



IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

15600 Sand Canyon Ave., P.O. Box 57000, Irvine, CA 92619-7000 (949) 453-5300

August 8, 2008

Dear Irvine Resident:

Two years ago, the City of Irvine and the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) distributed information regarding the safety of local drinking water in relation to the plume of trichloroethylene (TCE) that emanates from the former El Toro Marine Air Corps Station. The purpose of this letter is to update you on the ongoing safety monitoring of your local drinking water as well as the continued effort to clean-up the TCE plume.

Irvine's Drinking Water is Safe

First and foremost, drinking water in Irvine has been and remains absolutely safe. Your drinking water continues to be well within all State and federal water quality regulations. IRWD maintains a State-certified water quality laboratory that annually performs more than a quarter of a million tests of our water supply to ensure that this quality is monitored and maintained.

Although permitted by State and federal drinking water standards, IRWD does not have detectable levels of TCE in the drinking water system. While IRWD's Annual Water Quality Report indicates a trace level of TCE in one of 18 IRWD drinking water wells located in Santa Ana, the source of this TCE, which was commonly used for industrial purposes, is from an overlying land use in the area, not the former El Toro Marine Air Corps Station. The concentration noted in the water quality report was 0.8 standard of 5.0 parts per billion. Further safeguarding your drinking water, IRWD imposes a voluntary internal practice of not introducing blended water into our drinking water system with any detectable levels of TCE. As a result of this practice and as confirmed by water quality testing, TCE has not been detected in the IRWD drinking water distribution system. Specific testing at ten locations throughout the Woodbridge area in 2006 and in July 2008 found **no TCE in IRWD drinking water.**

Irvine Desalter Project Update

The Irvine Ranch Water District, the Orange County Water District and the United States Department of the Navy have completed a joint project, the Irvine Desalter Project (IDP), designed to clean up the TCE plume. The IDP began full operation in January 2007 and pumps water from the plume of contamination caused by the use of aircraft solvents on the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. Following treatment to remove the TCE, this water is used only for non-drinking purposes in IRWD's extensive recycled water system. It will provide 1.3 billion gallons of water annually, or enough to irrigate 1,300 acres of landscaping. It is projected that it will take 40 years to clean up the plume.

If you have questions regarding water quality please call IRWD at 949-453-5500 or visit <http://www.irwd.com>. For questions related to base activities associated with the former El Toro Marine Air Corps Station please call Anthony Megliola, the Project Manager for the U.S. Department of the Navy at 619-532-0765.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Paul D. Jones, II in black ink.

Paul D. Jones, II
General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District

Handwritten signature of Sean Joyce in black ink.

Sean Joyce
City Manager
City of Irvine