



California NWS Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook

Facility and Location

Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook is located immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. The site has been owned and operated by the government since 1942 when it acquired 9,147 acres of the old Santa Margarita Ranch, which was originally a Spanish land grant. In 1944, the Fallbrook Ammunition Quality Evaluation Laboratory was established to support the Pacific and European Allied forces in World War II. NWS Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook is home to the only West Coast air launched missile production and storage facility. Air-launched missiles such as the Phoenix, Sidewinder, Maverick, and HARM are inspected, maintained, and re-certified. NWS Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook has a complement of 85 military personnel and 100 civil service personnel.

Media Sampled and Findings

In prior reports, sampling results were reported at the method detection limit which were actually non-detects. The information below accurately represents the results of sampling efforts at NWS Fallbrook.

Drinking Water — In 2007, one of two samples detected perchlorate at 0.54 ppb.

Sediment — In 2009, 20 of 20 samples reported no detection.

Soil — In 2009, 16 of 152 samples detected perchlorate from 0.33 to 18 ppb. In 2007, 29 samples reported no detection. Prior to 2007, 12 samples reported no detection.

Surface Water — In 2009, 8 of 30 samples detected perchlorate from 0.10 to 0.33 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

Soil concentrations are below the 55,000 ppb residential and 720,000 ppb industrial soil screening levels recommended by EPA Region IX. NWS Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook will conduct sampling under the Munitions Response Program. Samples were taken during the Site Investigation (SI) phase which is still in the draft phase of the final SI report. All other samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb and California Maximum Contaminant Level for drinking water of 6 ppb.