

Water in Marina is safe to drink

The city of Marina's drinking water wells draw water from very deep aquifers over 900 feet below ground surface. Samples from these wells are analyzed annually by a state-certified laboratory and the wells have been shown repeatedly to provide safe drinking water.

Groundwater in shallower aquifers has been monitored at Fort Ord since 1987 to understand the location and movement of groundwater contamination caused by past waste disposal activities at the former Fort Ord. 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 carbon tetrachloride

The Army samples monitoring wells in and around the former Fort Ord quarterly. A sample taken in August 2000 from a monitoring well located on the Fort Ord/Marina border about one mile west of Imjin Road was found to contain a common cleaning solvent, carbon tetrachloride (CT) in the shallow aquifer. This well was re-sampled in September 2000 and its presence was confirmed. CT was detected in the seven to ten parts per billion range. This 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.

CT has also been historically detected in samples collected east of Marina (within former Fort Ord) in the shallow aquifers. The new detection indicates that the CT contamination beneath the former Fort Ord may have migrated beneath the northeast portion of the city of Marina. 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 Fort Ord and in Marina to define the limits of the contamination, so that an appropriate clean-up approach can be determined. Fort Ord drinking water wells are located about 2 miles east of the expanded groundwater investigation and are not affected by the CT contamination.

Sample results from all monitoring wells on the former Fort Ord are routinely provided to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the local community. The drinking water supply wells are sampled regularly and results are provided to California Department of Health Services. **No carbon tetrachloride contamination has ever been found in these supply wells.**

Army expands groundwater investigation

September 2000

Carbon tetrachloride was recently detected in groundwater near the Fort Ord/Marina border. It was detected in the seven to ten parts per billion range. The Army's on-going groundwater investigation of the former Fort Ord is being expanded to include this area.

Drinking water for residents in the City of Marina comes from three water supply wells located in the eastern portion of Marina located in the deeper aquifers over 900 feet below ground surface. **No carbon tetrachloride contamination has ever been found in these supply wells.**

The State of California establishes drinking water standards to protect public health. The drinking water standard is 0.5 parts per billion for carbon tetrachloride. Drinking water standards are based on a 70-year (lifetime) consumption of 2 liters (about 1.5 quarts) of water a day.

For more information please contact

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