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## Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Public Notice of Groundwater Investigation and Recommendation to Sample Private Water Supply Wells

Capitola Road and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Area, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, CA

June 22, 2021

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) is providing this notification to landowners, residents/occupants, tenants, and interested parties near Capitola Road and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Area to inform you about an ongoing tetrachloroethylene groundwater investigation. This notice is to inform residents and business occupants about the possibility of tetrachloroethylene contamination in private water supply wells. The Central Coast Water Board recommends well owners/users test their private wells for the presence of tetrachloroethylene and related volatile organic compounds.

*La Junta Regional de Control de Calidad del Agua de la Costa Central (Central Coast Water Board) está proporcionando esta notificación a los propietarios, residentes / ocupantes, inquilinos y partes interesadas cercanas al Area de Capitola Road y 17th Avenue para informarles sobre una investigación que se está llevando a cabo sobre la presencia de tetracloroetileno en aguas subterráneas. Junta Regional de Control de Calidad del Agua de la Costa Central le recomienda a los propietarios / usuarios de pozos que le hagan pruebas de laboratorio al agua de sus pozos privados, para detectar la presencia de tetracloroetileno y compuestos orgánicos volátiles relacionados. Si desea obtener información en español, póngase en contacto con Monica Barricarte al (805) 549-3881.*

#### What is Tetrachloroethylene?

Tetrachloroethylene is a common solvent used in manufacturing to remove grease and other residues, and it was widely used during dry-cleaning operations.

Tetrachloroethylene is commonly known as “PCE” or “PERC.” It is part of a group of chlorinated solvents called volatile organic compounds. PCE evaporates very easily and can contaminate soil, soil gas, and groundwater when spilled or released into the subsurface, such as through sewer system leaks. PCE and related volatile organic compounds can travel long distances in groundwater from their original spill locations and along sewer systems from leaks.

#### Regulatory Oversight

The Central Coast Water Board is the State regulatory agency responsible for overseeing the soil and groundwater investigation and cleanup at the Fairway Dry Cleaning and Laundry (Site), located at 1600 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz, California.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> More information about the Site can be found in GeoTracker:  
<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/?gid=T10000015553>

Our function is to issue regulatory directives to parties responsible for the release to perform investigation and cleanup work. An investigation is currently underway at the Site and surrounding area because of historical leaks and spills of PCE during former dry-cleaning operations. Samples from the initial phase of investigation show PCE and related volatile organic compounds in soil, soil vapor, and groundwater from the Site.

The parties responsible for the PCE leaks and spills have applied for a grant to complete additional investigation and begin cleanup work. The Central Coast Water Board is helping to facilitate the grant so that investigation and cleanup can be completed.

### **PCE in Groundwater**

The Central Coast Water Board determined your residence or business is near where PCE is currently found in groundwater. Persons and businesses that may be affected by a release of dry-cleaning solvents are those using private water supply wells near the Site. A map showing the "Site Location & Investigation Area" in a yellow shaded circle is at the end of this notice.

### **PCE Exposure and Health Effects**

Exposure to PCE can occur from drinking contaminated water, inhalation of vapors from intrusion to indoor air from underground contamination of soil gas, and inhalation of vapors and absorption through skin from indoor water uses, such as showering. PCE is a regulated contaminant with an established Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for drinking water at 5 micrograms per liter (5 µg/L). MCLs are adopted as regulations and are health protective drinking water standards to be met by public water systems. PCE also has a Public Health Goal (PHG) of 0.06 µg/L.

### **Domestic Wells**

Domestic wells are not regulated the way public water systems are regulated, such as the City of Santa Cruz Water Department. This means that the MCLs don't legally apply to domestic wells, However, both the MCLs and PHGs can serve as a guide to domestic well owners about safe drinking water standards.

The water supply from the City of Santa Cruz is safe and this notice does not apply to the City of Santa Cruz water supply. <sup>2</sup>

### **Testing Well Water**

Well-water testing typically occurs as part of soil and groundwater contamination investigations and is paid for by the parties responsible for the release of PCE. Ability to pay for sampling and testing wells as part of the Site investigation for the former dry

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<sup>2</sup> The City of Santa Cruz Water Department provides safe drinking water to residents and businesses in the Live Oak area, City of Santa Cruz, and portions of the City of Capitola. More information, including a map showing the area served by the city of Santa Cruz Water Department can be found:

<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/water>

cleaners is currently limited. Therefore, the Central Coast Water Board currently recommends well owners/users test their private wells.<sup>3</sup>

The best way to test for PCE in well water is to have a certified laboratory conduct an analysis of a water sample. The laboratory will supply the sampling containers and can sometimes help with sampling a well. Environmental professionals are also available for hire to collect a sample and interpret laboratory analytical results. The State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water certifies laboratories for testing and the Central Coast Water Board recommends the use of laboratories certified by California's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, or "ELAP."<sup>4</sup>

Hired environmental professionals and Central Coast Water Board staff can also help with interpreting the results. If laboratory testing for PCE are performed on private domestic wells, the Central Coast Water Board requests that testing results be submitted to our office using the contact information below. Having well testing results will help in the Central Coast Water Board's investigation and cleanup efforts for the Site.

### **Well Water Treatment**

Depending on concentrations detected, water treatment may be recommended. Typical treatment for PCE and related volatile organic compounds is carbon filtration, reverse osmosis, and "air stripping," (evaporating PCE out of water and into air) for capture and treatment. Using carbon filters on faucets and shower heads can also reduce PCE in water from evaporating into the in air where it can be inhaled. Consulting a water treatment professional is recommended for treatment options specific to PCE and related VOCs.

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<sup>3</sup> More information for private wells and testing can be found in the State Water Resources Control Board's "A Guide for Domestic Well Owners" located at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/gama/docs/wellowner\\_guide.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gama/docs/wellowner_guide.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> More information about ELAP and a tool for locating laboratories under the "Map of Accredited Laboratories" option, can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's webpage located at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/labs/index.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/labs/index.html)

**Contact Information**

If you would like more information about the Site or have questions about PCE or this public notice, please contact either of the following:

Dan Niles  
Central Coast Water Board  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
Email: [dan.niles@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dan.niles@waterboards.ca.gov)  
(805) 549-3355

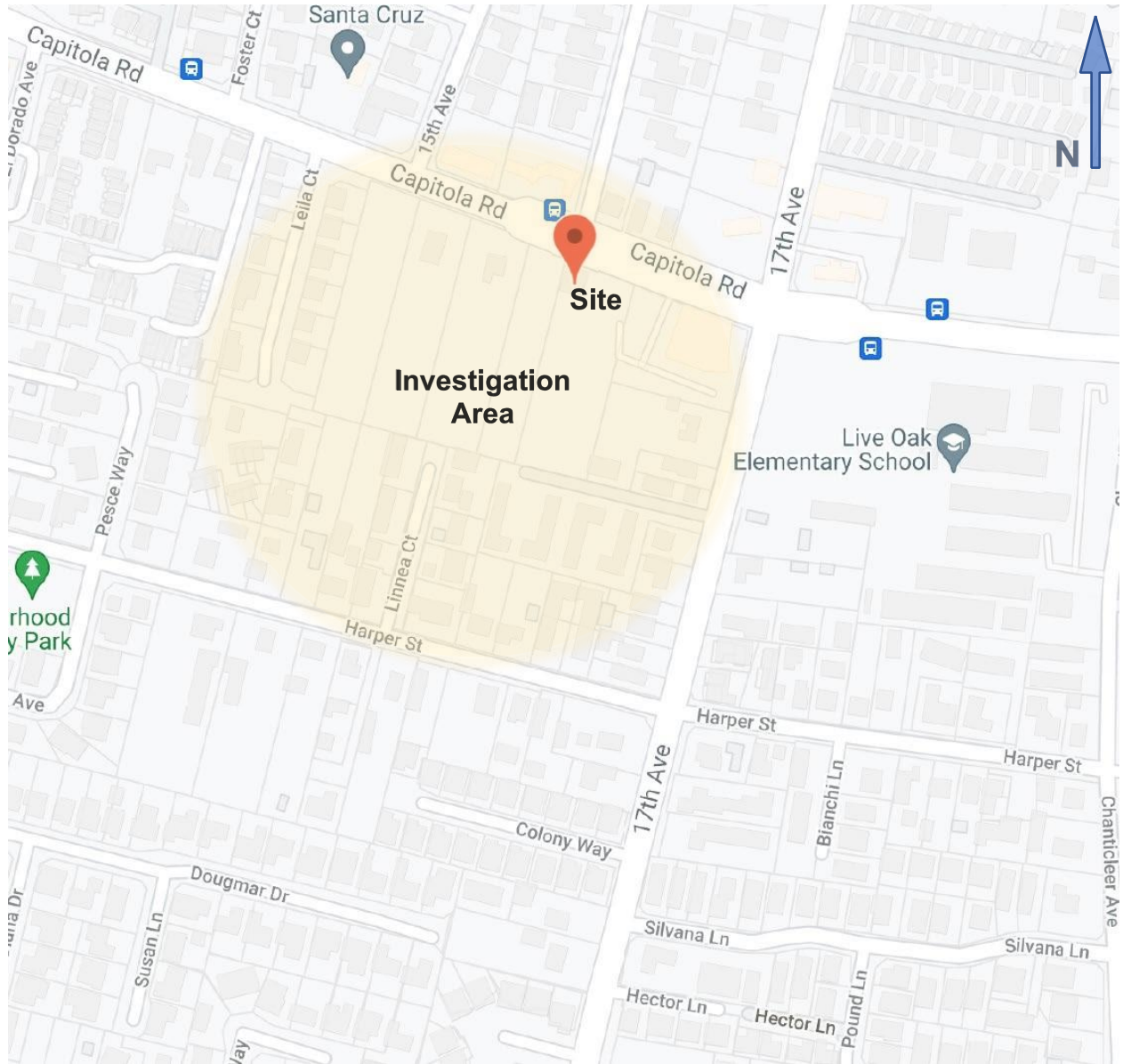
Sheila Soderberg  
Central Coast Water Board  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
Email: [sheila.soderberg@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sheila.soderberg@waterboards.ca.gov)  
(805) 549-3592

If you would like to receive future correspondence on this cleanup site, please contact Mr. Niles and request to be added to the interested parties' mailing list for this Site.

This Public Notice will also be available on the Central Coast Water Board's Public Notice webpage at located at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/public\\_notices/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/public_notices/)

### MAP OF SITE LOCATION & INVESTIGATION AREA



Source: Map Data ©2021 Google