



California Border Field State Park

Facility and Location

Border Field State Park is located immediately north of the international border between the U.S. and Mexico in Imperial Beach, California. The Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) is bounded on the west by the Pacific Ocean. Beginning in the 1930s, the Navy began acquisition of a practice facility (98 acres) and expansion continued until sometime after World War II at 372 acres.

The original use of the facility was as an auxiliary aviation field. During the 1940s, the land use expanded to an aircraft gunnery range, machine gun training center, bombing target, air-to-ground gunnery, and an emergency landing field. In 1961, gunnery training activities were discontinued. For a time, the Navy used the facility as an electronic laboratory, but eventually the site was declared surplus and the property was transferred to the state of California. It is now part of the Tijuana River Natural Estuarine Sanctuary Natural Wildlife Refuge.

There were two identified ranges at this FUDS: a strafing range complex and a practice bombing target. The strafing range consisted of a multiple range complex and had at least five mobile gun targets on the property. These targets were on rails (aka 'Rabbit Tracks') and, in addition to machine gun training, were known to be used for aircraft gunnery training (air-to-ground fire). The predominant ammunition used for this type of training was .50 caliber. A practice bombing range also has been identified as once existing on the property. Collected historical information indicated that one pound practice bombs were dropped on a zero target located in an open area near the center of the site.

Media Sampled and Findings

Surface Water — In 2008, one of three samples detected perchlorate at 0.77 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

Not Applicable. All samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb.