



Point Vicente Interpretive Center Environmental Restoration Program First Five-Year Review

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Fact Sheet

March 2021

Five-year review process

This first five-year review for the Point Vicente Interpretive Center Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) is intended to assess the protectiveness of the remedy implemented at the site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

The five-year review follows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency comprehensive five-year review guidance (EPA 540-R-01-007), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) guidance and any additional requirements by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. It also involves a technical assessment of the effectiveness of the remedy implemented in 2002 at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center.

The assessment includes a site inspection, which was completed in November 2019; interviews with persons working at the site; and those with knowledge or concerns about the site's remediation. The findings and conclusions of the five-year review, including recommendations, will be presented by the USACE in a report.

To inform the community of Rancho Palos Verdes of the five-year review, a public meeting will be scheduled; however, due to COVID-19, meetings are currently not allowed in the city. If meetings are still not allowed at the time of the five-year review's publication, other arrangements will be made to accommodate the public.

The report and associated documents will be placed for review and comment in public repositories, although the repositories are currently closed due to COVID-19. Project documents can be viewed on the Corps' project website at:

www.spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Formerly-Used-Defense-Sites/Point-Vicente-Interpretive-Center/

USACE will notify the public when the five-year review process is complete by preparing and



Figure 1 shows an aerial photo of the Point Vicente Interpretive Center. (Source: www.SanPedro.com)

publishing a notice in the Daily Breeze and the Palos Verdes Peninsula News publications.

Site background

The Point Vicente Interpretive Center is located on a former U.S. Army distance rifle range. In 1999, expansion activities at the center revealed the presence of lead in the soil. Science Applications International Corporation determined the source of the lead was the U.S. Army's use of the site as a rifle range from 1942 to 1974.

The County of Los Angeles leased the site from the U.S. Army in 1974 and acquired it in 1979, whereupon the county leased the site to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. The county conveyed the property to the city by quitclaim deed on Dec. 16, 2003.

In 1983, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes demolished the former rifle range bullet stop during construction of the interpretive center.

Lead-contaminated soil from the earthen berm of the bullet stop was used for grading the site. In July 1999, lead was discovered in soil excavated from the center's expansion construction. Construction was halted, and the center was closed to the public in August 1999.



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CERCLA-mandated site assessments were conducted to delineate the horizontal and vertical extent of lead contamination in soil across the 26-acre site.

A Feasibility Study conducted by Science Applications International Corporation evaluated five remedial options, according to nine criteria specified by CERCLA.

Subsequently, a Remedial Action Plan prepared by Science Applications International Corporation described the most feasible remedial option, based on its permanence and reduction in health risk from exposure to the soil: excavation of areas where soil concentrations of lead were higher than 250 milligrams per kilograms (mg/kg), which is the risk-based remedial goal; excavation to a depth of one foot of all soil within two acres around the interpretive center; and replacement of excavated soil with clean imported soil.

Remedial Action: Soil sampling, removal and closure report

In 2003, Innovative Technical Solutions, Inc., under contract with the USACE Los Angeles District, prepared a final closure report, based on a remedial action investigation and subsequent removal of lead-contaminated soil.

The goal of the remedial action was to identify, delineate, and remove soil from the site with lead concentrations greater than the remedial action level of 250 mg/kg.

This level was determined to be a safe level of lead in soil by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and was based on a residential-risk scenario, where the most sensitive receptor (i.e., a small child) would live at the site and be exposed every day to lead-contaminated soil through breathing dust and/or incidental ingestion of soil.

The areas of contamination included five “hot spots,” and the broader area of concern. The soil that contained lead concentrations above the remedial action level was identified through preliminary sampling and subsequent confirmation sampling and was excavated, stockpiled, analyzed for waste characterization, and shipped to an off-site disposal facility.

Following confirmation sampling, soil sampling results showed the cleanup goals had been achieved.

The excavations were then backfilled with either imported soil or clean, excavated soil from the area of concern to one foot below ground surface. A one-foot cap of imported soil was then placed throughout the area of concern.

The center’s expansion, which had been halted in August 1999, was completed in 2006 with an opening celebration July 15, 2006.

For more information, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District Public Affairs office at (213) 452-3925 or email publicaffairs.spl@usace.army.mil.

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

Documents relating to the restoration program and remedial activities at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center can be reviewed at the USACE project website:

www.spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Formerly-Used-Defense-Sites/Point-Vicente-Interpretive-Center/

They also will be available for review at the following locations when the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) restrictions are lifted:

POINT VICENTE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

31501 Palos Verde Drive West, Rancho Palos Verdes, (310-377-5370)
Daily: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FRED HESSE JR. COMMUNITY PARK

29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, (310-541-8114)
Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. to dusk, Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. to dusk

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

915 WILSHIRE BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

[HTTPS://WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/FORMERLY-USED-DEFENSE-SITES/](https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/missions/formerly-used-defense-sites/)