



PUBLIC NOTICE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

Installation Restoration Program Sites 1, 2, 3, 5, 16, 17, 18, 24, and Anomaly Area 3 at Former Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Irvine, California



March 2019

The United States Department of the Navy (Navy) is currently conducting a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Five-Year Review (FYR) for Former Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro in Irvine, California. Former MCAS El Toro is located in a suburban area of Orange County in Southern California, approximately 8 miles south of Santa Ana and 12 miles northeast of Laguna Beach. The Navy is conducting the FYR in accordance with the requirements of CERCLA Section 121(c) to determine whether the remedies being implemented in accordance with the Final Records of Decision (RODs) for Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Sites 1, 2, 3, 5, 16, 17, 18, 24, and Anomaly Area (AA) 3 continue to remain protective of human health and the environment.

IRP Site 1 (Explosive Ordnance Disposal [EOD] Training Range): Perchlorate-impacted groundwater at IRP Site 1 is being addressed via in situ bioremediation, long-term groundwater monitoring, and institutional controls (ICs). Remedial action construction was completed in 2014, and the remedy has been operated, maintained, and monitored regularly since. An "Operating Properly and Successfully" (OPS) determination is currently pending from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Additional injections are currently being planned to replenish the carbon substrate in groundwater to ensure perchlorate continues to be electrochemically reduced by indigenous microorganisms to innocuous end products. This will be the first FYR for the IRP Site 1 groundwater remedy.

Because a CERCLA remedy to address munitions- and naphthalene-impacted soil at IRP Site 1 has not yet been formally established in a ROD, the FYR will not address the IRP Site 1 vadose zone (unsaturated soil above the groundwater table). The Navy is currently completing a feasibility study and is collaborating with the regulatory agencies to complete a proposed plan and ROD. In the meantime, the Navy recently completed a time-critical removal action to address the potential presence of munitions and munitions-related items in the vadose zone on the "Adjacent Property" portion of IRP Site 1 (never owned by the Navy). No munitions were identified.

IRP Site 2 (Magazine Road Landfill): CERCLA remedies are in place for both the vadose zone and groundwater portions of IRP Site 2. The vadose zone remedy includes waste consolidation, construction of a landfill cover, operation and maintenance (O&M), long-term monitoring (LTM), and ICs. Remedial action construction for the vadose zone was completed in 2008, and the remedy has been operated, maintained, and monitored regularly since. This will be the third FYR for the IRP Site 2 vadose zone remedy.

Volatile organic compound (VOC)-impacted groundwater is being addressed via monitored natural attenuation (MNA) and ICs. Remedial action construction was completed in 2014, and the remedy has been operated, maintained, and monitored regularly since. An OPS determination is currently pending from the U.S. EPA. This will be the first FYR for the IRP Site 2 groundwater remedy.

IRP Site 3 (Original Landfill): The vadose zone remedy includes waste consolidation and capping, O&M/LTM, and ICs. No further action (NFA) is required for groundwater. Remedial action construction was completed in January 2012, and the remedy has been operated, maintained, and monitored regularly since. This will be the second FYR for the IRP Site 3 vadose zone remedy.

The Navy is currently working with the regulatory agencies and current landowners to establish ICs for residual waste that remains under Irvine Boulevard as it could not be previously excavated and consolidated into the capped landfill without compromising the integrity of the highly trafficked road. The ICs will be formalized through an Explanation of Significant Differences to the Final ROD and enforced through Land Use Covenants that the current landowners are expected to voluntarily enter into with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

IRP Site 5 (Perimeter Road Landfill): The vadose zone remedy includes waste capping, O&M/LTM, and ICs. NFA is required for groundwater. Remedial action construction was completed in December 2010, and the

remedy has been operated, maintained, and monitored regularly since. This will be the second FYR for the IRP Site 5 vadose zone remedy.

IRP Site 16 (Crash Crew Training Pit No. 2): VOC-impacted groundwater at IRP Site 16 is being addressed via MNA and ICs. NFA is required for shallow soils, but the deep vadose zone (>10 feet below ground surface) requires monitoring and ICs. Remedial action construction was completed in 2006, and the remedy has been operated, maintained, and monitored regularly since. An OPS determination for the groundwater remedy was issued by the U.S. EPA in 2007. This will be the third FYR for the IRP Site 16 vadose zone and groundwater remedies.

IRP Site 17 (Communication Station Landfill): The vadose zone remedy includes waste consolidation, construction of a landfill cover, O&M, LTM, and ICs. NFA is required for groundwater. Remedial action construction for the vadose zone was completed in 2008, and the remedy has been operated, maintained, and monitored regularly since. This will be the third FYR for the IRP Site 17 vadose zone remedy.

IRP Site 18 (Off-Station VOC-Impacted Principal Aquifer Groundwater): Off-Station VOC-impacted groundwater in the Principal Aquifer is being addressed via groundwater extraction/treatment, O&M, LTM, and ICs. In accordance with a Settlement Agreement, O&M of the IRP Site 18 remedy is the joint responsibility of Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and Orange County Water District (OCWD), and LTM is the responsibility of the Navy. Remedial action construction was completed in 2006, and the remedy has been operated, maintained, and monitored since. This will be the third FYR for the IRP Site 18 groundwater remedy.

IRP Site 24 (VOC Source Area/VOC-Impacted Shallow Groundwater Unit Groundwater): VOC-impacted groundwater in the Shallow Groundwater Unit is being addressed via groundwater extraction/treatment, O&M, LTM, and ICs. O&M of the groundwater treatment portion of the remedy is the joint responsibility of IRWD and OCWD, while the groundwater extraction and LTM portions of the remedy are the responsibility of the Navy. Remedial action construction was completed in 2006, and the remedy has been operated, maintained, and monitored since. U.S. EPA issued an OPS determination in 2010. This will be the third FYR for the IRP Site 24 groundwater remedy.

Anomaly Area 3 (Former Borrow Pit/Construction Debris Landfill): The vadose zone remedy includes waste consolidation and capping, O&M/LTM, and ICs. NFA is required for groundwater. Remedial action construction was completed in 2012, and the remedy has been operated, maintained, and monitored regularly since. This will be the second FYR for the AA 3 vadose zone remedy. In 2018, with the approval of the Navy and the regulatory agencies, FivePoint Communities, Inc., redeveloped AA 3 into a passive walking park for the local community.

++++
The Navy plans to issue a Draft CERCLA FYR Report to the U.S. EPA, DTSC, and California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, for review in June 2019. After addressing their comments, the Navy will submit a final version by 30 September 2019. Another public notice will be issued at that time to announce the completion of the FYR Report. Questions or comments may be directed to:

Guy Chammas, MS, PG, CPSS
Lead Remedial Project Manager
Base Realignment and Closure Program Management Office West
33000 Nixie Way, Building 50
San Diego, CA 92147
(619) 524-5922; guy.chammas@navy.mil

Additional information and key documents for sites at Former MCAS El Toro are available at https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/brac_bases/california/former_mcas_el_toro.html and the Administrative Record:

Ms. Diane Silva, Administrative Records Manager
NAVFAC Southwest
1220 Pacific Highway, Code EV33
NBSD Bldg. 3519
San Diego, CA 92123
(619) 556-1280; diane.silva@navy.mil