



## Department of Toxic Substances Control



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October 6, 2006

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REVIEW OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY 2006 GENERAL PLAN DRAFT PROGRAM  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, SCH #2006021054 DATED AUGUST 18, 2006

Dear Mr. Holm:

Thank you for providing the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) the opportunity to review the *Monterey County 2006 General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)* dated August 18, 2006.

DTSC is the State's lead agency for the environmental cleanup and realignment of closing military bases and maintains jurisdiction over all hazardous substance and hazardous waste issues with the exception of petroleum contamination. The basis for DTSC's regulatory authority is found in California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapters 6.5 (Hazardous Waste Control), Chapter 6.8 (Hazardous Substances Account Act), and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB) has authority over the remediation of petroleum sites and the protection of the waters of the State of California. The CCRWQCB regulatory authority is found in the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, California Water Code and California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 15 and 16. In addition, the Air Resources Board would be concerned with impacts to air quality.

Mr. Carl Holm  
October 6, 2006  
Page 2

DTSC generally reviews the environmental documents to determine whether the proposed project could have potential impact on public health and worker safety because of the possible presence of residual chemical contaminants and/or munitions and explosives of concern (MEC).

The following comments are provided to clarify a few issues in the Draft Environmental Impact Report. These statements should be revised in the Final EIR in response to these comments.

**Table 1-2 Executive Summary Table, Mitigation Measure 4.3 Water Resources.**

Volatile Organic Compounds and other contaminants have been found to impact the groundwater resources at numerous sites in Monterey County, and the most notable is the former Fort Ord. Although the Fort Ord and Monterey Peninsula Airport prohibition zones and the associated County Ordinance are mentioned briefly in Section 4.3 (Page 4.3-72) of the DEIR, DTSC encourages the County to research the extent of groundwater impacts that have been identified in Monterey County. For instance, the former Fort Ord drinking water wells have been impacted with low concentrations of Trichloroethene. These other organic contaminants should be added to mitigation measure Table 1-2 and other appropriate tables throughout the document. Information with respect to the status of the former Fort Ord cleanup program can be found at [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com).

3-1

**Section 4.3.4, Page 4.3-100 Well Competition and Adverse Well Interference.**

This section describes the impacts of wells in close proximity or adjacent to each other that can be thought of as competing for the same groundwater resources. It should be noted that interference with groundwater contaminant plumes should also be avoided. If upon pumping, the cone of depression interferes with a contaminated groundwater plume, adverse effects will result.

3-2

**Section 4.13, Hazards and Hazardous Materials.**

The presence of MEC has been identified in the former Fort Ord area. The MEC areas are being identified, evaluated and remediated by the Army, although DTSC feels that MEC should be listed as a hazardous material on page 4.13-2. In addition, the Army feels that reasonable and prudent actions be taken when performing intrusive activities on the former Fort Ord site. The Army recommends that construction personnel involved in intrusive activity attend MEC recognition and safety training as offered by the Army in accordance with Record of Decision, No Further Action Related to MEC-Track 1 Sites, February 2005. The Army must be notified, by the landowner, prior to the start of planned intrusive activities. The link for registering for this training can be found at [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com)

3-3

Mr. Carl Holm  
October 6, 2006  
Page 3

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 255-3664.

Sincerely,



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