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Coalition calls for \$5 million toxic cleanup

By City News Service

An environmental group Friday called for a \$5 million program to treat water wells in a San Jose area threatened by a toxic chemical leak from International Business Machines Corp.

A thin but fast-moving plume of underground water pollution from IBM's plant in south San Jose has escaped from the main area of contamination and is threatening water supplies to the east of the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. IBM officials say they have already spent more than \$20 million cleaning up the 4-year-old chemical leak of TCE and other industrial solvents.

The company does not want the State Regional Water Quality Control Board to require further cleanup of the thin contamination plume that has escaped through an underground geological formation called the Edenvale Gap and which threatens public water supplies.

At a San Jose news conference Friday, the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition demanded that if the northern portion of the leak is not completely cleaned up, IBM should at least provide carbon treatment of the wells in the area.

Toxics Coalition Chairman Ted Smith said some San Jose residents are drinking water from contaminated wells in the area.



Ted Smith ... coalition leader.

\$1 million to \$5 million to provide carbon treatment of contaminated water in the areas north of the Edenvale Gap.

Seven public wells and two private wells serving individual homeowners lie in the northern home-nation zone, and Belliveau called for carbon treatment for those wells.

Carbon treatment for the contaminated wells in the area.