

Summary of Chino Airport Groundwater Remedial Project

Since 1989, under the oversight of the Regional Water Quality Control Board – Santa Ana Region (Water Board), the County of San Bernardino (County) has conducted environmental investigations and clean-up related activities at the Chino Airport (Airport) located at 7000 Merrill Avenue in the City of Chino, to address the groundwater contamination caused by historical activities at the Airport. Former names of the Airport include Cal Aero Airport, Cal Aero Academy, Plancor 406, Cal Aero Flight Academy, Cal Aero Field and Cal Aero Academy Ontario.

Prior to 1940, the Airport site was primarily used for agricultural purposes. In the early 1940s, the Airport site started being used as an airfield. Since 1961, the County has operated the Airport as a public airport for commercial, industrial, and aviation use. Past and present uses consist of a flight academy, aircraft sales and storage, modification of military aircraft, various manufacturing, crop dusting, aircraft restoration and maintenance repair shops, aircraft painting, stripping and washing services, mixing and loading of fire retardant chemicals for forest fires and a maintenance and operational facility for the United States Forest Service aircraft and aircraft museums.

The historical uses of the Airport appear to have resulted in contamination of groundwater that was initially detected in the late 1980's. Following detection of the contamination, the County completed numerous environmental investigations of 20 areas of concern, including drilling and sampling over 280 soil borings, installing and sampling 75 groundwater monitoring wells, and conducting extensive testing, and sampling of soil, soil gas, and groundwater. In 2016, four focused investigations were conducted to aid in the evaluation of cleanup alternatives for the impacted groundwater and to support activities such as risk assessment and groundwater modeling. Technical documents relating to the County's investigation and proposed response action can be found on the Water Board's website: http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL208634049

Hard copies of select documents are available for review at the Cal Aero Preserve Public Library, 15850 Main Street, Chino, CA 91708.

The County's investigations identified the primary contaminants of concern impacting the groundwater, including seven volatile organic compounds: trichloroethylene (TCE); 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP); cis-1,2-dichloroethene (cis-1,2-DCE); 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA); 1,1-dichloroethene; carbon tetrachloride; and 1,4-dioxane. Residents and

businesses in the area above the contaminated groundwater are not using untreated contaminated groundwater for domestic purposes, but obtain their potable drinking water from municipal sources, and as a result, such users are not at risk from consumption of the groundwater. Nor does the groundwater migrating from the Airport pose a risk from vapors migrating through soil that requires a response. Where such contamination is present in groundwater, it is deep below the ground surface.

The County is currently evaluating numerous options for the contaminated groundwater and the recommended remedial alternatives consist of several methods to control, contain, treat, and reduce the remaining contamination in the groundwater. The Final Feasibility Study prepared by the County and approved by the Water Board identifies the alternatives developed and reviewed by the County and a preferred proposed alternative, identified as Alternative 4.A. The County is conducting its groundwater clean-up activities at the Airport in accordance with state and federal requirements in order to: (1) identify, investigate, and clean up or control releases of hazardous substances, and (2) reduce the risk to human health and the environment.

The next step is for the Water Board to review the County's draft Interim Remedial Action Plan, which is projected to occur in early 2018. If approved, the County will begin detailed design and construction plans with construction expected to begin in 2019. The Remedial Action Plan is considered to be interim because the County is moving forward now on an interim basis to initiate a response action as quickly as possible, but in the future could evaluate one or more additional response actions, as appropriate.

The County has created this website in order to provide information to the public and to provide the community with information needed to be involved in the process to investigate and select an interim remedy, which will be set forth in the Interim Remedial Action Plan, following the close of the public comment period and consideration of public comments. To this end, the County will hold a public workshop to receive comments from the public and answer questions related to this project on January 18, 2018, from 6:00PM to 7:30PM at the Chaffey College, Chino Community Center, 5890 College Park Avenue, Chino CA 91710.

The County will also accept written comments to the proposed Interim Remedial Action Plan during the comment period from December 18, 2017, through February 18, 2018.

Written comments may be submitted to:

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Interested members of the public can also sign-up to receive updates related to the remedial activities at the Airport on this website.