



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

T- 20-99
September 14, 1999
For Immediate Release

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DTSC and Navy Sign Historic Cleanup Agreement

SACRAMENTO -- The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced it has signed a Federal Facilities Site Remediation Agreement (FFSRA) with the U.S. Navy for the closed Marine Corps Air Facility in Tustin, California.

The agreement, signed in August 1999, ensures that the environmental impacts associated with past military hazardous waste disposal practices are investigated and that appropriate cleanup actions are taken. The agreement coordinates the Navy's cleanup obligations under federal and state law, and provides for operation and maintenance of any remedial actions. The agreement also provides for state review and approval of schedules, documents, and cleanup actions.

Military operations officially ceased at Tustin Marine Corps Air Facility on July 2, 1999. The environmental cleanup has been in progress since 1983. Prior military aircraft operations caused releases of hazardous wastes including solvents and oils, contaminated fuels, degreasers, paint wastes, photo processing wastes, acids, refrigerants, polychlorinated biphenyls, pesticides, and herbicides. Without an order or agreement, the state's authority to impose environmental requirements must be resolved through enforcement actions or litigation.

In January 1999, DTSC issued a draft enforcement order to the Navy under its Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) authority. This order was issued partly in response to the Navy's decision to reduce its funding of state oversight costs by 20%. The Navy is obligated under federal law to reimburse the state for all costs associated with the state's oversight of the Navy's cleanup activities. After issuance of the orders, the Navy agreed to enter into the FFSRA, which was signed by Ms. Elsie Munsell, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment and Safety), and by John Scandura, Department of Toxic Substances Control Branch Chief for the Office of Military Facilities in Cypress.

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DTSC is one of the six boards and departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting reduction.