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# Rapid, Real-Time TCE Measurements of Sewer Headspace: Characterizing Spatial and Temporal Variability

entanglement TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

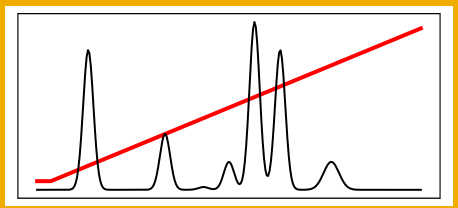
# Outline

- Introduction to the AROMA analyzer
  - Analyzer mode of operation
  - Analyzer Performance
- Introduction to Sewer Pathway
  - Prevalence, magnitude, challenges and risk
- Measurements of spatial and temporal variability
  - Measurements throughout the SF Bay Area over two years.

# The AROMA-TCE/BTEX Trace Vapor Analyzer

# Technology

## Separation Front End



Ramped thermal desorption chemical concentration and separation: Robust, fast, stable, inert, compact.

- ✓ > 10k cycles
- ✓ Insensitive to $O_2$, $H_2O$

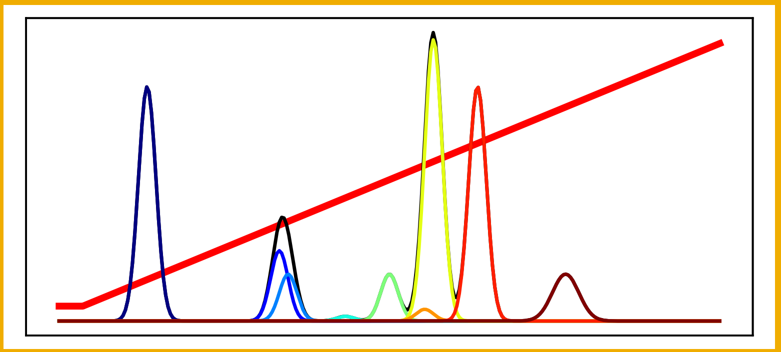
## Embedded Instrument Management

- Proprietary FPGA based laser management
- Real-time data acquisition and management
- High precision analog and digital servo systems
- Internal library and automatic result processing

## Inlet

- ✓ Direct/Air manifold
- ✓ Direct fluid sampling system

## Tunable laser + CRDS Core



Rapid broadband spectroscopy eliminates need for complete separation and allows speciation.

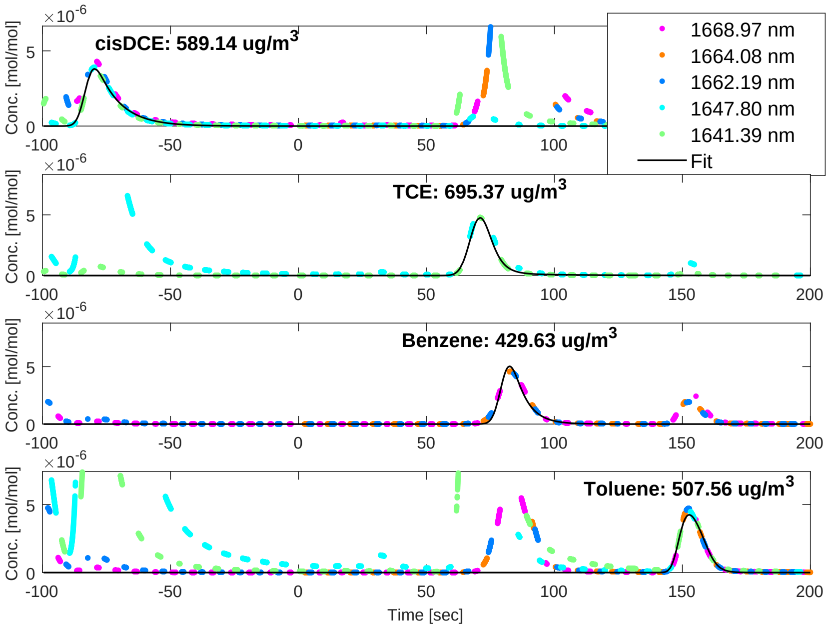
- ✓ > 500 nm/sec tuning over ~100 nm.
- ✓ 50% duty cycle cavity locked CRDS
- ✓ Proprietary electro-optical servos and laser design provide robust performance in harsh vibrational environments
- ✓ MDAL as low as $1.2 \times 10^{-12}$ $cm^{-1}/\sqrt{Hz}$

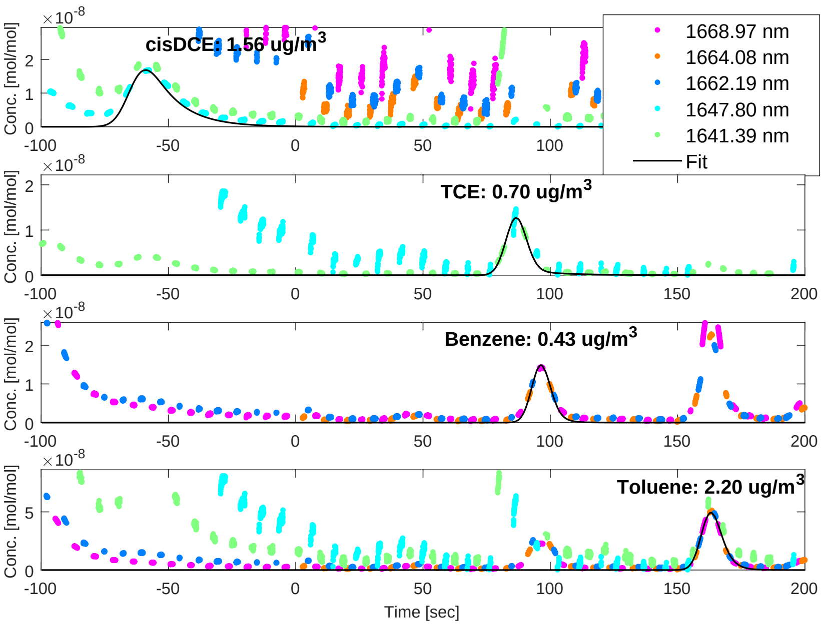
## AROMA Principles

Fast, robust analyte separation is analyzed in a high performance CRDS core to provide speciated, high sensitivity chemical analysis. Direct intake to analyzer core allows for Hz level analysis with species classification

# Multispecies detection with hopping

Fast hopping CRDS and analyte dispersion measurements at two concentrations. Automated fitting results (black) shown.



# Measured Analyzer MDL

| Toxic Vapor Analysis | | | | Dynamic Headspace | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Species** | **MDL [μg/m³]*** | **MDL [pptv]*** | **CA RSL [μg/m³]** | **Liquid MDL [ppb]** | **CA MCL [ppb]** |
| **TCE** | **0.02** | **6** | **0.478** | **0.011** | **5** |
| Benzene | 0.005 | 1.4 | 0.36 | 0.004 | 1 |
| Toluene | 0.01 | 2.6 | 520 | | |
| Ethylbenzene | 0.01 | 4.4 | 1.1 | | |
| Xylene (combined) | 0.04 | 10 | 10 | | |
| Matrices (typical) | Soil Gas, Indoor Air, Outdoor Air, Sewer Headspace | | | | |

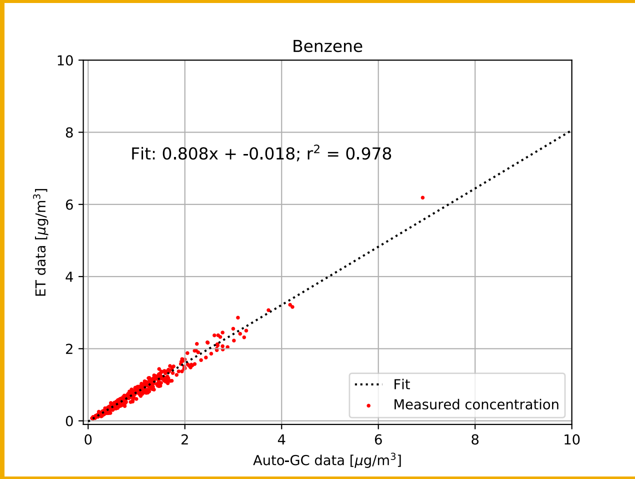
| Oil-Field Tracer Analysis (via direct sampling front end) | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Species** | | **MDL [ppb]*** |
| IPA | | 6 |
| 1-propanol | | 0.7 |
| 1-butanol | | 0.7 |
| 1-pentanol | | 0.4 |
| Fluoro-alcohol 1 | | 1.5 |
| Fluoro-alcohol 2 | | 1.9 |
| Matrices | | Oil-field Produced Brine |

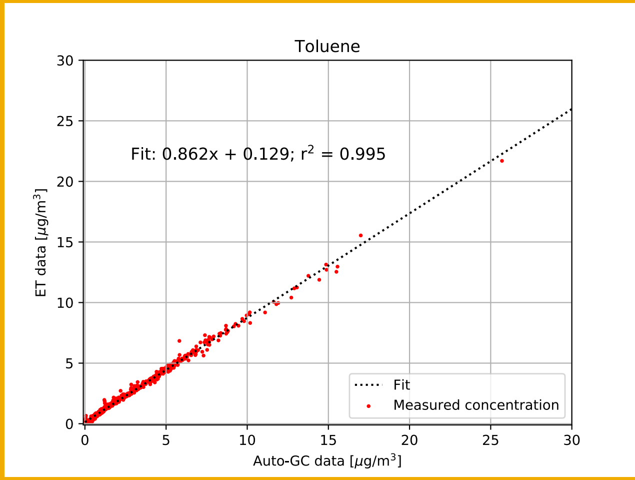
*MDL is 3-sigma, > 7x repeat, @ ~5x MDL delivered as per EPA 301.  MDLs recorded simultaneously for all species in grouping.

# Performance Validation: BAAQMD, ESTCP, EPA

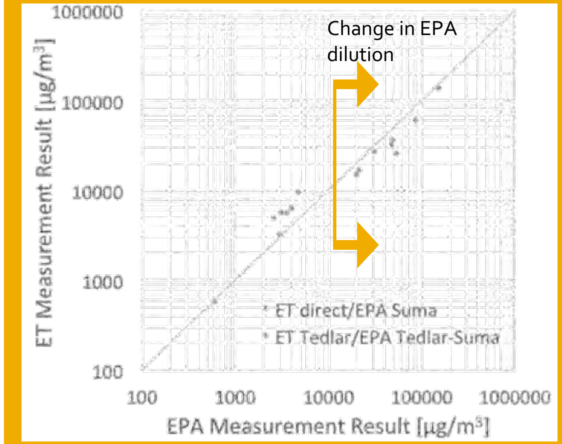
## BAAQMD

Month-long, 24/7, unattended, side-by-side with dual column auto-GC



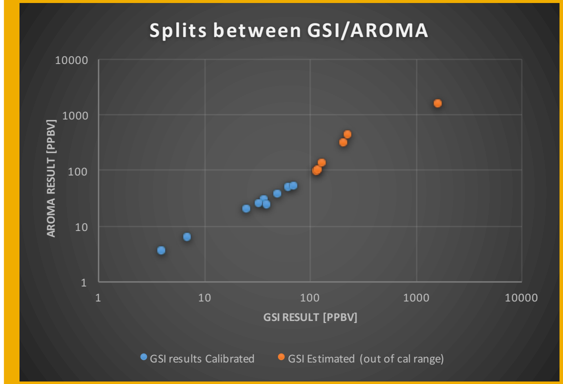




## USEPA




- Side-by-side measurements with gold standard (SUMMA canister + GC/MS by TO-15) measurements performed by EPA lab (region 9).
- The dynamic range was so large that EPA used ET results to select dilution for analysis to prevent contamination of their instrument.

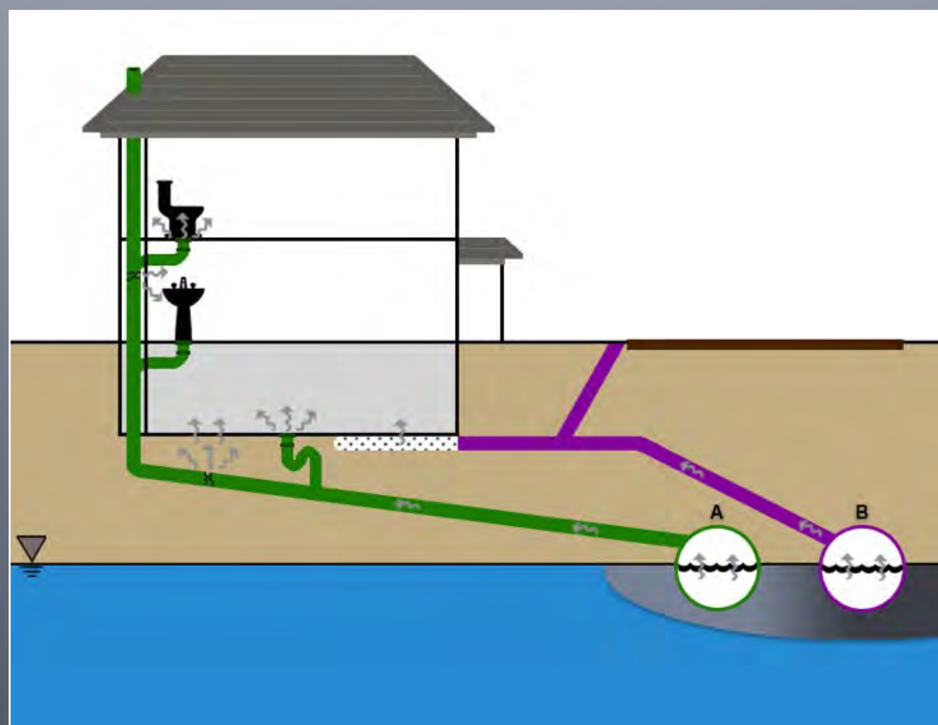
## ESTCP




- Tedlar-based co-sampling of sanitary sewer headspace vs GC/MS
- Included in ESTCP sanitary sewer methodology study.

# Introduction to Sewer Pathway

Variability complicates the picture

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# Key Features of the Sewer Pathway

- cVOCs **frequently** migrate into sewer systems, particularly when sewers and groundwater intersect.
- cVOCs in the sewer **often** lead to unacceptable indoor air concentrations (~10%)
- Initial studies show attenuation factors of 0.02 (50x) have been found at multiple sites
- cVOCs in sewer systems pose a threat **that is comparable to direct soil-vapor driven VI**

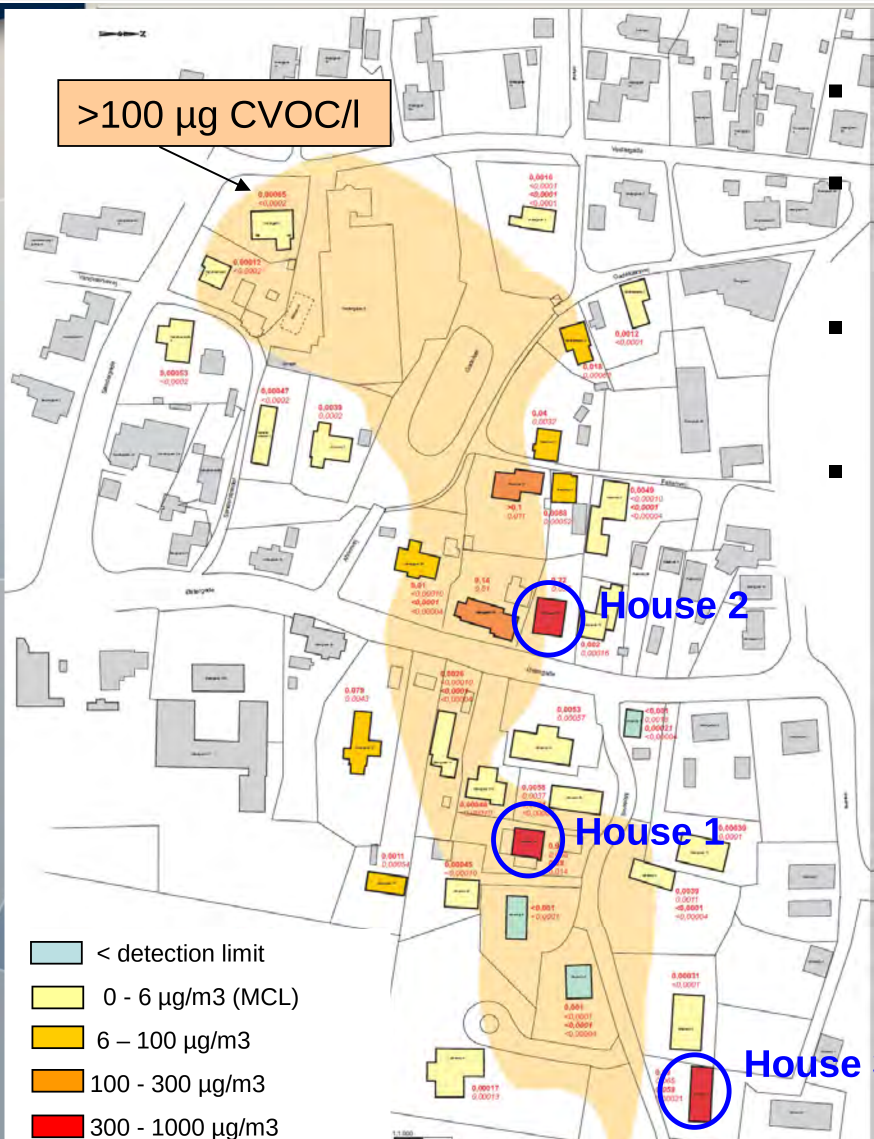
**cVOC concentrations in the sewer can be highly variable on multiple timescales**

# Prevalence of Sewer Contamination

Multiple studies across the US and internationally have identified cVOCs in sewer systems that intersect groundwater plumes, NAPL, or are in the vadose zone of groundwater contamination

- Elevated TCE/PCE concentrations have been found at a majority of sites.
- Most tested Sites have sewer @ or near water table.
  - Indiana Site has sewer in vadose zone
- ESTCP Study (Tom McHugh/ Lila Beckley @ GSI)
  - Five sites evaluated for TCE/PCE in sewer (ASU house, Indiana EPA house, Moffett, Houston Dry cleaners, Austin Dry cleaners)
  - In all areas concentrations of > 10x screening were found in >40% of man holes
- Kelly Pennell, ET and EPA
  - Extensive characterization of CA superfund site
- ET Study
  - 6 Bay area sites evaluated
    - TCE detected at 5 of 6 sites
    - TCE > 10x screening at 4 of 6 sites

# VI Off Plume

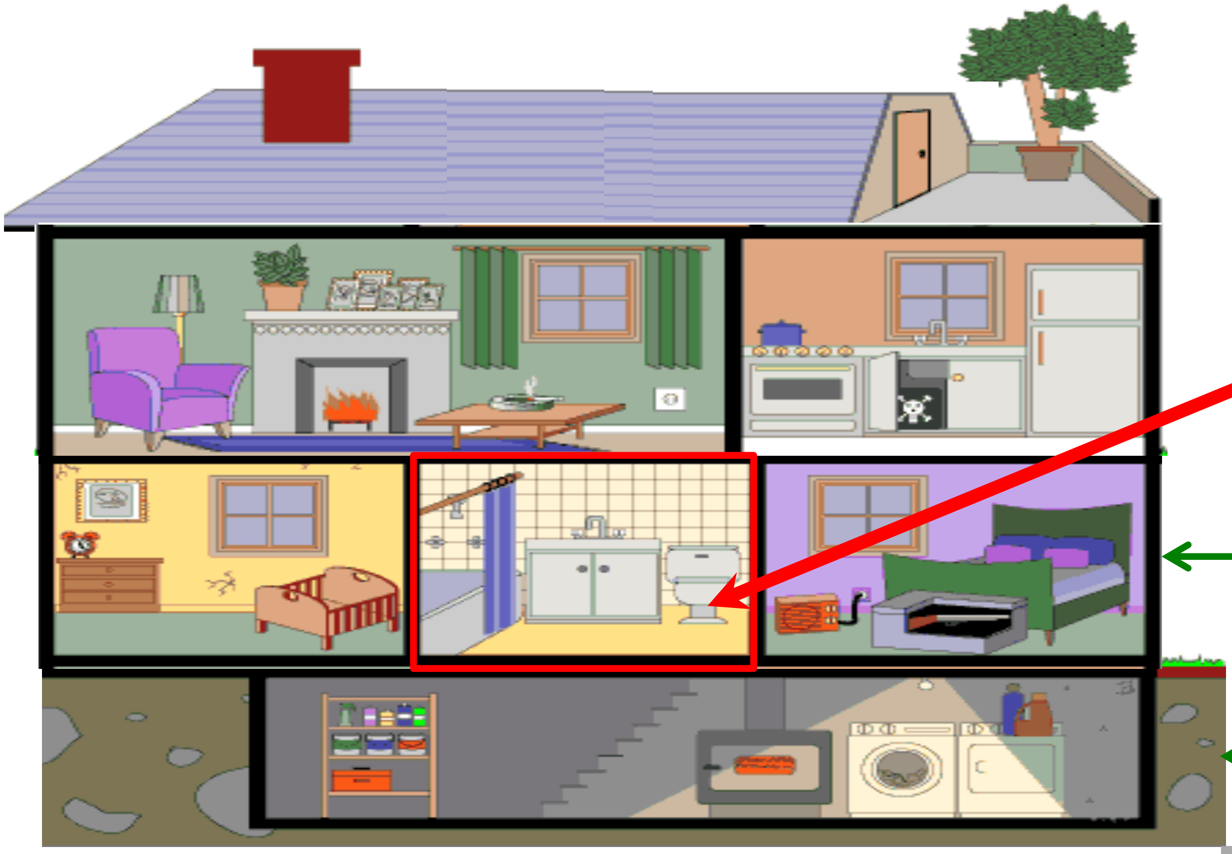



- Measurements in 32 houses
- Semi-annual monitoring in 15 houses
- PCE and degradation products detected in indoor air
- No clear correlation between plume extent and locations of houses with vapor intrusion problems

Results from investigations in 3 houses with significant VI problems

Riis et al., 2010, Vapor Intrusion through Sewer Systems: Migration Pathways of Chlorinated Solvents from Groundwater to Indoor Air, Battelle Conference.

# Sewer Gas Confirmed as Source



Measured Indoor Air Concentrations for Tetrachloroethene (PCE)

**Toilet Connection 190 ug/m3**

First floor with Bathroom closed off $0.64\ ug/m^3$

Basement $0.36\ ug/m^3$

**$10^{-6}$ Cancer Risk = $11\ ug/m^3$**
**Non-Cancer Risk=$42\ ug/m^3$**

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Pennell, K.G., Scammell, M.K., McClean, M.D., Ames, J., Weldon, B., Friguglietti, L., Suuberg, E.M., Shen, R., Indeglia, P.A., Heiger-Bernays, W.J., 2013. Sewer gas: an indoor air source of PCE to consider during vapor intrusion investigations. *Ground Water Monit. Rem.*:119–126

# Do VOCs Move From Sewers Into Buildings?

**YES** - detected tracer in all buildings tested

## Range of Sewer to Building Attenuation?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **ASU House:** | Land Drain System<br>**20x – 40x** | Sanitary Sewer System<br>**60x – 80x** |
| **Indy Duplex:** | Upstream Manhole<br>**160x - >1000x** | Downstream Manhole<br>**50x – 100x** |
| **Moffett:** | Sanitary Manhole<br>**1300x - >2500x** | Telephone Manhole<br>**45x – 50x** |

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**Preliminary Results from ESTCP Project ER-201505**

# Do VOCs Move From Sewers Into Buildings?

**YES** - detected tracer in all buildings tested

**Range of Sewer to Building Attenuation?**

| | Land Drain System | Sanitary Sewer System |
|---|---|---|
| ASU House: | 20x – 40x | 60x – 80x |
| Moffett: | 1300x - >2500x | 45x – 50x |

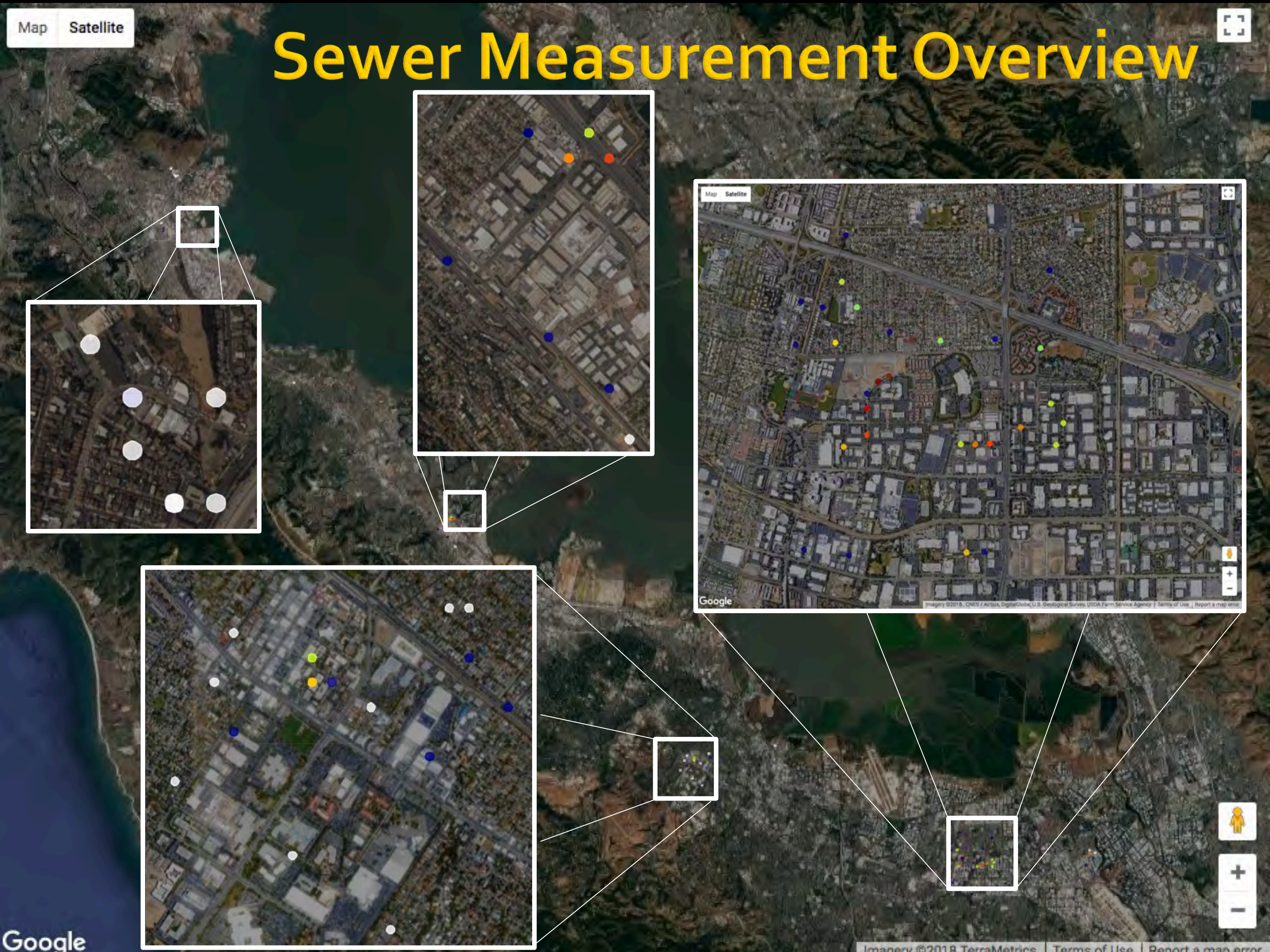
**cVOCs in sewer systems pose a threat that is comparable to direct soil-vapor driven VI**

Preliminary Results from ESTCP Project ER-201505

# Temporal and Spatial Analysis of Sewer Head Space TCE concentartion in the SF Bay Area

Variability complicates the picture

# Sewer Measurement Overview



# Sewer Sampling Methodology

- Direct Sampling to instrument
  - Sampled within one foot from bottom of manhole (as per McHugh *et. al.*)
- Syringe extraction with immediate analysis
  - Measurements performed ~6" below manhole cover vent
- Some manholes became inaccessible during the course of the study
- Daily QA/QC performed

# CA Site #1

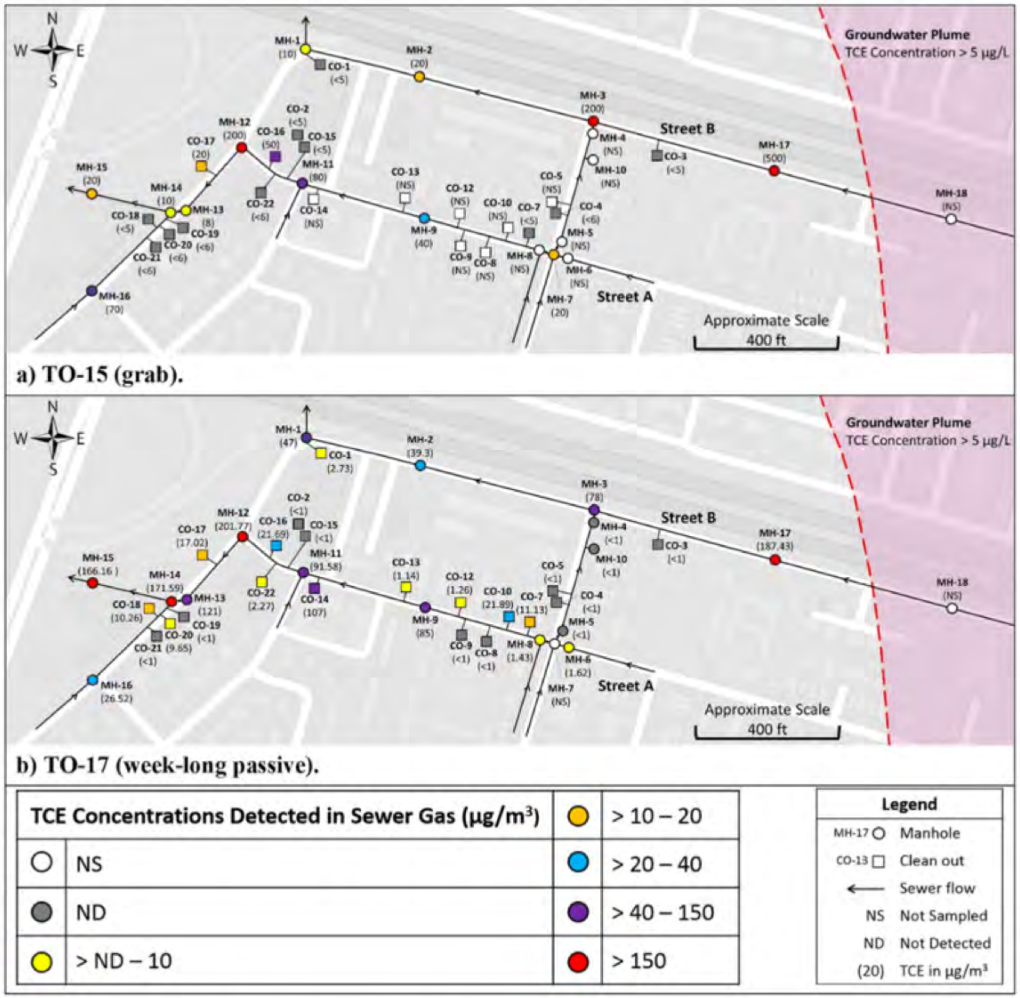
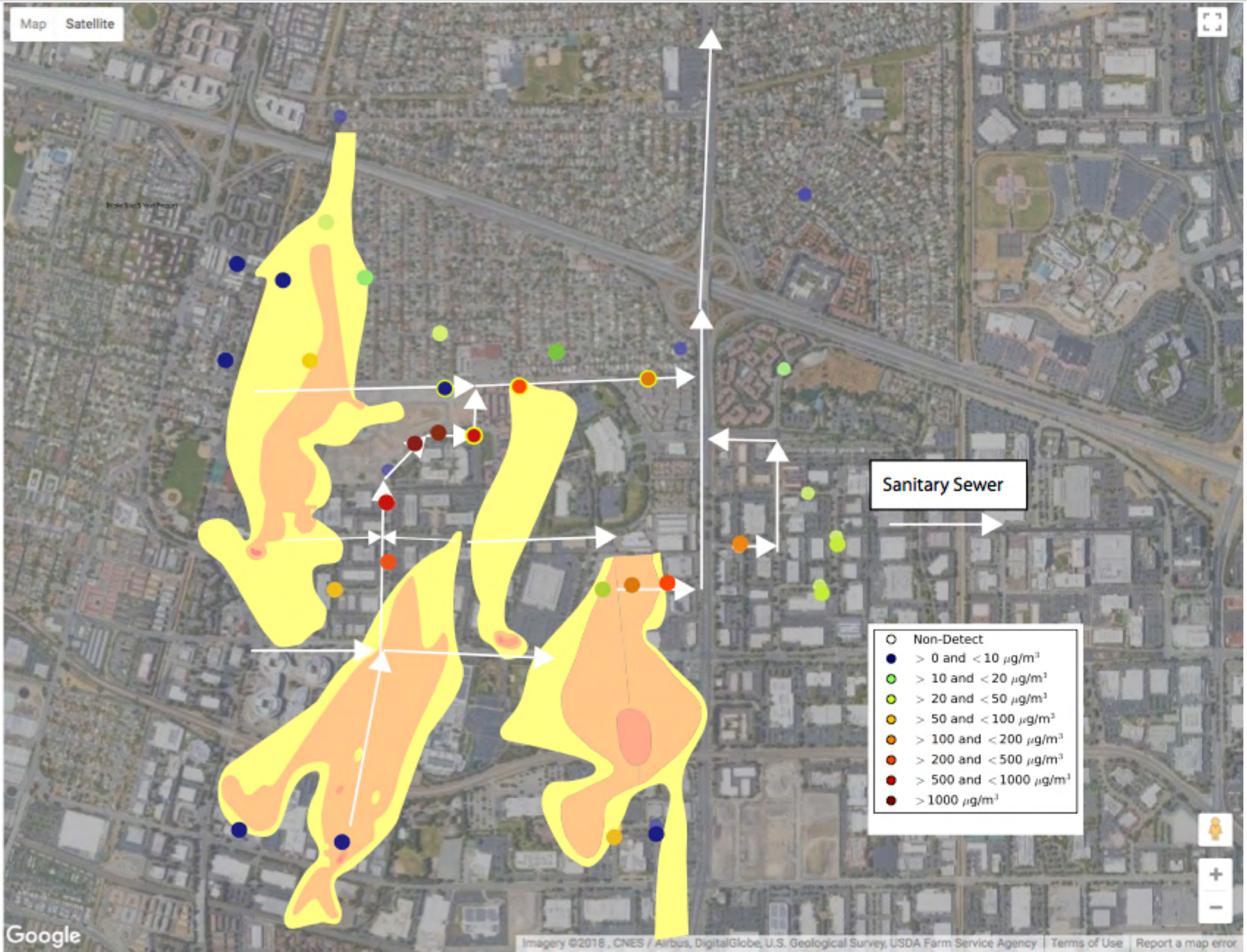



**Fig. 5.** Sewer gas TCE concentrations measured in 2015.
Note: Sewer lateral locations were approximated. The connection for CO-2 could not be confirmed. Sewer flow directions were estimated. Not all manholes and cleanouts are included.

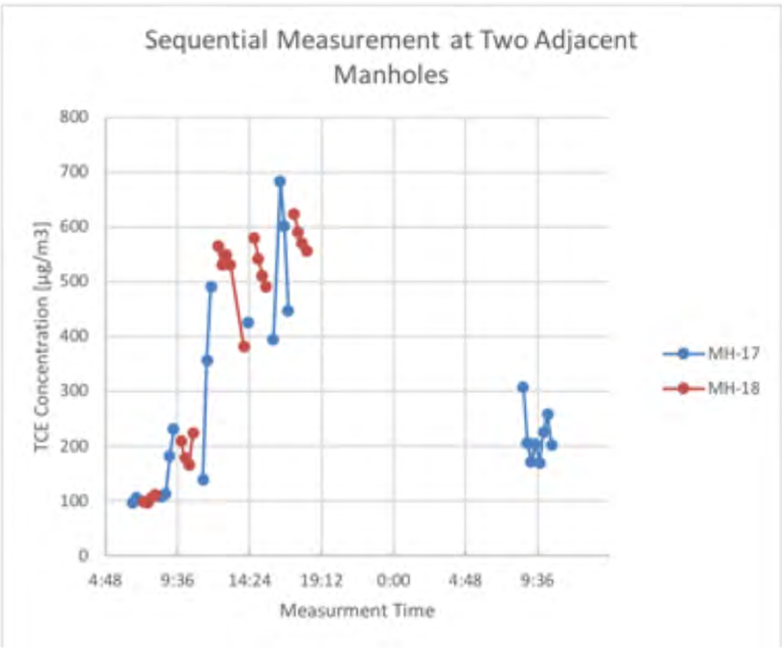
M Roghani, *et. al.* Science of The Total Environment 616-617 (2018) 1149

# CA Site #2

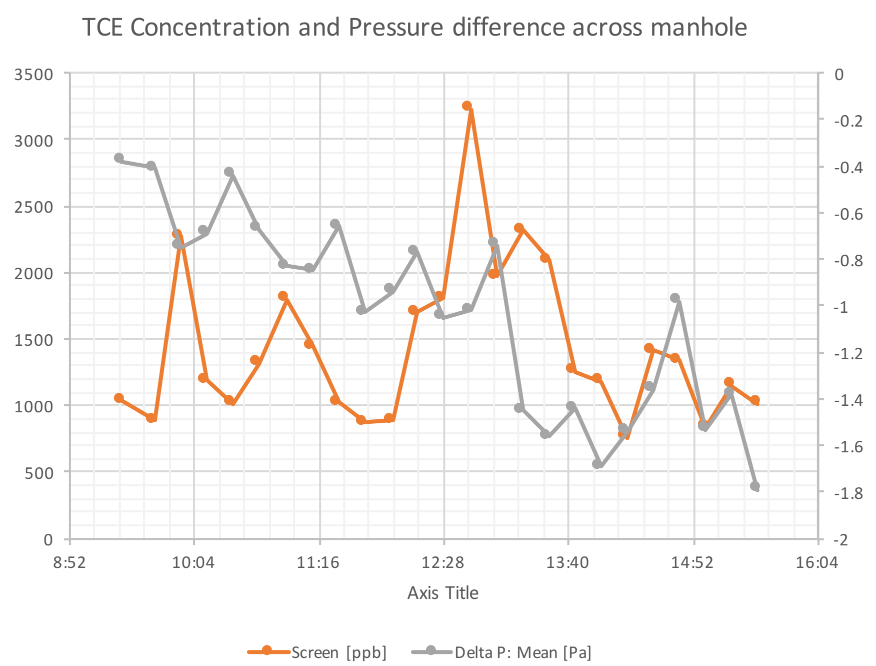


Map
Satellite
Sanitary Sewer
Non-Detect
> 0 and < 10 μg/m³
> 10 and < 20 μg/m³
> 20 and < 50 μg/m³
> 50 and < 100 μg/m³
> 100 and < 200 μg/m³
> 200 and < 500 μg/m³
> 500 and < 1000 μg/m³
> 1000 μg/m³
Google
Imagery ©2018 , CNES / Airbus, DigitalGlobe, U.S. Geological Survey, USDA Farm Service Agency
Terms of Use
Report a map error

# Short Term Temporal Variability

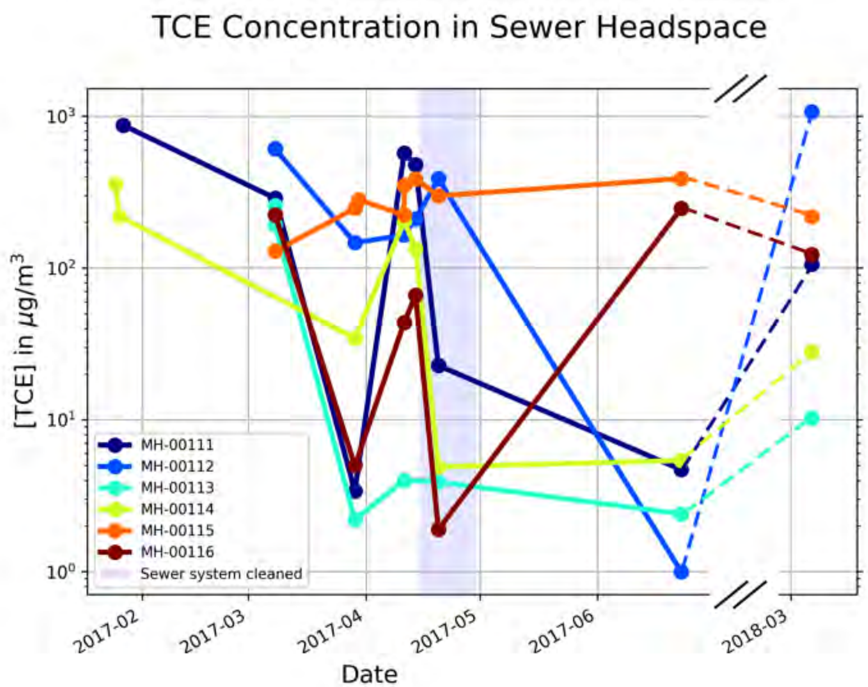



CA Site #1



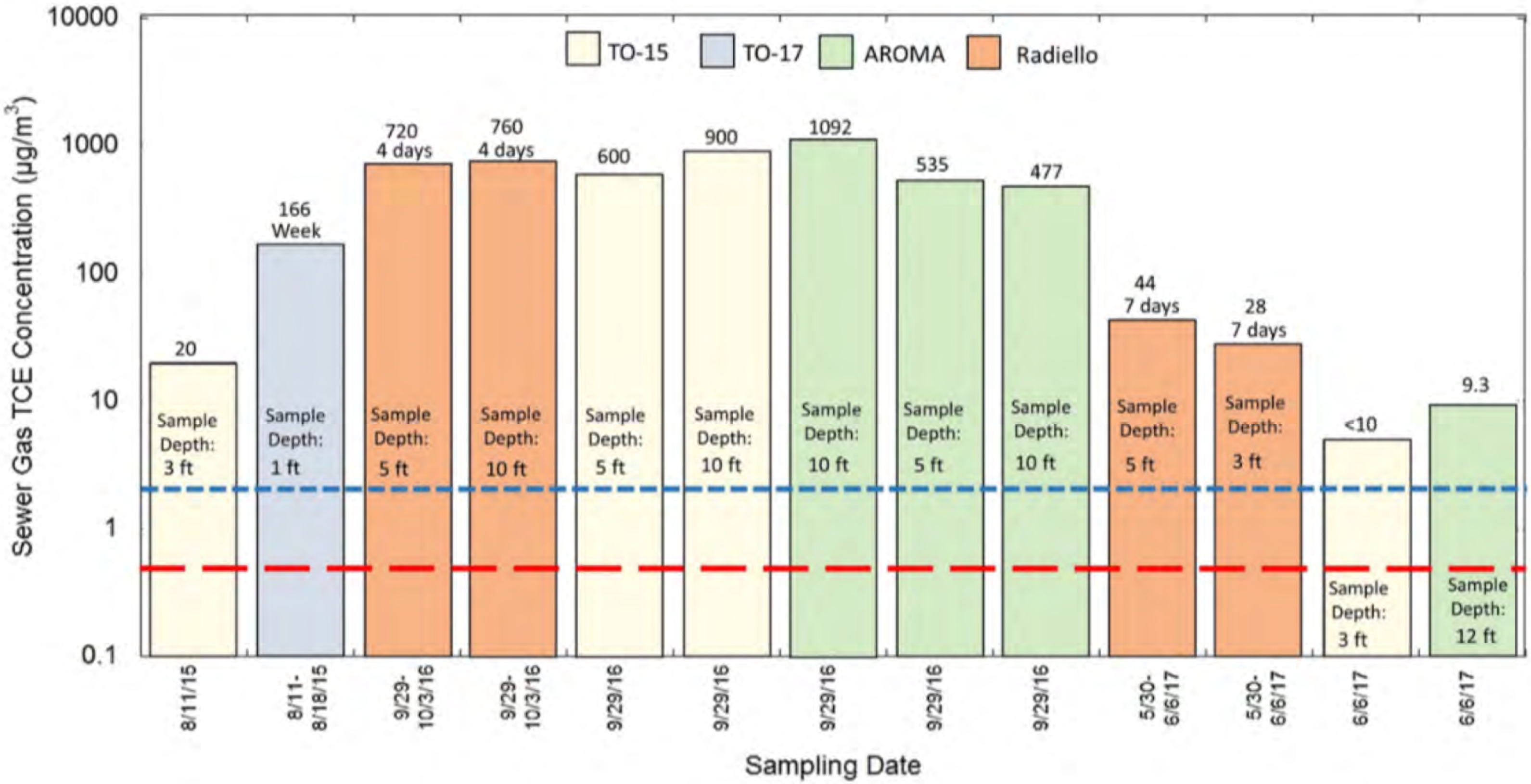

Moffett Field

# One Year Variability (CA Site #2)

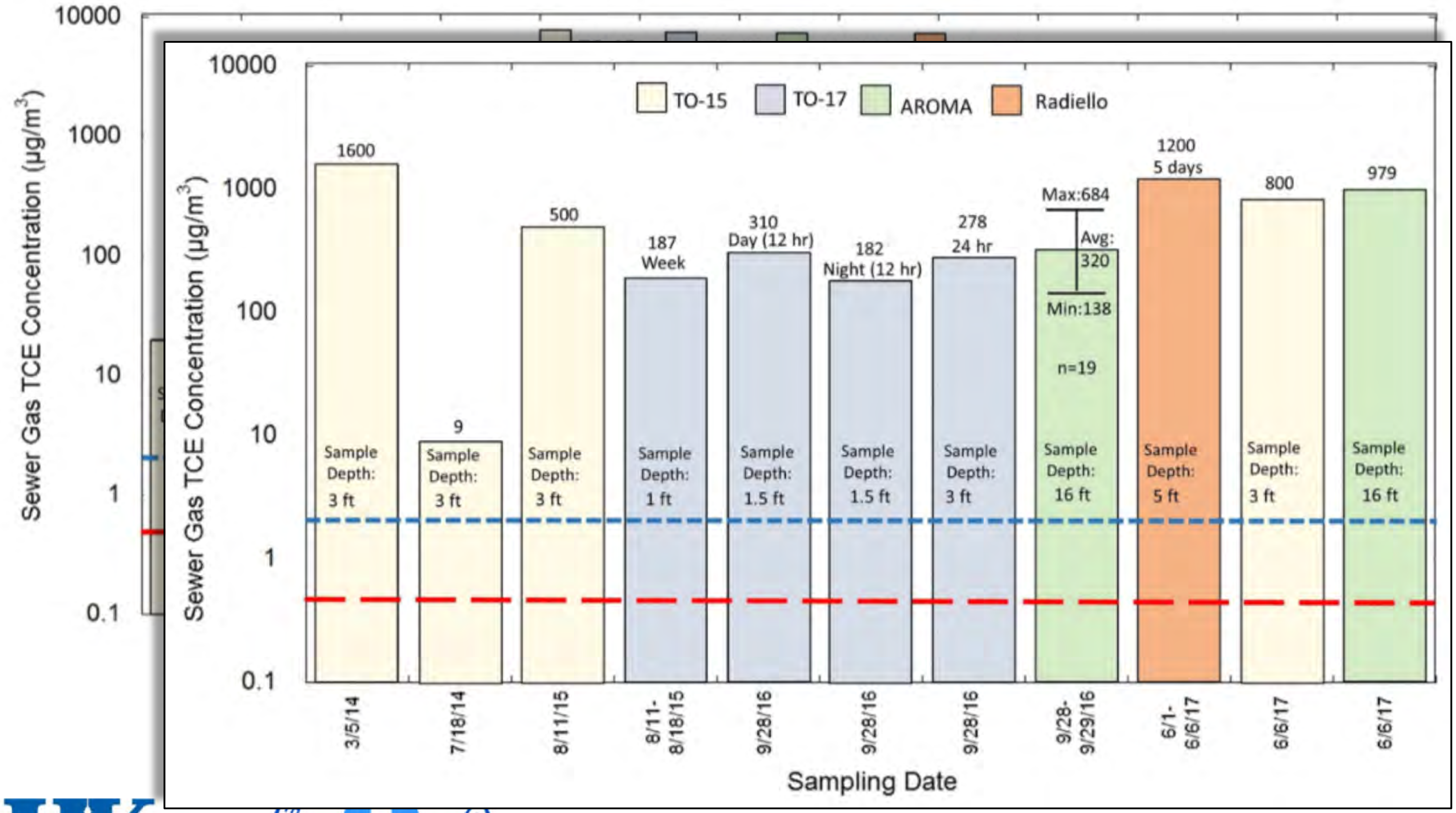


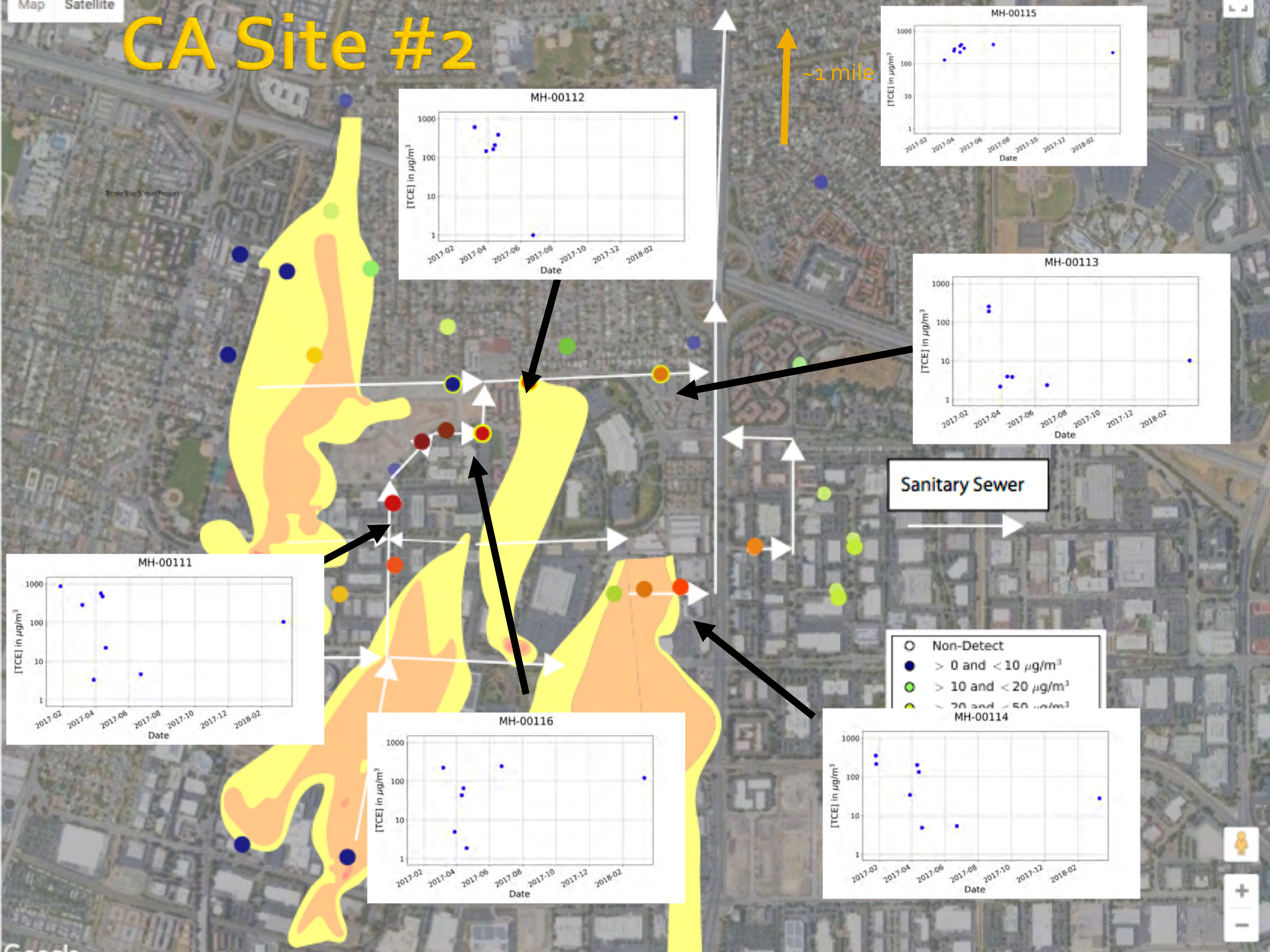

- 1000x variability in week-time scales
- Moderate correlation between sewer headspace concentrations
- Impact of sewer maintenance observed
- No source attribution
- Individual sites fluctuated from well above to well below TCE screening criteria

# Multi-year Variability (CA #1)



# Multi-year Variability (CA #1)

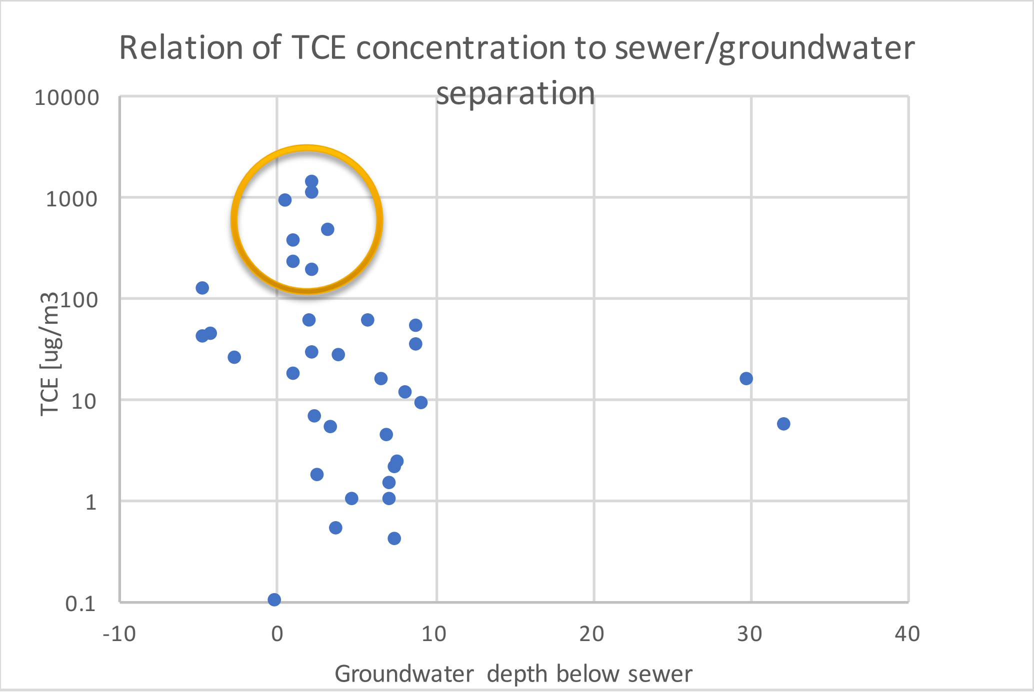




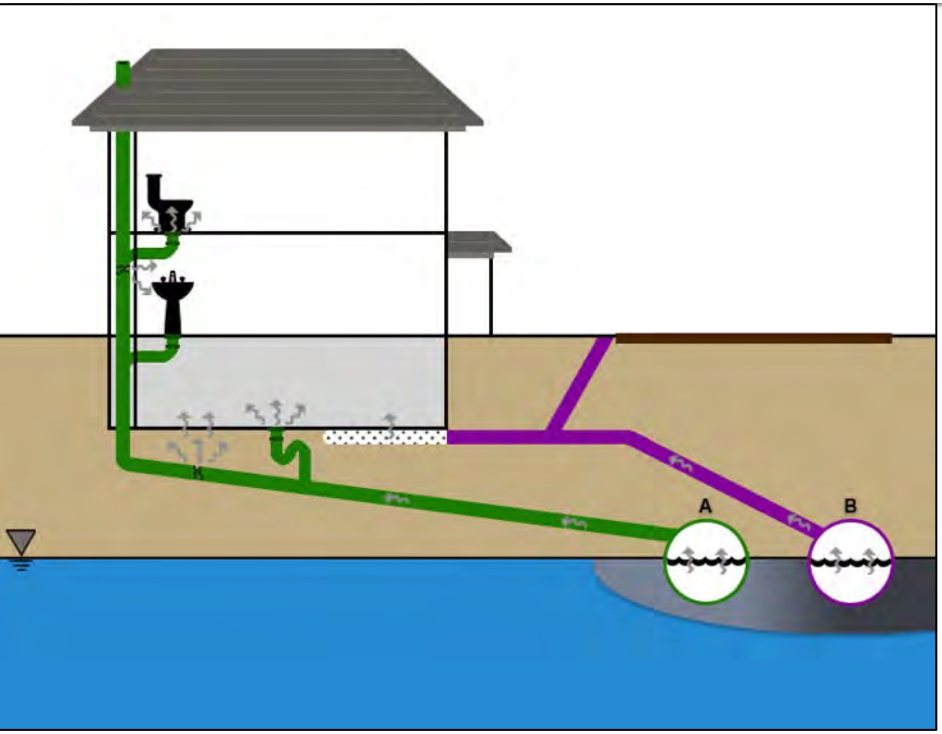
Map
Satellite
CA Site #2
~1 mile
MH-00115
MH-00112
MH-00113
MH-00111
MH-00116
MH-00114
[TCE] in μg/m³
Date
Sanitary Sewer
Non-Detect
> 0 and < 10 μg/m³
> 10 and < 20 μg/m³

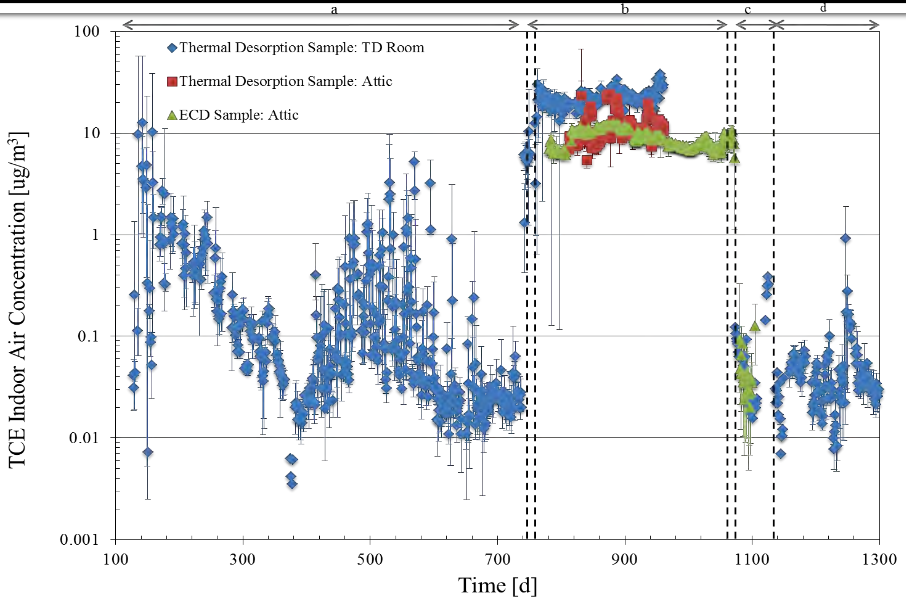
# Relationship of TCE concentration to groundwater/sewer separation

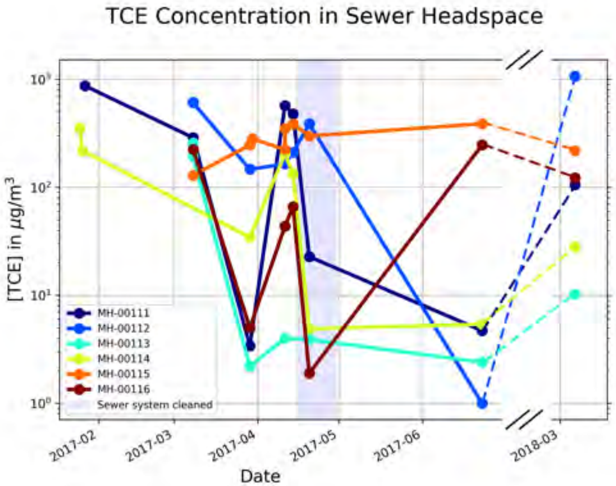
- Highest TCE concentrations observed when first groundwater and sewer are at same depth
- Groundwater depth extracted from monitoring well data
- Only a limited subset of all data has sewer depth and groundwater



# Screening with Source and Pathway Variability




Yuanming Guo, *PhD Thesis*

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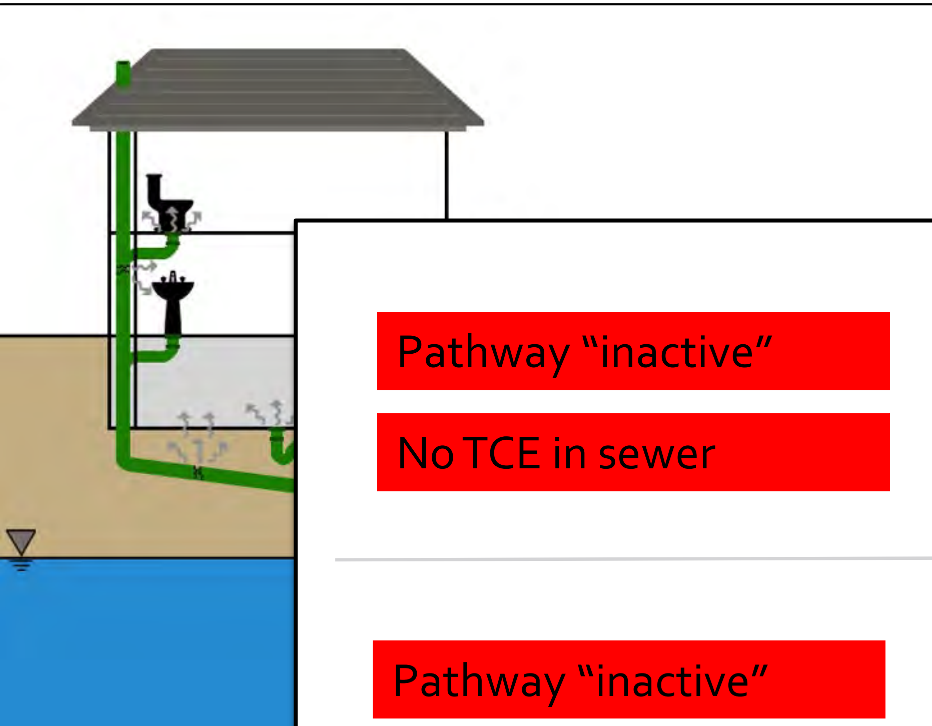
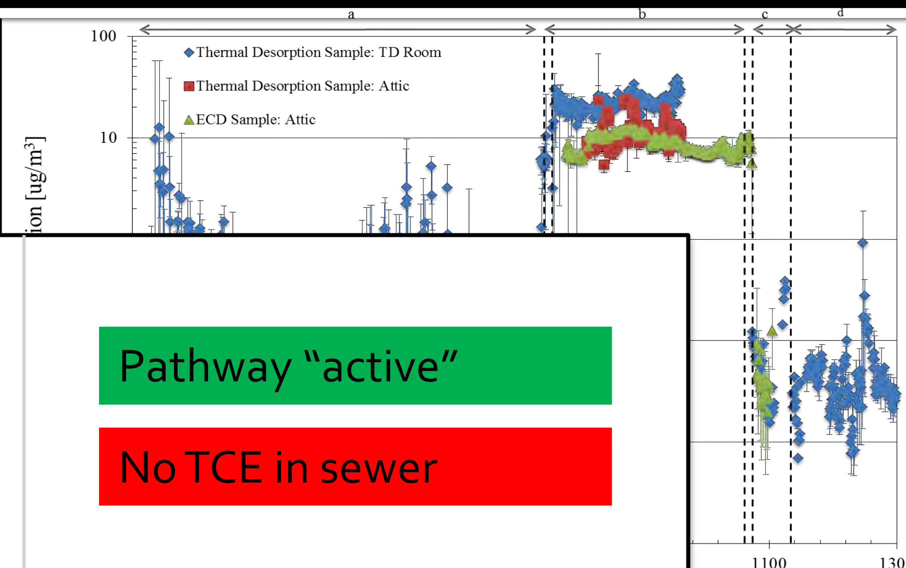
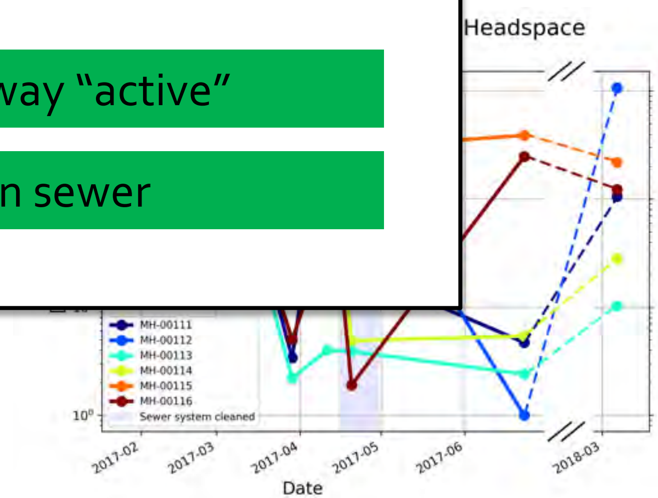
# Screening with Source and Pathway Variability






| | |
|---|---|
| Pathway "inactive"<br>No TCE in sewer | Pathway "active"<br>No TCE in sewer |
| Pathway "inactive"<br>TCE in sewer | Pathway "active"<br>TCE in sewer |

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# Early Conclusions

- Significant cVOC concentration in sanitary sewers is *common*
- Elevated cVOC concentrations frequently extend well beyond plume boundaries
- Temporal and spatial variability observed in sewer gas over various scales
- More studies needed to understand sewer concentrations variability and transport to indoor air
- Understanding all variables at play is critical when designing VI mitigation strategies

# ET science and engineering team

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**Not Pictured:** Mike Armen, Ari Kushner

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