

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
May 12, 2010

ITEM: 17

SUBJECT: Informational Item: Groundwater Cleanup Activities at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. San Diego Water Board staff will provide a summary of the cleanup programs, status update on recent progress, and an explanation of current issues impacting groundwater at the only Federal Superfund Site in Region 9. (*Cheryl Prowell*)

PURPOSE: To inform the San Diego Water Board on the status of groundwater cleanup activities in several programs at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, a groundwater dependent community. Since activities in these programs rarely require consideration by the San Diego Water Board at a public meeting, this item will provide information on the cleanups conducted at the Base and their significance.

PUBLIC NOTICE: This item was listed in the May 12, 2010 Board Meeting agenda notice that was mailed to the San Diego Water Board's agenda mail list of interested persons.

DISCUSSION: Over 600 sites have been successfully investigated and closed under the groundwater cleanup programs at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (the Base), since the mid-1980s. Activities are ongoing at 88 sites. These activities include investigation of petroleum from leaking underground storage tanks; removal of debris from former burn dumps, and treatment of chlorinated solvents detected in Base water supply wells.

The Base is comprised of 195 square miles, including 17 miles of coastline, located in northern San Diego and southern Orange Counties. For more than 65 years, the Base has been the largest employer in North San Diego County. The base has a daytime population exceeding more than 70,000 people including active duty military, their families, and civilian employees. All of the water for this population is supplied by a network of 35 groundwater wells located throughout the base. The Base was listed on the National Priorities List in 1989 due to the proximity of

potentially polluted areas within 0.25 mile of a Base water supply well, making the Base the only Federal Superfund Site in the San Diego Region.

The San Diego Water Board provides oversight for groundwater cleanup sites through several regulatory programs whose purpose is to restore the quality of the groundwater at impacted sites and protect the beneficial uses of groundwater on the base. The primary programs are the Installation Restoration Program, Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Assessments.

The San Diego Water Board has entered into a Federal Facilities Agreement with the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control to provide joint oversight of the sites that are managed under Superfund in the Installation Restoration Program. Of over 80 sites that have been evaluated in this program there are currently 19 cases still undergoing evaluation or cleanup.

The San Diego Water Board has lead regulatory oversight responsibility for leaking underground storage tanks at Camp Pendleton. The majority of leaking underground storage tank cases at the Base have been successfully evaluated, remediated, and closed. Of over 300 cases that have been evaluated in this program, investigation and remediation is ongoing at only 38 sites.

Additional sites with suspected contamination were identified as part of a RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA). In 1992, 280 sites were identified. Of these sites, 26 remain open and require additional investigation. The remaining cases have been closed or transferred to other programs. The San Diego Water Board provides lead oversight on the investigation and remediation of these sites. These sites include areas impacted by spills from chemical storage areas and above ground heating fuel storage tanks. Constituents of concern at these sites include petroleum hydrocarbons, chlorinated solvents, metals, and PCBs.

In addition, other sites not meeting the criteria for the larger programs are handled on a case by case basis under San Diego Water Board oversight. These sites include those impacted by leaks from aboveground storage tanks and

future residential housing areas impacted by legally applied pesticides during past agricultural use.

SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTS:

1. Location Map

RECOMMENDATION:

Informational Item Only