

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SANTA ANA REGION

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MCAS EL TORO
SSIC NO. 5090.3.A

July 14, 1997

Mr. Joseph Joyce
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro
P.O. Box 95001
Santa Ana, California 92709-5001

Dear Mr. Joyce:

Enclosed please find a staff report summarizing the environmental restoration activities at your base which will be presented to our Board on 7/18/97 as an information item. An agenda announcement is included. For any questions concerning this matter please call me at (909) 782-4998.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Vitale
Lawrence Vitale
DoD Section

cc with enclosures:

Mr. Glen Kisner, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Mr. Tayseer Mahmoud, Department of Toxic Substances Control
Mr. John Adams, Jr., State Water Resources control Board, Division
of Clean Water Programs

*Rec'd
7/14/97*

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region**

Update on Environmental Restoration at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro

Site Location

MCAS El Toro is located in Orange County, California, about 3.5 miles east of MCAS Tustin and about 12 miles north of the City of Laguna Beach. MCAS El Toro is bordered on the north, south and west by the City of Irvine and on the east by the City of Lake Forest. MCAS El Toro encompasses about 4,738 acres. 1,100 acres of station property are currently designated for agricultural outleases.

Installation History

The MCAS El Toro was commissioned on March 17, 1943. In 1950 the station was selected for development as a master jet air station and permanent center for Marine aviation on the west coast to support the operations and combat readiness of Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific.

Activities

The mission of MCAS El Toro is to maintain and operate facilities and to provide services and material to support the operation of aviation activities and the units of the operating forces of the United States Marine Corps.

Status

MCAS El Toro was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure List (BRAC III) in March 1993. Closure of MCAS El Toro is to be completed by December 1999. In June 1988, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended listing MCAS El Toro on the National Priorities List (NPL) for clean-up under the federal Superfund program, (National Contingency Plan [NCP], Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act [CERCLA] regulations). MCAS El Toro was placed on the NPL in February 1990. In October 1990, EPA, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Navy signed a Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) to conduct an investigation and remediation of contaminated sites at MCAS El Toro.

Waste and Pollution Generating Practices

The mission of MCAS El Toro involves the operation and maintenance of large numbers of military aircraft and ground support equipment. As a result, wastes generated at the site included, solvents, detergents, paints, lubricating oils, hydraulic fluids, batteries, municipal waste, automotive and aircraft fuel. In addition a sewage treatment plant was operated at the site between 1943 and 1972. Municipal wastes were incinerated on base at a facility operated between 1943 and 1955. Solid waste was disposed at four on-Station landfills. Two burn pits were operated for fire training exercises. The sites consisted of unlined pits that were filled with water and layered with various flammable liquids including JP-5 fuel (jet fuel), aviation gasoline and other waste liquids.

Agricultural fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides have historically been used at the Station to grow crops, control weeds and rodents. Chemicals used include Thurshan, Diazonon, Chlordan, Crovar, Malathion, Kelthane, Strychnine, DDT, and Retard-x.

A total of 408 underground storage tanks (USTs) have been identified at the Station. Down gradient of Tank Farms 2, 5 and 6 benzene has been detected in the groundwater. These tank farms are planned for investigation as potential sources of benzene groundwater contamination. Also, aboveground storage tanks and fuel supply lines will be evaluated as potential sources of contamination.

Solid and hazardous wastes generated at the Station are currently collected and disposed of at licensed off site facilities.

Investigations and Findings

The Installation Restoration Program (IRP) at MCAS El Toro is currently in the phase II stage of investigation. Twenty-two sites were evaluated during the phase I investigation, which was completed in May 1993. Two new sites were added, as a result of the phase I investigation, bringing the total number of sites to twenty four. The IRP sites have been grouped into three operable units (OUs). As new data becomes available the OU definitions may be re-evaluated and refined. The OUs at MCAS El Toro are defined as follows:

OU-1 Groundwater on and off Station that is contaminated with constituents that have migrated from sources at MCAS El Toro. At present Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) have been identified as contaminants that have originated from the Station.

OU-2 Potential sources of the VOC groundwater contamination. Currently there are 8 sites identified as potential sources of the groundwater contamination.

OU-3 These sites include all the sites not included in OU-I or OU-2. The sites in OU-3 were primarily identified before the groundwater contamination was discovered and before the listing of MCAS El Toro on the NPL. There are currently 15 sites included in OU-3.

Investigations thus far have identified a major (Regional) groundwater plume migrating from the Station. The size of the plume is estimated to be approximately three miles long, in a westerly direction from the southwest corner of the Station and about one mile in width. Other, smaller plumes exist on the Station in areas near the Station landfills, fuel tank farms, fuel delivery lines, maintenance shops and underground storage tanks.

Remedial Actions

Currently remedial actions are in place at UST and petroleum release sites (RWOCB lead sites). Over 200 USTs have been approved for closure and approximately 200 more are scheduled for closure before December 1999. Pilot tests are underway at the regional groundwater contamination source area to demonstrate the most appropriate remedial technology for removing soil contaminants contributing to the regional groundwater plume. On June 17, 1997 the Orange County Water District (OCWD) submitted a revised draft of the Contribution Agreement between OCWD and the Department of the Navy to use the proposed OCWD desalter as the remedial alternative for cleaning up the regional groundwater plume.

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**AGENDA ANNOUNCEMENT****REGIONAL BOARD MEETING****FRIDAY - July 18, 1997****9:30 AM****CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS****3300 Newport Blvd.****Newport Beach**

1. INTRODUCTION
2. PUBLIC FORUM - (Any person may address the Board at the commencement of the meeting on any matter within the Board's jurisdiction and not related to an item which is to be considered separately. The Board Chair requests that each person addressing the Board observe a five-minute time limit.)
3. Approval of minutes of Regular Board Meeting of June 6, 1997.
{Karen White 909/782-3285}
4. Consideration of Consent Calendar Items. (Items marked with an asterisk are expected to be routine and noncontroversial. The Board will be asked to approve these items at one time without discussion. If any interested party, Board member, or staff requests that an item be removed from the calendar, it will be taken up in the order shown.)
5. Sediment TMDL Workshop - The Regional Board will conduct a workshop concerning the sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) proposed for Newport Bay and its watershed. The purpose of the TMDL is to assure that the water quality objectives and beneficial uses of the Bay and its tributaries are not adversely affected by sediment. The workshop is being conducted to present and receive comments on the proposed TMDL. Regional Board consideration of adoption of the TMDL and its incorporation in the Basin Plan will occur at a subsequent public hearing.
{Hope Smythe 909/782-4493}

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Cleanup and Abatement Order:

6. Lockheed Martin Corporation, San Bernardino County - The Board will consider adoption of an order requiring Lockheed Martin Corporation to develop and implement a remedial action plan for perchlorate that is present in the Bunker Hill Basin.
Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 97-58
{Robert Holub 909/782-3298}

NPDES PERMIT - Revision

- *7. Irvine Ranch Water District, Irvine, Orange County - Extension of the expiration date of Order No. 96-2, NPDES No. CA8000366 to October 1, 1999 for the 2-year Wetlands Water Supply Demonstration Project due to a delay in the start-up of the project. Order No. 97-42
{Gary Stewart 909/782-4379}

Waste Discharge Requirements - New

- *8. HRM Machine, Inc., formerly, Adept Manufacturing, Inc., Costa Mesa, Orange County, Groundwater Cleanup Project - Discharge of approximately 32,000 gallons per day of treated groundwater to onsite injection wells. Order No. 97-52
{Gary Stewart 909/782-4379}
- *9. Orange County Public Facilities and Resources Department and California Department of Fish and Game, Upper Newport Bay Unit III Sediment Control and Enhancement Project, Newport Beach, Orange County - The discharger proposes to dredge approximately 825,000 cubic yards of sediments from delineated areas of Upper Newport Bay. Order No. 97-48
{Gary Stewart 909/782-4379}

Waste Discharge Requirements - Update

- *10. Cajon Properties, dba Wagon Train Venture, Highway 138 and Wagon Train Road, Cajon Pass Area, San Bernardino - Discharge of approximately 14,000 gallons per day of secondary treated wastewater into seepage pits from the proposed package wastewater treatment plant for a commercial development. Order No. 97-50
{Gary Stewart 909/782-4379}

OTHER BUSINESS

- *11. Lincoln-RECP Anaheim OPCD, LLC, Anaheim, Orange County - The Board will consider adoption of a resolution authorizing the Executive Officer to sign a Prospective Purchaser Agreement with Lincoln-RECP Anaheim OPCD, LLC, regarding property in Anaheim where CalComp, a Lockheed Company, is currently conducting monitoring activities and evaluating remediation alternatives. Resolution No.97-61
{Robert Holub 909/782-3298}
12. MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether) Workshop - Staff will present general information regarding this gasoline additive and the findings of MTBE testing within the Region (information item).
{Ken Williams 909/782-4496}
13. El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) - Staff will present an overview of the current status of the restoration activities at El Toro MCAS (information item).
{Michael Adackapara 909/782-3238}
14. State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Enforcement Policy Violation Report - Revisions to correct inaccurately reported violations in the June 6, 1997 report (information item).
{Mark Adelson 909/782-3234}
15. General Permits - Staff will provide a list of all new permittees enrolled under the Region's general permits since the last Regional Board meeting (information item).
{Gary Stewart 909/782-4379}
16. Hazardous Waste and Sewage Spill Incident Report - Lists of such incidents as required by Proposition 65 and California Water Code Section 13271 will be provided as an information item to the Regional Board.
{Karen White 909/782-3285}

17. Executive Officer's Report (information item).
{Gerard Thibeault 909/782-3284}
18. Board Member Communications - Board Members may discuss meetings, communications, correspondence, or other items of general interest relating to matters within the Board's jurisdiction. There will be no voting or formal action taken.

CLOSED SESSION: At any time during the regular session, the Board may adjourn to a closed session to consider litigation, personnel matters, or to deliberate on a decision to be reached based upon evidence introduced in the hearing. Discussion of litigation is within the attorney/client privilege and may be held in closed session. Authority: Government Code Section 11126(a)(d)(g). Items which may be discussed in closed session by the Board include litigation related to:

1. The American Trader Oil Spill,
 2. Stringfellow Hazardous Waste Site,
 3. City of San Bernardino Water Department, and
 4. Potential litigation: Discussion of Executive Officer's referral to the District Attorney of Clean Water Act violations for criminal prosecution.
19. ADJOURNMENT to regular meeting of September 12, 1997, at 9:30 a.m., at the Orange County Water District, Joint Facility Board Room located at 10500 Ellis Avenue, in Fountain Valley.

NOTICES

Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodation to participate in this Regional Board Meeting should contact Karen White at (909) 782-3285 no later than July 10, 1997, so that reasonable accommodations can be arranged.

Anyone interested in obtaining information and/or providing input regarding pending applications for Water Quality Standards Certification under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act may do so by contacting Hope Smythe at (909) 782-4493.