

## DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

Region 4  
245 West Broadway, Suite 425  
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MCAS EL TORO  
SSIC NO. 5090.3.A

September 15, 1995

Mr. Joseph Joyce  
BEC  
Marine Corps Air Station-El Toro  
P. O. Box 95001  
Santa Ana, California 92709

Dear Mr. Joyce:

PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON THE EL TORO MARINE CORPS AIR STATION REVISED  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has completed the review of the pre Draft Revised Community Relations Plan. The comments are attached.

We look forward to working with you on this project. I may be reached at (310) 590 4919.

Sincerely,

Juan Manuel Jimenez

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Bonnie Arthur  
U. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region IX  
Hazardous Waste Management Division, H-9-2  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California 94105-3901

Mr. Larry Vitale  
Remedial Project Manager  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Santa Ana Region  
2010 Iowa Avenue, Suite 100  
Riverside, California 92507-2409

Mr. Vish Parpiani  
Environmental and Safety  
Marine Corps Air Station-El Toro  
P.o. Box 95001  
Santa Ana, California 92709

## DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

Region 4  
245 West Broadway, Suite 425  
Fresno, CA 90802-4444



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Juan Jimenez  
Project Manager

FROM: Marsha Mingay  
Public Participation Specialist

DATE: 14 September 1995

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON EL TORO'S REVISED COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

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Pursuant to our telephone conversation of 12 September 1995 with Joseph Joyce, I am forwarding you my comments on El Toro's Revised Community Relations Plan. As was discussed, these comments only reflect the major areas needing careful review prior to the draft CRP's being circulated for a 30 day comment period. Following our One Voice Policy, please forward these comments to Joseph.

**GENERAL COMMENT**

Reviewing my notes from the interviews, there is a wide range of opinions regarding the Navy's credibility in completing the environmental clean up. While most indicate a high degree of credibility in the Navy/Marine Corp; others have little faith. Stated reasons for the low credibility were mostly related to skepticism in Congress allocating the required money. However, a little less than one quarter of the interviewees stated that their low confidence in the military stems from the military's historic lack of openness and a belief that they are currently not interested in cleaning up the environment.

While the document mentions that a range of opinions exist, it tends to reiterate a theme regarding the community's sense of trust (see page ES-1, 1-6, 2-3 (Section 2.2.1.3 omitted info. regarding community members having a low credibility in Navy/Marine Corp), and 2-5). To counterbalance this theme with those interviewees who expressed a different view, I suggest that more information about the lack of confidence be added.



**GENERAL COMMENT (continued)**

The above is especially true for the City of Irvine since this city is the home for interview representatives from the Alliance for Survival. This group was one of the most outspoken in stating their low rating regarding the military's credibility which leads them to be dependant upon the "state to actively monitor the project and protect the public's health and environment".

Also include in the document that one interviewee stated his open distrust of state government and the negative impact they cause for businesses.

**1.3 Description of Local Communities**

Please provide data references for the statistics and conclusions stated in these paragraphs. Without the references, the conclusions and statistics can be read as less than factual information. My concern is that if community members disagree with the conclusions, it may weaken the impact of the factual material presented from the interviews. Examples include:

Lake Forest ranks third in population among the southern Orange County communities

Lake Forest households reflect a newer community with a predominance of young families (79 percent) ...

many retired MCAS El Toro personnel have remained in the area

Laguna Hills, while not maintaining a regular relationship with MCAS El

Toro is interested in military activities that influence the economics and environmental quality of the city

demographics

**2.0 Community Involvement and Issues**

Please clarify statement, "The communities neighboring MCAS El Toro have played a relatively small role in activities related to the base's environmental issues." This statement may seem very confusing to those community members who have spent large amounts of professional and personal time reviewing and commenting on draft documentation.

**2.2 Community Interview Results**

Verify the number of interviewees. Was it only 28 for El Toro and 31 for Tustin?

Juan Jimenez

Page 3

### 2.1.1 Environmental

The concerns listed in the first sentence of the first paragraph was shared by all categories of interviewees, not just the environmental groups and elected officials. Please edit accordingly.

My notes do not reflect the statement, "the groundwater and trichloroethylene issues have been blown out of proportion because there has been no impact on drinking water wells." therefore I assume that this was stated in one of the interviews that I could not attend. Since it does not reflect a reoccurring sediment, I suggest that we quantify it with an introductory phrase.

A suggestion is made to utilize the written summaries to state the major themes and distinctions made within the interviewees. Following this idea, elaborate more on a major theme present in the interviews, namely fear that the project will produce unnecessary years of studies, and a related fear of military compromise on clean up efforts due to high costs (see last bullet).

Clarify 1st sentence, in first full paragraph, page 2-4, "A small number of those interviewed were fully satisfied with the *public' access* to information about environmental activities ..." (italics are mine). Is this limited to the info. repository which is referred to in the next sentence?

### 2.2.1.1 Environmental

Verify that the following concerns were only expressed during Tustin interviews.

- . historical environmental practices that caused this contamination
- . proper handling and disposal of wastes currently generated on base

### 2.2.1.4 Restoration Advisory Board

According to my notes, 17 interviewees stated that they were unaware of the RAB. Please review and assess your data supporting this conclusion. I believe a closer summation would be, "The majority of those interviewed, who were not associated to the Restoration Advisory Board, were unaware of the RAB and its purpose. However, after interviewees were informed of the RAB, most indicated an interest in receiving more information."

Juan Jimenez

Page 4

### **Table 3-1**

Add check mark to establish information repository for non-time critical removals.

#### **3.2.1.2 Fact Sheets**

Page 3-6, last sentence in this section, add "general public" to list of entities receiving the fact sheets.

#### **3.2.2.2 Public Meetings**

Correct information to reflect that public meetings at the conclusion of a site investigation, the conclusion of a remedial response actions, or for removal actions are not required by law or regulation. They are, however, very much appreciated.

#### **3.2.3.1 Mailing List**

Please list all categories which must be included in a mailing, or provide the complete listing of categories in the appendix.

#### **3.2.3.2 Evaluation of Community Relations Activities**

Please clarify who will review, on a quarterly basis, the public information and activities described in this plan. And, elaborate on how they will be evaluated.

#### **3.2.3.3 Community Relations Program Revisions**

The last sentence on page 3-11 assumes that the RI/FS will be complete at the time of the next CRP revision. Please provide the basis for this, or revise the sentence to include this phase of the project.

### **4.1 Facility Overview**

First paragraph states, "Recent recognition that the wastes produced .... resulted in new laws and regulations." Please include a time frame to eliminate ambiguity of "recent" and "new".

Juan Jimenez

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## **Appendix C Community Interviews**

### **History, 2 a**

Since the following bullet does not answer the question, where did you get your information, are we sure that it is in the correct place?

"public is learning that the planning for and distribution of ..."

### **Concerns**

Last bullet, please check accuracy of quote, " I have a minimum expectation for a healthy environment - something is wrong if we can't expect this"

### **Community Involvement, 4, c (page C-5)**

Change "several interviewees" to "most interviewees did not know about the RAB".

### **Communication**

#### **7 Radio Stations**

Add, KLOS, KFWB and KOCE

#### **8 TV Stations**

Add, CNN, Channel 4 and Channel 7 to this section and, when applicable, Appendix D.

#### **10 Other information you'd like to receive**

Move the following to number 14, "other comments"

keep the closest people satisfied  
information package that reach homes through the school  
use proactive risk communication

Juan Jimenez

Page 6

**Page C-14 Community-at-Large**

EPA's Superfund guide, page 27 states, "the names .... of private citizens contacted for interviews should not be included as part of the plan that is made public." Please delete them from the listing. A suggestion is made to include the category name and follow it with a sentence which reads, "The list of private citizens interviewed is maintained separately to protect their privacy."

**Appendix D Contacts for Targeted Involvement and Outreach**

Please verify that we have included all interested and affected school districts.

**A Miscellaneous Comment of Mine:**

Please ensure that the following organizations and news media outlets are included in the plan since they were listed by the interviewees (Note, I have not verified the existence of these groups, nor their appropriate names. What appears below is the reprinted names from interview notes.):

Interest Groups and avenues for releasing information into a broad community network:

- Concern Citizens
- Laguna Canyon Conservancy
- Stop Polluting our Newport
- Laguna City Conservancy
- Friends of Bolsa Chica
- United Methodist Church, Saddleback
- Shepard of the Hills, Mission Viejo
- Saddleback College, attention: Lee Wain

Media Outlets:

- Union Hispanic
- Seminolas
- Mineonas
- Valley Voice