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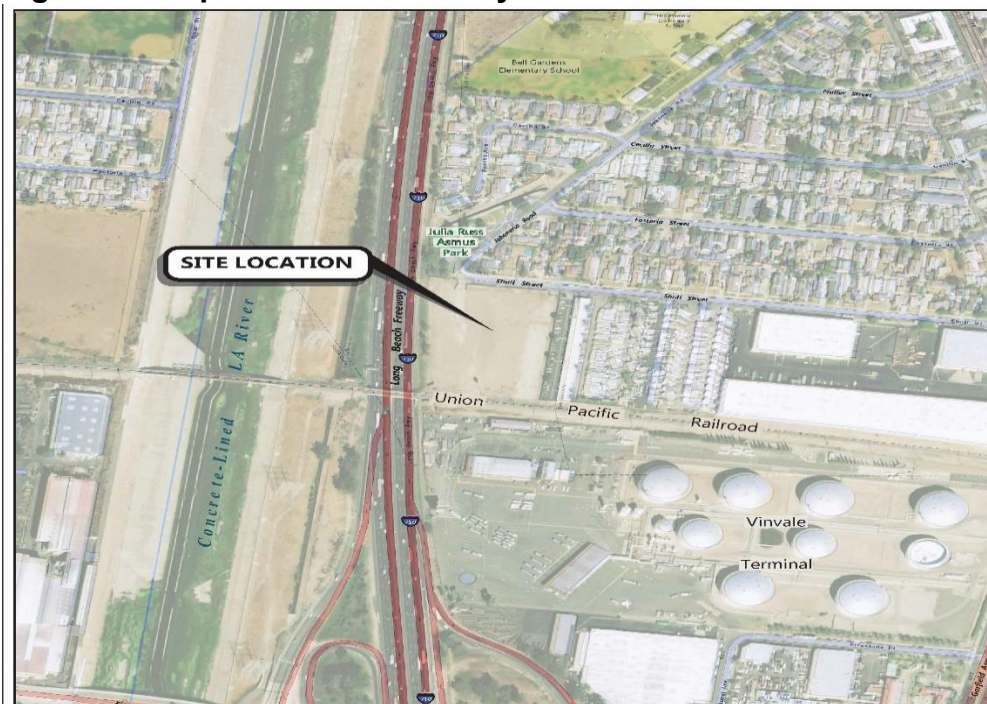
## FACT SHEET: ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION

### Former Berk Oil and Pacific Metal Craft 5600-5636 Shull Street, Bell Gardens, California 90201

This fact sheet provides information to community members, stakeholders, and interested persons about the ongoing environmental investigation at the Former Berk Oil and Pacific Metal Craft Site, located at 5600-5636 Shull St., Bell Gardens, California (Site). The Site is owned by the City of Bell Gardens and is currently a vacant lot on approximately 4.3 acres, in a mixed commercial/industrial and residential area of the city. The Site is bordered on the north by Shull Street, on the west by an undeveloped area and the 710 Freeway, on the south by a Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way, and on the east by a mixed commercial/residential area. The Andeavor (formerly Tesoro) Vinvale Terminal (Vinvale Terminal) is south of the railroad right-of-way. Additionally, the Julia Russ Asmus Park, Bell Gardens Elementary School, and adjoining residential areas are north of Shull Street (see Figure 1).

In June 2022, the City of Bell Gardens received funding to investigate and cleanup the Site from the Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (DTSC ECRG). The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) is the regulatory agency responsible for overseeing the environmental investigation and forthcoming cleanup.

**Figure 1: Map of Site and Vicinity**



**Site Background:** Berk Oil operated asphalt mixing and oil distribution in the western portion of the Site from approximately 1965 through 1989. Pacific Metal Craft (PMC) fabricated metal and plastic parts and operated a degreaser from 1984 through the early 1990s in the eastern portion of the Site. Previous activities at the Site also included the use of underground storage tanks (USTs) and aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) on the Berk Oil property, and metal furnaces and degreasers on the PMC property. The USTs were used to store diesel

fuel, waste oil, and asphalt; the degreasers involved the use of solvents such as tetrachloroethene (PCE).

**Environmental Investigations:** Several environmental investigations were conducted at the Site between 1985 and 2001, and on an ongoing basis from 2012 to the present. These investigations identified several areas of impacted soil, soil vapor, and groundwater in the south, southwestern, and southeastern portion of the site.

During 2001 and 2012, two area-wide investigations were completed. Total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs, specifically, benzo-a-pyrene [BaP]), and lead were detected in soil samples. PCE and trichloroethylene (TCE) were detected in several soil gas probes.

In 2019, after additional investigations to define the vertical and lateral extent of soil impacts, and to provide additional information on subsurface conditions were conducted, VOC concentrations were detected in groundwater and soil gas. In 2021, passive and active soil gas surveys with additional soil samples were conducted to define the extent of TPH, BaP, and lead-impacted soil.

Environmental investigations at the Site to date have determined that TPH, PAHs, lead, and VOCs have contaminated soil, soil vapor and/or groundwater beneath the Site.

**Next Steps:** In August 2022, the Los Angeles Water Board requested the City of Bell Gardens to submit a soil and soil vapor data-gap work plan to completely assess laterally and vertically impacted soil; and a groundwater assessment work plan for impacted groundwater beneath the Site. The Los Angeles Water Board will review the plans and keep the public and interested persons updated on the progress of the investigation.

### **Information Repositories and Contacts**

The Los Angeles Water Board invites you to learn more about the referenced Site. Project-related documents and reports, including technical reports presenting sampling results from environmental investigations, are available for public review on the Los Angeles Water Board's website: <https://bit.ly/GeoTrackerBerk>

Complete administrative files for the Site are available at the Los Angeles Water Board's office:  
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
By appointment, please call (213) 576-6636 or email [RB4-PublicRecords@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:RB4-PublicRecords@waterboards.ca.gov)

**For more information, or if you have questions about this Site, please contact the Los Angeles Water Board:**

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