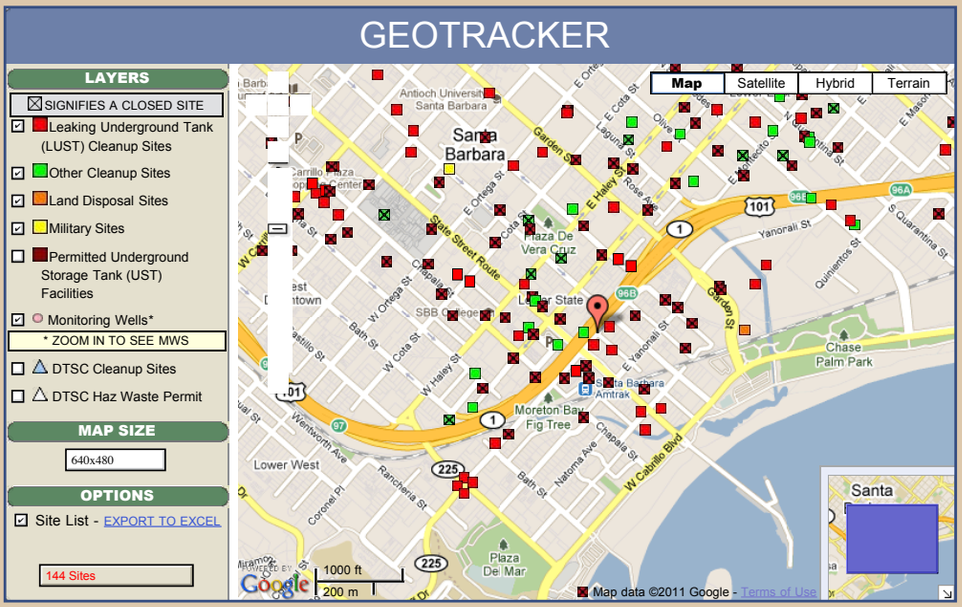
OVER 20 YEARS HTO HAS FOUGHT FOR IT

Fighting for Clean Groundwater – both Shallow & Deep

SHALLOW GROUNDWATER

Before HTO, many buildings, apartments and/or low-income **housing projects were built on top of polluted groundwater.** In the old days, people thought the ground was solid earth, so they dumped paint, solvents and other chemicals onto the ground. These chemicals seeped through the ground and into shallow groundwater.

HTO has been working on shallow groundwater for years. After years of research on the City and County's groundwater wells and boring reports, and with approval from SB County Board of Supervisors, **HTO coordinated with SB County Fire, to combine their Hazmat records with our paper records – and all of this went over to the Regional Water Quality Control Board.**



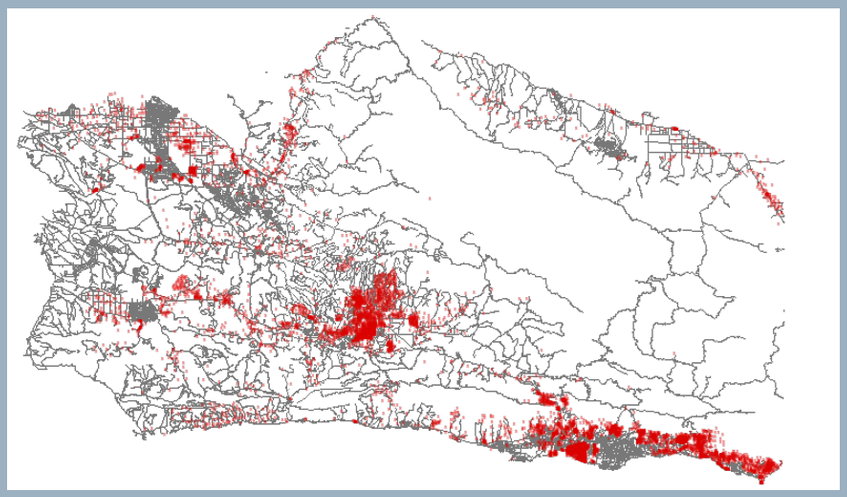
HTO hired intern **Sarah Treadwell** to work at RWQCB offices, digitizing the paper information, and this work has resulted in Geotracker, a database containing all the information on contaminated properties in California. HTO extends BIG thanks to hazardous materials specialists **Paul McCaw** (now retired) and **Thomas Rejzek**, for their manning of the Regional Board's Site Mitigation department, and for their diligent work in enforcement.

DEEP GROUNDWATER

In the current days of drought, our groundwater basins are sacred sources of water – vital to sustaining all life. Some groundwater basins still have ancient water that has not been drawn upon, but others are tragically over-drafted.

Similarly, a **groundwater basin that becomes polluted can never be cleaned up in its entirety.** The water drawn from the basin must go through a treatment process to become potable. Among the pollution sources are agriculture (nitrates from fertilizers) and livestock. **But the most insidious threat to a groundwater basin is the septic tank.**

The biggest "septic cluster" and septic pollution threat in Santa Barbara County exists among the 2,000+ septic systems in the Santa Ynez, Solvang, Los Olivos and Ballard areas. In recent years, these communities have greatly expanded in size, putting a strain on septic systems originally intended to support small populations. Working with the **Santa Ynez Community Services District** since 2001 on converting the Valley from septic to sewer, Heal the Ocean had made some progress getting financial help and engineering plans for the Santa Ynez Valley. Unfortunately, the area has resisted upgrading from septic to sewer, as they are fearful sewer pipes will encourage development.



Map made in 2001 by John Robinson (1938-2011) for Heal the Ocean.

Septic "clusters" in Santa Barbara County. The heaviest use is over the Santa Ynez Valley watershed; the septic systems on the south coast have been identified as polluting surface water and the ocean (Rincon, the tiny point in the bottom right corner, and its neighbors to the west, have since been converted to sewer.)

CLEANUP ORDERS FOR 2019-2020

The following locations are among current orders for remediation:

10/8/2019 – *301 E. Yanonali (101 & Garden St.)/Former Agrichip Facility*; **Groundwater cleanup, disposal of contaminated soil, VOC remediation**

2/18/2020 – *3323 State St/Loreto Plaza/Dutch Maid Dry Cleaners;* **VOC Vapor Intrusion, PCE groundwater pollution**

3/4/2020 – *1015 De La Vina Street/ Carrillo Plaza (Former Norvell-Bass Dry Cleaners);* **Vapor extraction, groundwater cleanup**

4/17/2020 – *201 E. Haley St./Former Ambassador Laundry;* **VOC intrusion**

6/12/2020 – *201 E. Figueroa St./ Former Fenn Dry Cleaners;* **VOC intrusion**

6/17/2020 – *312 & 320 No. Nopal St./ Former Tecknit & Tube Holding;* **Contaminated soil & Groundwater**

7/6/2020 – *424 State St/Pep Boys;* **1, 2, 3 TCP in groundwater**

9/2/2020 - *526 Laguna St./ Printing Impressions;* **Soil & Vapor Intrusion**