



## FACT SHEET

### Site 11 Soil Cleanup Installation Restoration Program Former Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro



June 2005

## Navy Proceeds with Soil Excavation and Disposal

**S**ite 11 is the former Transformer Storage Area that was used for storage of equipment and scrap metal at Former MCAS El Toro. The site consists of three units – Unit 1 is a concrete pad, Unit 2 is an asphalt-lined drainage ditch parallel to Building 369, and Unit 3 is a storage yard. Contamination is only present in surface soil at Units 1 and 2. Excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil at a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved disposal facility is scheduled to start during June 2005. Cleanup is being conducted in accordance with the Record of Decision, Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) and Remedial Design/Remedial Work Plan, which documented regulatory agency concurrence on the cleanup action for Site 11. The cleanup action will be completed in July 2005 with backfilling of the excavation with clean soil.

### Site Description

**F**rom 1968 to 1983, Site 11, Transformer Storage Area, was used for storage of electrical transformers on a concrete pad (Unit 1) and a storage yard (Unit 3) at the site. Reportedly, five transformers containing PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) leaked onto the concrete pad and then onto the unpaved surface of the storage yard or into an asphalt-lined drainage ditch (Unit 2) adjacent to the concrete pad. PCBs were commonly used as a coolant in transformer oil; however, use of PCBs in this manner was discontinued in the late 1970s. In 1983, all transformers were removed and properly disposed of off-site.

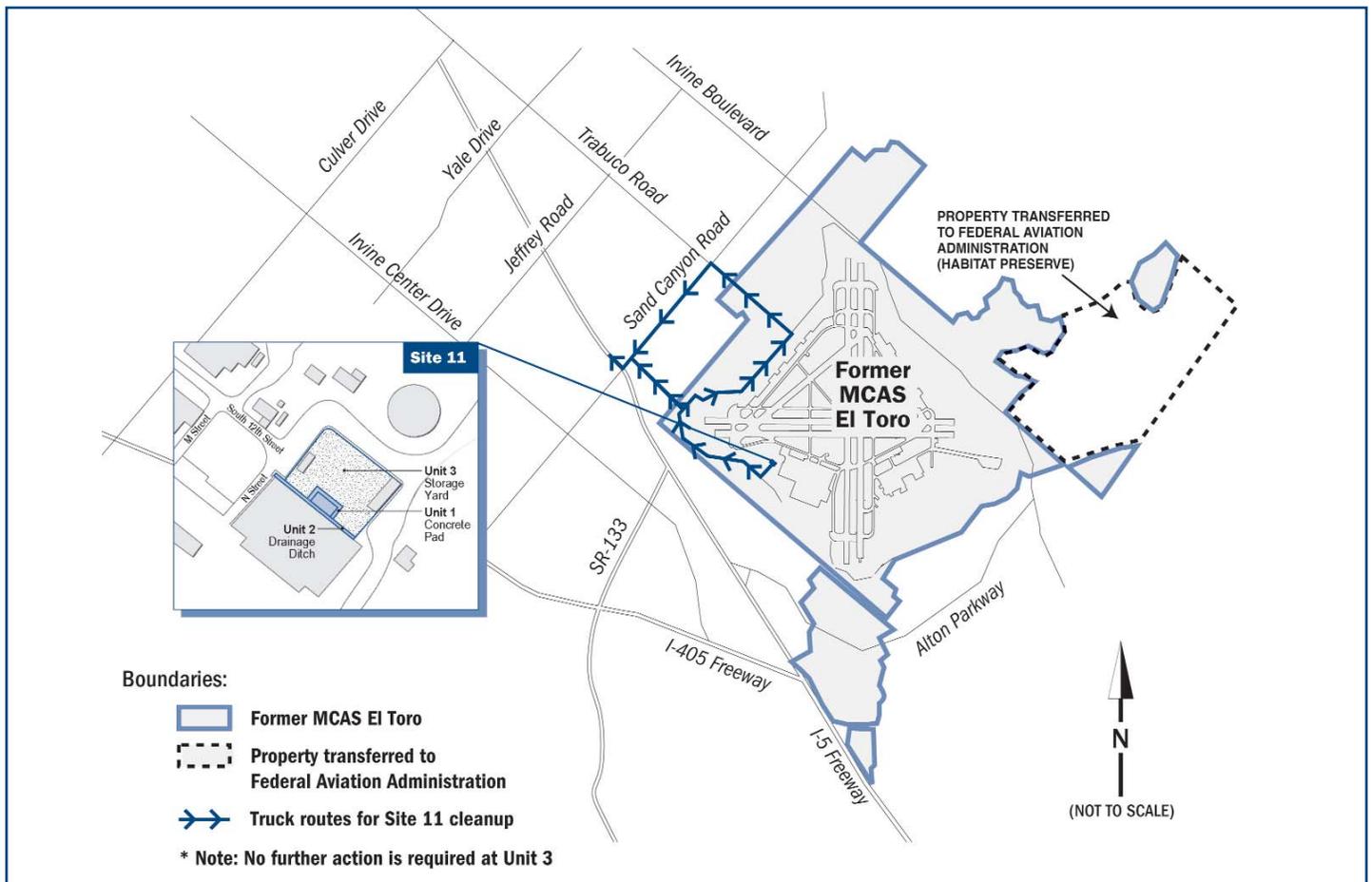
### Environmental Investigation

**E**nvironmental investigations, consisting of soil sampling and laboratory analysis, determined that PCBs were present only at Units 1 and 2 and were generally confined to surface soil down to a depth of 2 feet. Pesticides were also present at Units 1, 2, and 3 and were generally confined in the shallow soil to depth of 3 feet. As part of the environmental investigation, a human-health risk assessment was con-

ducted. Results determined that soil containing PCBs and pesticides at Units 1 and 2 require cleanup. At Unit 3, concentrations of pesticides were at such low concentrations, the risk to human health was determined to be in the allowable range, so no further action was recommended for this unit. The PCBs and pesticides present at Site 11 do not pose a threat to groundwater which is located more than 100 feet beneath the site.



Unit 1 - Concrete pad



## Regulatory Agencies Concur on Cleanup Plan

The Navy and its cleanup partners, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), including Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and Regional Water Quality Control Board Santa Ana Region (RWQCB), concurred in a Record of Decision dated September 1999 that excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil is an appropriate and effective remedy for Units 1 and 2, and no further action is needed at Unit 3. Concurrence was based on the results of a feasibility study that was conducted to evaluate alternatives for site cleanup. The regulatory agencies also concurred on the ESD in May 2003 that updated the risk based soil cleanup goals for this site. These regulatory agencies recently reviewed and approved the Remedial Design/ Remedial Action work plan for cleanup of Site 11 which was finalized in March 2005.

## Cleanup Objectives

The Remedial Design/ Remedial Action work plan focuses on addressing PCBs and pesticides at the site. Specific cleanup actions were developed to address conditions at Site 11 to protect human health and the environment. Cleanup objectives for the shallow soil at Site 11 Units 1 and 2 are to:

- prevent direct contact with contaminated soil and the ingestion of site-specific PCBs and pesticides
- reduce or prevent the potential for inhalation of airborne particulates
- reduce potential threats to the environment including groundwater and surface water runoff

## Cleanup Action – Excavation and off-site Disposal

The first component of the cleanup action consists of site preparation which includes activities such as installation of temporary fence to prevent unauthorized access to the site; locating underground utilities at the site; and mobilization of equipment on-site. Locating underground utilities will prevent damage to electrical and water lines and is an important safety issue for site workers. Work crews are also implementing measures for traffic control that will be used during cleanup activities.

The second component of the cleanup action focuses on excavating approximately 262 bank cubic yards of soil (the amount of undisturbed, in-place soil) and testing the excavated soil. The excavated soil and demolished asphalt and concrete will be loaded into hauling trucks and covered for transportation to the disposal facility. Approximately 24 truckloads of excavated soil will be hauled to a U.S. EPA-approved disposal facility for hazardous waste. Trucks will exit the station from the Main Gate on to Trabuco Road and go south on Sand Canyon Road directly to the I-5 freeway. Trucks may also exit the station from Gate #9 on to Marine Way, and then proceed to the I-5 freeway.

Once the areas have been excavated to the appropriate depths, soil sampling will be performed to confirm the cleanup goals have been

achieved and contaminated soil has been removed. When the confirmatory sampling results indicate that the contaminated soil has been removed, the excavated areas will be backfilled using clean fill material, obtained from an off-site quarry source. Samples of the fill material will undergo laboratory testing to make sure it is clean and suitable to use as backfill at Former MCAS El Toro. The clean soil will be compacted and contoured to prevent rainfall from accumulating at the site.



Unit 2 - Asphalt-lined drainage ditch

### For More Information

A key document that details the cleanup of soil at Site 11, is the report titled, “Final Work Plan Remedial Design/Remedial Action, IRP Site 11, Former MCAS El Toro, March 2005.” This and other Site 11 reports are available for review at the following locations:

- Heritage Park Regional Library, MCAS El Toro Information Repository  
14361 Yale Avenue, Irvine, CA 92714  
(949) 551-7151
- MCAS El Toro Administrative Record File  
BRAC Office, Building 83 at Former MCAS El Toro  
contact Ms. Marge Flesch  
(949) 726-5398

### Internet Connection

For more information on Former MCAS El Toro environmental restoration activities, visit the web site at [www.efdsw.navy.mil/environmental/envhome.htm](http://www.efdsw.navy.mil/environmental/envhome.htm)

## Project Contacts

If you have any questions or concerns about environmental activities at the former station, please feel free to contact any of the following project representatives:

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## Mailing List Coupon

If you would like to be put on the mailing list to receive information about environmental restoration activities at Former MCAS El Toro, please fill out the coupon and send it to Mr. Bob Coleman, Brown and Caldwell, 9665 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 201, San Diego, CA 92123. If you prefer, e-mail the information requested below to [rcoleman@brwncald.com](mailto:rcoleman@brwncald.com)

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