserman at [jleserman@scvwa.org](mailto:jleserman@scvwa.org), or by calling 661-297-1600.

Hearing-impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-855-7100 (TDD).

**About SCV Water:**

The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) is a full-service regional water agency located in the Santa Clarita Valley. SCV Water provides water service to approximately 74,000 business and residential customers. It was formed on January 1, 2018, when local water suppliers combined into one integrated, regional water provider. More information can be found at [www.yourSCVwater.com](http://www.yourSCVwater.com)

**For more information or media inquiries, please contact:**

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