

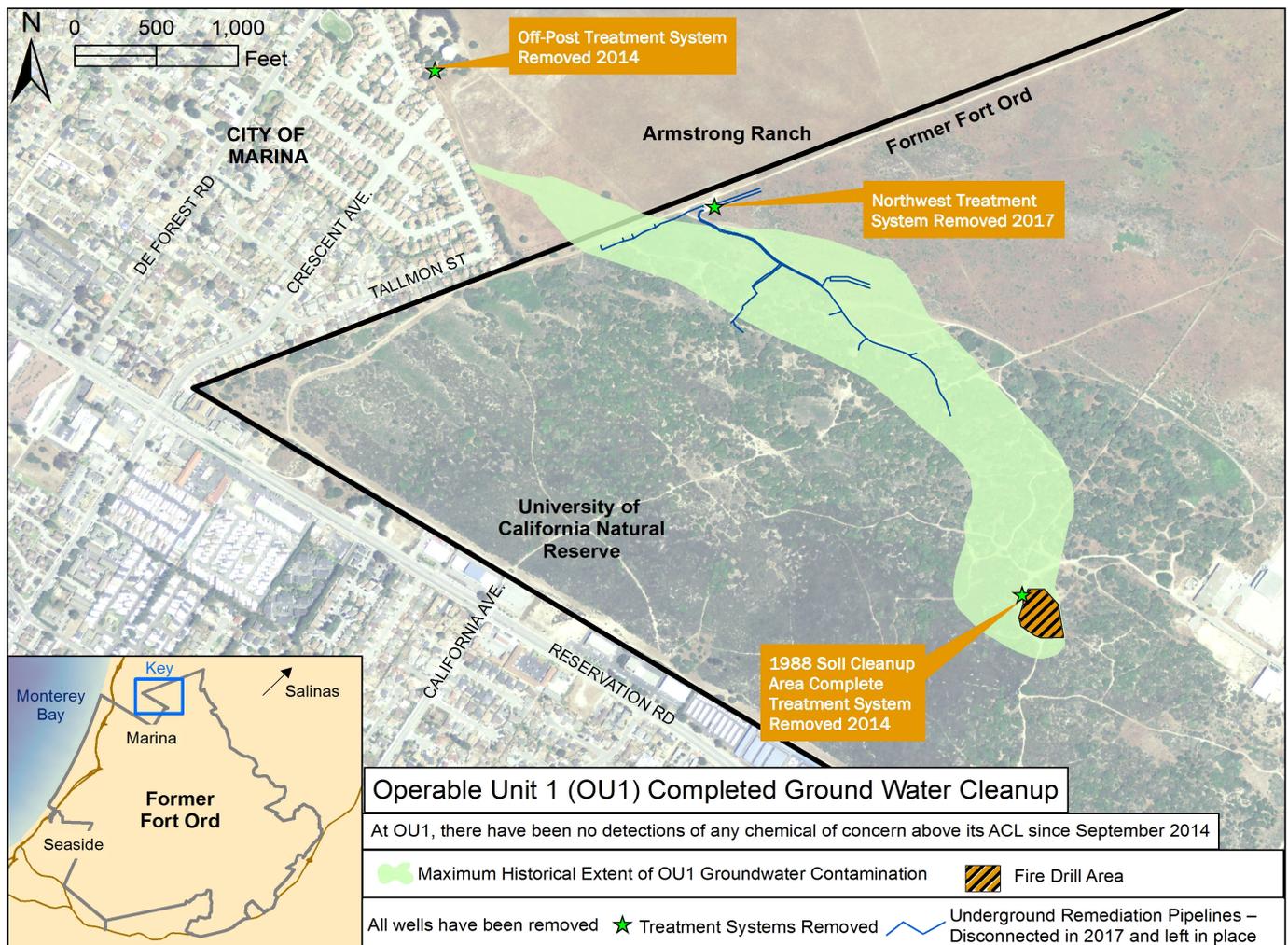
# Fort Ord Cleanup Fact Sheet: Operable Unit 1 (OU1) Completed Groundwater Cleanup

## History:

The groundwater contamination at Operable Unit (OU1) resulted from the improper disposal of solvents used during previous fire response training in this area (ceased in 1985) in the area near the present Marina Municipal Airport. Fuels and solvents were discharged into an unlined pit, ignited, and then extinguished. Some of the unburned fuels and solvents leached into groundwater. Groundwater contamination was limited to the A-Aquifer (shallowest usable groundwater).

## The cleanup is complete.

Cleanup began in 1988. The contaminated soil at the fire response training area was remediated in 1998. Many years of groundwater treatment steadily removed the contamination, and treatment ceased in 2014. Groundwater sampling results in December 2014, and May, July, October, and December of 2015 confirmed that cleanup was complete. The regulatory agencies reviewed attainment monitoring results and site close-out documents, and concurred in 2016 that the cleanup was complete. The map below shows the maximum plume area where Trichloroethene (TCE) exceeded the Aquifer Cleanup Level (ACL) (green shading) at any time in the past. The Army removed groundwater monitoring wells and other treatment system infrastructure. The area is now used by the University of California at Santa Cruz to support biological research.



## What has the Army done to clean the water?

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As part of the Superfund cleanup of former Fort Ord, the Army, with oversight by federal and state regulatory agencies, implemented a program to stop further migration of contamination and clean up contaminated groundwater. The cleanup program included treatment of contaminated soil from the OU1 former training area (completed in 1988) and construction of three groundwater treatment systems. When operational, the groundwater treatment systems pumped contaminated groundwater from extraction wells and transported the pumped groundwater to a treatment system where contaminants were removed through a granular activated carbon filtration process. The treated groundwater was returned to the A-aquifer. All three treatment systems were removed after groundwater in those areas had reached the cleanup goals.

The Army also conducted three years of habitat monitoring after removing the groundwater monitoring and treatment systems in the Fort Ord Natural Reserve. The 2018-2020 monitoring results indicated no adverse impacts to the habitat from these activities.

## Your drinking water is safe.

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Your water is safe. Drinking water supplied by Marina Coast Water District meets all federal, state and local regulatory standards. Drinking water quality is regularly tested by Marina Coast Water District and the results are reported in annual Consumer Confidence Reports, which can be viewed at [www.mcwd.org/gsa\\_ccr.html](http://www.mcwd.org/gsa_ccr.html). Data indicate that very low concentrations of TCE have been found in two drinking water supply wells on the former Fort Ord. The supply wells are located far from OU1 and the low levels of TCE are suspected to be from a different groundwater plume. Concentrations of TCE in the supply wells are significantly below the Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant levels. For more information, see Groundwater Cleanup Overview fact sheet on [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com).

## To learn more about the Fort Ord Groundwater Cleanup:

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