

## **Fact Check: Contamination Concerns at Mission Wells**

LADWP is deeply concerned about the soil, air and water quality issues recently expressed by customers that reside in the Sylmar area near our Mission Wells Facility. We would like to clarify some of the information that was reported in the July 12, 2017 article published in the San Fernando Valley Sun.

There is no evidence of a threat to the health of area residents or LADWP work crews posed by Mission Wells Project construction on or nearby the property based on multiple environmental screenings and soil tests.

### **Soil & Air Quality**

LADWP conducted three separate screenings for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The first screening conducted in January 2015 did not detect any VOCs and LADWP crews were subsequently allowed to start construction. The second screening on June 29, 2017 and the third screening on July 14, 2017 were conducted in a trench in the residential area near the facility on Envoy Street. The result of these screenings showed no presence of VOCs including TCE or other chlorinated solvents. In addition, the South Coast Air Quality Management District responded to four complaints, one in January 2015 and three in July 2017. No violations were noted.

### **Water Quality**

The purpose of the Mission Wells Project is to help LADWP fully utilize its groundwater rights and production from the Sylmar Basin by upgrading existing groundwater facilities, which includes construction of three new wells. As LADWP representatives explained at a June 29 community meeting there are a total of five wells on the site, none of which are currently active. Of these wells only one is expected to be operational by next year.

Additionally, monitoring wells which play an important role in tracking groundwater quality are in place or being built in the area. These monitoring wells will ensure that LADWP operates the Mission Wellfield safely and that any water served from this source meets all drinking water standards set for volatile organic compounds, including TCE.

While continuing to protect local groundwater supplies is an important part of our mission, our highest priority is to provide safe and reliable drinking water to all of our customers. LADWP achieves this goal by testing the water we serve every day for substances that pose a threat to public health.

In fact, during 2016 LADWP's water quality team collected nearly 40,000 water samples throughout the city and conducted more than 140,000 water quality tests for compliance as well as for research and operational improvements. We tested for more than 200 regulated and unregulated contaminants, including TCE, as well as for water quality issues such as hardness.

This testing is conducted by a team of qualified field and laboratory personnel at about 300 locations around the City and is regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The drinking water served by LADWP has met all Federal and State standards because of effective treatment and operational controls. We encourage customers to review the results of our most recent analyses in the [Drinking Water Quality Report](#).

LADWP has been in regular communication with community members and will continue to be responsive to all questions and concerns. We encourage anyone with questions on the Mission Wells Project to contact Community Affairs at (213) 367-3803.