

WAYMIRE DRUM VAPOR INTRUSION REMOVAL SITE
FLORENCE-FIRESTONE AREA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN



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Introduction

Under the federal Superfund program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is overseeing an environmental investigation and cleanup at the Waymire Drum Vapor Intrusion Site (site). The site is located within a mixed-use area in an unincorporated portion of Los Angeles County. The purpose of the removal action is to remove hazardous chemicals that can enter homes and businesses through vapor intrusion (VI), a process where underground chemical vapors move (volatilize or evaporate) through cracks and other openings in the foundation slabs of buildings into indoor air. If this happens at elevated levels, it may create a health risk for those breathing indoor air.

Throughout the cleanup process, EPA has been committed to involving the public and keeping the community informed about cleanup activities and how these activities may impact them. This has included explaining scientific concepts, sampling, and creating an extensive Community Involvement Plan (CIP). This CIP has been developed to facilitate and show how EPA and the community have interacted and to identify tools that have encouraged participation throughout the investigation and cleanup. This plan has been developed based on input of local government, residents, community organizations, businesses and other stakeholders.

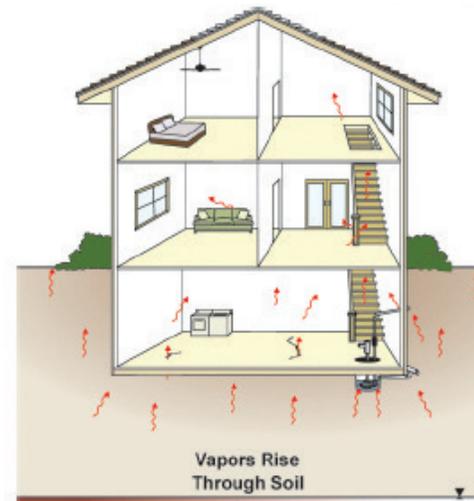


Figure 1: Examples of how vapors can rise through the soil and enter residences or businesses.

Community Involvement at Superfund Sites

The goal of Superfund community involvement is to advocate and strengthen early and meaningful community participation during Superfund cleanups. The CIP is EPA's site-specific roadmap that describes the needs and concerns of the community and identifies the most fitting tools and methods to inform and engage the public in the cleanup process. Furthermore, the CIP serves as a resource for EPA staff and partners at the state and local level as they plan for communication with residents, commercial tenants and local community groups.

The CIP is a "living" document that can be changed and modified as the investigation, design, and cleanup process continues and as input is received from the community.

This Community Involvement Plan (CIP)

1. Adopts community involvement tools and practices to be used at the Site;
2. Incorporates recommendations regarding ways to further improve community involvement; and
3. Identifies existing networks in the area to ensure culturally/linguistically appropriate, effective, and efficient outreach methods are implemented.

Community Involvement Goals

- Provide the community with accurate, timely, and understandable information about the site and sampling in a manner that is considerate of their preferred mode of communication and language; and
- Facilitate and respect opportunities for residents / tenants to share their input and to ensure community needs and concerns are considered.

EPA Points of Contact

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What is Superfund?

Superfund is the environmental program established in 1980 to address hazardous waste sites that threaten public health and the environment. It was amended in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). SARA was enacted in response to various chemical accidents, including the methyl isocyanate disaster in Bhopal, India. It encouraged response planning around highly hazardous facilities. SARA also increased the size of the Superfund trust fund allowing EPA to continue to clean up some of the nation's most contaminated land and respond to environmental emergencies, such as oil spills.

For more information about EPA's cleanup programs, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/cleanups/basic-information-about-cleanups>

What are Removal Actions

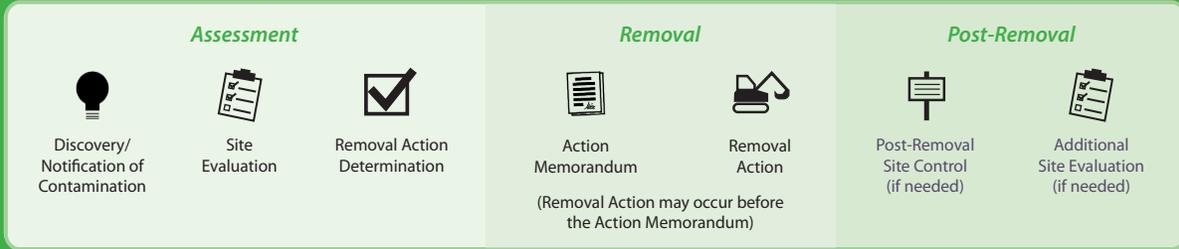
Removal actions are responses to releases that pose an imminent threat to public health or the environment. These actions tend to be quick to address any immediate threats from hazardous substances, pollutants, and/or contaminants.

Removal actions are initiated when an action memorandum (action memo) is signed. The action memo describes the type of removal action to be conducted. There are three different types of removal actions that can occur:

- **Emergency Removals:** This requires an immediate response to the releases or threatened releases to the environment. Typical emergency removals address immediate threats to public health and the environment.
- **Time-Critical Removals:** This is for situations where EPA determined that a removal of contamination is appropriate and there is a planning period of six months or less before onsite activities must begin.
- **Non-Time-Critical Removals:** This is when EPA determines that a removal action is appropriate, and that the situation allows for a planning period of at least six months before on-site activities must begin.

SUPERFUND REMOVAL PROCESS

Emergency Response: Initiated within hours or days



Time-Critical Removal: Six-Month Planning Period Available



Non-Time-Critical Removal: Greater than Six-Month Planning Period Available



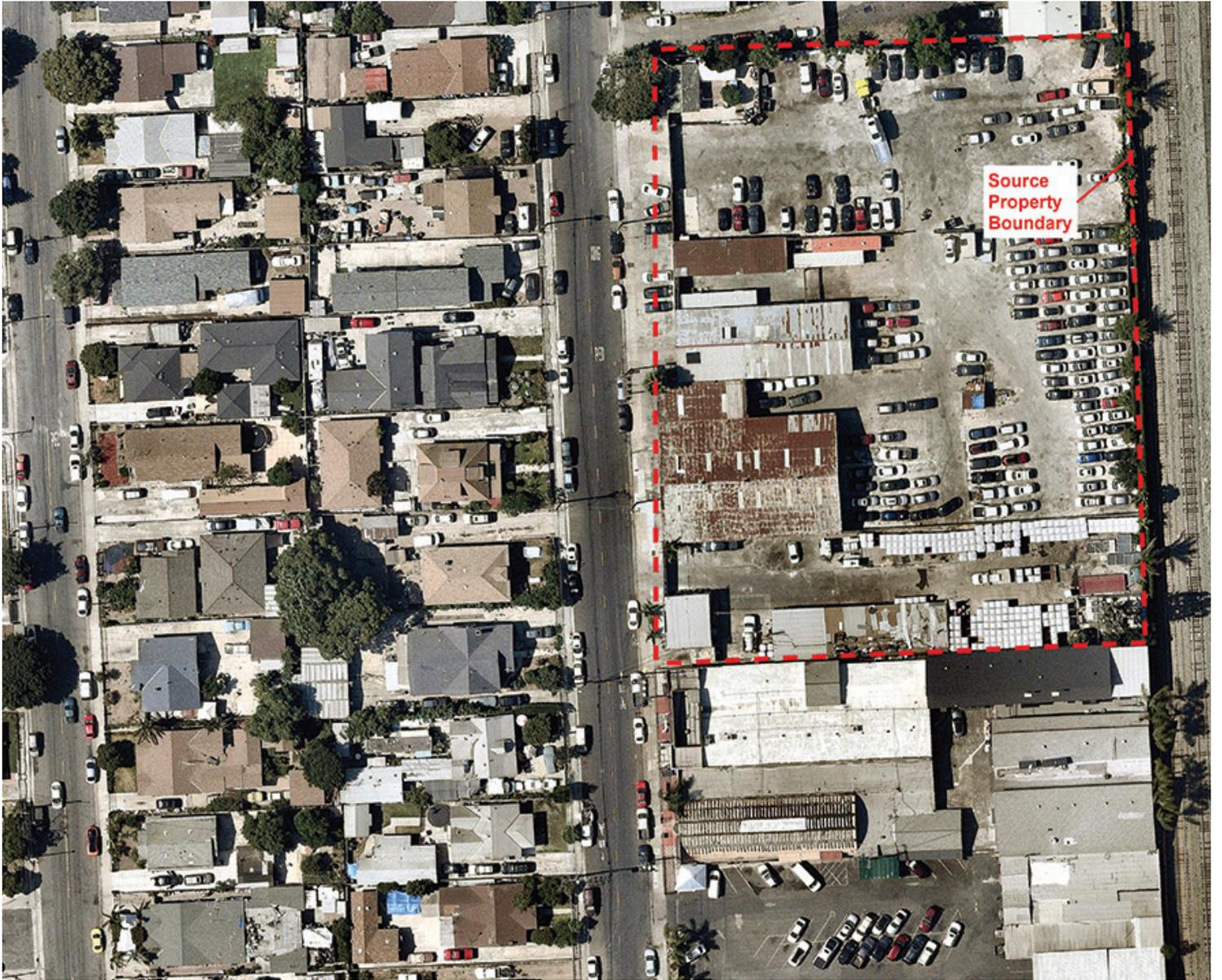
Community involvement is integral to the entire process

Site History

The Waymire Drum Vapor Intrusion Site located at 7702 Maie Avenue in Los Angeles, California consists of several former drum reconditioning, cleaning and recycling facilities that operated on the site between the 1940s and the 1990s. Drums were washed on-site with corrosive solution, then reconditioned and repainted. Beginning in the 1940s until about 1977, it is estimated that the facility reconditioned approximately 100 drums per day, discharging excess corrosive solution into the stormwater drain. By 1977, the corrosive stripping solution used for cleaning drums was reportedly recycled on-site and no longer discharged to the storm water drain.



In 2019 the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) requested assistance from the EPA Emergency Response, Planning & Preparedness Branch (ERPPB) after results of an EPA expanded site investigation demonstrated elevated levels of tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), and vinyl chloride (VC) in the soil and soil gas on the site. From those initial results, an emergency response was initiated in June 2019, and interim ventilation/mitigation measures were installed in locations with elevated levels of TCE in the indoor air. In September 2019, EPA began a time critical removal action in which the indoor air of 39 commercial and residential locations were sampled. Results from the removal assessment demonstrated TCE to be above EPA's regional screening levels (RSLs) in the indoor and crawlspace air of several residences and commercial buildings.



 Aerial Map of site

Site Investigation and Cleanup

The Waymire Drum Vapor Intrusion Site has been designated as a time-critical removal action. Time-critical removals are situations for which EPA determines that a removal is appropriate, and on-site activities must begin within six months of site discovery.

There are two types of time-critical removals, depending on the expected duration of the removal action:

- **Short-term responses** in which on-site activities will be completed within 120 days of the initiation of on-site actions, and
- **Longer-term responses** that require more than 120 days for on-site activities.

The Waymire Drum Vapor Intrusion Site is a longer-term response because removal actions are expected to extend beyond 120 days.



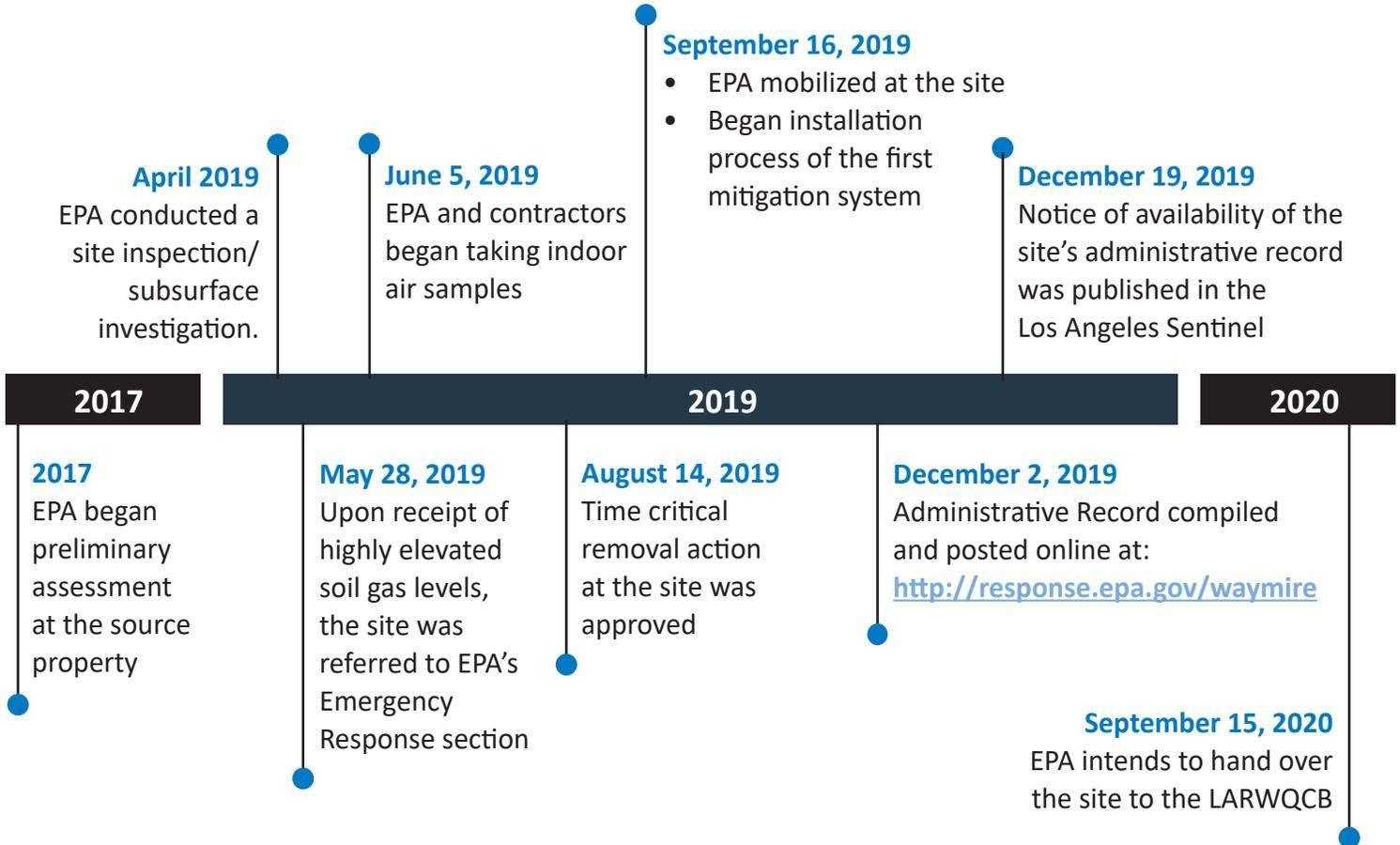
 Finalizing installation of mitigation system.

THE SUPERFUND REMOVAL PROCESS Time-Critical Removal: Six-Month Planning Period Available



Figure 2: Shows the steps in the time-critical removal process.

Site Timeline

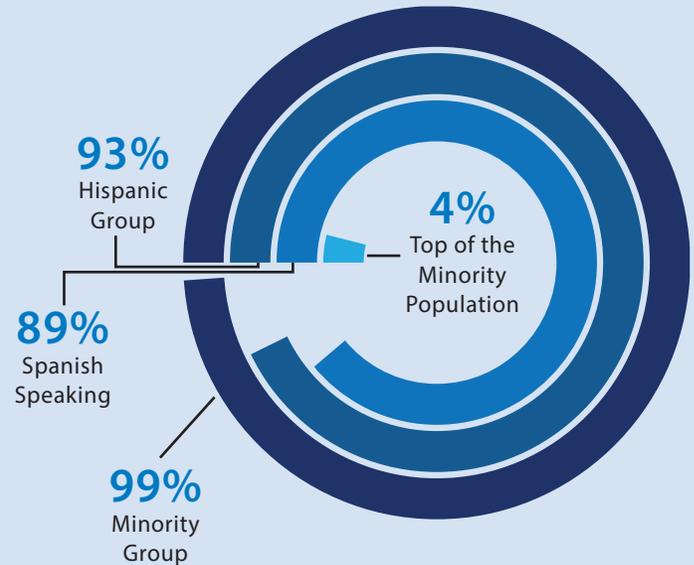


Community Overview

Demographics

According to EPA's environmental justice screening tool, the Site is in a densely populated, predominantly Hispanic, Spanish-speaking, low-income community of approximately 15,000 people within a half mile radius of the source property. Due to finding that 89% of the population speak Spanish, EPA will communicate primarily in Spanish and secondary in English. (See graphic to the right)

Compared to the rest of California, this neighborhood is in the top 4% of communities with the highest proportion of minorities.



Throughout this process, the Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) and Site team conducted interviews/and had discussions with the community for the Site CIP. During these conversations, EPA discussed the Site, its cleanup progress, and asked questions to identify the community's needs, concerns, knowledge and recommendations to aid in future community engagement throughout the cleanup process.

These discussions provided EPA with knowledge of the Site's history, and provided affected residents and tenants with various communication tools to share their thoughts regarding the site. During these open discussions, participants were encouraged to share their opinions, concerns, suggestions, and criticisms.

Community Feedback

The community is defined as the homes and businesses on and near the Site that have participated in, or been informed about, EPA's activities in the area.

The residents in the area indicated a strong familiarity with the Site and its history. Residents and tenants have been interested in conducting their own research in addition to the information provided by the Site team. When asked about local newspapers or media, people indicated that there was a preference for one-on-one conversations. When asked about other environmental or community groups that may want to be involved or may be sources of information in the community, residents were unaware of any specific group that exists in their immediate community.

Through discussions with residents and tenants, EPA learned that the biggest physical hazard in the community is crossing the street given that speed limits are not observed and large commercial trucks often use Maie Avenue. Other concerns shared with Site team members are the next steps and potential impacts of the removal action. EPA has responded to these questions and concerns.

The residents interviewed expressed preference for communication in person or via phone. Since EPA is the primary source of information for residents, it is key that communication occur daily, timely and consistently in their preferred language to ensure that community relationships and trust are maintained.



Community Involvement Tools and Techniques

The foundation of Superfund's Community Involvement Program is to ensure that community members affected by a Superfund site have the right to be informed. EPA recognizes the benefits that an engaged public brings to the cleanup process and is committed to providing information to and encouraging the public encouraging public.

Members of the community affected by a Superfund site have the right to be informed and involved in EPA's decision-making process. EPA's CIP strives to maintain consistent community presence and build relationships with the community, local stakeholders, as well as local and state agencies.

The action plan below highlights EPA's key objectives, methods and site-specific activities to keep residents, community stakeholders, and local officials informed and involved throughout the cleanup process. To establish this plan, EPA considered several factors including community needs, concerns and recommendations.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OBJECTIVES	TOOLS & METHODS	STATUS
<p>Maintain points of contact with active stakeholders. Specifically, EPA On Scene Coordinators (OSCs) maintaining constant communication with the State to ensure a smooth transition as they prepare to take over the operation and maintenance of the mitigation systems once the removal action is completed.</p>	<p>Points of contact (See Appendix B, LARWQCB), site website</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Establish a location for the community to access key Site Information.</p>	<p>Information repository online and at EPA (see Appendix E)</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Maintain a consistent community presence to build relationships, by having daily face-to-face interactions with community members in Spanish, as needed, especially among those most directly affected by contamination and cleanup.</p>	<p>Door-to-door outreach, community discussions, face-to-face interactions, phone calls and email updates (as needed) and newspaper ad</p>	<p>Ongoing through September 2020</p>
<p>Translate all materials into Spanish to ensure the community is well-informed of the removal actions occurring on-site.</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Creating an extensive community involvement plan; explaining complex scientific concepts, sampling, and mitigation techniques, and data results; and connecting with the local community groups.</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Explain technical site activities and findings in a format that all can understand.</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Write and distribute news releases.</p>		<p>Completed</p>
<p>Evaluate community involvement and outreach efforts and adjust as necessary.</p>	<p>Update CIP</p>	<p>Periodically throughout the cleanup process, as needed</p>

Appendix A: Acronyms and Abbreviations

CIC	Community Involvement Coordinator
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
EJ	Environmental Justice
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERPPB	Emergency Response, Planning & Preparedness Branch
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
PCE	Tetrachloroethylene
RSLs	Regional Screening Levels
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
TCE	Trichloroethylene
VC	Vinyl Chloride
VI	Vapor Intrusion

Appendix B: EPA and Other Agency Contacts

EPA has worked closely with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB), maintaining constant communication to ensure a smooth transition as they prepare to take over the operation and maintenance of the mitigation systems once the removal action is completed.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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Appendix C: Elected Officials

Elected Officials

Senator Kamala Harris

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<https://www.harris.senate.gov>

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Los Angeles Field Office
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Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 914 – 7300

<https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public>

Los Angeles County Supervisor, District 2

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

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seconddistrict@bos.lacounty.gov

<http://ridley-thomas.lacounty.gov>

Appendix D: Media

Newspapers

The Los Angeles Sentinel
3800 Crenshaw Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90008
Phone: (323) 299 – 3800
Fax: (323) 299 – 3896

Television Stations

Univision Channel 34

Telemundo Channel 52



Appendix E: Information Repositories

When EPA proposes a site cleanup plan, it collects the documents that were used or relied upon to develop the proposed action. This collection of technical documents is called the Site Administrative Record. Copies of the Administrative Record are available for public review at <http://response.epa.gov/waymire> and at the following location:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Regional Records Center
75 Hawthorne Street, Room 3110
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 947 – 8717

Monday – Thursday

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM



Appendix F: Additional Websites & Resources

The complete administrative file for the project is available at the Regional Board's office:

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Administrative File for Waymire Drum Site

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200

Los Angeles, CA 90013

• By appointment, please call (213) 576 – 6600 or email:
• *RB4-PublicRecords@waterboards.ca.gov*

• **EPA's Superfund Program**

• <https://www.epa.gov/superfund>

• **Superfund Community Involvement**

• <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement>







**Waymire Drum Vapor Intrusion Removal Site
Florence-Firestone Area, Los Angeles County, California
Community Involvement Plan**



Region 9 | June 2020