

Health Evaluation of 1985 to 1994 Drinking Water at Fort Ord Army Base

Monterey County, CA

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) re-evaluated contamination levels in the 1985–1994 Fort Ord drinking water. ATSDR assessed whether these exposures posed a health risk in the past. The full report is available at <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/PHA/PHAListing.aspx?StateIndicator=CA>. Read this fact sheet to learn more about ATSDR's findings and recommendations.

ATSDR reviewed available historical drinking water data from 1985–1994 provided by the U.S. Army and Marina Coast Water District (MCWD). No drinking water data are available before 1985.

ATSDR used new science, methods, and tools to estimate exposures from drinking, showering, and other household water uses.



What did ATSDR conclude?

- **From 1985 to 1994**, residents and soldiers-in-training who drank, showered, washed, and cooked with water from former Fort Ord and MCWD drinking wells were not at risk for health effects due to contaminant exposures.
- **Before 1985**, ATSDR cannot conclude whether contaminants in former Fort Ord and MCWD drinking water systems could have harmed people's health.

Current Drinking Water Conditions at the Former Fort Ord

In 2001, the MCWD acquired the Fort Ord water and wastewater systems from the Army. MCWD currently provides drinking water to Central Marina and the former Fort Ord area within the Ord Community. Water pumped from MCWD wells consistently meets safe drinking water standards established by the USEPA and the California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW). MCWD regularly tests drinking water quality and reports results to DDW and in their annual Consumer Confidence Report available at: https://www.mcwd.org/gsa_ccr.html

What does ATSDR recommend?

Former Residents

- If you have personal health questions about the drinking water, contaminant exposures, and the former Fort Ord site, discuss your questions with your doctor. Share this fact sheet and the full report with your doctor.

The U.S. Army

- Continue efforts to monitor and address contamination, including efforts to monitor and address contaminant plumes migrating outside of the A-Aquifer.

The Marina Coast Water District

- Continue monitoring drinking water to ensure quality standards are maintained.

How do I submit public comments on the report?

Please submit comments by August 22, 2026, to ATSDR's record center through email at:

OCHHAPublicComment@cdc.gov

Or you may mail comments to:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Attn: Records Center

4770 Buford Highway NE, MS S106-5

Atlanta, Georgia 30341

ATSDR will issue a final version, with any public comments and ATSDR's response.

Where can I learn more?

Contact ATSDR region 9 with questions about the report.

- Visit <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/regional-offices/index.html> or
- Call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)

About ATSDR

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR works with other agencies, and with tribal, state, and local governments to evaluate possible health risks in communities where people could come into contact with hazardous chemicals. For more information about ATSDR visit our website at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>.