

## Minutes of the El Toro Technical Review Committee

AUGUST 11, 1999

Meeting was convened at 7:30 pm

In attendance: Chuck Bennett, Marcia Rudolph, Jerry Warner, Gail Reavis, Joe Farber, Michael Brown, Paul LaBonte, Richard Bell, Peter Murphy

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chuck introduced the technical memorandum on Radioactivity groundwater dated June 1998.

Gail Reavis met with Peter Melia, a representative of the FAA, at a social gathering and asked him if it was true that the FAA was going to take a 1,000 acre parcel of El Toro. His response was yes. Department of interior does not want the land. FAA wants 200 acres for buildings and 800 acres will be kept as a crash zone and wild life habitat. Discussion ensued regarding the area set aside for wildlife habitat. Members of the committee seemed to remember that an initial 1,700 acres of land had been set aside for wildlife. The number was subsequently reduced to 1,000 acres and now appears to have been reduced to 800 acres. Gail raised questions about the process and asked whether or not there was any pecking order for Federal, state and local agencies that request property. What are the rules for such requests? What public notice is required? Gail also asked about oversight of sites 1, 17 and 7. Site 1 may be leased by the FBI from the FAA. Gail agreed to assemble a series of questions and write a letter.

Marcia Rudolph agreed to provide Congressman Ron Packard with a letter describing the issues the committee is dealing with.

The subject of the discharge from Agua Chinon Wash (ASW) going to Newport Bay was discussed. The wash has been the site of some controversy. Seeing that ASW drains to New Port Bay, which is subject to ongoing dredging, there may be concerns regarding the redistribution of sediments dredged from the Bay.

Paul LaBonte raised several soil and groundwater-related issues. They were:

- A) The former sewage treatment plant operated from 1944 to 1972. While in operation, the plant piped treated water to a one-million-gallon cistern that was subsequently used to water the golf course. Sludge from the sewage treatment plant was diverted to drying beds. Three suggestions were made. First the water may have contained radium 226 from the paint room. Second, some of the radium 226 might have ended up in the drying beds. Third the sprinklers from the golf course may have sprayed water into adjacent areas that were subsequently sampled to determine the radiological "background" at Site 5.
- B) Paul visited the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board to view files regarding the wastewater treatment plant. There should have been 5-10 documents available for review, but there was only one document regarding the treatment plant: Resolution 86-75 abolishing the cease and desist order. All other documents were missing from the file. The NPDES permit file for the site was 1 foot thick. RWQCB personnel suggested that the files were culled to remove excess paper work between 1994 and 1998. They believe the documents were destroyed. It is possible that microfiche files may exist at the State. Paul is making a request from the SWRCB for copies of the records. There may also be copies of some documents at the Orange County Health Care Agency. A final option might be to request copies of documents from the consultants that worked on the initial phases of the project.

Joe Farber commented on the presence of DDT at the base. Orange County NPDES permit samples were reviewed by the RWQCB to identify sources of DDT. ASW was one of the few places in the county where elevated concentrations of DDT were identified. Chuck commented that this is one additional concern about the wash. Other issues have included the presence of sediments containing up to 15% gasoline and the presence of PCE and TCE.

### MTBE and USTs

Paul understands that there is an MTBE issue at Tustin. The shallow ground water appears to contain about 1 ppb MTBE while the intermediate zone may contain thousands of parts per billion MTBE. The deep zone is a drinking water aquifer. The Tustin MTBE issue was caused by a single gas station that did relatively little business. There were three public stations at El Toro plus the military tanks. Paul speculated that the gas station at building 651 had a flow through of 2 million gallons per year. Patricia Hannon was asked if a technical review of monitoring wells had been performed to determine wells at the base were properly located and constructed to detect MTBE. She indicted that such a review had not been conducted.

Joe Farber noted that OCWD can install and monitor groundwater monitoring wells off site to detect MTBE but questioned how we would could get wells on site. It was determined that the committee should request to review the Base Closure Plan. This document is revised annually and describes the plans for the year including the groundwater monitoring program. It was agreed that Chuck would request a copy of the plan from Greg Hurley, the RAB co-chairman. Joe Farber had asked Patricia Hannon if MTBE had been detected in soil samples collected from tank closures. Patricia told Joe that she had not seen any MTBE hits in

the tank reports that she had reviewed to date. The question was raised about tanks closed prior to 1996, when MTBE testing was begun. The committee agreed that it needed more information regarding the testing programs that were being performed during tank removals. There was debate regarding how much information should be requested and about which tanks. The committee decided to wait until it reviewed a copy of the BCP before it made any requests.

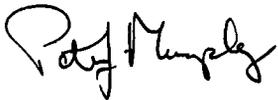
A comment was made that OCWD and IRWD are both concerned about the locations and construction of monitoring wells. The suggestion was made that these water districts might be in the best position to make the technical case for a review of the existing monitoring well network.

#### OTHER ISSUES

Paul LaBonte had not seen any additional information from the Waste Management Board regarding landfills and landfill classification. Richard Bell briefly noted that some government agency was using satellite imagery to detect stressed vegetation caused by landfills. Marcia noted that Waste Management has on contract a Dr. Sing who is an expert on landfills. Waste Management apparently offered his services to TRC if they would prove helpful.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for 25 August 1999. The next RAB will be held on September 28. Radiological issues and the landfills will be discussed at the RAB.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Murphy".

Peter Murphy, Acting Secretary

# Kennedy/Jenks Consultants

## Engineers & Scientists

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19 November 1999

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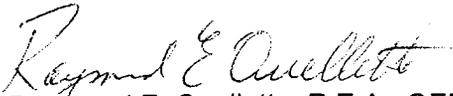
Subject: MINUTES OF ELTORO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Dear Bob:

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of the El Toro Advisory Committee meetings held since 28 April 1999. (The minutes for 14 July 1999 have not been completed yet). As indicated in your e-mail, you will provide an appropriate number of copies as a handout for the 12/1/99 RAB meeting. If you have any questions, please call me after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Very truly yours,

KENNEDY/JENKS CONSULTANTS



Raymond E. Ouellette, R.E.A., QEP  
Associate Environmental Scientist

Enclosure  
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cc: Chuck Bennett

# MCAS EL TORO

## RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

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### Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

- October 27, 1999
- October 13, 1999
- September 8, 1999
- August 25, 1999
- August 11, 1999
- June 30, 1999
- June 9, 1999
- May 12, 1999
- April 28, 1999

[Meeting minutes prepared by Raymond E. Ouellette]