

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino

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**JGFDS-PR-236 COUNTY, CITIES UNITE ON PERCHLORATE CLEAN UP
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COUNTY AND CITIES OF RIALTO AND COLTON UNITE TO ASSIST WITH PERCHLORATE CLEAN UP

SAN BERNARDINO – San Bernardino County and the cities of Rialto and Colton today jointly embarked on a new direction to address ground water contamination in the Rialto-Colton Basin.

The county and the cities will work together to assist the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expedite the clean up of the B.F. Goodrich Superfund Site in northern Rialto. The EPA listed the site in September 2009.

As a first step in this new joint direction, the Board of Supervisors and Rialto City Council are scheduled Tuesday to consider a recommendation to withdraw from the Rialto-Colton Basin Joint Powers Authority of which Colton is not a member.

The authority was established in March 2008 to seek funding for the investigation and clean up of perchlorate and associated contaminants within or near the Rialto-Colton Basin.

County and city leaders concluded the authority has not been as effective as they had anticipated it would be.

With the EPA assuming the lead role in the clean up, the county and cities will focus on supporting the EPA's efforts.

The EPA added the Goodrich Site to its Superfund National Priorities List on September 23, because Trichloroethene (TCE) and perchlorate have contaminated a large area of ground water at the site in excess of Safe Drinking Water Act Maximum Contaminant Levels, according to the EPA.

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Since it was first developed in the 1940s, the B.F. Goodrich Site has been used by the U.S. Department of Defense to store munitions and a succession of businesses to test and manufacture munitions, rocket motors, and pyrotechnics. Soil and ground water contamination at the site is believed to have resulted largely from operations that pre-date current regulatory programs, according to the EPA.

The Rialto-Colton Groundwater Basin is an important source of drinking water to residents and businesses in the cities of Rialto, Colton, and Fontana. Several municipal drinking water wells are believed to be contaminated with TCE and/or perchlorate from the site, according to the EPA.

Some contaminated wells have been shut down. Treatment systems have been installed on other impacted wells to ensure the delivery of clean, safe drinking water to tens of thousands of people.

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The Fifth District includes the unincorporated areas of Bloomington, Muscoy, North Norton, El Rancho Verde, and Arrowhead Farms, the City of Rialto, major portions of the cities of Colton and San Bernardino, and the eastern portion of the City of Fontana.