

Prepared for:



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Los Angeles District



Final

Public Involvement Plan

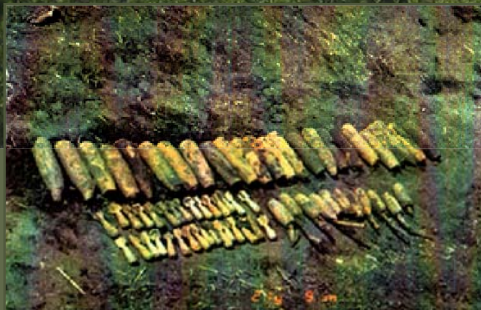
for the

Former Trabuco Bombing Range, Rancho Santa Margarita, California

Contract No. W912PL-04-D-0024

Task Order No. 0005

FUDS Project Number J09CA020900



Prepared by:



January 2006



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 532711
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90053-2325

Programs and Project
Management Division

27 January 2006

Ms. Leticia Hernandez, Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
Final Public Involvement Plan, Former Trabuco Bombing Range—Los Angeles District
Formerly Used Defense Site J09CA020900

Enclosed is the *Former Trabuco Bombing Range Final Public Involvement Plan* for your files. This Public Involvement Plan (PIP) was developed to facilitate and promote two-way communications between project-area residents (including Rancho Santa Margarita, Mission Viejo, and other nearby communities) and the USACE during activities associated with the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being conducted at the former Trabuco Bombing Range Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDES), and to encourage community involvement in current and future site-related activities.

We will also be providing a link to the document on the project web site (<http://www.trabuco-bombrange.com>) that will allow the public to download the document, with a direct link to my email for comments.

Please contact me at the address below with project-related questions or concerns. I can also be reached at (213) 452-3990, or by e-mail at: larry.a.sievers@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L Sievers".

Larry A. Sievers
FUDS Program Manager
USACE Los Angeles District, CESPL-PM-M
915 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 15011
Los Angeles, CA 90017-3401

Enclosure

Ms. Leticia Hernandez (page 2 of 2)

Distribution List:

Mr. Omo Patrick, DTSC Office of Military Facilities, Southern California Region,
5796 Corporate Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 (1 hard copy and 1 CD)

Mr. Jim Austreng, DTSC Office of Military Facilities, 8800 Cal Center Drive,
Sacramento, CA 95826 (1 CD)

Mr. B.J. Allen, USACE, 16885 W. Bernardo Dr., #300-B, San Diego, CA 92127
(1 hard copy and 1 CD)

Mr. Vince Del Greco, USACE, 333 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94105
(1 CD)

Mr. Ed Ketchum, USACE, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2922 (1 CD)

Mr. A.R. Smith, USACE, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2922 (1 CD)

U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, ATTN: CEHNC-OE-CX, P.O. Box
1600, Huntsville, AL 35807-4301 (1 CD)

Ms. Debbie Edwards, USACE, 4820 University Square, Huntsville, AL 35816
(1 CD)

Mr. Tom Wheeler, City of Rancho Santa Margarita, 22112 El Paseo, Rancho
Santa Margarita, CA 92688 (1 CD)

Mr. John Gannaway, Orange County Parks, One Irvine Park Rd., Orange, CA
92862 (2 CDs)

Ms. Rita Fallon, Rancho Santa Margarita Library, 30902 La Promesa, Rancho
Santa Margarita, CA 92688 (1 hard copy and 1 CD)

Final
Public Involvement Plan
for the
Former Trabuco Bombing Range,
Rancho Santa Margarita, California

FUDS Number J09CA020900
Contract Number W912PL-04-D-0024
Task Order Number 0005

prepared for



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 15018
Los Angeles CA 90017

prepared by



2730 Shadelands Drive, Suite 100
Walnut Creek, California 94598
ITSI Document Control Number 04-981.01.0028

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The views, opinions, and/or findings contained in the report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy, or decision, unless so designated by other documentation.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAG	Community Advisory Group
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
DERP	Defense Environmental Restoration Program
DoD	Department of Defense
DoN	Department of the Navy
DTSC	(California) Department of Toxic Substances Control
ECC	Environmental Chemical Corporation
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP	engineering pamphlet
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
DOD	Department of Defense
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Site
GSA	General Services Administration
ITSI	Innovative Technical Solutions, Inc.
LTM	long-term monitoring
MM	military munitions
mm	millimeter
MCAS	Marine Corps Air Station
MEC	munitions and explosives of concern
MC	munitions constituents
MMRP	Military Munitions Response Program
OE	Ordnance and Explosives
OEW	ordnance and explosive waste
ORP	O'Neill Regional Park
PAS	Public Availability Session
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
RSM	Rancho Santa Margarita
SARA	Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act
TBR	Trabuco Bombing Range
TCRA	Time Critical Removal Action
TPP	Technical Project Planning
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
UU/UE	unlimited use and unrestricted exposure
UXO	unexploded ordnance

Section 1.0 Overview of the Public Involvement Plan

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has developed this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) to facilitate and promote two-way communication between project-area residents (including Rancho Santa Margarita, Mission Viejo, and other nearby communities) and the USACE during activities associated with the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being conducted at the former Trabuco Bombing Range Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS), and to encourage community involvement in current and future site-related activities.

1.1 Purpose

The overall objectives of the USACE during the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process associated with the Trabuco Bombing Range project area are to adequately characterize the site for the purpose of developing and evaluating effective remedial alternatives, and to foster and maintain a climate of understanding and trust by:

- collecting information about the concerns of the community and affected or interested parties;
- giving affected parties and members of the community the opportunity to participate in the process;
- responding to issues and concerns in a timely manner;
- supplying accurate and timely information about planned actions and progress.

The purpose of this PIP is to present the design for a process/program addressing the community concerns and expectations indicated during surveys, interviews, and other public contacts.

The community involvement activities outlined in this plan will be implemented by the USACE to ensure that residents are continuously informed about—and provided with opportunities to become involved in—the Formerly Used Defense Site/Military Munitions Response Program (FUDS/MMRP) process at the Trabuco Bombing Range project site.

1.2 Document Organization

This Public Involvement Plan, addressing the ongoing relationship between the local community and the USACE, is organized as follows:

- Section 1 introduces the purpose of the PIP and provides an overview of the document's organization and sources.
- Section 2 outlines the history and setting of the project area, defines the role of the US Army Corps of Engineers in facilitating investigation-, clearance-, and remediation-related actions at FUDS projects, and discusses the specific hazards associated with the project area and the inspections and studies that have been conducted at the site.

- Section 3 provides a community profile, the history of community involvement in the FUDS process, prior USACE responses to community concerns, and current communication needs.
- Section 4 presents the Public Involvement Program proposed by the USACE to address the issues identified by the community during the interview/survey process, and establishes a tentative schedule for implementation of these activities.

A number of appendices (as listed in the Table of Contents) provide information about local and USACE contacts, available resources, meeting and repository locations, and the references used in preparation of this document and other project activities. Additional attachments present copies of a communication prepared during TCRA activities, copies of community survey and interview forms, and a tabulation of the results and comments received.

The USACE drew upon numerous local individuals and information sources to develop this plan. Resources included community interviews conducted over a two-month period for the purpose of gauging public interest and involvement, and other conversations; public responses to an on-line survey; historical files relating to these sites; a Public Availability Session (PAS)/open house; newspaper articles and other public documents; and information obtained from Web sites.

The USACE Los Angeles District Office will oversee the implementation of the activities outlined in this Plan. The technical contact and community relations coordinator for the FUDS project area are identified in Appendix A.

Section 2.0 Project Description

This section provides an overview of the background, history, and regional characteristics of the former Trabuco Bombing Range (TBR) FUDS project area, which is located in Orange County, California, approximately ten miles southeast of the former Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro (see figures 1 and 2).

2.1 History of the Trabuco Bombing Range

2.1.1 Site Development and Military Use

The Trabuco Bombing Range (also identified in some historical documents as “Temecula Bombing Range” or the “Plano Trabuco Target Area”) became operational in 1944, and was used by the Navy and Marine Corps (and possibly the Army Air Corps) “as a practice target range for aircraft pilots based at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, California” (Archive Search Report, USACE, 1993 [ASR], Section 5, p. 15) until 1956.

The initial Trabuco Bombing Range comprised an area of approximately 1,800 acres in an unincorporated area in southern Orange County, California. The range was acquired by the Secretary of the Navy on 21 February 1944 by condemnation for military purposes. Lease agreements were later negotiated with the landowner (the O’Neill family). The lease apparently was modified in 1949 to reduce the leased area to approximately 500 acres (see Figure 3). This agreement continued until 1956, when this acreage also was released to the owners (ASR, Sec. 4, p. 9).

The TBR area was undeveloped agricultural and grazing land adjacent to remote canyon areas before its use as a bombing range (in fact, much of the leasehold area had not been formally surveyed, as indicated by the property description in court documents (see Section 2.2.1). As the practice range was associated with the nearby MCAS El Toro, no additional infrastructure was required on the site during its military use.

The area reverted to agricultural used and remained undeveloped for some years following the government’s release of the property, until portions of the site were incorporated into O’Neill Regional Park (ORP) and the Santa Margarita Company developed other areas in the 1980’s. Approximately 900 acres of the original 1,800-acre leasehold remain undeveloped.

2.1.2 Site Hazards

A number of private and government clearance actions have been conducted in the area of the former Trabuco Bombing Range during the course of nearly fifty years of farming and development activities since closure. Military munitions including 3-pound, 4-pound, and 25-pound practice bombs, as well as 2.25-inch, 3.5-inch, and 5-inch aircraft practice rockets have been found on the site, either on the surface or shallowly buried. (CITE: GPO ASSHP,

Parsons/ITSI, 2005). Some of these items are illustrated in a DTSC-prepared flyer issued in 2002. A copy of this flyer is presented in Attachment 3. (See also http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/OMF/Rancho_Santa_Margarita/RanchoSantaMargarita_FLY_Ordnance.pdf and the various documents and images on the project Web site [www.trabuco-bombrange.com]).

Some quantities of any or all of these items may remain in the project area. In addition, ordnance from inaccurately targeted practice bombs may have impacted an area of approximately 12 acres outside the boundary of the site. This area is located in the area of the “Solano Adobe” hut identified as a possible bomb target (see Figure 2).

The only reported injury associated with MEC at the TBR is a single incident involving a park ranger in the late 1950s, shortly after closure of the range. This incident, which was not noted in earlier site-related documents, was discovered almost by accident during interviews for the current project (Ed Fleming, Orange County Fire Authority [OCFA], personal communication) and researched through the related agencies to obtain additional details.

In addition to ordnance-related concerns, there have been at least two serious incidents involving attacks by mountain lions within O’Neill Regional Park in the past two years. Rattlesnakes also are very common in the area. Thus the most significant current and future risks—both to area residents and to project personnel—may be biological in nature.

Other site considerations are unrestricted public access to un-assessed areas of the site along the western site boundary in O’Neill Regional Park, and co-location of the former site and adjacent areas with the recently developed City of Rancho Santa Margarita with land uses such as single family residential and schools.

2.1.3 USACE Role

Under the FUDS program, the USACE is the lead federal agency, and is responsible for general oversight of project activities and coordination with the specific regulators involved with each site. The USACE, Los Angeles District, is the representing branch for the Trabuco Bombing Range project under the FUDS/MMRP.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the division of the California Environmental Protection Agency responsible for sites which may involve exposure to hazardous wastes, is the lead regulatory agency for the project.

2.1.4 Historical Community Reactions to the Site

During the time the property was farmed following the initial military post-closure clearance operations, and before the Rancho Santa Margarita community was developed, the landowner’s employees gathered and stockpiled munitions (amounting to many tons of material) as a matter of course during farming operations.

During the build-out of the Rancho Santa Margarita planned development, information about the military history of the area was included in the material provided to new

homeowners, and several articles documenting ordnance discoveries in construction areas were published in the local press. The new residents' attitude toward this issue apparently was characterized by nonchalance, as reflected in a contemporary cartoon in the April 1, 1987, issue of the *Saddleback Valley News*. In this drawing, a mother with her back turned to two young boys asks, ". . . and what did you boys dig up in Santa Margarita today?" as the boys pull a large bomb into the house on a coaster wagon.

As there were no reported incidents involving injuries after the 1950s, little public attention appears to have been given to UXO-related issues following the development of the area. During community interviews, many residents of the area did not recall any references to the former bombing range when they purchased their homes. It appears from various comments that initial/early residents were given more ordnance-related information; however, since respondents were not specifically asked when they had moved to RSM, no formal correlation can be established without a review of legal documents.

The discovery of (and media attention given to) live ordnance in conjunction with the development of the Highway 241 Transportation Corridor Toll Road in 2002 and during expansion of the Trabuco Bikeway within ORP in 2003 have raised public awareness that the military history of the area continues to have a bearing on the present. Even these recent events, however, do not appear to have created widespread or significant alarm. Reminiscent of the 1987 cartoon mentioned above, more than one respondent noted quite casually that friends or neighbors had unearthed ordnance items in their yards. One respondent indicated that his child had found an ordnance item and brought it home (the date of the discovery was not indicated), and asked what should be done with it. [NOTE: Project personnel contacted this individual by e-mail and informed him to call 9-1-1; no response was received to indicate whether this item had been properly disposed.]

A long-time resident of the community who had led protests against the bikeway expansion saw both the potential negative impact on the wilderness areas brought about by expansion of the bikeway and the possibility that field activities implemented during the current project might increase the area residents' exposure to UXO hazards, as causes for concern.

In this historical context, the recent interviews indicated a generally favorable attitude toward any formal actions that would clarify and publicize the nature and extent of any remaining UXO hazards in the area of the former TBR. The exact nature of the current RI/FS project is not clearly understood by most residents; this is understandable, since the project is in its early stages, and has not really been explained to the public (other than to those attending the three Technical Project Planning [TPP] meetings) at his point.

As noted in Sections 3 and 4 below, some attention will be given to publicizing the planned activities within the scope of his project, and making a clear distinction between early clearance actions, the recent TCRA, and the formal Remedial Investigation process and related public involvement activities now being initiated.

2.2 Site Location and Description

2.2.1 Site Location, Size, and Surroundings

According to a February 1944 legal description, the initial Trabuco Bombing Range comprised approximately 1,800 acres in southern Orange County, California. As this property was undeveloped and largely unsurveyed when the range was acquired and then leased by the Department of War, it was identified by the following description:

. . . the property situate in the State of California, County of Orange, particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the confluence of Trabuco Canyon and Tijeras Canyon, thence from said point of beginning in a general Northerly and Northeasterly direction along the center of Trabuco Canyon to its intersection with the Northerly boundary of said Rancho Trabuco, thence Easterly along the said Northerly boundary of said Rancho Trabuco to the Easterly boundary of said Rancho Trabuco, thence southerly along the said Easterly boundary of said Rancho Trabuco to its intersection with the center line of Tijeras Canyon, thence Southwesterly along the center line of said Tijeras Canyon to the place of beginning, containing 2100 acres more or less. Said land if the public lands surveys were extended over the area would comprise portions of Sections 10, 11, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 32, and 33, Township 6 South, Range 7 West, of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian and portions of Sections 4 and 5, Township 7 South, Range 7 West, of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian.

EXCEPTING therefrom all land lying North of the road crossing the said Plano Trabuco in an Easterly and Westerly direction, near the Northerly end of said Plano Trabuco, said excepted area containing about 300 acres.

Containing 1800 acres, more or less, after said exception (cited in ASR, G1, pp. 2-3).

This area is depicted as accurately as possible on Figure 3, and is expected to be defined more precisely in terms of current topography as the USACE continues its investigative efforts.

The terrain in the project area ranges from relatively flat valleys, bottomland, and mesas to steep-to-rolling hills and canyons. Natural vegetation consists mostly of grass and scrub brush (coastal sage and chaparral) on mesas and hillsides, and riparian woodlands (primarily native California oaks and sycamores) clustered around small streams and seasonal creeks in the bottoms of the valleys.

Some development (particularly in the eastern areas of Mission Viejo) has taken place on the flatter hilltops/mesas. A significant amount of recontouring (i.e., cut-and-fill) was done during subdivision and development of the Rancho Santa Margarita area to create buildable sites, roadways, and recreational areas such as parks and golf courses. For example, some fairway areas at the current Tijeras Creek golf course were built up by as much as 30 feet; and a large stockpile of inert ordnance is buried beneath the 8th fairway.

In general, the former TBR is now bordered by the residential and commercial areas of RSM and MV on the west and northeast, by RSM and ORP on the north, and by recreational and wilderness areas on the south and southeast.

2.2.2 Current Site Development

Following its military use, the area was returned to its former use as farmland and grazing (initial and ongoing clearance activities were conducted during this period, as outlined in Section 2.3.3). As the greater Los Angeles/Orange County metroplex continued to expand, various pieces of the area have been subdivided and developed.

Portions of the original range area are now utilized as follows (all indicated areas are approximate):

- O'Neill Regional Park;
- Tijeras Creek Golf Club (this property, lying within the RSM development, was sold by the Rancho Santa Margarita Company on October 9, 1996, to the current owner, Pacific Life Insurance Company);
- residential or commercial property within the City of Rancho Santa Margarita;
- residential developments in unincorporated Orange County;
- infrastructure (e.g., the 241 Toll Road, public lands, etc.);
- undeveloped land.

In addition, it is possible that small areas of what is now residential or recreational/infrastructure property lying within or adjacent to the City of Mission Viejo, but outside the formal boundary of the Trabuco Bombing Range, may have been impacted by stray practice rounds targeted for the "Solano Adobe" target area. (This possibility will be addressed specifically within the RI/FS Work Plan.)

These areas, as well as additional features including schools, parks, community facilities, lakes/reservoirs, streams, and other areas of interest are shown on Figure 2. As the current residential, commercial, and recreational uses of the former range area have few significant access restrictions or controls, the current configuration of the site does not preclude the possibility that park and golf club visitors or residents of RSM and adjacent communities may be exposed to potential ordnance hazards.

The area is home to a wide variety of native plants and animals. The Catalina Mariposa lily was identified in the 1993 Archives Search Report as being listed as a rare plant on the Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California, but no specific locations were noted. Several avian species which are federally protected or listed as declining in population may be seen in the vicinity of the TBR, but no habitat areas are identified within the former range. A great amount of environmental detail is available in the addenda to the Environmental Impact Report for the O'Neill Regional Park Schematic Development Plan (1987 ff; note, however, that not all items in this report are dated).

Several historical sites have been identified within the project area (as noted in the ASR), including the Adobe Hut (Site 876 on the California Inventory of Historic Resources), the

“Portola Campsite” near the hut, and another (unnamed) location that is a potential site for historic artifacts. Additionally, artifacts associated with several Native American tribes/bands that occupied this area may well be present within the site.

Portions of Mission Viejo were developed over the hilltops/mesas of the Vaqueros Formation, a geologic unit originated through marine depositional conditions, and a number of significant marine fossils were unearthed during development-related excavation in this area (noted during interviews). No such fossil discoveries have been reported within the current project area.

No specific tribal sites or geological structures of potential paleontological significance have been reported within the project area, but it is probable that undocumented historical/archaeological sites exist. For that reason, the USACE archaeologist will be consulted prior to (and, as appropriate, during) field activities.

2.3 History of FUDS Property Inspections and Cleanup Activities

2.3.1 Hazardous Materials Present

Only a small number of specific ordnance types are identified with the former Trabuco Bombing Range. Ordnance recovered at the range includes: 3-pound, 4-pound, and 25-pound practice bombs (“target markers”) and 2.25-inch, 3.5-inch, and 5-inch [inert] rockets (ASR, Executive Summary, p. 2).

The only live ordnance expected to be found at the site is miniature practice bombs containing small spotting charges (used by pilots to trace the accuracy of their target practice) that did not detonate on impact as they should have.

Although a number of ordnance investigations and both government and private clearance actions have been conducted since military activities were terminated at the Trabuco Bombing Range, the open terrain that characterizes some of the project site, and natural occurrences such as earthquakes, erosion, and fire, create a constantly changing environment. This raises the possibility that buried items can be unearthed or near-surface objects can become exposed in areas accessible to the public at any time.

2.3.2 Nature of Potential Threats

The primary safety hazards associated with MEC include blast pressure, fragmentation hazards, and thermal hazards:

- **Blast Pressure** is the almost instantaneous pressure increase resulting from a violent release of energy from a detonation in a gaseous medium (e.g., air).
- **Fragmentation hazards** result from the shattering of an explosive container or from the secondary fragmentation of items in close proximity to an explosion.

- **Thermal hazards** are those resulting from heat and flame caused by a deflagration or detonation.

The primary MEC hazard associated with this site continues to be the unearthing of munitions through natural forces. Given the nature of the munitions used during activities at TBR, fragmentation and thermal hazards are the most likely impacts; and spotting charges have the potential to cause serious injury or death.

Possibilities for public exposure to MEC continue to increase, driven by factors such as changes in public access patterns (e.g., the recent extension of the Trabuco Bikeway), the increasing number of individuals using public and private open spaces associated with the former range as the area's population grows, and the trend (influenced by 9/11 and recent increases in the price of gasoline) toward more close-to-home activities.

To some degree, the extent and physical makeup of this area complicate the detection and removal/remediation of MEC. Removal of items found on the surface by the landowners during farming operations, and through "sifting" of the top few feet of soil during development, likely were effective in removing a good deal of the MEC remaining on the site at the time of closure. However, extensive cut-and-fill actions during development may have redistributed remaining ordnance items randomly throughout the area.

2.3.3 History of Inspection and Removal Activities

A 1949 memorandum indicates that, following the reduction of the Trabuco Bombing Range leasehold area to 503 acres, "the excess portion of Plano Trabuco Target Area had been cleared of all surface scrap, and requested that arrangements be made for decontamination by screening the area with a mine detector." However, the Archives Search Report completed for the site in 1993 indicates that "documentation was not found to clearly indicate if mine detectors were ever obtained to complete surface decontamination" (ASR, p. 11).

When the government lease on the Trabuco Bombing Range site was concluded in the 1950s, no formal cleanup was instituted, and a large amount of ordnance remained in the area. Earlier site-related documentation and anecdotal comments in newspaper articles over the years indicate that many of the ordnance items remaining on the former range area were located and either stockpiled or removed by the people farming the property.

Military Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel were often called on by the property owners to assist with the clearance efforts; and additional material was removed by the Orange County Hazardous Device Squad (OCHDS) in the 1980s during development activities.

A joint clearance operation was conducted by the OCHDS and the MCAS El Toro EOD Unit in June 1984, when the Santa Margarita Company began development activities in the area, resulting in the identification and clearance of a significant amount of ordnance.

Fourteen dump-truck loads of surface and stockpiled certified-inert OEW were removed, and 448 suspect UXO items were destroyed on the property (ASR, pp. 10-12; the location of this demolition was not indicated in this report).

Following this surface sweep in 1984, MCAS El Toro EOD personnel provided ongoing support during heavy equipment operations, and picked up a small number of items approximately once a quarter for the next several years (ASR, p.12).

Additional ordnance was found and stockpiled during construction activities for the Rancho Santa Margarita community by a private contractor/crew hired by the property owners. Between 1988 and 1991, one large stockpile was buried under 20-30 feet of fill during grading operations in the area that is now the 8th fairway at Tijeras Creek Golf Club. A second stockpile (constituting 61 tons of MEC and scrap) was removed by trucks to a remote area of Chiquita Canyon, and later removed for disposal by IT Corporation under contract with the USACE (ASR, p. 12)

During development of the RSM community, the developers established procedures for screening the top 2-3 feet of soil in construction areas, to find and remove ordnance items. In addition, new and existing residents were notified of the history of the area through flyers and information in real estate packets (ASR, p 13, par 10).

An archaeological team conducting a survey of an environmental offset area in Upper Chiquita Canyon in 2002, on behalf of the Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA), discovered two “rusty military-type bombs”. OCHDS and Army EOD personnel found two additional pieces of ordnance. Of the four pieces, three were live, and these were detonated by the OED (TCA 13 Nov 02; eltoroairport.org/news/news-1102.html). It is possible that these MEC were associated with the stockpile staged in the vicinity in the 1990s (see above).

The most recent site-related activity was the Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) conducted in 2003-2004 following the discovery of several pieces of ordnance by the contractor working on an extension to the Trabuco Canyon Bikeway. This action—a sweep of several areas in and adjacent to the path of the bikeway extension—resulted in the discovery and disposal of a total of eleven MEC items, all but three of them inert.

2.3.4 Lead Agency

As noted above (Section 2.1.3), the USACE is the lead federal agency under the FUDS program. The USACE administers the FUDS/MMRP program using Department of Defense (DoD) investigation/cleanup methods based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) CERCLA process.

Section 3.0 Community Background

This section provides background information for the communities adjacent to the former TBR, including a community profile; the history of community involvement under the FUDS program and USACE responses to past community concerns; and current community concerns and communication needs as identified through recently conducted background research, community interviews, and surveys.

3.1 Community Profile

Most of the former Trabuco Bombing Range is now within O'Neill Regional Park or the developed residential, recreational, and commercial areas of the 5,000-acre Rancho Santa Margarita planned community (including the Tijeras Creek Golf Course). Thus, all elements of the RSM community (i.e., homes, schools, business establishments, and infrastructure) are in close proximity to areas with a history of ordnance training.

Rancho Santa Margarita is the city most closely identified with the former Trabuco Bombing Range FUDS project area. However, since portions of the site and the adjacent O'Neill Regional Park border on the City of Mission Viejo, summary demographic information including both communities is presented in this section (unincorporated areas adjoining RSM are also included in some statistics).

Rancho Santa Margarita is a master-planned residential community, as is the neighboring City of Mission Viejo (also developed by the O'Neill family's Mission Viejo Company beginning in 1963). The entire RSM area was farmland or open/wilderness area until as recently as the mid-1980s, and the city was not incorporated until 2000. A significant amount of open space has been preserved within the community plan, often integrated with access to the adjacent county park and wilderness areas. Many of the city's parks, green-space areas, and other recreational amenities are controlled and managed by the Homeowners' Associations that govern all residential areas. The extent of this managed open space is reflected in the fact that the city's second-largest private employer is a landscape maintenance company with 550 employees (myoc.com).

There are no industrial areas within the City of Rancho Santa Margarita (and little in the immediately adjacent areas), and no large corporate employers. Four shopping centers and a number of smaller commercial areas are distributed throughout the City. A large portion of RSM residents work in more commercialized nearby areas (e.g., Orange, Anaheim, and Irvine, as well as Los Angeles proper), with an average commute time of 35 minutes (the opening of the 241 Toll-road may have improved this number somewhat since this statistic was published in 2000).

Statistically, the community's population is young, with a median age (in 2000) of 31.9 years. Residents tend to be well educated, with more than 95% of the over-25 population listed as high school graduates and 43.8% listed as holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

Schools in the area are served by two separate school districts—the Saddleback Valley Unified School District (headquartered in Mission Viejo, and extending from Lake Forest to

RSM) and the Capistrano Unified School District (headquartered in San Juan Capistrano and covering an area from RSM and Mission Viejo in the north to San Clemente and Dana Point, and including unincorporated areas adjacent to RSM).

(The school district dividing line is shown on Figure 3.)

AREA DEMOGRAPHICS	Communities		School Districts	
	RSM	MV	CUSD ^a	SVUSD ^b
Ethnic Group				
Black/African-American	1.75%	1.15%	1.3%	2.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7.60%	7.92%	6.8%	8.0%
Hispanic/Latino	13.00%	12.10%	18.4%	21.2
Native American	0.42%	0.37%	0.3%	0.4%
Non-Hispanic White	74.41%	75.98%	68.5%	65.7%
Other	4.49%	3.82%	N/A	2.5%
Two or more races/decline to state	4.15%	3.59%	4.7%	0.0%
Property Demographics				
Size (City // district [square miles])	12.94	17.93	195	95
Population (Residents // Students)	49,249	98,197	50,403	34,901
Median Age	31.9	37.5	N/A	N/A
Percent under age 18	33.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Housing units	16,684	33,714	N/A	N/A
People per household	2.90	2.86	N/A	N/A

Compiled and adapted from: MYOC.COM (Information compiled from the 2000 Census and Acxiom/Dataquik); Orange County Fire Authority (2005 populations & areas); information provided by SVUSD. (The various data-sets referenced in this table reflect different collection dates, and some demographic data represent a broader geographic area than the direct sphere of influence of the TBR project area. This information thus is intended to provide a general representation, but does not collectively describe identical geographic areas and populations on a single date.)

Notes:

- a: San Juan Capistrano Unified School District (“Capo” or CUSD) serves families residing in the cities of Aliso Viejo, Dana Point, Laguna Niguel, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, and San Juan Capistrano and the unincorporated communities of Coto de Caza, Dove Canyon, Ladera Ranch, Las Flores, and Wagon Wheel.
- b: Saddleback Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) serves Rancho Santa Margarita, Mission Viejo, Laguna Hills, Lake Forest, and Trabuco Canyon.

3.2 History of Community Involvement

Since, in essence, little or no community even existed in this area for the first twenty years after the range was closed, the history of community involvement effectively begins in the mid-1980s. Development of the entire area in and around TBR was initiated by a small number of entities associated with a single family’s ownership interests, and historical documents associated with the farming and development years reflect a pattern of need-driven communication with government entities (primarily the USACE and EOD units) with respect to ordnance-related issues.

During the development of the Mission Viejo and Rancho Santa Margarita communities, the developers appear to have communicated regularly with prospective residents to present appropriate information about the history of the area and proper MEC safety procedures. Homeowners Associations also have provided information to neighborhood residents at times, either in information packets given to prospective home-buyers or through notices in association billing statements. No additional community-driven initiatives related to MEC-safety issues in either the City or O'Neill Regional Park were mentioned during background interviews.

Given the extensive clearance activities and the enormous amount of excavation and recontouring completed during the build-out of the Rancho Santa Margarita community, the bulk of the limited interaction noted between individual community members and the USACE during the time prior to the current project that the site has been in the FUDS/MMRP program has been characterized by participation in historical research-oriented interviews associated with the INPR and TCRA (interviews and other points of contact associated with these projects are identified in the corresponding project documents).

As noted throughout this document, significant community contact has been initiated by the USACE and project team members during the current project, in the course of three TPP meetings and a Public Availability Session (and related local visits and conversations by project personnel), and the implementation of community interviews in preparation of this PIP.

3.3 Key Community Concerns

Project personnel conducted personal interviews with more than 40 public officials and residents of areas proximate to the Trabuco Bombing Range FUDS project area during July and August 2005. A number of additional on-line surveys and supplemental questionnaires have been completed by area residents. These contacts have allowed the USACE to update residents informally on current activities; gather information on residents' awareness of and concerns about the site; and determine the types of information residents want to receive and how the USACE can best provide that information. Significant information obtained from the survey/interview/research process is summarized in this section. Surveys and interview forms and tabulations are presented in attachments 1 and 2.

Areas of community concern indicated as significant by one or more of the interview or survey respondents are listed below (comments are paraphrased or combined as appropriate):

- minimizing the possibility of any current or future injuries by responding effectively and appropriately to site conditions and activities;
- assuring that local residents and visitors receive appropriate information about the nature of project activities, and warnings/reminders about potential UXO hazards and the appropriate safety/avoidance actions to take;

- providing the community with information about key USACE and project team personnel, including their roles and qualifications;
- establishing widespread and effective opportunities for communication between the USACE and the community during the project, to further reinforce the core safety messages and maintain significant visibility of project management;
- establishing and maintaining effective repositories and distribution points for information—especially about ordnance-related findings and incidents
- educating/motivating people to actually look at and heed critical/available information
- assuring that project personnel respond appropriately (and, wherever possible, proactively) to possible direct or indirect cultural/archaeological/environmental impacts of the former TBR and current project activities, and engage the public in the investigation process.

These comments cluster into three broad areas of concern associated with the former Trabuco Bombing Range: (1) safety; (2) possible local environmental, biological, or cultural/archaeological impacts; and (3) ongoing access to sources of information and related opportunities for communication with project-related personnel during the implementation of project activities.

Specific input on each of these areas is presented in the following subsections, arranged into three primary “Issues” in terms of programmatic response; and the community involvement activities proposed in response to these concerns are outlined in Section 4.

3.3.1 Issue 1: Safety: Minimizing the possibility of injuries

As would be expected, the most critical, if not the statistically dominant theme in the information provided by the respondents is SAFETY. There was a broad general concern that area residents and visitors be provided with sufficient information and educational activities, and the site itself be appropriately characterized and/or remediated, to preclude ordnance-related incidents/injuries.

The most important element of the PIP, in terms of injury-avoidance, is assuring that members of the community—and in particular, school-age children (and their teachers, school administrators, and parents), new residents, and visitors to the community and O’Neill Regional Park—are aware of the potential hazards of UXO and know what to do if they encounter suspected ordnance.

As the risk of injury is to some extent localized to open areas (including parks and canyons), the response to this issue connects with activities related to establishing and maintaining signage and other public-area information to assure that effective warnings and reminders are visible at the most likely points of exposure.

3.3.2 Issue 2: Local biological, cultural/archaeological, and environmental concerns

A less-anticipated group of concerns emerging from the background information gathered and reviewed in preparation of this PIP has its roots in the area's history—both recent and ancient. The entire Trabuco Canyon area is somewhat unique in that, although it is nominally part of the greater Los Angeles area, the country's largest metropolitan area, large portions of the TBR area were not even surveyed until well after World War II, and the vast majority of the residences in RSM are less than twenty years old.

To many residents and visitors this area represents the ideal juncture of modern planned-development living and pristine wilderness areas (as evidenced by several mountain lion attacks reported within ORP in the last few years). This leads to a concern that project activities may further impact the area's increasingly rare and valued open-spaces and wildlife—and in particular, may disrupt current operations at and/or change the “feel” of O'Neill Regional Park or other local recreational areas. Published information related to the park and the recent development of the 241 Toll Road through the area provided additional indications of the importance of wildlife, wilderness areas, newly established wildlife corridors, and open space (including environmental offset areas) to the community.

In a slightly less immediate time frame, the TBR area (and the extended Orange County/coastal area) was home to several Native American tribes, and a number of groups representative of these tribes have been identified as potential stakeholders. No sacred sites *per se* have been identified in the project area. However, encountering artifacts or burial sites during intrusive activities remains a real possibility (though extensive soil movement during the development of RSM decreases its probability in some parts of the site), and several respondents indicated their concern (or insistence) that the planning and execution of field activities would be informed by significant attention to such concerns.

Closely related to this concern for the area's historical culture, at least in terms of its impact on physical cautions and local sensitivities, is residents' concern for wildlife/habitat and ecological issues, which is evidenced by active Sierra Club chapter(s) and local advocacy groups (e.g., the Saddleback Canyons Conservancy and Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks). Areas within and adjacent to the former range are home to features including environmental offsets related to the TCA toll roads; wildlife corridors and roadway underpasses; designated wilderness areas within and adjacent to ORP; and a bikeway which is part of a trail from the Santa Ana foothills and Cleveland National Forest to the Pacific Ocean.

An additional historically oriented concern relates to a much more distant time frame. During the development of the Mission Viejo community, which lies immediately west and north of the TBR/ORP area, a number of significant marine fossils were unearthed. Although there is no record of similar finds during the development of RSM or O'Neill Regional Park, interviewees expressed both the concern that any intrusive activities give consideration to possible items of archaeological significance and an interest in knowing what—if anything—is discovered during field activities.

3.3.3 Issue 3: Timely access to (and distribution of) information, and related contact with project personnel

The third broad area of community concern for the TBR-area community is the general availability of information and access to project personnel. In general, respondents indicated less concern for the immediacy of communication than has been noted in similar interviews for FUDS project areas characterized by live ordnance, but there was widespread interest in being able to learn more about the “ancient” history of the area on the part of residents whose neighborhoods have been in existence for some twenty-odd years or less.

A surprising number of respondents indicated a limited awareness—even at the level of hearsay—of recent munitions-related discoveries and activities associated with the former TBR, though several commented that little information about the area’s history and ordnance safety issues has been presented in local media in recent years (with the possible exception of the Bikeway incident). It was unclear whether this reflects a decrease in media attention paid to the small number of ordnance-related incidents in recent years, or decreasing statistical familiarity with past events as more early residents move out of the area.

Almost no negative information about past or current MEC-related events/handling emerged from the background interviews and surveys. Increasing residents’ awareness that the emphasis of the current project is investigation and education (rather than large-scale intrusive action) will be critical to maintaining strong working relationships between the USACE and the community while optimizing the ongoing effectiveness of the risk-reduction/minimization identified as Issue 1.

Challenges involved in responding to this issue include: a diverse audience (ranging from schoolchildren to adults, and including both residents and occasional visitors to area parks); the fact that Rancho Santa Margarita, Mission Viejo, and the surrounding unincorporated areas are served by two distinct school districts; and the varying levels of awareness of the area’s history noted above. A positive factor in defining an effective program for communications is that most respondents identified the same few media as the appropriate and preferred vehicles for receiving information.

3.4 Response to Community Concerns

As noted above, the property owners’ concerns during development of the RSM community were addressed through frequent contact with civil and military ordnance-safety personnel, although some records indicate that the responding EOD units were not always able to deal promptly with the large quantities of MEC identified during construction activities.

Past media coverage of ordnance-related issues at TBR has been minimal, and the few articles identified do not document any significant or widespread community concerns, or suggest any residual antagonism on the part of initial or subsequent residents of the developed areas. Thus it appears that there are no negative perceptions of the historical relationships between the USACE (and/or other military or regulatory agencies) and the

community, and the community's expectations for the implementation and outcome of the current project are affirmative.

During the recent (2003-2004) TCRA process, USACE representatives visited local schools to provide project and safety information related to the site (TCRA, 2005), and a USACE-prepared MMRP information brochure was distributed in the community. (An earlier safety-related brochure was prepared by DTSC in 2002. Copies of both brochures are presented in Attachment 3). Additionally, USACE conducted a Media Day to provide project information and encourage distribution of this information through local newspapers and other media.

In the course of the current project, the USACE has held stakeholder TPP meetings on 27 June, 18 August, and 27 October 2005, at the RSM City Hall. Stakeholders identified during the TCRA process were invited to the first meeting. They in turn were asked to identify additional individuals or groups who might have an interest in the current project, and these names were added to the list of those to be invited to the second meeting.

To encourage increased participation at the second TPP meeting, one or more e-mails were sent to identified and potential stakeholders with information about the meeting (including an advance agenda). As the California Native American Heritage Commission had recently provided an updated contact list for Tribal Nations with a potential interest in the site/project, a concerted effort was made to contact representatives of each identified group, to invite them to the meeting and to verify correct contact information or future mailings and notifications.

At the third TPP meeting on 27 October, project personnel and regulators gave presentations covering the site and its history, the regulatory context for the project, recent and proposed site activities, and an overview of Conceptual Site Model (CSM) for the site. Participants and visitors included representatives of the USACE, DTSC, project contractors, U.S. U.S. Representative Gary Miller, Orange County (OC) Parks, the OC Fire and Sheriff's Departments, local school districts, the City of RSM, the City of Mission Viejo, the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, local property-management groups, the Tijeras Creek Golf Club, and private individuals. A Public Availability Session (open house) also was held in Rancho Santa Margarita on the evening of 27 October.

These sessions served the multiple objectives of initiating the formal TPP process, providing project information to interested members of the community, and gathering public input to supplement the information provided by residents during the community interview process. USACE and regulatory staff available to address community members' concerns included: Larry Sievers, USACE PM; USACE Public Affairs Officers; DTSC representatives; and other members of the project team.

The relatively small turnout and positive tone of these meetings, following this widespread advance notification, along with the constructive comments noted in nearly all community interviews conducted for the PIP, further suggests a favorable context for the current project.

As noted in Section 4, a project Web site has been established to provide information about area/site history, current project activities, and available site- and project-related documents. To encourage continued open communication, this site includes contact information for USACE project management personnel, with “live” e-mail links.

3.5 Summary of Communication Needs

As noted, respondents to community interviews and surveys indicated a general interest in being able to access current and historical information about the Trabuco Bombing Range area and project activities and risk/hazard-related information, as well as appropriate more detailed background information about FUDS and the MMRP-related activities being conducted in the area.

A number of media were regularly identified as effective vehicles for communicating with various elements of the target audience. These vehicles, all of which will be considered in the design of the overall communications mix for the activities outlined in Section 4, include (not in sequence):

- area newspapers including the Orange County Register (particularly the weekly local editions for Mission Viejo and Rancho Santa Margarita), the weekly Coto de Caza News, and the monthly Trabuco Canyon News (mentioned by several respondents as the number-one source of information for the RSM area, and noted for its articles, announcements, and cautionary notices);
- the quarterly RSM and Mission Viejo “community magazines” mailed to all addresses in these cities;
- school (or school district) Web sites, and school newsletters or other handouts sent home with students;
- Web sites with a local focus (local communities, homeowners’ associations, Parks and Recreation, elected representatives, the USACE project site, O’Neill Regional Park, etc.);
- local radio and television (features, public service announcements);
- signage and/or posters in parks, public buildings, stores, etc.;
- fact sheets, newsletters, and other communications produced and distributed by the USACE;
- e-mail lists maintained by community councils, City council members, county supervisors, schools, etc.;
- informational inserts in utility and municipal service bills (e.g., water districts, gas/electric, homeowners associations);
- presentations, announcements, displays, and/or handouts at local meetings (e.g., community council meetings, school assemblies/PTA events, service organizations, homeowners’ associations, board meetings, etc.);
- brochures, displays, etc., in public and organizational locations (libraries, parks, public buildings, churches, etc.).

In addition to identifying possible media outlets, several respondents offered to help project personnel publicize and/or distribute information relevant to their customers or constituencies.

Section 4.0 The USACE Public Involvement Program

The overall goal of the USACE public involvement program is to promote two-way communication between citizens and the USACE and to provide opportunities for meaningful and active involvement by the community in the long-term monitoring process. This section outlines the community involvement activities proposed to address the specific, current community concerns identified during the interview and information-gathering process.

It is intended that the activities described in the following subsections will be implemented by the USACE in general accordance with the timeline presented in Section 4.2. Individual activities may be modified, additional activities may be implemented, and schedules may be changed as appropriate, however, based on emerging site conditions and/or future community input.

The public involvement activities described in this section have been designed on the basis of information obtained through the interviews, surveys, and other community inputs described earlier in this document. Together the projected activities address each area of concern that has been identified as being important to the community. Issues are described in this section in a sequence corresponding to the discussion of community concerns in Section 3.3.

4.1 Issue 1: Minimize the possibility of any injuries from UXO

Response to this issue will involve physical (i.e., site-related) as well as educational/informational activities. Both of these dimensions will focus on directing the community's attention on identifying and responding appropriately to any identified ordnance-related hazards.

4.1.1 Activity 1A: Establish and maintain methods for rapid dissemination of UXO-related information

- **Objective:** Assure that all segments of the local population, as well as stakeholders, local emergency services, and other individuals or groups with an interest in the project, will receive prompt notice of any unanticipated project-related emergency situations or incidents requiring media attention that might arise during project activities, and have ongoing access to current information about site conditions.
- **Method:** A Public Involvement Coordinator (PIC) will contact local emergency services, city and county officials, and media representatives to introduce the project, identify the primary USACE points of contact, establish two-way communication relationships, and determine the most effective methods for localized emergency notifications. The PIC or other designated project team member(s) also will contact stakeholders, and other identified individuals or organizations, approximately twice a year to discuss site conditions and maintain clear channels of communication

between the USACE and these points of contact. The PIC or other designated project team member(s) also will establish and maintain a central record of information about ordnance-related inquiries and incidents from available sources. Copies of this information may be posted on the project Web site and/or placed in the repositories.

- **Timing:** Contacts will be made as noted above and as required should an emergency situation arise.
- **NOTE:** Additional information about mailing/contact lists is provided in Section 4.4.

4.1.2 Activity 1B: Communicate safety-related information regularly and effectively to school-age children

A program to direct MEC-safety messages to school-age residents of the area will be established and maintained throughout the project.

- **Objective:** Assure that information related to MEC safety is made available—and relevant—to school-age (K-12) children, as well as teachers, administrators, and parents.
- **Method:** The PIC (or other designated project team members) will contact the two school districts serving the area to identify points of contact at the districts, individual school sites, Parent-Teacher Associations, and/or other community support groups. (Additional contact information may be supplied by other local organizations and project team members.) A contact list of groups and individuals will be established, and their support of and participation in educational-awareness activities will be solicited and encouraged. The list will then be reviewed and updated approximately once a year. Points of contact may include school assembly presentations, distribution of information/handouts through appropriate school and school-related vehicles (e.g., site and school district newsletters, Web sites, sports organizations, etc.), and/or other methods.
- **Implementation:** Presentations generally will be made by USACE personnel. Materials to be presented or distributed may be developed by the USACE, project team members, and/or the educational institutions and related organizations, as appropriate. Contact and presentation sequences may be prioritized based on school size, age groups, location in relation to project activities, availability of resources/facilities, and other factors. (Some of these activities may be conducted concurrently with activities discussed in section 4.1.1 and 4.1.4.)
- **Timing:** Initial contacts will be made during the third and fourth quarters of 2005, and presentations will begin as promptly as possible. Ongoing, as noted.

4.1.3 Activity 1C: Coordinate the management of ordnance-related warning signs and information

- **Objective:** Assure that warnings identified as protective of public safety are established where and as necessary, and are properly maintained.

- **Method:** The PIC (or other designated project team members) will contact all groups (currently or potentially) involved with signage and related safety information, and will solicit the information required to assemble a combined list of all public/visible messaging (e.g., signage, posters, etc.) identified in this PIP or other project documents, or developed and maintained by entities in or near the project site (e.g., Orange County Parks, the cities of RSM and Mission Viejo, Homeowners Associations, etc.). The list will be reviewed by the appropriate project management, stakeholders, and TPP team members to assure that the number, placement, and maintenance/oversight of MEC warnings is appropriate for current conditions in the project area. If appropriate, a program may be developed to augment the current signage. The list and program will be reviewed and updated approximately once a year during the course of the project. Copies of the current lists will be posted on the project Web site and placed in the repositories to allow community members to communicate with the responsible parties if they identify missing or damaged signs.
- **Timing:** Initial contacts will be made during the fourth quarter of 2005 (prior to implementation of GPO activities). Ongoing, as noted.

4.1.4 Activity 1D: Create an “atmosphere” of safe behavior in and around areas of potential ordnance exposure

- **Objective:** Reduce the risk of ordnance exposure incidents by defining, encouraging, and reinforcing safe behavior.
- **Method:** Develop a simple and readily understandable phrase and/or logo for UXO safety (or adopt and expand on existing awareness); urge and support widespread, consistent adoption and repetition of this information throughout the project area and the adjacent communities through a variety of appropriate vehicles on an ongoing basis. This theme can be reinforced on project publications and documents; made available to community organizations, media, and individuals in paper and electronic formats; and placed on the project Web site for visibility and reuse. Poster contests or other activities may be implemented in schools to reinforce and reward involvement in “thinking safety.” (Examples of safety messages/images used for similar FUDS projects are included in Attachment 4.)
- **Timing:** The text and image for this theme will be determined as one of the initial steps in the implementation of the PIP. Publication will be ongoing as appropriate. (NOTE: This message will be a significant element in the school-related presentations described in Section 4.1.2.)

4.2 Issue 2: Identifying, acknowledging, and acting on perceived local biological, cultural, archaeological, and environmental issues/concerns

The former Trabuco Bombing Range is located on the fringe of the country's largest metropolitan area, midway between the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains and the Pacific coast. The open/wild nature of the undeveloped territory immediately adjacent to the recently completed communities of Rancho Santa Margarita and Mission Viejo is one of the area's major draws.

The variety of cultural/historical, environmental, and archaeological/paleontological areas of interest in or near active project areas create the need to "tread lightly" (in physical terms) during project activities; and attention must be paid to residents' concerns and uncertainties about whether project personnel will be concerned with being "good neighbors" and preserving the *status quo*.

4.2.1 Activity 2A: Establish a climate of inclusiveness in the public planning and review process

All concerned individuals will be encouraged to become actively involved in public project events and activities, and to communicate any information that may help project personnel identify and avoid potential environmental or cultural impacts associated with project activities.

- **Objective:** Optimize overall communication between the project organization and the community, and use best-available information throughout the planning process to avoid environmental or cultural impacts during project activities.
- **Method:** Establish an organizational/program structure that is proactive and accessible to all members of the community. Utilize this framework to solicit, gather, and analyze factual historical and physical information about the site in the course of the project planning process. Involve stakeholders in the TPP process, invite stakeholders and other concerned individuals or groups to appropriate events/activities for the duration of the project, and encourage community input.
- **Timing:** A number of identified and potential stakeholders were contacted personally prior to the second and third TPP meetings in August and October 2005 to encourage wider stakeholder involvement, and a considerable amount of publicity was generated to motivate attendance at the October Public Availability Session for the community. Contact and publication activities will be ongoing as appropriate for the duration of the project. Specific communication actions will be coordinated as closely as possible with field activities (in terms of potential impacts on a location-specific basis).

4.2.2 Activity 2B: Increase community awareness of and interaction with project technical staff

USACE technical staff and regulatory personnel have been and will continue to be directly involved in project planning activities and decisions, and will play an active role in field activities.

- **Objective:** Inform the public of the central role of USACE field/staff biologists, archaeologists, and other technical advisors in project planning, and their ongoing oversight role during field activities, to assure the community that their concerns about cultural and environmental impacts are being addressed proactively throughout project.
- **Method:** This information will be included in project-related communications and PIP activities, and on the project Web site, as appropriate. Channels for community members to share information with project management and technical personnel will be established and publicized. Technical staff also may support USACE communications personnel in making presentations to schools and local organizations.
- **Timing:** Information related to the roles and accessibility of technical personnel will be distributed on an ongoing basis for the duration of the project. Where appropriate, specific communications will be coordinated as closely as possible with related field activities.

4.2.3 Activity 2C: Utilize press releases and other media to share information of general public concern

The primary emphasis of all FUDS/MMRP projects is actions protective of human health, safety, and the environment. However, the unique location and the variety of historical, cultural, and environmental interests and considerations associated with the TBR site make it appropriate to “humanize” the project (and encourage significant public involvement) by publicizing non-technical items of interest that emerge during project activities.

- **Objective:** Remind the community that historical, cultural, and environmental concerns are being noted/addressed proactively in the course of project activities.
- **Method:** Provide newsworthy “human interest” stories in addition to the required/customary technical and administrative information. Include this type of information in other project-related communications and PIP activities as appropriate. Periodic general information updates may be posted on the project Web site.
- **Timing:** Press releases will be issued periodically during the course of the RI/FS to keep the community informed of the cultural, environmental, and human-interest aspects and impacts of project activities. Announcements will be coordinated with related field activities, public meetings, and other public involvement opportunities.

4.3 Issue 3: Provide widespread community access to project-related information, and develop effective two-way communications between the USACE and the community

Although this issue could be treated as two distinct areas of concern (one focusing on community needs, the other on the USACE's desire to establish and maintain a positive environment for communications), the proposed programmatic responses to these concerns involve many of the same items and media; thus they are discussed together here for purposes of implementation.

This issue can be addressed effectively by an approach that includes both (1) proactive preparation and distribution of a variety of audience-appropriate information related to safety issues and project activities and (2) the establishment of repositories and other points of access (e.g., the project Web site) that can be accessed easily by community members interested in a deeper understanding of the FUDS/MMRP process, learning more about area and site history, and/or supporting the distribution of safety-related information.

4.3.1 Activity 3A: Designate a USACE Public Involvement Coordinator

The Public Involvement Coordinator (PIC) is a USACE staff member designated as the primary point of contact for all media-related activities, events, and concerns during the implementation of a FUDS project. The PIC may designate other USACE personnel, project team members, or subcontractors to implement the individual activities and events identified in the PIP.

- **Objective:** To (1) provide a (very visible and accessible) primary liaison between the community and the USACE and (2) establish a primary point of contact (and “clearing-house”) for all PIP activities and safety-related communications, as a means of ensuring prompt, accurate, and consistent dissemination of comprehensive information about the site and site/project-related activities.
- **Method:** The USACE has designated Dr. Fred-Otto Egeler, Director of Communications for the USACE Los Angeles District, as Public Involvement Coordinator (PIC) for the project. Dr. Egeler will handle site inquiries and serve as a point of contact for community members, and will work closely with Mr. Larry Sievers, the USACE FUDS Program Manager and Project Manager for this project. In those instances where the PIC may be unable to provide adequate information directly (such as on technical issues), he will direct inquiries to the appropriate USACE or stakeholder contact. As appropriate, the PIC may delegate individual activities to other qualified project team members.
- **Timing:** The PIC was designated in August 2005.
- **Implementation:** Contact information for the USACE PIC and Project Manager has been posted on the project Web site and at area information repositories, and will be noted in project-related documents distributed to the community. (This information also is included in Appendix A of this PIP.)

4.3.2 Activity 3B: Establish and maintain an Information Repository

- **Objective:** To provide a convenient location where residents can go to read and copy official documents and other pertinent information about FUDS-related activities in the TBR project area and related information.
- **Method:** The repository reference collection will contain copies of many of the items included in the Administrative Record for the site, other site-specific information and communications, and the Public Involvement Plan. Print and/or CD copies of documents prepared for the current project will be made available through the repository as they are issued. The repository (housed in the Rancho Santa Margarita branch of the Orange County Public Library) will be accessible to the physically challenged, will have copier facilities, and will be available to residents during normal business hours and at least some evening and/or weekend hours. (Additional information may be housed at the USACE District headquarters in Los Angeles, California. Many of the documents included in the repositories will be made available on line through the project Web site.)
- **Timing:** The local repository was established at the RSM library during the time critical removal action in 2004. An inventory of the repository was conducted on 18 August 2005, and missing project documents have been replaced. The library currently holds hard copies of the INPR, ASR, and TCRA reports. The USACE will add copies of any documents indicated above that are not currently in the collection, and other appropriate items, as they become available. (Contact information for repositories is provided in Appendix I and on the project Web site.)

4.3.3 Activity 3C: Establish and maintain the Administrative Record for the project.

- **Objective:** To provide residents with a paper trail of all decision documents issued by the USACE Project Manager and Project Team during the implementation of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.
- **Method:** The USACE will maintain the Administrative Record materials for the projects at the USACE Los Angeles District office. Contact information for this location is provided in Appendix I.
- **Timing:** The Administrative Record is an ongoing collective. Holdings will be inventoried periodically during the project, and updated as additional documents are issued.

4.3.4 Activity 3D: Provide project and FUDS/MMRP information on the Internet.

- **Objective:** To provide key resources for both general and specific information about issues related to the Trabuco Bombing Range project site.
- **Method:** A project Web site has been established at www.trabuco-bombing.com. This site will be maintained and updated for the duration of the project to (1) present basic project-related information, (2) provide links or references to additional

information items, (3) provide contact information for key USACE personnel and other project points of contact, and (4) solicit input from community members.

- **Timing:** The Web site is currently active, and will be updated periodically as new information becomes available. Upon completion of project activities, the site will be assigned to the USACE and may be maintained to provide ongoing information about the site. [NOTE: A "frequently asked questions" (FAQ) page has been implemented on the Web site, based largely on questions from survey responses, to make information about such community concerns as widely available as possible in a timely and convenient manner.]

4.3.5 Activity 3E: Establish and maintain communications with stakeholders, media representatives, and all affected segments of the community

- **Objective:** Assure that stakeholders, community leaders, and other interested parties are well informed about site conditions and project activities, and have regular opportunities to interact with project personnel and become involved with the decision-making process during project activities.
- **Method:** The Public Involvement Coordinator (PIC) and designated project team member(s) will establish and maintain appropriate mailing lists and contact lists, and use these as the basis for contacting local emergency services, city officials, media representatives, stakeholders, and other identified individuals or organizations approximately twice a year to discuss site conditions and maintain clear channels of communication between the USACE and these points of contact. As requested, USACE/project personnel will make formal or informal presentations and/or display/distribute project-related information at community meetings or gatherings. (See also Activity 1A and Activity 3B.)
- **Timing:** Individual contacts will be made as noted above. Group contacts and presentations will be made as appropriate opportunities become available and as required should an emergency situation arise.

4.3.6 Activity 3F: Conduct periodic public meetings and informational Public Availability Sessions.

- **Objective:** To update the community on site developments; provide the Project Team with valuable information for use in making decisions; address community questions, concerns, ideas, and comments; and give residents opportunities to review and comment on various USACE documents and interact with the USACE Project Team.
- **Method:** USACE and Project Team representatives will schedule, prepare for, and attend all announced meetings and Public Availability Sessions. During informal availabilities, residents may come at any time during the established hours and talk one-on-one with members of the Project Team. Other, more formal, meetings may be scheduled to present information about a specific topic, release a draft document

for public review, etc. The USACE will provide public notice at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled meetings. The USACE PM, PIC, and other appropriate USACE and/or contractor personnel will attend. (Refer to Appendix H for suggested meeting locations.)

- **Timing:** A PAS was held in Rancho Santa Margarita on 27 October 2005, as noted above. Additional public meetings will be held as required during the public review periods for project documents, and at other times as appropriate. Announcements and press releases will be issued for each comment period and meeting. Announcements will appear in local newspapers, on the project Web site, and in other media and public locations as appropriate.

4.3.7 Activity 3G: Prepare and distribute appropriate project-related communications during the course of the project

Fact sheets, ordnance-awareness brochures, technical summaries, press releases, public service announcements, and other appropriate information items, as well as draft and final versions of the Public Involvement Plan, draft and final RI/FS Report, and other project-related plans and reports, will be issued as required, as outlined in this PIP or as deemed appropriate during implementation of project activities.

- **Objective:** To provide citizens with current, accurate, easy-to-read, easy-to-understand information about the Trabuco Bombing Range project area. These communications may be used to supply the public with information about ordnance awareness in general; past, current, and upcoming site activities; question-and-answer information focusing on community concerns; overviews of cleanup technologies; site maps; listings of USACE and other relevant points of contact so that residents can provide information and comments or add their names to the USACE site mailing list; and listings of additional sources of information and other project/site-related resources.
- **Method:** The various communications will be mailed (in paper and/or electronic formats) to appropriate audiences, distributed, and/or placed in public-access locations as appropriate for the item's intended audience and objectives. The list of proposed communications developed for (or as activities of) the PIP may be reviewed and modified from time to time, as appropriate, in response to community input, the progress of site activities, or changes in legal requirements or funding.
- **Timing:** The USACE will prepare and distribute these communications as necessary and appropriate. (NOTE: A number of specific items identified and scheduled during the development of this Plan are listed in the table in Section 4.4)

4.4 Summary of Public Involvement Activities

This section outlines a preliminary schedule for implementation of the public involvement activities for the former Trabuco Bombing Range project site described above. Individual items and their timing may be modified as necessary to respond to changing conditions and to establish and maintain the most effective possible two-way communication between the USACE and members of the community.

4.4.1 Program Implementation Chronology

The matrix below groups the proposed public involvement activities by category, and indicates the schedule and guidelines for implementation of individual items over the course of the project. (NOTE: This matrix will be fully populated when the actual program elements have been identified, the details clarified, and a rough project chronology established.)

Category/Activity	Time Frame/Notes	Section
Establish the structural components for project communications		
Develop/acquire mailing/contact lists	(Fall 2005)	
Appoint a PIC	(August 2005)	
Initiate a program of safety-related communications activities		
Establish and maintain sufficient effective signage	Ongoing	
Communicate the basic MEC safety message	Ongoing	
Establish community leadership and emergency communication channels	(Fall 2005)	
Establish and maintain contact with students, school staffs, and district administrators		
Develop school contact lists	(Fall 2005)	
Schedule school presentations	Ongoing	
Provide information access to the community		
Web site	In place; ongoing	
Repository	In place; ongoing	
Administrative Record	In place	
Presentations	On Web site	
Visit and meet with the community		
Contact key individuals	Ongoing	
Conduct public meetings	Ongoing as appropriate	
Conduct Public Availability Sessions	Ongoing	
Provide presentations at homeowners' association meetings	Ongoing	
Encourage and enable community input		
Web e-mail link	In place; ongoing	
PIP review	(October 2005-December 2005)	
RI/FS review	(2007)	
Decision Document review	(2007)	

4.4.2 Administrative Support Activities

In addition to the more visible community-oriented activities outlined above and in Section 3, the project team will establish and maintain the general administrative framework required to support the public involvement effort and strengthen the channels of communication between the USACE and all elements of the community. This will include activities such as:

- developing and maintaining general and targeted (postal and electronic) mailing lists, including segmentation to indicate:
 - primary project contacts,
 - project stakeholders,
 - survey/interview respondents, meeting attendees, and other individuals directly requesting inclusion on distributions of general or topical information,
 - residents of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita;
- maintaining current contact information for key community representatives and sources of information and support;
- creating and maintaining, as far as possible, a centralized record of historical UXO and munitions-related findings/incidents across the RSM/MV area;
- reviewing and updating the PIP as required;
- responding promptly to all questions, suggestions, and comments received from the community, and incorporating these inputs into future program activities and communications as appropriate.