

GROUNDWATER

The Regional Water Quality Control Plant (the "Plant") is operated by the City of Palo Alto. The Plant's service area includes the East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Stanford University, and the cities of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, and Palo Alto ("Partners"). The Plant began accepting treated contaminated groundwater in late 1987. Typically, groundwater is from remediation sites contaminated by industrial solvents or leaking fuel tanks. Each Partner agency issues groundwater permits to qualified applicants. Since 1987, the Plant has issued 63 permits to various facilities, including: Alza Corporation, ARCO, Hewlett-Packard, Lockheed, National Semiconductor Corporation, Santa Clara County Roads & Airports, Shell, Stanford, Syntex, Varian and Watkins-Johnson Company. Currently, there are 10 active dischargers in Mountain View; 16 in Palo Alto; and 1 in Los Altos

All groundwater dischargers are required to complete an application prior to discharge. Groundwater discharge permits are issued for a maximum period of three years. The permit application fee is \$500 and must be submitted with the application. "One-time" dischargers are not charged unless the volume is over 2,000 gallons.

In 1992, the Plant began charging permittees a set fee "per thousand gallons" discharged. The discharge fee may vary among the Partner agencies. The Plant's current fee is \$3.40 "per thousand gallons" and is subject to change without notice. To date, the Plant has collected over \$3 million in fees from groundwater dischargers.

Fiscal Year	Total Billed
92-93	327,665.64
93-94	689,538.16
94-95	748,932.82
95-96	677,881.18
96-97	626,009.01
97-98	604,244.01
6/98-12/98	290,925.33
TOTAL	\$3,965,196.15

In 1991, the Partner agencies began requiring that permittees investigate groundwater use alternatives (i.e., irrigation, reuse in industrial processes, etc.) and implement those which are practical. This requirement applies to new permits, as well as renewal and modifications to existing permits.

Potential dischargers must determine whether other related permits, such as air quality permits, treatment permits, and sewer and plumbing connection permits, are required. Air strippers used for groundwater remediation must be permitted by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District before the Plant can issue a permit to a prospective discharger.