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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

### **Notice of Proposed No Further Action**

For

Former Arcata Naval Auxiliary Air Station  
3561 Boeing Avenue  
McKinleyville, CA

Case #1DOD-THU536

Humboldt County

**Notice Posting Date: March 17, 2025**

**End of Comment Period: May 17, 2025**

Soil and groundwater investigations were conducted at the above-referenced site and minor releases of petroleum hydrocarbons were documented. North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff propose that no further work be required. The purpose of this notice is to inform interested parties, including owners of nearby land, that the case is being considered for closure, and to invite public comment on this proposed decision.

#### **Problem Description**

The Naval Auxiliary Air Station – Arcata (NAAS Arcata) is a former military airfield site that was utilized by the US Navy for pilot training between 1943 and 1945. Gasoline, kerosene, and diesel fuels were historically used at NAAS Arcata. These substances were stored in both underground storage tanks (USTs) and aboveground storage tanks. Fuels were historically delivered to the site via underground piping from a railcar unloading station to the west of the site. Underground fuel piping was also utilized for a fog dispersal system known as “FIDO” (Fog, Intensive Dispersal Of) with piping on either side of both of the site’s runways. The site was taken over by the County of Humboldt for use as the Humboldt County Airport since 1950.

Site assessment activities have been conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers since 1995 including FIDO piping system remediation conducted in 2022-2023. The primary contaminants of concern were total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline and diesel. The unauthorized releases were generally from FIDO piping and consist entirely of petroleum hydrocarbon-related compounds like those from UST sites.

## Proposed Action

Case closure is proposed. This site meets the conditions for closure under the State Water Resources Control Board's "[Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy](#)"

([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/lt\\_cls\\_plcy.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/lt_cls_plcy.html)).

Unless significant comments are received or new information is presented regarding this site, Regional Water Board staff plans to proceed with the closure process upon conclusion of the comment period. Please contact François Bush at (707) 543-7148 or [Francois.Bush@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Francois.Bush@waterboards.ca.gov) with any questions or comments. Written comments may also be submitted to:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Attention: François Bush  
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Regional Water Board site records comprise both a paper file and an electronic file. Beginning in 2005, select file material was uploaded to the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker website and not necessarily included in the paper file. All new file material after 2014 is retained only electronically. The records can be found on [GeoTracker](#)

([https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=T0602300403](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0602300403)).

The paper file ("NAAS Arcata", Case No. 1DOD-THU536) may be reviewed at the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board office from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments are recommended and can be arranged by calling (707) 576-2220.