



July 14, 1998

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**Subject: Detection of Perchlorate in the Groundwater-MCAS El Toro at Site 24**

Gentleman:

It has come to our attention that the Navy has detected perchlorate in groundwater samples taken in the last several months at Site 24. Detection was obtained in some 91% of the samples and one test sample exceeded the action level. These samples were taken at the on-base edge of the plume at depths of about 120 to 200 feet. It is our understanding that perchlorate is hazardous to human health.

The Orange County Water District also has detected the presence of perchlorate in the same area. As you may be aware, the residents of Loma Linda and Riverside are threatened by perchlorate contaminated groundwater from a rocket fuel plant in Redlands.

The source of the perchlorate has not been identified. It was suggested at the August 6, 1997 MCAS El Toro Restoration Advisory Board Meeting that the groundwater should be tested for presence of perchlorate. Groundwater, contaminated by perchlorates, apparently does not significantly attenuate with time.

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The City of Irvine and the El Toro Reuse Planning Authority (ETRPA) are deeply concerned with this new finding. Since so large a portion of the deep plume extends into the City of Irvine, a thorough testing of the extent and the degree of contamination that exists in the groundwaters needs to be done. In addition, it is important to determine the source of the perchlorate and ensure that it is removed or is no longer a continuing source.

The City of Irvine and ETRPA look forward to your response to this new development and for your oversight to assure the safety and health of our community through the cleanup of perchlorate and other contaminants from the groundwater.

Sincerely,



PAUL BRADY, JR.  
City Manager



PAUL D. ECKLES  
Executive Director, ETRPA

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