



Department of Toxic Substances Control



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February 11, 2003

Mr. F. Andrew Piszkin
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RESPONSE TO DTSC COMMENTS FOR THE ADDENDUM TO THE SUMMARY REPORT, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH ANOMALY AREA 5, FORMER MARINE CORPS AIR STATION (MCAS) EL TORO

Dear Mr. Piszkin:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the subject response to comments dated November 27, 2002. The responses were provided for comments forwarded by DTSC in a letter dated May 29, 2002 regarding the *Addendum to Summary Report, Aerial Photograph Anomaly Area 5, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California*, dated May 9, 2001 (Addendum). This Addendum supplements the *Summary Report, Aerial Photograph Anomaly Area 5, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California*, dated November 1, 2000 (Summary Report).

The Summary Report and Addendum included an evaluation of historical records, results of visual inspections, and the results of field sampling activities. Anomaly Area 5 consists of five aerial photograph anomalies identified as APHO 31, APHO 43, APHO 66, APHO 67 and APHO 68. APHO 31 (also referenced as Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) 215) was identified on a 1971 aerial photograph as disturbed ground about 250 by 350 feet in area, dark-toned mounded material, and a probable trench located approximately 1,600 feet west of West Marine and Magazine Roads. APHO 43 (also referenced as SAIC 287) was identified on a 1974 aerial photograph as an excavation about 1,600 feet west of the intersection of Perimeter and Magazine Roads. APHO 66 (also referenced as SAIC 161) was identified on a 1967 photograph as disturbed ground and probable backfilled trenches noted in the western

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corner of Perimeter and Magazine Roads, and approximately 1,400 feet west of the intersection. APHO 67 (also referenced as SAIC 314) was identified on a 1975 aerial photograph as disturbed ground approximately 1,000 feet northeast of Building 673, near North/East Marine and North 3rd Street. APHO 68 (also referenced as SAIC 542) was identified on a 1988 aerial photograph as a light-colored pad constructed west of Perimeter and Magazine Roads.

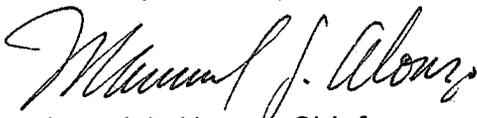
Field activities include a geophysical survey, verification soil sampling and a land survey. Sampling activities were conducted in accordance with the sampling strategy for Aerial Photograph Anomaly Areas 4 and 5 proposed by the Department of the Navy in a letter dated June 7, 1999. DTSC submitted comments on the strategy in a letter dated June 22, 1999. In response, DTSC's comments were addressed in a supplemental strategy forwarded in a letter dated November 8, 1999.

During the geophysical survey, two anomalies were tentatively identified as unknown large buried metallic objects beneath the concrete pad. However, coring above the anomaly locations showed that the anomaly was likely to be a result of interference from road base material and an underlying native clay layer.

Additionally, a total of 18 soil samples were collected from eight borings at depths ranging from two to ten feet below ground surface (bgs). Samples were analyzed for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), metals, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (including methyl tertiary butyl ether). TPH and VOCs were not detected. Thallium was detected in two samples, at a maximum concentration of 1.41 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), slightly above the background concentration of 0.42 mg/kg. However, the detected concentrations were below the residential soil United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IX, Preliminary Remediation Goal of 5.5 mg/kg (EPA, 1999).

As a result, DTSC concurs with the recommendation for no further action for Anomaly Area 5. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Triss Chesney, Remedial Project Manager, at (714) 484-5395.

Sincerely,



Manuel J. Alonzo, Chief
Base Closure/Reuse Unit
Southern California Branch
Office of Military Facilities

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CONFIDENTIAL AND ARE NOT FOR PUBLIC VIEWING

PRIVATE CITIZENS' HOME ADDRESSES HAVE BEEN
REDACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRIVACY ACT

QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO:

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MCAS El Toro

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Sites: APHO 31, APHO 43, APHO 66, APHO 67, APHO 68 (Known as Anomaly Area 5)

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Apho Sites are located near IRP Site 5.