
CLWA news release (September 14, 2009)

NEWS RELEASE

**DATE: September 14, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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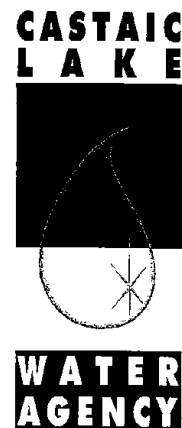
**CLWA TO CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF PROJECT TO RESTORE
GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION CAPACITY IMPACTED BY
PERCHLORATE CONTAMINATION**

The Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA), in partnership with the CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division, Newhall County Water District, Valencia Water Company and the City of Santa Clarita, will be holding an event celebrating completion of a project to restore groundwater production capacity impacted by perchlorate contamination and stop migration of a contaminant plume emanating from the former Whittaker-Bermite site in the center of the Santa Clarita Valley. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at CLWA Rio Vista Intake Pump Station (RVIPS) located at 26401 Bouquet Canyon Road. The RVIPS is the stucco building to the left of In-N-Out Burger near Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse.

After years of negotiations and studies, regulatory agencies, property owners and water suppliers agreed on the process to clean up ammonium perchlorate contaminating a portion of the local groundwater basin. The contamination is a result of manufacturing and storing explosives, fireworks and munitions over 50 years at the approximate 996 site.

The project to restore the well production capacity and mitigate the migration of the perchlorate plume began in 2007. Pumping and treatment operations will occur on a continuous basis over a number of decades. The affected groundwater will be pumped from two existing wells through a dedicated underground pipeline to the new perchlorate treatment plant located at CLWA's RVIPS. The project will remove the perchlorate from the pumped groundwater using ion exchange technology. The treated groundwater will then be disinfected and pumped into the CLWA distribution system.

Other activities on the project include continual monitoring of the wells and further characterization of the groundwater contamination to ensure migration of the contaminate plume is fully contained. The entire process will be overseen by State regulatory agencies to ensure public health and safety. The successful completion of the project would not be possible without the mutual cooperation of many parties in addition to the four water agencies and the City, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Public Health, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, community groups, Whittaker Corporation, and numerous consultants, contractors, and suppliers.



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