



California Van Nuys Army Airfield

Facility and Location

Van Nuys Army Airfield (now Airport) is located three miles northwest of Van Nuys. The Army acquired the site in December 1942 and sold it to the city of Los Angeles in December 1946. Shortly thereafter, the Federal government reacquired 63 acres for use by the California Air National Guard. The Army used the site as a complete air training facility. The DoD built approximately 200 buildings. Preliminary information indicates munitions items were stored and used at the site; therefore, a detailed review of site historical information was performed to determine whether a potential release of perchlorate to the environment exists due to DoD activities. The Van Nuys Army Airfield is located in the San Fernando Valley, which contains a large perchlorate plume already being investigated.

Media Sampled and Findings

In the summer of 2003, the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards requested information from DoD regarding perchlorate in drinking water. DoD worked with California regulators to establish an interagency working group and a methodology for prioritizing sites for sampling to determine the extent of the problem potentially attributable to DoD. The California Perchlorate Sampling Prioritization Protocol allows California to assist DoD in prioritizing the investigation of suspected sites and to focus resources on the sites that may have the greatest impact to the public. Van Nuys Army Airfield was identified as a site for additional consideration and possible sampling per the California Perchlorate Site Prioritization Protocol.

Appropriate Actions

On August 20, 2009, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board agreed with finding that this site is not a source of perchlorate.