

# Rohr Cleanup Project

8200 Arlington Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503

The Rohr Cleanup Project is addressing environmental impacts from historic operations at the Rohr facility at 8200 Arlington Avenue in Riverside (the “Site”). Regulatory agencies who oversee the work include the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board) operating as the lead state agency, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1 Why is the work being done?

Rohr is addressing environmental impacts from historic operations in accordance with today’s regulatory standards. Environmental sampling conducted to date has identified impacts to soil, soil vapor, and groundwater on and adjacent to the Site.

### 2 What are the chemicals that have been discovered?

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), hexavalent chromium, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are the primary chemicals that have been detected in sampling conducted at Rohr’s facility and at adjacent properties.

### 3 What are PCBs, hexavalent chromium, and VOCs?

PCBs are chemicals that were used in hundreds of common industrial and commercial purposes until domestic manufacturing was banned in 1979 and usage was phased out by the early 1980s. The Rohr Site stopped using PCBs in 1980.

Hexavalent chromium is a chemical used for preventing rust and making things last longer. It is still used in certain industries like making stainless steel. It is in use at the Site under highly controlled conditions.

VOCs are industrial chemicals used to clean and remove grease from parts during the manufacturing process. VOCs are also present in common household items like paint, moth balls, aerosol sprays, new furniture and carpeting, fuels, and clothes that have been dry-cleaned. VOCs are common groundwater contaminants at sites nationally.

#### **4 Where are these chemicals found and how could someone come into contact with them?**

PCBs and hexavalent chromium from the Site's past activities have been found in soil on and adjacent to certain areas of the Site. Generally, exposure to these chemicals can occur through direct contact with impacted soil (e.g., eating, touching, and breathing) and consumption of animal products and plants which have been in contact with soil impacted by these chemicals.

VOCs and hexavalent chromium used at the Site have been found in groundwater both on and adjacent to certain areas of the Site. VOCs can turn into vapor and travel through the space between soil particles, entering indoor air through cracks in building foundations, utility pipes, and sewer lines. This is called "vapor intrusion." Contact with these chemicals may impact human health if left unmanaged.

#### **5 Is my drinking water safe to drink?**

Local drinking water is supplied by Riverside Public Utilities and is not impacted by the Site. All public drinking water supplies are regularly tested and must meet federal and state standards.

#### **6 Can residents adjacent to the Site and their pets use their yards?**

Yes. The current levels of soil contamination at properties adjacent to the Rohr facility do not require relocation of occupants or discontinued activity within backyards. Nevertheless, Rohr will be working with residents to advise them of impacted areas and will make recommendations to help residents at impacted properties reduce contact with soil contaminants until cleanup is conducted.

Rohr has collected thousands of samples to assess the extent of soil contamination at their facility and in the yards of 19 adjacent properties. Additional soil samples are being collected to further delineate the extent of impacts. Discrete locations within some residential yards immediately adjacent to Rohr's facility have been identified with elevated levels of PCBs and hexavalent chromium above health-based screening levels. Rohr will work with these residents to remove impacted soils that exceed agency approved cleanup levels, replace with clean soil, and restore these areas.

Reducing contact with contaminated soils minimizes the risk, or likelihood of developing any adverse health impacts associated with PCBs and hexavalent chromium.

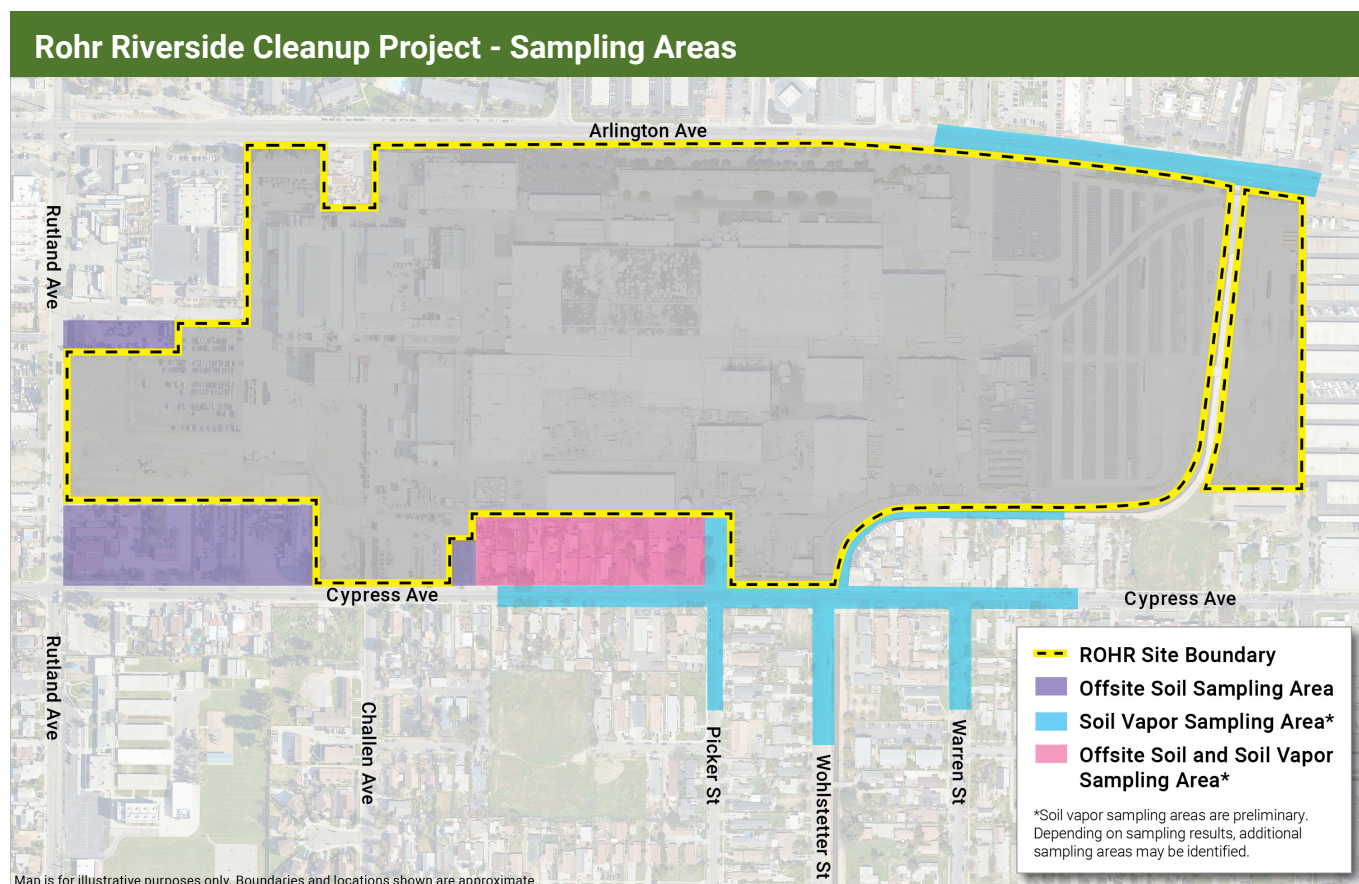
Recommendations for residents at these impacted properties include:

- Avoid unnecessary digging or direct contact with soils in areas with elevated contaminant concentrations. Rohr will provide specific guidance to individual owners based on property-specific findings.

- Continue to practice good hygiene by thoroughly washing hands & materials after contacting soil within impacted backyards.
- Thoroughly wash potentially contaminated soils from fruits, vegetables, or any foodstuffs that are cultivated within impacted backyards before consuming.

## 7 Where will soil and soil vapor sampling take place?

Under the oversight of the U.S. EPA and the Santa Ana Water Board, a total of 19 residential, commercial, or industrial properties have been identified adjacent to the Site (see figure below) and Rohr is working with regulatory agencies to determine what additional investigation and cleanup may be necessary.



Rohr Proposed Sampling Areas Map

## 8 What environmental work has been completed?

Under the oversight of the U.S. EPA and the Santa Ana Water Board, different work activities are taking place to collect data for evaluation of soil, soil vapor, and groundwater. During the ongoing off-Site investigation, Rohr has collected thousands of soil and groundwater samples.

Rohr is conducting sampling at 19 adjacent properties to the south and west of the Site for PCBs and hexavalent chromium. Other chemicals in soil have been evaluated on-Site, but only PCBs and hexavalent chromium were identified as needing further investigation in off-Site soil.

For groundwater and soil vapor, Rohr has been working under the oversight of the Santa Ana Water Board to sample, manage and treat VOCs and hexavalent chromium. Rohr installed and currently operates two systems on-Site to treat groundwater, remove chemicals, mitigate vapor intrusion, and keep groundwater impacts contained. Groundwater monitoring shows that the groundwater remediation systems have been effective at reducing contaminants in groundwater. Rohr continues to evaluate VOCs and hexavalent chromium in groundwater and VOCs in soil vapor both on and adjacent to the Site under the oversight of the Santa Ana Water Board.

## 9 What are the next steps?

- **Soil on the Rohr Site:** A concrete or asphalt cap will be placed over impacted soil at the Site to prevent any potential for contact or further off-Site migration.
- **Soil Adjacent to the Site:** A soil cleanup plan will be prepared once the sampling at adjacent properties is complete. U.S. EPA and the Santa Ana Water Board will review and approve the soil cleanup plan. Rohr will remove contaminated soil that exceeds agency approved cleanup levels, replace it with clean soil, and restore the areas where cleanup occurred. All sampling, cleanup and restoration activities will be paid for by Rohr. Rohr will work closely with residents to minimize impacts and address any special needs.
- **Soil Vapor:** Rohr continues to work with the Santa Ana Water Board to conduct additional vapor intrusion evaluations based on updated standards.
- **Groundwater:** Rohr continues to work with the Santa Ana Water Board to remediate groundwater and monitor groundwater quality routinely.

## 10 Are any of the local schools impacted?

Due to area topography (raised roadways act as a physical barrier for stormwater flow) and the distance between our facility and Arlanza Elementary, impacts at the school are not likely. Other schools in the area are located even further away from the Site and the soil and groundwater data collected to date has not indicated the need for any sampling at Arlanza Elementary or any other schools.

## 11 How can I get more information?

Rohr has established a resource office at its Riverside facility where residents and the public can meet with bilingual staff to have their questions about the project answered.

For more information, please contact us by phone at **(951) 394-0767** or by email at **rohrsite@gmail.com**.