

Environmental Cleanup at the former Romic Environmental Technologies Corporation Property

(Bay Road Holdings LLC)



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Pacific Southwest Region

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Since 1988 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—with the California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)—has been working to clean up soil and groundwater at the former Romic Environmental Technologies site (East Palo Alto, CA).

How did the site get contaminated?

Romic managed hazardous waste on the site. Their operations contaminated soil and groundwater across most of the site—sometimes as deep as 80 feet. Bay Road Holdings—who took over for Romic—is now responsible to investigate and clean up the site. The groundwater treatment system and site-wide cap are measures to keep contamination from impacting drinking water and the nearby community.



Romic: At a Glance

- ◇ 2081 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, California 94303
- ◇ Former hazardous waste management facility run by Romic
- ◇ Operated from 1950s, closed in 2007
- ◇ The site was used for:
 - recycling,
 - mixing hazardous waste and fuel,
 - treating wastewater, and
 - storing and treating hazardous waste.



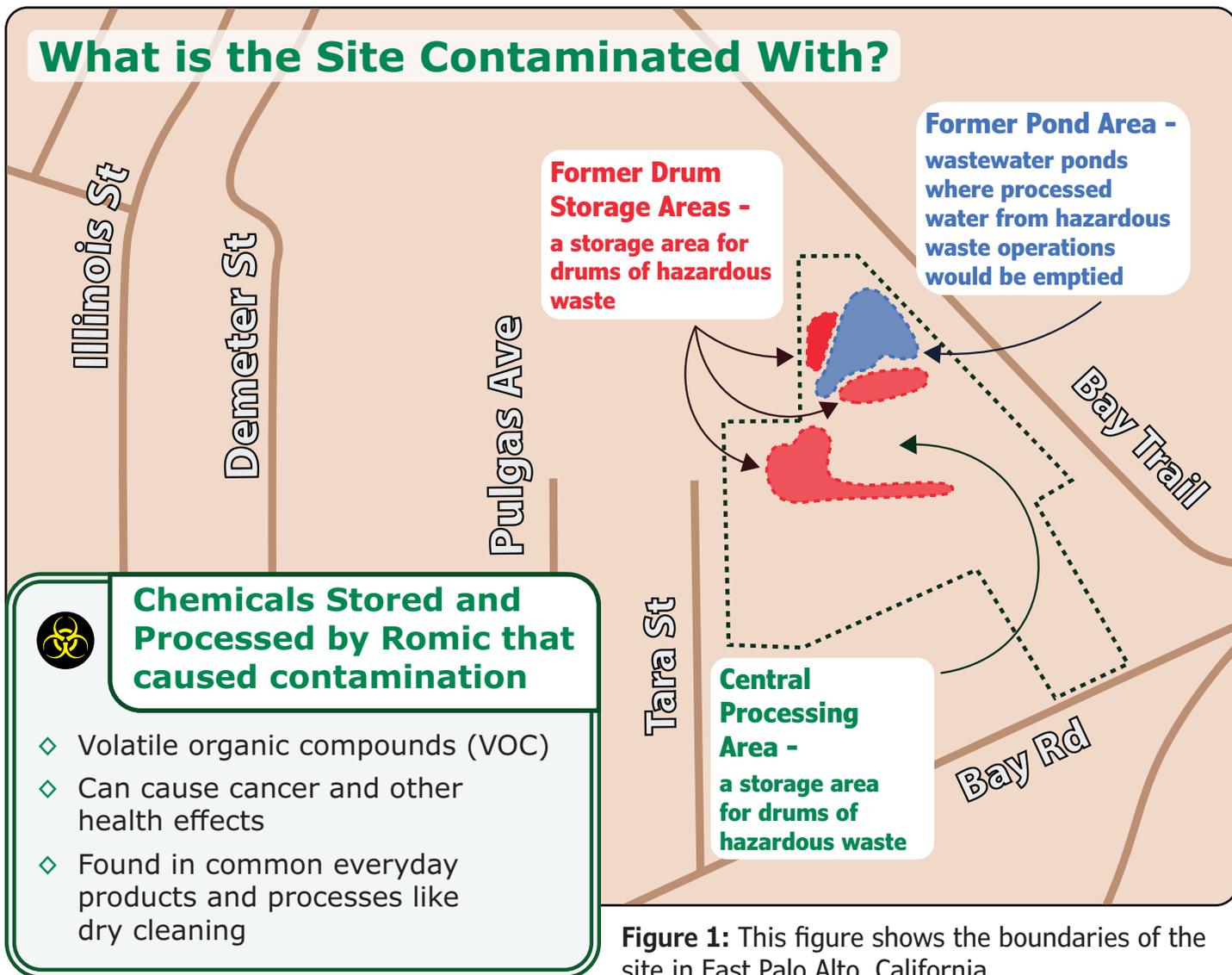
Cleanup Timeline

- ◇ **1988:** EPA issues a legal order under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ([epa.gov/rcra](https://www.epa.gov/rcra)) requiring Romic cleanup the site.
- ◇ **1993:** Groundwater extraction (removal) and treatment system starts running.
- ◇ **1998:** Romic investigates the site more and does additional limited clean up, under EPA oversight.
- ◇ **2001:** Enhanced biological treatment pilot (see **figure 3**, on the 3rd page) Romic begins testing at the site.
- ◇ **2005:** EPA approves using biological enhanced treatment
- ◇ **2007:** Romic stops site operations under a legal order by the State of California. Its hazardous waste facility is ordered to be closed.



**TIMELINE
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What is the Site Contaminated With?



Cleanup Timeline (Cont.)

- ◇ **2008:** EPA selected a final cleanup plan for soil and groundwater contamination at the site.
- ◇ **2009:** All structures are demolished and removed.
- ◇ **2009 – 2018:** Enhanced biological treatment pilot testing and routine groundwater monitoring continued at the site.
- ◇ **2018:** Enhanced biological treatment begins. Bay Road Holdings submits a final engineering plan for running the treatment to regulatory agencies for review and approval.
- ◇ **2019 & 2021:** Final plan for using biological treatment revised by Bay Road Holdings based on feedback from EPA, DTSC and RWQCB.
- ◇ **2023:** EPA gives Bay Road Holdings further feedback on running the biological treatment system.



Cleaning Up the Site

Bay Road Holdings—with EPA oversight—has followed a cleanup plan (called a “remedy”):

Groundwater Cleanup

- ◇ Built a system for enhanced biological treatment (See figure 3)
 - Horizontal injection wells over 200 feet long deliver food-based nutrients to different depths.
- ◇ Monitoring the natural breakdown (called “attenuation”) of groundwater contaminants.
- ◇ The groundwater treatment system and site-wide cap are measures to keep contamination from impacting drinking water and the nearby community.

Soil Cleanup

- ◇ Site-wide cap prevents potential movement or direct contact with soil contaminants.
- ◇ EPA is still working with Bay Road Holdings to find the best method of soil cleanup. Cleanup methods could include soil removal or in-ground treatment.

Step 5 - Natural bacteria breaks down the VOCs into less toxic “end products” like ethane and carbon dioxide

Step 1 - Extracts groundwater

Enhanced Biological Treatment Process

Step 4 - Nutrients feed natural bacteria

Step 2 - Adds food-based nutrients

Step 3 - Reinjects groundwater to distribute nutrients into the ground

Figure 2: Enhanced biological treatment process. See figure 3 below for diagram of this process.

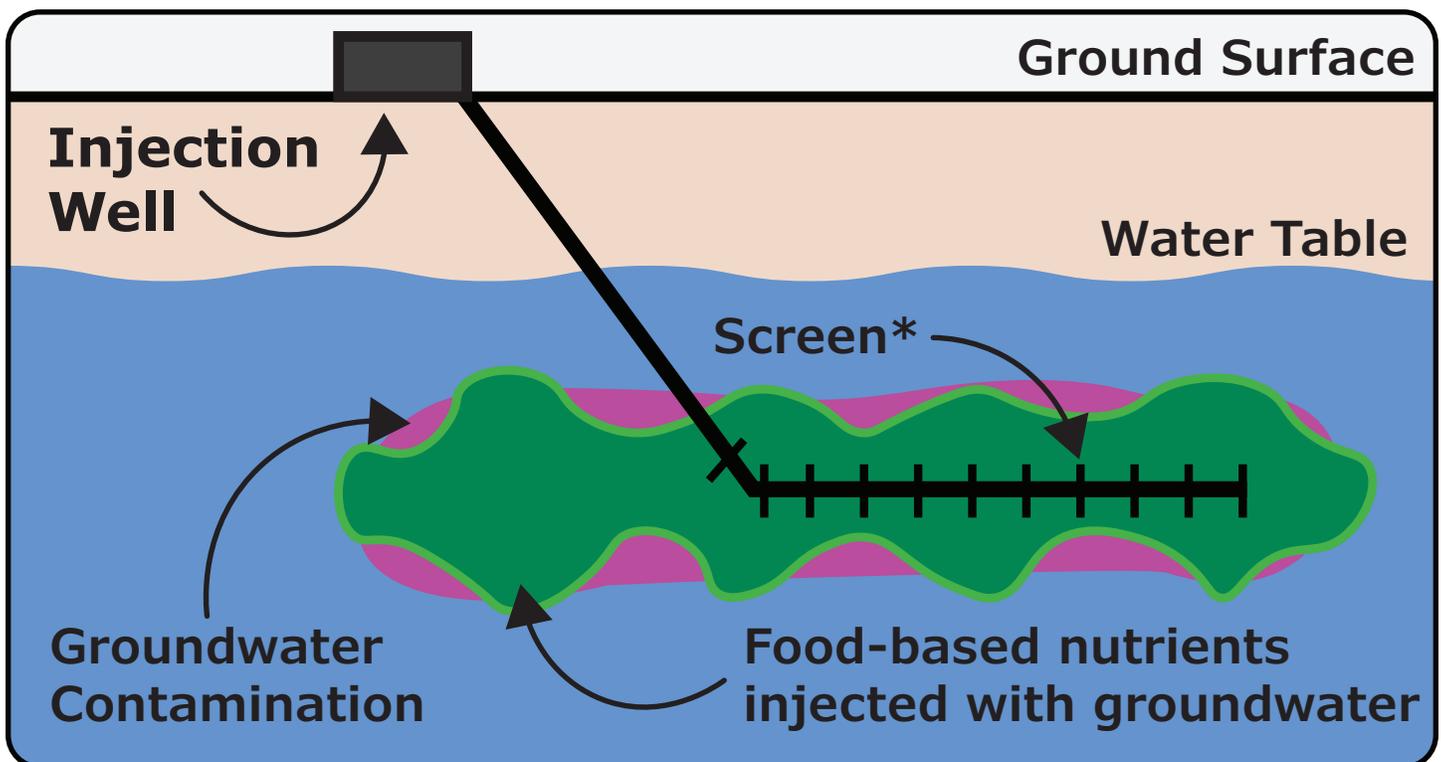


Figure 3: Visual of Enhanced Biological Treatment Process.



Figure 4: View of former Romic site.



Future Site Re-use

EPA, DTSC and RWQCB oversee Romic’s cleanup to prepare the site for re-use. Re-use is restricted by legal land use covenant (agreement) because contamination remains on-site.



USEPA

epa.gov/ca/bay-road-holdings-llc-formerly-romic-environmental-technologies-corporation



DTSC

envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=80001633



RWQCB

geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL0608102323

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