

2/20/12

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Subject: Possible Plume Contamination of Wells

At the Sunol Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>, you reported on the hazardous material plume from the industrial area east of Andrade Road and stated that it did not appear to be a threat to wells in the area.

On the east side of Sheridan Road south of Andrade Road, the SFPUC has recently drilled 26 wells. 3 of the wells are for monitoring and 23 are for "dewatering". The SFPUC is trying to lower the water level to 270 feet below ground level and they have been pumping an estimated 400 Gallons Per Minute (GPM) since mid December. They have lowered the water level from about 100 feet to about 200 feet. They are still drilling wells and 14 of the dewatering wells are currently pumping. When all wells are pumping, they expect to be removing 1200 GPM. So far, they have removed over 30 million gallons.

SFPUC is dewatering the area of the aquifer that their new tunnel will be drilled thru. In a few years, after the new tunnel is complete, they will stop dewatering and the area and hopefully the aquifer will return to their pre-tunneling condition.

Even though the plume that you reported on has not been a threat to wells in the area, I'm concerned that the hazardous waste plume or the rumored plume from the gas station on Andrade Road will flow towards the void created by the SFPUC draining the aquifer. Even if it can't get all the way into the Sheridan Road aquifer, could it impact the wells in between?

We don't really know how the water moves underground in the area. SFPUC had predicted that the dewatering or tunneling would not affect some wells south of the dewatering area. SFPUC was recently surprised when 2 of the residents wells dried up and the output of 2 other resident's wells decreased.

SFPUC has also found fluoride in their new tunnel possibly indicating that water leaking from the old tunnel is flowing into the new tunnel.

Is there any reasonable possibility that the contaminants from the plumes that you have been monitoring could get into our wells or the wells in-between? Since our wells are our only source of water and we drink our well water, how can we be sure that our water is not being contaminated by the plumes?



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