



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

January 7, 2003

BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Base Realignment and Closure, Environmental Division
Attn: Mr. Andy Piszkin
P.O. Box 51718
Irvine, CA 92619-1718

RE: Draft Status Update, Environmental Fact Sheet, MCAS El Toro, dated December, 2002

Dear Mr. Piszkin:

EPA has reviewed the draft fact sheet for El Toro, as referenced above. The following are our comments:

General Comment:

If the goal of the fact sheet is for the public to become interested in the base cleanup activities and to fill out the survey, the use of the passive voice as well as the frequent use of CERCLA terminology may not achieve this end. Because this is a fact sheet, and is not linked to a specific CERCLA action, the Navy should consider writing it in more reader-friendly language without using so much terminology (ie, BCT instead of just team). Another way to do this, is to write in the first person, rather the passive.(ie, "the Navy completed the RI" rather than "the RI was completed").

1. Pg. 1: We understand that the intent of the fact sheet is to focus primarily on the IRP sites, however, LOCs are mentioned on the first page. It is stated that the LOCs are handled under a parallel program. Please provide a little more elaboration on why these LOCs are handled differently as well as whether they ever move into the IRP program.
2. A list of definitions should be provided (ie, for terms such as aquifer, VOCs, etc.).
3. Pg 2, second column, first paragraph: Please note whether the plume at Site 18 is threatening current water supplies.
4. Community Survey: The words community and communication are used too frequently.

If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 972-3012.

received
1/14/03

Sincerely,



Nicole G. Moutoux
Project Manager
Federal Facilities Cleanup Branch

cc: Kyle Olwenik, SWDIV
Triss Chesney, DTSC
John Broderick, RWQCB
Marcia Rudolph, RAB Subcommittee Chair
Jerry Werner, RAV Co-Chair