



CITY OF SACRAMENTO

(3)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SOLID WASTE DIVISION

JOHN F. BOSS
Solid Waste Division Manager

March 25, 1986

Transportation & Community Development Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: McCLELLAN AIR FORCE BASE STUDY OF NORTH AREA WATER
WELLS - QUARTERLY REPORT

SUMMARY

This report describes the on-going and anticipated activities at the base. It is segregated into three sections; on-base, off-base and status of the sewage interceptor line to the Regional Sanitation District and the City water main.

Extensive investigations and studies are drawing to an end and numerous reports are being distributed to the regulatory agencies for review and approval. A contract to construct a City water main along Santa Ana Avenue has been awarded and should be available for hookups this summer.

BACKGROUND

On Base Activities

Air Force contractors have recently recommended, to the regulatory agencies, a ground water extraction program for Area D. The regulatory agencies met with base officials and their contractor on March 21st. Significant discrepancies were found in the report and were discussed. However, all parties agreed that these discrepancies could be mitigated without seriously jeopardizing the construction of the system planned for this summer.

Staff has reviewed the extraction plan and agrees that the installation of the extraction wells should not be delayed. Any extraction and drawdown problems will be detected early, during the full operation of the extraction system, and modifications can then be made.

The contract to install a clay/plastic liner over the disposal sites in Area D should resume sometime in April. The contractor was forced to postpone the construction in January when the rains made it impossible for him to continue.

Investigations to determine the extent of soil and ground water contamination at the other disposal sites on the base, specifically Areas A, B, and C, are drawing to an end. Numerous reports will be submitted to the regulatory agencies over the next couple of months regarding the magnitude of contamination and the recommended remedial activities to abate the contamination in these areas. Of particular importance to City staff are the investigations in Areas B and C. Area B, located in the southwest part of the base, is the suspected source of the TCE contamination that shut-down City Well 150 and may impact the City's well field southwest of the base. Area C, located in the west-central part of the base, is the suspected source of contamination for the Robla Area. Staff intends to actively participate with the regulatory agencies in the review of all reports pertinent to these two areas.

Off-Base Activities

The quarterly off-base domestic well monitoring program is back on-line and the laboratory analytical problems which plagued it last year seem to be resolved.

The 1986 first quarter results for the three sectors monitored were as follows:

Sector	Number of Private Wells in 4th Quarter 1985		
	Contaminated (a)	Trace (b)	Clean (c)
Rio Linda Northwest of Base	4	15	55
Robla	0	26	22
Southwest of Base	1	0	3

- (a) Contaminated wells are those wells which have contaminants exceeding state action levels and hence are unsuitable for drinking.
- (b) Trace wells are those wells which have detectable levels of contaminants but at concentrations below state action levels. Water from these wells are considered suitable for drinking.

- (c) Clean wells are those wells with no detectable levels of contaminants.

An Air Force contractor has recently completed the installation of 38 monitoring wells off-base and along the perimeter of the base. Regulatory agencies and City staff are reviewing the results of the water quality analyses and hydrologic studies completed concurrently with the installation of these wells. Preliminary indications are that:

1. Contamination does extend off-base and to deeper zones than originally believed;
2. Ground water flow contours, based on water level measurements taken in November 1985 indicate that ground water was moving from off-base to on-base; and, at that time,
3. Additional monitoring wells are required and additional water quality analyses and water level measurements are needed to fully comprehend the ground water regime in the McClellan area.

Sewage Interceptor Line and the City Water Main

The Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District Board approved the negative declaration on the McClellan sewage interceptor on March 11, 1986. A major issue on this negative declaration was the potential for this line to contribute to the deterioration of ground water quality in the Robla area and whether McClellan Air Force Base should pay to abandon the wells in this area and supply the residents with an alternate water supply.

The City of Sacramento Toxic Substances Commission reviewed this negative declaration. Their response was submitted to the City Council in February 1986. The Regional Sanitation District Board approved the negative declaration specifying that all wells within 200 feet of the interceptor be abandoned and an alternate drinking water source be supplied. Current County and State health standards only required action for wells within 50 feet.

The City has awarded a contract to construct a water line down Santa Ana Avenue in the Robla Area. Under the terms of this contract the work must be completed by August 18, 1986.

CONCLUSION

The investigations of ground water contamination at McClellan Air Force Base has reached a critical stage. An enormous amount of data will have to be assimilated by all parties on the Task Force and in a relatively short period of time to meet previously scheduled deadlines. City staff is participating fully in all facets of the investigation; however, preference is being placed on those areas directly impacting City operations or specifically within the City's responsibility and/or jurisdiction.

The Toxic Substance Commission intends to continue tracking the McClellan Air Force Base ground water investigation and will report to Council within nine months.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is submitted for committee information only.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Tomko
for John F. Boss
Solid Waste Division Manager

For Committee Information:

Solon Wisham, Jr.
Solon Wisham, Jr.
Assistant City Manager

Approved:

Melvin H. Johnson
Melvin H. Johnson
Director of Public Works