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TO: Commanding Officer
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Southwest Division
Mr. Paul Kennedy, Code 0233 (trans only)
Building 128
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA. 92132-5187

DATE: November 21, 1995
CTO #: 0063
LOCATION: MCAS Tustin

FROM:

Husam N. Masri
Husam N. Masri, Project Manager

Operations Manager

DESCRIPTION: Response to Comments for MCAS Tustin and
MCAS El Toro Draft Revised Community Relations Plan

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 Other

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CLEAN III Program
Bechtel Job No. 22214
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November 21, 1995

Commanding Officer
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Southwest Division
Mr. Paul Kennedy, Code 0233
Building 128
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92132-5187

Subject: Responses to Comments for MCAS Tustin and
MCAS El Toro Draft Revised Community Relations Plans

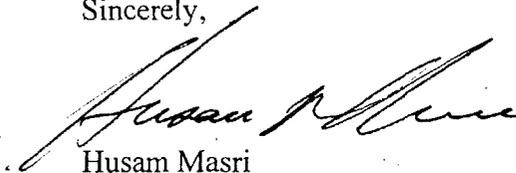
Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Enclosed are the responses to comments on the Draft Revised Community Relations Plans for MCAS Tustin and MCAS El Toro.

We look forward to concurrence or discussion on these comments as soon as possible so that we may distribute the Plans to their respective Restoration Advisory Board.

Please call me at (415) 768-4612 if you have any questions regarding these responses.

Sincerely,



Husam Masri
Project Manager, MCAS Tustin

HNM/aqr

Enclosure: Responses to Comments



Bechtel National, Inc. Systems Engineers-Constructors
Navy CLEAN Tustin/AMCR/PLET/RTC

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

Region 4

245 West Broadway, Suite 425
Fresno, CA 93802-4444**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Juan Jimenez
Project Manager

FROM: Marsha Mingay
Public Participation Specialist

DATE: 14 September 1995

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON EL TORO'S REVISED COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

Pursuant to our telephone conversation of 12 September 1995 with Joseph Joyce, I am forwarding you my comments on El Toro's Revised Community Relations Plan. As was discussed, these comments only reflect the major areas needing careful review prior to the draft CRP's being circulated for a 30 day comment period. Following our One Voice Policy, please forward these comments to Joseph.

GENERAL COMMENT

Reviewing my notes from the interviews, there is a wide range of opinions regarding the Navy's credibility in completing the environmental clean up. While most indicate a high degree of credibility in the Navy/Marine Corp; others have little faith. Stated reasons for the low credibility were mostly related to skepticism in Congress allocating the required money. However, a little less than one quarter of the interviewees stated that their low confidence in the military stems from the military's historic lack of openness and a belief that they are currently not interested in cleaning up the environment.

While the document mentions that a range of opinions exist, it tends to reiterate a theme regarding the community's sense of trust (see page ES-1, 1-8, 2-3 (Section 2.2.1.3 omitted info. regarding community members having a low credibility in Navy/Marine Corp), and 2-5). To counterbalance this theme with those interviewees who expressed a different view, I suggest that more information about the lack of confidence be added.



Juan Jimenez

Page 2

GENERAL COMMENT (continued)

The above is especially true for the City of Irvine since this city is the home for interview representatives from the Alliance for Survival. This group was one of the most outspoken in stating their low rating regarding the military's credibility which leads them to be dependant upon the "state to actively monitor the project and protect the public's health and environment".

Also include in the document that one interviewee stated his open distrust of state government and the negative impact they cause for businesses.

1.3 Description of Local Communities

Please provide data references for the statistics and conclusions stated in these paragraphs. Without the references, the conclusions and statistics can be read as less than factual information. My concern is that if community members disagree with the conclusions, it may weaken the impact of the factual material presented from the interviews. Examples include:

Lake Forest ranks third in population among the southern Orange County communities

Lake Forest households reflect a newer community with a predominance of young families (79 percent) ...

many retired MCAS El Toro personnel have remained in the area

Laguna Hills, while not maintaining a regular relationship with MCAS El

Toro is interested in military activities that influence the economics and environmental quality of the city demographics

2.0 Community Involvement and Issues

Please clarify statement, "The communities neighboring MCAS El Toro have played a relatively small role in activities related to the base's environmental issues." This statement may seem very confusing to those community members who have spent large amounts of professional and personal time reviewing and commenting on draft documentation.

2.2 Community Interview Results

Verify the number of interviewees. Was it only 28 for El Toro and 31 for Tustin?

Juan Jimenez

Page 3

2.1.1 Environmental

The concerns listed in the first sentence of the first paragraph was shared by all categories of interviewees, not just the environmental groups and elected officials. Please edit accordingly.

My notes do not reflect the statement, "the groundwater and trichloroethylene issues have been blown out of proportion because there has been no impact on drinking water wells." therefore I assume that this was stated in one of the interviews that I could not attend. Since it does not reflect a reoccurring sediment, I suggest that we quantify it with an introductory phrase.

A suggestion is made to utilize the written summaries to state the major themes and distinctions made within the interviewees. Following this idea, elaborate more on a major theme present in the interviews, namely fear that the project will produce unnecessary years of studies, and a related fear of military compromise on clean up efforts due to high costs (see last bullet).

Clarify 1st sentence, in first full paragraph, page 2-4, "A small number of those interviewed were fully satisfied with the *public* access to information about environmental activities ..." (italics are mine). Is this limited to the info. repository which is referred to in the next sentence?

2.2.1.1 Environmental

Verify that the following concerns were only expressed during Tustin interviews.

- . historical environmental practices that caused this contamination
- . proper handling and disposal of wastes currently generated on base

2.2.1.4 Restoration Advisory Board

According to my notes, 17 interviewees stated that they were unaware of the RAB. Please review and assess your data supporting this conclusion. I believe a closer summation would be, "The majority of those interviewed, who were not associated to the Restoration Advisory Board, were unaware of the RAB and its purpose. However, after interviewees were informed of the RAB, most indicated an interest in receiving more information."

Juan Jimenez

Page 4

Table 3-1

Add check mark to establish information repository for non-time critical removals.

3.2.1.2 Fact Sheets

Page 3-6, last sentence in this section, add "general public" to list of entities receiving the fact sheets.

3.2.2.2 Public Meetings

Correct information to reflect that public meetings at the conclusion of a site investigation, the conclusion of a remedial response actions, or for removal actions are not required by law or regulation. They are, however, very much appreciated.

3.2.3.1 Mailing List

Please list all categories which must be included in a mailing, or provide the complete listing of categories in the appendix.

3.2.3.2 Evaluation of Community Relations Activities

Please clarify who will review, on a quarterly basis, the public information and activities described in this plan. And, elaborate on how they will be evaluated.

3.2.3.3 Community Relations Program Revisions

The last sentence on page 3-11 assumes that the RI/FS will be complete at the time of the next CRP revision. Please provide the basis for this, or revise the sentence to include this phase of the project.

4.1 Facility Overview

First paragraph states, "Recent recognition that the wastes produced resulted in new laws and regulations." Please include a time frame to eliminate ambiguity of "recent" and "new".

Juan Jimenez

Page 5

Appendix C Community Interviews

History, 2 a

Since the following bullet does not answer the question, where did you get your information, are we sure that it is in the correct place?

"public is learning that the planning for and distribution of ..."

Concerns

Last bullet, please check accuracy of quote, " I have a minimum expectation for a healthy environment - something is wrong if we can't expect this"

Community Involvement, 4, c (page C-5)

Change "several interviewees" to "most interviewees did not know about the RAB".

Communication

7 Radio Stations

Add, KLOS, KFWB and KOCE

8 TV Stations

Add, CNN, Channel 4 and Channel 7 to this section and, when applicable, Appendix D.

10 Other Information you'd like to receive

Move the following to number 14, "other comments"

keep the closest people satisfied
information package that reach homes through the school
use proactive risk communication

Juan Jimenez

Page 6

Page C-14 Community-at-Large

EPA's Superfund guide, page 27 states, "the names ... of private citizens contacted for interviews should not be included as part of the plan that is made public." Please delete them from the listing. A suggestion is made to include the category name and follow it with a sentence which reads, "The list of private citizens interviewed is maintained separately to protect their privacy."

Appendix D Contacts for Targeted Involvement and Outreach

Please verify that we have included all interested and affected school districts.

A Miscellaneous Comment of Mine:

Please ensure that the following organizations and news media outlets are included in the plan since they were listed by the interviewees (Note, I have not verified the existence of these groups, nor their appropriate names. What appears below is the reprinted names from interview notes.):

Interest Groups and avenues for releasing information into a broad community network:

- Concern Citizens
- Laguna Canyon Conservancy
- Stop Polluting our Newport
- Laguna City Conservancy
- Friends of Bolsa Chica
- United Methodist Church, Saddleback
- Shepard of the Hills, Mission Viejo
- Saddleback College, attention: Lee Wain

Media Outlets:

- Union Hispanic
- Seminolas
- Mineonas
- Valley Voice

**RESPONSE TO COMMENTS
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION - EL TORO
DRAFT REVISED COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN**

Italicized print indicates new/revised text

September 18, 1995

Comments by: Marsha Mingay, DTSC, Long Beach, CA

Number	GENERAL COMMENTS	Response
	<p>Reviewing my notes from the interviews, there is a wide range of opinions regarding the Navy's credibility in completing the environmental clean up. While most indicate a high degree of credibility in the Navy/Marine Corps, others have little faith. Stated reasons for the low credibility were mostly related to skepticism in Congress allocating the required money. However, a little less than one quarter of the interviewees stated that their low confidence in the military stems from the military's historic lack of openness and a belief that they are currently not interested in cleaning up the environment.</p> <p>While the document mentions that a range of opinions exist, it tends to reiterate a theme regarding the community's sense of trust (see page ES-1, 1-6, 2-3 (Section 2.2.1.3 omitted info regarding community members having low credibility in Navy/Marine Corps), and 2-5). To counterbalance this theme with those interviewees who expressed a different view, I suggest that more information about the lack of confidence be added.</p> <p>The above is especially true for the City of Irvine since this city is the home for interview representatives from the Alliance for Survival. This group was one of the most outspoken in stating their low rating regarding the military's credibility which leads them to be dependent upon the "state of actively monitor the project and protect the public's health and environment".</p>	<p>The first sentence of Section 2.2.1.5 will be revised, <i>deleting the phrase: With some exceptions,</i> A new sentence addressing the low credibility mentioned in this comment will be added after the first sentence.</p> <p>Executive summary paragraph 5, new sentence will be inserted between second and third sentence to read: <i>Skepticism toward sufficient Congressional funding for adequate cleanup was expressed by some while others stated that military credibility deserves a low rating.</i></p> <p>A discussion on the level of confidence and credibility is presented in Section 2.2.1.5. It is believed that an independent section on this issue serves to focus the reader on the intensity of the issue, rather than incorporating credibility and confidence responses into the other summaries of concerns (e.g., environmental, reuse).</p> <p>The Alliance for Survival issue will be addressed in the second paragraph of Section 2.2.1.1 to illustrate a specific example of credibility, confidence, and environmental issues.</p>

	Also include in the document that one interviewee stated his open distrust of state government and the negative impact they cause for businesses.	This will be included as the last sentence in second paragraph of Section 2.2.1.5.
SPECIFIC COMMENTS		
1	<p>1.3 Description of Local Communities. Please provide data references for the statistics and conclusions stated in these paragraphs. Without the references, the conclusions and statistics can be read as less than factual information. My concern is that if community members disagree with the conclusions, it may weaken the impact of the factual material presented from the interviews. Examples include:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Lake Forest ranks third in population among the southern Orange County communities</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Lake Forest households reflect a newer community with a predominance of young families (79 percent) . . .</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">. . . many retired MCAS El Toro personnel have remained in the area</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Laguna Hills, while not maintaining a regular relationship with MCAS El Toro is interested in military activities that influence the economics and environmental quality of the city demographics</p>	Text has been added into Section 1.3 to provide a reference source for the statistics and conclusions in the descriptions of local communities. Information in this section was provided by the Cities of Lake Forest, Irvine, and Laguna Hills.
2	<p>2.0 Community Involvement and Issues. Please clarify statement, "The communities neighboring MCAS El Toro have played a relatively small role in activities related to the base's environmental issues." This statement may seem very confusing to those community members who have spent large amounts of professional and personal time reviewing and commenting on draft documentation.</p>	This statement will be deleted from Section 2.0.
3	<p>2.2 Community Interview Results. Verify the number of interviewees. Was it only 28 for El Toro and 31 for Tustin?</p>	According to CLEAN II project files, 28 interviews were conducted for MCAS El Toro and 36 for MCAS Tustin. The MCAS Tustin CRP will reflect this change.

<p>4</p>	<p>2.1.1 Environmental. The concerns listed in the first sentence of the first paragraph was shared by all categories of interviewees, not just the environmental groups and elected official. Please edit accordingly.</p> <p>My notes do not reflect the statement, “the groundwater and trichloroethylene issues have been blown out of proportion because there has been no impact on drinking water wells.” therefore, I assume that this was stated in one of the interviews that I could not attend. Since it does not reflect a reoccurring sediment, I suggest that we quantify it with an introductory phrase.</p> <p>A suggestion is made to utilize the written summaries to state the major themes and distinctions made within the interviewees. Following this idea, elaborate more on a major theme present in the interviews, namely fear that the project will produce unnecessary years of studies, and a related fear of military compromise on clean up efforts due to high costs (see last bullet).</p> <p>Clarify 1st sentence, in first full paragraph, page 2-4, “A small number of those interviewed were fully satisfied with the <i>public</i>’ access to information about environmental activities . . . “ (italics are mine). Is this limited to the info repository which is referred to in the next sentence?</p>	<p>The first sentence of Section 2.2.1.1 will be revised to read: <i>According to all categories of interviewees, environmental concerns...</i></p> <p>The third sentence will be revised to read: <i>One individual interviewed expressed that soil contamination is of concern. It was also this person’s opinion that the groundwater...</i></p> <p>Elaboration of concerns will be addressed in revisions to Section 2.2, per discussion with M. Mingay (11/21/95). See response to General Comments.</p> <p>The TCE statement (middle of first paragraph, Section 2.2.1.1) will be removed as it diminishes the greater importance of the subsequent bullet-point concerns. These concerns will be reordered to bring two major concerns to the top of the list.</p> <p>The first sentence of this paragraph will be deleted.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>2.2.1.1 Environmental. Verify that the following concerns were only expressed during Tustin interviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> historical environmental practices that caused this contamination proper handling and disposal of wastes currently generated on base 	<p>First quote - confirmed inclusion in Tustin CRP; unable to find this quote in this section of El Toro CRP.</p> <p>Reviewed summaries and found this concern arose in several interviews, some of which were for both bases.</p>

6	<p>2.2.1.4 Restoration Advisory Board. According to my notes, 17 interviewees stated that they were unaware of the RAB. Please review and assess your data supporting this conclusion. I believe a closer summation would be, "The majority of those interviewed, who were not associated to the Restoration Advisory Board, were unaware of the RAB and its purpose. However, after interviewees were informed of the RAB, most indicated an interest in receiving more information."</p>	<p>Suggested changes will be incorporated. First two sentences of Section 2.2.1.4 Restoration Advisory Board will read: <i>Approximately half of those interviewed, who were not associated with the MCAS El Toro RAB, were unaware of the RAB and its purpose. Of these, most indicated a desire to receive additional information on the RAB. Of the respondents who were aware of the RAB, half consider the board effective in its contributions to the base's environmental programs.</i></p>
7	<p>Table 3-1. Add check mark to establish information repository for non-time critical removals.</p>	<p>Suggested change will be incorporated.</p>
8	<p>3.2.1.2 Fact Sheets. Page 3-6, last sentence in this section, add "general public" to list of entities receiving the fact sheets.</p>	<p>Suggested change will be incorporated to read: ... homeowners' associations, <i>members of the RAB, and members of the general public.</i></p>
9	<p>3.2.2.2 Public Meetings. Correct information to reflect that public meetings at the conclusion of a site investigation, the conclusion of a remedial response actions, or for removal actions are not required by law or regulation. They are, however, very much appreciated.</p>	<p>The first three sentences of Section 3.2.2.2 will be revised to read: <i>As required by federal and state environmental regulations, a public meeting will be held to present preferred cleanup alternatives for remedial response actions. Public meetings at the conclusion of a site investigation, the conclusion of a remedial response action, or for removal actions are not required by law or regulation. However, they are encouraged by the public and effective in supporting a good relationship with the base. The meetings may present, for example, a summary of...</i></p>
10	<p>3.2.3.1 Mailing List. Please list all categories which must be included in a mailing, or provide the complete listing of categories in the appendix.</p>	<p>Section 3.2.3.1 mailing list categories will be expanded to include the same list provided in last paragraph of Section 3.2.1.1 (Fact Sheets).</p>
11	<p>3.2.3.2 Evaluation of Community Relations Activities. Please clarify who will review, on a quarterly basis, the public information and activities described in this plan. And, elaborate on how they will be evaluated.</p>	<p>Section 3.2.3.2 will be revised to read: The public information...<i>will be reviewed quarterly by the Marine Corps/Navy and their community relations contractors for effectiveness in meeting community relations program goals and objectives. The lead regulatory agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, also may evaluate activities for their effectiveness. Recommendations for improved community relations activities and</i></p>

		<i>enhanced public participation will be communicated in writing to the Marine Corps/Navy. Such recommendations also will be welcomed from members of the MCAS El Toro community.</i>
12	3.2.3.3 Community Relations Program Revisions. The last sentence on page 3-11 assumes that the RI/FS will be complete at the time of the next CRP revision. Please provide the basis for this, or revise the sentence to include this phase of the project.	The first sentence of Section 3.2.3.3, text will be revised to read: <i>Revisions to all or parts of the Plan may be made in order to incorporate new information, reflect changes in community concern, and adjust public participation activities to meet these changes. A revised Plan ensures that the Marine Corps/Navy remains sensitive to community concerns through all phases of the project. Regular revisions to the Plan will be scheduled for no later than two years from the issue of the current Plan or at the start of basewide remedial actions, if this occurs sooner than two years.</i> The second and third sentences in the current version will remain.

13	<p>4.1 Facility Overview. First paragraph states, "Recent recognition that the wastes produced . . . resulted in new laws and regulations." Please include a time frame to eliminate ambiguity of "recent" and "new".</p>	<p>Sentence will be revised to read: <i>Since the 1970's, it has been recognized that the wastes produced... and the environment. This awareness has resulted in laws and regulations governing their disposal</i></p>
14	<p>Appendix C Community Interviews History, 2a. Since the following bullet does not answer the question, where did you get your information, are we sure that it is in the correct place? "public is learning that the planning for and distribution of . "</p>	<p>This statement will be reworded to read: <i>through the reuse process (land use planning and distribution) the community is also learning about the base's environmental activities and how these issues are related; this reuse information most often comes from the media</i></p>
15	<p>Last bullet, please check accuracy of quote, "I have a minimum expectation for a healthy environment - something is wrong if we can't expect this".</p>	<p>Accuracy of quote confirmed from two sets of interview notes (A. Schwartz and O. Cervantes-Kress, BNI contractors)</p>
16	<p>Community Involvement, 4, c (page C-5). Change "several interviewees" to "most interviewees did not know about the RAB".</p>	<p>Suggested change will be incorporated.</p>
17	<p>Communication 7 Radio Stations. Add KLOS, KFWB and KOCE.</p>	<p>Suggested change will be incorporated</p>
18	<p>Communication 8 TV Stations. Add CNN, Channel 4 and Channel 7 to this section and, when applicable, Appendix D.</p>	<p>Suggested changes for Appendix C will be incorporated. Channels 7 and 4 are currently listed in Appendix D (page D-4). CNN is not considered a local media resources and, therefore, is not included in Appendix D, per discussion with BRAC Public Affairs Officer.</p>
19	<p>10 Other information you'd like to receive. Move the following to number 14, "other comments". keep the closest people satisfied information package that reach homes through the school use proactive risk communication</p>	<p>Suggested changes will be incorporated.</p>

20	<p>Page C-14 Community-at-Large. EPA's Superfund guide, page 27 states, "the names of private citizens contacted for interviews should not be included as part of the plan that is made public." Please delete them from the listing. A suggestion is made to include the category name and follow it with a sentence which reads, "The list of private citizens interviewed is maintained separately to protect their privacy."</p>	<p>Suggested change will be incorporated with minor revision. Text under Community-at-Large heading (Page C-14) will be added to read: <i>The list of private community members interviewed is maintained separately to protect their privacy.</i></p>
21	<p>Appendix D Contracts for Targeted Involvement and Outreach. Please verify that we have included all interested and affected school districts.</p>	<p>Contacts for the affected schools in the neighboring districts have been added to the mailing list. A contact for the Orange County Department of Education will be added to Appendix D for special outreach. Mr. Tom Tuller, Safety Officer for Saddleback Unified School District, is currently included in Appendix D.</p>
MISCELLANEOUS COMMENT		
1	<p>Please ensure that the following organizations and news media outlets are included in the plan since they were listed by the interviewees. (Note, I have not verified the existence of these groups, nor their appropriate names. What appears below is the reprinted names from interview notes.):</p>	
	<p>Interest Groups and avenues for releasing information into a broad community network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern citizens Laguna Canyon Conservancy Stop Polluting our Newport Laguna City of Conservancy Friends of Bolsa Chica United Methodist Church, Saddleback Shepard of the Hills, Mission Viejo Saddleback College, attention: Lee Wain <p>Media Outlets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Hispanic 	<p>Unable to identify an organization of this (or similar) title Researching - will add to mailing list when determined Tom Edwards, who mentioned this group as an organizations in which he is involved, is on the mailing list. Assuming same as Laguna Canyon Conservancy Friends of Bolsa Chica is now Amigos de Bolsa Chica - added to Appendix D These two churches are one organization and will be added to Appendix D</p> <p>Lee Wain is an instructor so will be added to the project mailing list. Tom Tuller is already included as the Safety Officer and therefore will be listed as the primary contact.</p>

	Seminolas Mineonas	Unable to find contact points or detailed information on these media outlets. Appendix D lists <u>Azteca</u> as an Orange County Hispanic publication
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