

## Water in Marina is Safe to Drink

Groundwater test results from all monitoring wells on the former Fort Ord are routinely provided to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the local community. The city of Marina's drinking water wells draw water from very deep aquifers over 900 feet below the ground surface. Samples from these wells are analyzed annually by a state-certified laboratory and indicate that the wells provide safe drinking water.

Groundwater in shallower aquifers has been monitored at former Fort Ord since 1987 to help understand the location and movement of groundwater contamination caused by past training activities at the Fire Drill Area near the former Fritzche Army Airfield. Groundwater in these shallower aquifers is separated from the deep drinking water aquifers by thick clay layers called aquitards. Deep aquifers are protected from shallow contamination because groundwater cannot move easily through aquitards.

## Water Samples Identify Trichloroethene

The Army samples monitoring wells in and around the former Fort Ord four times a year. A sample taken in September 2004 from an Operable Unit 1 (OU-1) monitoring well located on the former Fort Ord-Marina border found a common cleaning solvent, trichloroethene (TCE) in the shallow aquifer (see Figure below). This well was re-sampled in October 2004 and the TCE presence was confirmed. Two additional wells were installed nearby and sampled in December 2004. TCE was detected in these three wells in the 25- to 50-parts-per-billion range. These and other monitoring wells will continue to be sampled quarterly as part of the comprehensive Superfund cleanup program for the former Fort Ord. All samples are tested by certified laboratories and results are reported to the regulatory agencies.

TCE has also been historically detected in OU-1 shallow groundwater samples collected southeast of the former Fort Ord-Marina border. The new detections indicate that the TCE groundwater contamination at OU-1 may have migrated beyond that border. However, the shallow aquifers are not used to supply drinking water.

## Continuing Investigation

The groundwater investigation will continue. More monitoring wells will be installed on former Fort Ord and off-site to determine the location of the contamination, so that an appropriate clean-up approach can be implemented. Former Fort Ord drinking water wells are located about 2 miles east of the expanded groundwater investigation and are not affected by TCE contamination in the OU-1 area.

## Contact Information

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# Army Expands Groundwater Investigation

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Trichloroethene (TCE) was recently detected in shallow groundwater within OU-1 near the former Fort Ord-Marina border. It was detected in the 25- to 50-parts-per-billion range at three wells, approximately one-tenth of a mile northeast of Monterey Bay Estates. The Army's on-going OU-1 investigation will expand to include private land east of Monterey Bay Estates and west of the affected wells.

Drinking water for residents in the City of Marina area comes from three deep aquifer water supply wells located in the eastern portion of Marina. OU-1 groundwater is separated from these supply wells by thick clay formations that prevent this water from flowing down into the deeper aquifer that provides your drinking water. TCE found in OU-1 shallow groundwater travels towards Monterey Bay rather than deeper into the water supply aquifers.

The State of California drinking water standard to protect public health is 5.0 parts per billion for TCE. Drinking water standards are based on a 70-year (lifetime) consumption of 2 liters (about 2.1 quarts) of water a day.

