

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
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MCAS EL TORO
SSIC # 5090.3

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April 4, 1986

Captain J. B. Leap
Director, Facilities Management Division
U. S. Marine Corps Air Station
El Toro, CA 92709

Dear Captain Leap:

As you are aware, sampling of irrigation wells in the vicinity of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station has revealed the presence of varying concentrations of volatile organics. Specifically, trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachlorethylene (PCE) and chloroform have been detected in the Irvine Company Wells No. 35, 47, and 55. More details of these results are contained in a November 1985 report commissioned by Orange County Water District (William R. Mills Associates) previously forwarded to your office.

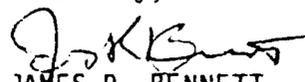
On the basis of the District's report and the surrounding land use patterns, there appears to be a strong argument indicating that activities at the Air Station may have contributed to the contamination of those wells. We are concerned about the acceleration in the cost of cleanup and the possible impact to other waters which might occur should this situation not be more fully addressed.

The Air Station TIC Well (#55) does not represent the most contaminated well. However, it does contain volatile organics which could be at reduced levels because of either purging caused by a high rate of usage or a migration of the original contaminant plume offsite.

Both the Irvine Company and Orange County Water District have a keen interest in this situation. Again, as time lapses, clean-up costs increase. Consequently, all parties would be well served through the Marine Corps action to conduct an investigation to determine whether the Air Station is linked to this contamination.

I would appreciate a response regarding your plans for conducting such an investigation within two weeks. If I can be of assistance please contact me.

Sincerely,



JAMES R. BENNETT
Executive Officer

cc: Orange County Water District, Nick Richardson
The Irvine Company, Sat Tamaribuchi

JRB:kyb