

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

26 May 2005

Mr. F. Andrew Piszkin
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Base Realignment and Closure
7040 Trabuco Road
Irvine, California 92618

RE: Draft Landfill Test Fill Construction and Borrow Source Evaluation Report, Operable Unit 2B, Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Sites 2 and 17
Former Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro, California

Dear Mr. Piszkin:

The EPA has reviewed the subject document as per your request of 19 May 2005. It is our understanding that the RWQCB has raised a number of issues following their oversight activities in regard to the test fill pad field work. EPA defers to their judgement on these issues as they are the program lead for the State of California. We offer the following comment.

Optimum Moisture Content, General – It is mentioned throughout the text that attaining a moisture content within +/-2% of the optimum moisture content for the soil mixtures to be used is the significant factor for arriving at the desired compaction and hydraulic conductivity for the cap. However, this value for the soil mixtures tested in the borrow source evaluation is only provided in a data table hidden within Attachment A. It is recommended that the text be edited to provide the range of optimum moisture content for the potential soil mixtures to be considered for capping at IRP Sites 2 and 17.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 415-972-3349.

Sincerely,



Rich Muza
Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facility and Site Cleanup Branch

received
6/6/05

AR