



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

M60050.000372  
MCAS EL TORO  
SSIC # 5090.3

July 7, 1999

Base Realignment and Closure  
Attn: Mr. Joseph Joyce  
P.O. Box 51718  
Irvine, CA 92619-1718

Re: EPA Concurrence on Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) Extension Request, MCAS El Toro

Dear Mr. Joyce:

EPA has received your FFA extension request dated 6/29/99, for submitting the draft Proposed Plan (PP) and draft Record of Decision (ROD) for Operable Unit (OU) -1 (Site 18) and OU-2A (Site 24) for MCAS El Toro. You are requesting 7 additional months to submit the PP and 14 additional months to submit the draft ROD. We have also received on 7/07/99, via FAX, an addendum to your extension request letter clarifying some of the points in your letter.

The reason for the extension as stated in your 6/29/99 letter is that the Orange County Water District and the Irvine Ranch Water District (the Water Districts) are considering significant changes in the design and purposes of the Irvine Desalter Project (IDP). Additional time is therefore necessary for the Water Districts to perform more ground water modelling, identify new ARARs, resolve potential conflicts of interest, complete new alternative cost estimates, prepare a Feasibility Study (FS) addendum and resume discussions with the Water Districts on settlement issues.

Your letter has Department of the Navy (DON) and Department of Justice (DOJ) discussions with the Water Districts resuming on 11/5/99. EPA finds this to be unacceptable and feels these discussions should resume much sooner.

We are now happy to see that your addendum commits DON to resuming discussions with the Water Districts on potential impacts to the Settlement Agreement on a much sooner time frame and commits DON to keeping the FFA signatories fully informed through meetings and conference calls. EPA hereby approves your extension request.

Please note that we will be monitoring the progress of the negotiations very closely. If EPA and the State FFA regulatory agencies determine that the negotiations are not moving forward in an timely manner, or if it is determined that the negotiations will not succeed, then we will request that DON submit a schedule for proposing an alternative remedy within two weeks of EPA's written determination.

We hope these issues can be resolved in a reasonable time frame and we are ready to meet with the negotiating parties as often as necessary to expedite resolution. Please contact Tom Huetteman at (415) 744-2384 or Thelma Estrada at (415) 744-1386 to set up any conference calls this month and to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Glenn R. Kistner  
Remedial Project Manager  
Federal Facilities Branch

cc: Patricia Hannon, RWQCB  
Gregory Hurley, RAB Co-Chair  
Tayseer Mahmoud, DTSC  
Polin Modanlou, LRA  
Andy Piszkin, SWDIV