

M60050.000891
MCAS EL TORO
SSIC # 5090.3

UPDATE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AT MARINE CORPS AIR STATION EL TORO

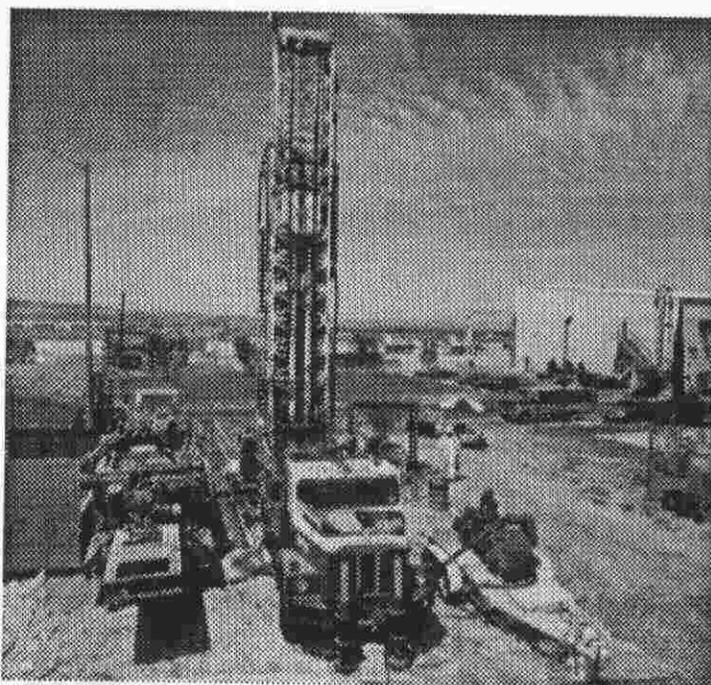
December 1992

This flyer describes the ongoing investigation of hazardous waste contamination at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro under the Department of Defense's Installation Restoration Program. This is one in a series of informational flyers that will be issued periodically throughout the remediation process. Future flyers will provide information concerning the progress of remediation activities at MCAS El Toro. If you have any questions or comments, would like to be put on the mailing list to receive fact sheets and other information, or would like someone to make a presentation to your group, please contact Chrisa Mitchell, MCAS El Toro, 714/726-6607. Copies of documents relating to the environmental remediation are on file and can be reviewed at the information repositories located at the MCAS El Toro Library and Heritage Park Regional Library.

In February 1992, the Navy began field work for Phase I of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro. The purpose of the RI is to locate the source(s) and characterize the extent of groundwater contamination (consisting of solvents) in the vicinity of the Station and to test for the presence of contaminants at 22 identified hazardous waste sites at MCAS El Toro. During the FS, alternatives for remediating site contamination will be identified and evaluated. Field work includes installing and sampling groundwater monitoring wells, analyzing shallow surface soil borings, and taking sediment and surface water samples. Since May 1992, more than 100 monitoring wells have been installed. As of December 11, the well

drilling is approximately 98 percent completed, shallow soil sampling is more than 95 percent completed, and sediment sampling is 100 percent complete. The third round of surface water sampling was taken during the first major rainstorm this December.

Installing and sampling monitoring wells generates wastewater and drill cuttings (soil). The wastewater produced during drilling operations is treated and reused as irrigation water for the Station's golf course. Suspended solids are removed from the wastewater using lime addition and gravity settling, and pH is adjusted to neutral using acid. The resulting clear water is then pumped through three granular-activated carbon units to remove any contamination before reuse. Approximately 900,000 gallons of groundwater and wastewater has been treated and reused.



One of nine drilling rigs used to install more than 100 groundwater monitoring wells on and adjacent to MCAS El Toro.

Continued...

Approximately 130 large holding bins of drill cuttings have been produced. These soils have been stored at the waste staging area, pending chemical testing. The results of the drilling soil analyses are being compared to test results of non-contaminated soil in the area. Based on this comparison, drilling soil identified as hazardous will be transported off-site to a hazardous waste disposal facility, while clean soil will be disposed of on-Station. Nearly 100 of the soil holding bins have been analyzed to date. None of the bins have been classified as hazardous.

The Navy is also conducting a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Assessment of approximately 140 additional sites at MCAS El Toro where hazardous materials have been used or are currently used on-

Station. These sites are being investigated to determine if a release of any hazardous material has occurred. During the three months of field work that ended November 30, nearly 280 soil borings drilled to depths ranging from five to sixty feet were sampled for various chemicals. The laboratory data is currently being evaluated. The results of this portion of the investigation of MCAS El Toro will be published in a separate report.

Phase I and II of the Remedial Investigation will conclude with reports that will be available in the information repositories for public review and comment. Included in the reports will be an assessment of the extent and level of chemical contamination. The first report should be available by June 1993. Look for future flyers with progress updates.

**Environmental & Safety Department
U.S. Marine Corps Air Station
El Toro (Santa Ana), CA 92709-5001
ATTN: Chrisa Mitchell**

**FIRST CLASS
MAIL**
Postage Paid
Santa Ana, CA
Permit No. G-9

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300

TITLE: UPDATE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
INVESTIGATION AT MCAS EL TORO FACT
SHEET
AUTHOR: SWDIV
DATE: 12/1/92
CATEGORY: 10.6

Printed on Recycled Paper