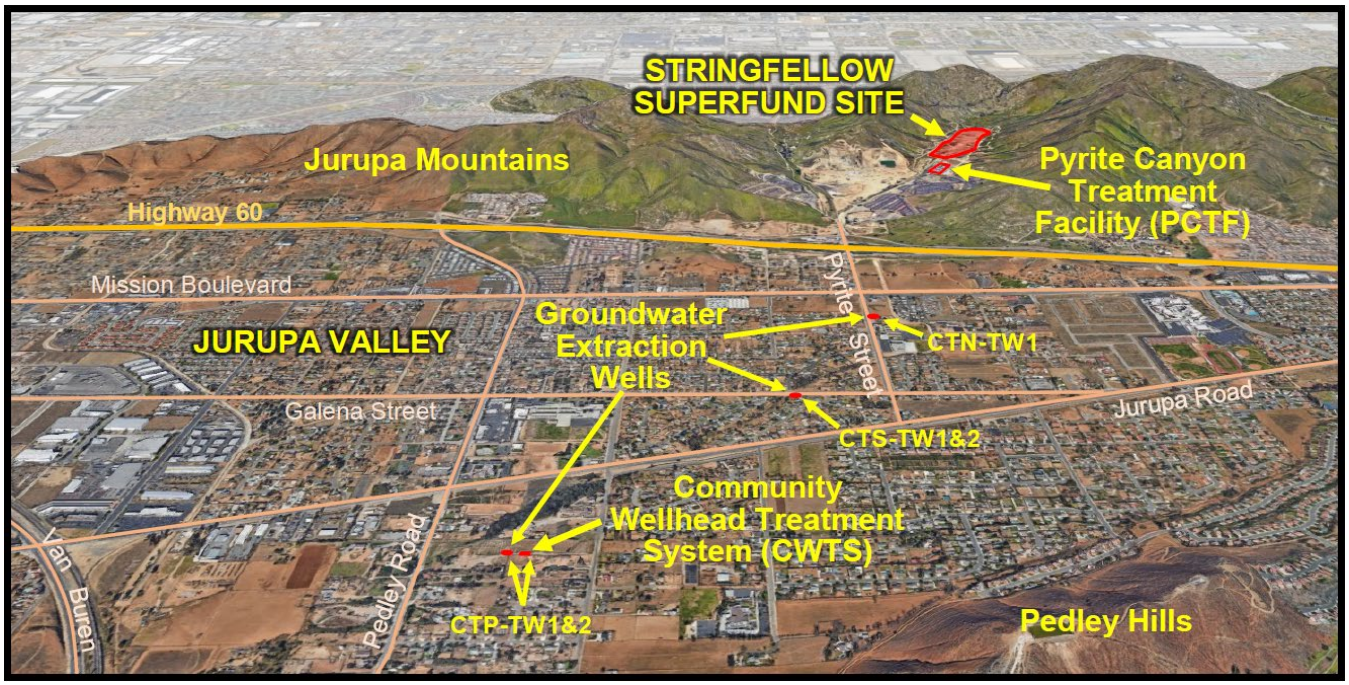
COMMUNITY UPDATE

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Our mission is to protect the people, communities, and environment of California from harmful chemicals by cleaning up contaminated sites, enforcing hazardous waste laws, and compelling the development of safer products.

STRINGFELLOW SUPERFUND SITE

Background

The Stringfellow Superfund Site is a former liquid hazardous waste disposal facility located in Pyrite Canyon, at the northern edge of Riverside County, in the City of Jurupa Valley. During its operation from 1956 to 1972, approximately 34 million gallons of liquid industrial wastes were discharged into evaporation ponds. Before Site closure in 1972, chemicals were released from the facility during heavy rains in runoff flowing from the canyon and were detected leaking from the facility into groundwater flowing south toward the community. Since Site closure, several cleanup actions have been completed to minimize the impact that contaminants from Stringfellow have on the community of Jurupa Valley. The State of California is responsible for cleanup of the Site. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) performs the necessary remediation and monitoring on behalf of the State, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) provides federal oversight of the Superfund Site. Since 1986, the USEPA and DTSC have installed approximately 100 remediation wells and over 500 monitoring wells. DTSC currently operates two groundwater treatment facilities in Pyrite Canyon and Jurupa Valley. USEPA and DTSC staff are currently working on plans that will improve and accelerate cleanup of the Stringfellow Site.



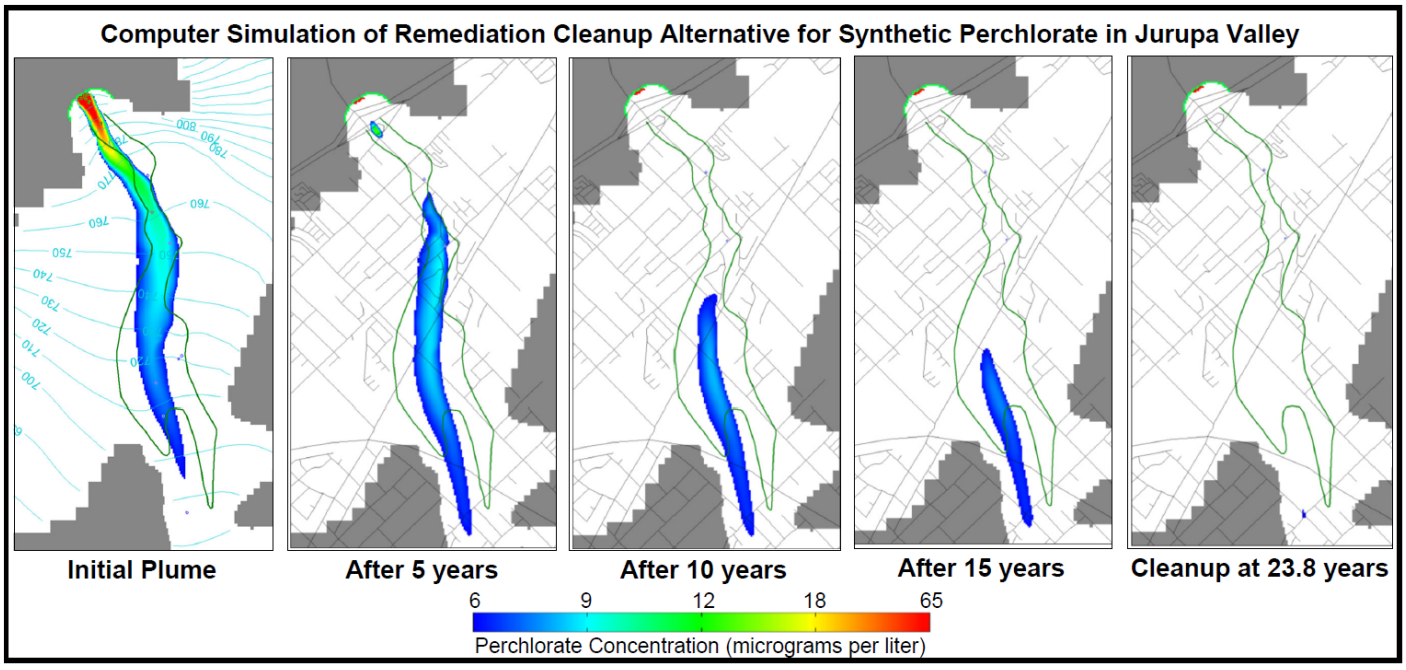
Jurupa Valley Cleanup Improvement Evaluation

The current goal of the USEPA and DTSC is to identify a remediation alternative in Jurupa Valley to improve cleanup of synthetic perchlorate in groundwater associated with the Stringfellow Site. Synthetic perchlorate is a chemical used in rocket fuel and explosives and was part of the wastes disposed of at Stringfellow. The preferred remedial solution to cleanup groundwater in Jurupa Valley will meet the objectives of reducing concentrations and preventing further migration of synthetic perchlorate in groundwater, and protecting human health by preventing domestic of use groundwater containing perchlorate until there is no longer a risk.

It is important to note that there are sources of natural perchlorate in Jurupa Valley soil and groundwater from the past use of Chilean fertilizer in agriculture and natural processes not associated with the Stringfellow Site. After the cleanup of synthetic perchlorate associated with Stringfellow is completed, the natural types of perchlorate will likely persist for a long time.

DTSC is performing computer simulations to evaluate the effectiveness of each potential remediation alternative. As shown below, computer simulation of an alternative using enhanced groundwater extraction and treatment is evaluated. Remediation alternatives that meet the goal of cleaning up synthetic perchlorate in groundwater will be presented in a forthcoming Feasibility Study Report being prepared by DTSC.

A Proposed Plan will be prepared and released by the USEPA and DTSC in 2021, for public review, presenting the preferred remediation alternatives. Comments made by the public will be considered during the remedy-selection process. Once a remedy is selected, USEPA will prepare the Final Record of Decision that will outline the goals of the remedy and explain the rationale for the remedy(s) chosen. After the Final Record of Decision for Stringfellow is approved, sometime in 2022, DTSC will implement the selected remedy.



To assist residents, the City of Jurupa Valley website (https://www.jurupavalley.org/311/Stringfellow-Acid-Pits-Superfund-Project) has Stringfellow information and links to the USEPA websites.

Key Site Events in 2019 and 2020:

Remediation System Operations – The Stringfellow groundwater treatment facilities in Pyrite Canyon and Jurupa Valley continue to operate as planned. In 2019 the facilities extracted and treated almost 40 million gallons of groundwater.

Zone 4 Soil Gas Investigation – DTSC performed a screening soil gas investigation in Jurupa Valley to determine whether contaminants from Stringfellow pose a vapor intrusion risk. Chemicals associated with Stringfellow were detected in soil gas exceeding residential screening levels, although evaluation of the results show that the risk is minimal. DTSC will perform additional sampling and analysis to characterize risk in further detail.

Remediation Improvement Testing in Jurupa Valley – DTSC installed several new monitoring wells and a deeper remediation well in 2019 along Galena Street, just west of Pyrite Street, to evaluate and improve groundwater remediation in Jurupa Valley. Testing of the new remediation well is planned to start in January 2021.

Ongoing DTSC Activities in Jurupa Valley:

- Keep the Stringfellow Site safe and protect the local community
  - Continue cleaning up the groundwater by operating the remediation facilities
  - Continue groundwater monitoring and sampling
  - Continue surface water sampling following storm events
  - Continue remediation testing to improve groundwater cleanup
- Continue the environmental investigation
  - Complete computer simulations to evaluate remediation alternatives
  - Complete feasibility studies to identify possible remediation alternatives
  - Continue soil vapor investigation to better evaluate risk to the community
- Keep the community informed
  - Provide updates to the City of Jurupa Valley City Council
  - Host Stringfellow Advisory Committee Meetings in April and October
  - Present the Proposed Remediation Plan to the community for public review and comment

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

GET INVOLVED ATTEND OUR MEETINGS

Our Stringfellow Advisory Committee meetings are held at 10 am twice yearly, in April and October. Please consider joining us for our next virtual meeting to be held on October 28, 2020. For more information on how to join the meeting, visit: https://apps.dtsc.ca.gov/calendar/

Information Repositories

Due to Covid-19, the Glen Avon Library is closed. You can view project documents on DTSC's EnviroStor database as follows:

For ongoing environmental investigation:
https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=33490001

For ongoing remediation systems operation:
https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=60002365

Covid-19 Safety Measures

To protect the public during the Covid-19 pandemic, DTSC has taken the following steps:

- Holding virtual meetings.
- DTSC staff, contractors, and essential workers are required to have their body temperature measured by a temporal scan thermometer. Any person with an elevated temperature (over 100.4 degrees F) will not be allowed on Site and will be advised to seek professional medical attention/advice.
- Essential staff are reporting to the Stringfellow site daily and in accordance with DTSC guidance, practice precautions such as enhanced cleaning, social distancing, and wearing protective face coverings when near others.

DTSC Contacts

Please contact the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Stringfellow Superfund Site:

For technical questions, contact DTSC or USEPA project managers

DTSC Project Managers:

Remediation Operations
Sam Martinez, Unit Chief
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Public Participation Specialist:
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Jessica.Anderson@dtsc.ca.gov

Para información en Español por favor comuníquese con Elsa Lopez al número (818) 717-6566.

Mailing List:
Contact Jessica Anderson to be added to or removed from the Stringfellow Site mailing list.

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