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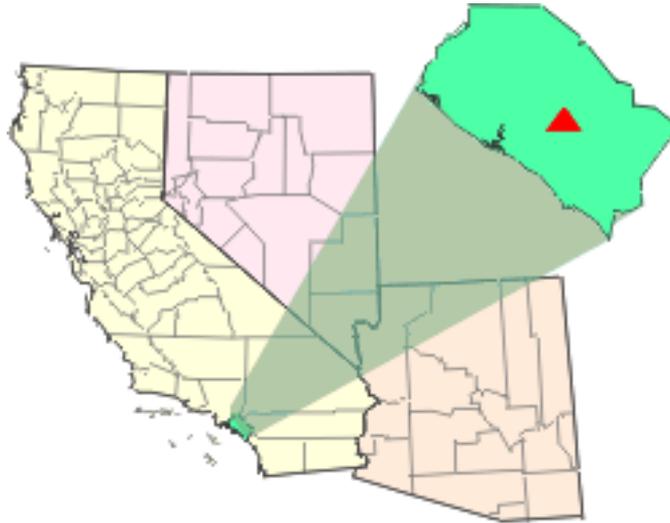
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EL TORO MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CALIFORNIA



**EPA Region
9
City: El Toro
County: Orange
Other Names:**

[Click here for interactive site area map](#)

EPA ID#

CA6170023208

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▼ SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

Description: The El Toro Marine Corps Air Station covers approximately 4,700 acres. Commissioned in 1943, it supports the Fleet Marine Forces in the Pacific Ocean, serving as the major west coast jet fighter facility. A total of 25 potentially contaminated areas have been identified on the Air Station, including four landfills suspected of containing both hazardous and solid waste, and other areas where polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), battery acids, leaded fuels, and other hazardous substances were suspected of being dumped or spilled. A Remedial Investigation conducted by El Toro has identified volatile organic compounds (VOCs) primarily trichloroethene (TCE) in groundwater that has migrated more than three miles off base. The primary source of the groundwater contamination is two large aircraft hangars. Approximately 1,100 acres of land are irrigated by wells located within three miles of the site; however, none of these wells are drinking water sources. Surface water flows into the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve, located approximately eight miles from the base.

Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through Federal actions

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 06/24/88

Final Date: 02/21/90

Deleted Date:

▼ THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS



Two large aircraft hangars are the primary source VOC contamination detected in groundwater. This contamination is the principal threat at El Toro. The four landfills have been inactive from 18 years to more than 40 years. There are some low levels of contamination, primarily VOCs and metals, detected in groundwater adjacent to the landfills. However, the contaminant plumes appear to be stable and are not migrating. No drinking water sources have been contaminated. The Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve is potentially threatened.

▼ CLEANUP APPROACH

This site is being addressed in several long-term remedial phases focusing on cleanup of the groundwater, identification of the source and cleanup of VOC contamination in soil, and cleanup of abandoned wastewater treatment lines and tanks.

▼ Response Action Status



Groundwater Sites 18 & 24 : An investigation into the nature and extent of groundwater contamination was completed in 1997. The Navy has recently concluded its negotiations with the Orange County Water District and the Irvine Valley Ranch Water District on a joint desalter and VOC treatment project to address El Toro contamination. Final signatures on the Agreement by the Boards, the Navy, and the Department of Justice were obtained in July, 2001. A remedy was proposed in November, 2001 and a public meeting was held on November 14, 2001. The public comment period ended on December 7, 2001 with no significant comments received. The ROD was signed by all Parties on June 27, 2002. The Navy will submit the schedule for Remedial Design and Remedial Action to the regulatory agencies in mid-July, 2002.



Soil: An interim Record of Decision (ROD) for Site 24 soil was signed in September, 1997 to address soil contaminated with VOCs in the vicinity of the two aircraft hangars. The soil contamination has impacted the groundwater beneath the base. The selected remedy is Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE). Pilot studies at Site 24 were performed to determine optimal extraction locations. The pilot studies removed over 800 pounds of VOCs. The SVE system used at Norton Air Force base was taken to MCAS El Toro and was operated from May, 1999 to . Over 260 pounds of VOCs have thus far been removed by this system. The Navy and regulators are currently discussing the final soil cleanup level and possible closure of the site.



USTs: Abandoned Wastewater Treatment Lines and Tanks: El Toro Marine Corps began a study into the nature and extent of contamination caused by abandoned wastewater treatment lines and leaking tanks. The investigation was completed in mid-1996. Thus far, 365 underground storage tanks (USTs) have been removed. EL Toro constructed a free product removal system with over 11,000 gallons of petroleum product removed. An SVE system was also installed at Tank Farm #2 with more than 150,000 pounds of petroleum product removed thus far.



Landfills: A Proposed Plan to cap the four landfills - Sites 2 & 17 and Sites 3 & 5, went out for public comment in March, 1998. In addition to capping, two of the landfills (Sites 2 & 17) will undergo habitat restoration for the endangered California Gnatcatcher. An interim Record of Decision (ROD) for Landfill Sites 2 & 17 was signed in April, 2000. The 90% Design has been completed for Sites 2 and 17 and the Navy plans to begin construction of the caps in Fall, 2002. The Pre-Design Investigation Workplan for Sites 3 and 5 will be finalized in August, 2002 and the Navy plans to begin fieldwork in late, 2002.

OU3A Sites: A draft final Feasibility Study (FS) for Sites 8 (former DRMO Storage Yard), 11 (former transformer storage area) & 12 (former sludge drying bed) was submitted for agency review in January, 1998. The Sites are contaminated primarily with PCBs in the soil. Groundwater is not impacted by these Sites. A ROD for Site 11 requiring soil removal was signed on September 30, 1999. The Navy and regulators are currently discussing the cleanup approach.

OU3B Sites 7, 14, & 16: A draft RI report for Sites 7 (former drop tank storage and drainage area) & 14 (former battery acid disposal area) were submitted to the regulatory agencies in September, 1999. A ROD documenting No Further Action for Sites 7 and 14 was signed by the Navy and EPA in Spring, 2001. The Final Feasibility Study for Site 16 will be issued in August, 2002. The draft ROD for Site 16 should be out in November, 2002.

Site Facts: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station is participating in the Installation Restoration Program, a specially funded program established by the Department of Defense (DOD) in 1978 to identify, investigate, and control the migration of hazardous contaminants at military and other DOD facilities.

▼ ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



After adding the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station to the NPL, the EPA performed preliminary investigations and determined that no immediate actions were required while further investigations are underway.

▼ POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Potentially responsible parties (PRPs) refers to companies that are potentially responsible for generating, transporting, or disposing of the hazardous waste found at the site.

▼ SITE DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

Administrative Records: Online versions not yet available

Records of Decision: Online versions not yet available

Technical Documents:

▼ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Public Meetings: MCAS El Toro Restoration Advisory Board

The MCAS El Toro Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) serves as a focal point for the exchange of information about environmental restoration activities between the Marine Corps, regulatory agencies, and the local community. RAB members review technical reports and plans pertaining to the MCAS El Toro cleanup and provide input to the Marine Corps and the regulatory agencies. RAB members serve as volunteers and act as a liaison to the specific community they represent including various cities and homeowner associations in the vicinity of MCAS El Toro. All RAB meetings are open to the public and anyone interested may attend. They are held every other month on the last Wednesday evening of the month.

Newsletters and Fact Sheets: Online versions not yet available

▼ SITE REPOSITORIES/LIBRARY SOURCES



The public information repositories for the site are at the following locations:

Heritage Park Regional Library,
Reference Section,
14361 Yale Street,
Irvine, CA 92714
(949) 551-7151

The most complete collection of documents is the official EPA site file, maintained at the following location:

Superfund Records Center
Mail Stop SFD-7C
95 Hawthorne Street, Room 403
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000

Enter main lobby of 75 Hawthorne street, go to 4th floor of South Wing Annex.

▼ CONTACTS

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**PUBLIC INFORMATION
CENTER:**

(415) 947-8701

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

STATE CONTACT:

Triss Chesney

ADDRESS:

5796 Corporate Ave., Cypress, CA 90630

PHONE NUMBER:

(714) 484-5395

PRP CONTACT:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

COMMUNITY CONTACT:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

After Hours (Emergency Response)

**State Environmental Protection Agency
(800) 852-7550**

**US Environmental Protection Agency
(800) 424-8802**

▼ MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

STATE:

CA

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

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EPA ORGANIZATION:

SFD-8-1