

M60050.001153

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 8300  
FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 92728-8300

M60050.001153  
MCAS EL TORO  
SSIC # 5090.3

714-963-5661

November 14, 1985

Mr. James R. Bennett  
California Regional Water Quality  
Control Board - Santa Ana Region  
6809 Indiana Avenue  
Suite 200  
Riverside, CA 92506

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Trichloroethylene/Tetrachloroethylene in the  
Groundwater Basin in the Irvine Area

As reported to you on July 25, 1985, concentrations of TCE above the State's action limit have been found in irrigation wells in the Irvine area. Attached is a summary of the results of two wells which show TCE above the drinking water action limit and a third well which indicates small traces. Also enclosed is a report by William R. Mills & Associates on the results obtained from soil vapor tubes installed in the area. The report concludes that the TCE contamination could not be defined by use of the soil vapor analysis but concentrations of PCE were found in several areas.

The relationship between TCE and PCE is unclear and may be two semi-separate problems; however, it is staff's belief that when the concentrations of TCE found in the groundwater are compared with the soil vapor analysis showing PCE there is strong evidence that the contaminants originated from the El Toro Air Station. It is noted that discharges from the station still occur to unlined channels in the forebay area of the basin.

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It is staff's recommendation that observation/extraction wells be immediately constructed at least at Bee and Agua Chinon Washes, as shown on Figure 9 of the report. It is also staff's belief that the responsibility for further investigation and cleanup of the contaminated groundwater is the responsibility of the El Toro Air Station. If you have any questions on this matter we would be more than happy to meet with you to discuss this issue.

Very truly yours,

Nereus L. Richardson  
Assistant Manager and  
District Engineer

NLR:lre

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Ron Young, Irvine Ranch Water District  
Mr. Sat Tamaribuchi, The Irvine Company  
Mr. Fred Keller, The Irvine Company  
Mr. Frank Hamamura, California Dept. of Health Services  
Mr. Michael Wehner, Orange County Health Care Agency  
Capt. J. B. Leap, CEC, USN  
Mr. Tom McFadden, Los Aliso Water District  
Mr. Carlson, El Toro Water District  
Mr. Robert Ledendecker, City of Tustin  
Mr. Samuel Johnson, City of Santa Ana  
Mr. Karl Kemp, Mesa Consolidated Water District  
Mr. Joe Devlin, City of Newport Beach