



# MATHER AFB CALIFORNIA

---

## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 3246

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Adjournment Report

Former Mather Air Force Base (AFB)

Sacramento, CA

August 3, 2011

Table of Contents

- I. Purpose and Summary ..... 3
- II. RAB Overview ..... 3
- III. Background on Adjournment ..... 3
- IV. Continuing Community Involvement Activities..... 9
- V. Recommendation for Adjournment ..... 11
- VI. Adjournment ..... 11
- VII. Attachments ..... 12
  - A. Chart: Attendance at RAB Meetings
  - B. Public notices
  - C. Newsletters
  - D. Letter proposing adjournment
  - E. Other
  - F. Responsiveness Summary
  - G. Management Guidance for the DERP, Chapter 10

## I. Purpose and Summary

This adjournment report provides the overview of the Mather Air Force Base (AFB) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), documents the rationale for adjournment of the RAB, and outlines the process by which the United States Air Force (USAF) will ensure continued community involvement in restoration activities at the former installation. This document also provides justification for the decision to adjourn the RAB.

## II. RAB Overview

The Mather RAB is an advisory group comprised of government and community stakeholders, which is organized to pursue the following goals:

- Provide a proactive forum for the discussion and exchange of environmental restoration program information between the USAF, regulatory agencies, community members, and other stakeholders.
- Ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to review the progress of environmental restoration activities and participate in a constructive dialogue with the installation's decision makers.

Mather closed as an Air Force Base in 1993. The RAB for the former Mather AFB was formed in January, 1994 and held its first meeting on January 13, 1994. During its tenure, the RAB has given the community the opportunity to provide input on cleanup decisions and provided a mechanism for the USAF to disseminate information regarding the investigation and cleanup of contaminated property.

The Mather RAB is chaired jointly by a UASF representative and a community member.

## III. Background on Adjournment

In July 1989, a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) was signed by the USAF, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the California Department of Health Services (now the California Department of Toxic Substances Control). The FFA detailed how the USAF and the agencies would establish procedures in developing, implementing, financing and monitoring cleanup activities at the former base in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Contingency Plan. The FFA included schedules for plan and document development for remediation and for community relations and public notification.

Contamination at Mather resulted from the use of hazardous materials in the operation and upkeep of aircraft, ground support equipment and vehicles during Mather's intermittent use as an active base over the period from 1918 to 1993. In 1982, the Air Force began investigating environmental conditions on base as part of the congressionally-authorized Installation Restoration Program (IRP). The IRP addresses past disposal sites on military installations.

Air Force facilities became regulated under CERCLA and SARA (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act) in 1986, but the environmental program at Mather did not become part of the CERCLA process until 1987, when the Aircraft Control and Warning (AC&W) IRP site -- where extensive groundwater contamination was found -- was placed on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List. The entire base was placed on EPA's National Priorities List on June 11, 1989 when additional sites were found to be contaminated.

Since cleanup began, 89 sites have been identified and grouped into six Operable Units (OUs) per guidance contained in CERCLA and the Federal Facility Agreement. Of the 89 sites identified at Mather, 73 have been cleaned up as this report was written. The 16 remaining sites are being cleaned or are awaiting closure documentation. All cleanup systems are in place and operating properly.

Soil vapor extraction systems clean the soil by vacuuming chemical vapors from the spaces between the grains of soil above the water table. At Mather, this process has removed an estimated 1,118,195 pounds of petroleum products and some 7,411 pounds of solvents from the soil. Bioventing is also being used to pump air underground so oxygen moves through the soil to promote destruction of contamination by microorganisms such as bacteria.

There are four contaminated groundwater plumes, three of which have an active pump-and-treat remedy. More than 12 billion gallons of groundwater have been pumped out of the ground and treated at Mather. About 4,050 pounds of solvents have been cleaned from the water. More than 600 wells are in use as part of the Mather groundwater cleanup. Thirty-four wells extract water for treatment, eight are injection wells that return cleaned water back into the ground, and the rest are monitoring wells used to track and measure contamination. Mather achieved USEPA concurrence on Operating Properly and Successfully (OPS) status for all groundwater and soil sites in July 2011.

Former landfills at several sites were dug up and their waste was consolidated into landfill site 4. Landfill sites 3, 4 and 7 were then “capped,” or covered with impervious barriers, to keep rainfall from percolating through the waste and minimize potential for contaminants to leach into the groundwater. Former landfills are monitored to track landfill gases and groundwater quality near the landfills.

Five Records of Decision (RODs) have been signed. The last ROD was signed in 2006 and amended in 2010. By 2010, all cleanup decisions, including two Explanation of Significant Difference from the ROD for Basewide OU Sites and the Soil OU and Groundwater OU Plumes sites, had been made. Through fiscal year 2010, the Air Force spent approximately \$107 million remediating the land and water at Mather. The Air Force estimates a cost to complete of approximately \$60 million in FY11 and beyond.

Future USAF cleanup work at Mather includes continued operation of the soil vapor extraction and bioventing systems for an estimated one to five years at each site, continued operation and maintenance of groundwater treatment systems for estimated periods ranging from about 10 years for the Aircraft Control and Warning system to about 60 years for the Main Base/Strategic Air Command Area system, landfill maintenance and monitoring for the foreseeable future, and land-use restrictions at some locations for as long as significant contamination remains at Mather.

The contamination at Mather has been well documented by local media, dating back to at least 1986, when an Air Force press release regarding the results of sampling 11 wells on base received widespread radio, newspaper and television coverage, according to the 2004 Mather Community Relations Plan.

To date, the USAF has deeded 1,529 of 5,717 total acres at Mather for reuse. Long-term leases account for the rest. The airport and parks are owned by the Air Force and leased to Sacramento County until the property is deeded to county ownership. Mather Airport, operated by the Sacramento County Airport System, has two parallel runways and a 24-hour air traffic control tower. One major cargo carrier, UPS, operates there. Despite the economic downturn, more than 50,000 flights went through Mather Airport in the year ending in August 2010. Large employers on the former base include the Sacramento Veterans’ Affairs Medical Center at Mather, Sutter Health and Sutter Health Information Services, California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), the Federal Aviation Administration’s Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) and Blood Source, which has an administration building and

lab at Mather. At the end of 2010, an estimated 4,192 people worked in 54 businesses and public agencies at the former base.

In the years since base closure, the former Mather has continued to attract the public to annual events such as springtime tours of the vernal pools sponsored by an organization called Splash and the California Capitol Air Show, which attracted a record 120,000 viewers in September 2010. In addition to such special events, year-round visitors flock to the 1,434-acre Mather Regional Park, with its 18-hole golf course and a lake stocked with bass and trout.

The Community Relations Plan is a public document that organizes and explains how the Air Force intends to provide information on the cleanup process, involve the community, and solicit feedback from community members, public officials and environmental groups. The first Mather Community Relations Plan was published in December 1986 after the Air Force held community interviews. Additional community interviews were included in a second Community Relations Plan issued on July 10, 1989. Four interviews were conducted in December 1998 and January 1999. Concerns expressed during those interviews included whether workers at Mather would be negatively impacted by contamination and whether developers on base would be adequately informed of deed restrictions and institutional controls. Availability of sufficient water to meet demand in summer, potential utility rate increases to pay for granular activated carbon systems, availability of adequate water to supply new development, and continued funding of environmental cleanup were mentioned.

A total of 23 people were interviewed in 2003 for the most recent Community Relations Plan Update, issued in August 2004. All interviewees were aware that there is environmental contamination at Mather. The means by which interviewees learned of the contamination included local media (newspapers and other), word of mouth, and disclosure statements issued with property purchases. Most interviewees said that there is sufficient knowledge that the cleanup is progressing; however, cleanup specifics or the timeframe for the cleanup were not readily available. Seven interviewees were concerned about perchlorate contamination. One interviewee was concerned about shutting down drinking water wells. Four interviewees expressed concern about the lack of water supply for the development and population growth in the area. Two interviewees expressed concern about safety of the drinking water. Five interviewees said they had no concerns and attributed this to their lack of information on the subject. These issues were addressed in a timely fashion by the Air Force, using

newsletters and public meetings to disseminate information. The most recent (2004) Community Relations Plan is available online at <http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afropa/legacybrac/mather/index.asp> in the Mather Document Library, located on the right side of the website under Mather Quick Links. Because it is a large document, it can take awhile to load on some computers.

The Mather RAB began meeting in 1994, supported by the Air Force, the U.S. EPA and state regulatory agencies. When first formed, the Mather RAB met about every four months. By 2004, the Mather RAB was meeting about every two months. In recent years, due to declining interest and poor meeting attendance by both the public and RAB members, the RAB moved to a less frequent meeting schedule of two to three times per year. A chart entitled "Attendance at RAB meetings" (Attachment A) shows the number of community members attending RAB meetings ranging from zero to four persons over the past five years. During the same five-year period, the number of RAB members attending meetings ranged from one to four. Numbers for this chart were derived from minutes of the meetings.

The subject of adjournment of the Mather RAB was first raised at a RAB meeting in January, 2010. Inadequate sustained community interest was discussed as a primary reason to adjourn. Some RAB members expressed concerns that if the RAB adjourned, members of the public would not be able to get updated information about the Mather cleanup. The Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) subsequently addressed these concerns by creating an expanded informational public website at <http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afropa/legacybrac/mather/index.asp> so that members of the community can follow progress of the cleanup and locate appropriate points of contact following RAB adjournment. The website was shown to Mather RAB members at a February 9, 2011 meeting and was favorably received. Suggestions by RAB members for improvements were implemented following the Feb. 9 meeting.

In January, 2011, the Air Force utilized an expanded mailing list containing the names and addresses of approximately 3,500 residents and businesses on and around the former base to expand the reach of public affairs materials mailed to the community. Using this list, a public outreach campaign was initiated to raise awareness of the informational website and to address any remaining questions about the cleanup prior to considering RAB adjournment.



An extensively-publicized RAB meeting was held May 25, 2011 to solicit public input on possible adjournment of the Mather RAB. The meeting was held at 6 p.m. at Courtyard Sacramento Rancho Cordova, 10683 White Rock Rd., Rancho Cordova CA 95670.

The date of the May 25 meeting was first publicized in an opinion piece (“Mather Cleanup on My Mind”) by Robert McGarvey, Rancho Cordova Mayor and a RAB member since 1994, published in the *Grapevine Independent* newspaper of Rancho Cordova on Feb. 25, 2011 (Attachment E). As a former Airman stationed at Mather, McGarvey has unique insight into environmental issues at the former base.

The date, time and location (6 p.m. at the Courtyard Sacramento Rancho Cordova, 10683 White Rock Road in Rancho Cordova) of the May 25 meeting was published in a newsletter mailed to everyone on the expanded mailing list at the end of March, 2011 (Attachment C).

A letter from Philip Mook, Jr., Senior Representative of the AFRPA Western Region, mailed to everyone on the list on April 11, 2011, (Attachment D) proposed adjournment of the Mather RAB for several reasons: a lack of community interest, the fact that all major decisions have been made regarding the cleanup, and that the property recipient – Sacramento County – is well-informed and pleased with the progress to date. The letter noted that adjournment of the RAB will have no effect on the cleanup. The letter encouraged anyone with questions about the RAB adjournment to attend the RAB meeting May 25, 2011 at 6 p.m. at the Courtyard Sacramento Rancho Cordova, 10683 White Rock Road in Rancho Cordova.

Another Air Force newsletter, also mentioning the time and location of the May 25, 2011 meeting, contained a set of Frequently Asked Questions about the Mather Cleanup and Frequently Asked Questions about RAB Adjournment. The newsletter (Attachment C) was mailed May 4, 2011.

A flyer (Attachment E) promoting the meeting was mailed on or about May 12, 2011 along with a refrigerator magnet containing the Internet address of the Mather website.

A public notice announcing the date, time, location and subjects to be covered at the May 25, 2011 meeting was published in *The Sacramento Bee*. (Attachment B)

In addition, several presentations were made to various groups to help publicize the May 25, 2011 RAB meeting.

- Ms. Linda Geissinger, Regional Public Affairs Officer for AFRPA, made a presentation before the Cordova Community Council (a group consisting of business people from the Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce as well as leaders in the city's non-profit sector) on April 15, 2011, summarizing the Mather cleanup, describing potential RAB adjournment and encouraging community members to attend the May 25 RAB meeting.
- William Hughes, a technical expert on the Mather cleanup (contractor to AFRPA) made a presentation to the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority regarding the Mather cleanup on May 11, 2011 and mentioned the May 25 meeting.
- Ms. Geissinger also made a presentation before the Rancho Cordova City Council on May 16, 2011, summarizing the Mather cleanup, describing potential RAB adjournment and encouraging community members to attend the May 25 RAB meeting.

Despite this outreach, attendance at the May 25, 2011 RAB meeting for a discussion of adjourning the RAB was sparse. In addition to three RAB members, regulators, and Air Force staff and contractors, two members of the public – a husband and wife – attended the May 25, 2011 meeting. Minutes of the May 21, 2011 RAB meeting can be seen at <http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/shared/media/document/afd-120313-037.pdf> During the meeting, several regulators spoke in favor of adjourning the RAB; none of them spoke in opposition to adjournment. The two members of the public came to ask questions and did not express an opinion regarding the proposed RAB adjournment.

A public comment period was initiated at the May 25, 2011 RAB meeting to allow members of the community to provide input on the proposed adjournment of the RAB. A notice advertising the public comment period was published in *The Sacramento Bee* (Attachment B). Comments were accepted through June 24, 2011. For more information, see the Responsiveness Summary for the Public Comment Period on Proposed Adjournment of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) at the Former Mather Air Force Base (AFB), California (Attachment F).

#### IV. Continuing Community Involvement Activities

The USAF will continue to provide opportunities for community involvement regarding the environmental cleanup program at Mather by maintaining a telephone number to a USAF point of

contact, Ms. Linda Geissinger at (916) 643-6420, extension 109. She can also be contacted by writing to Linda Geissinger, Public Affairs; AFRPA; 3411 Olson St.; McClellan, CA 95652; or by email to [linda.geissinger@us.af.mil](mailto:linda.geissinger@us.af.mil) Updated cleanup information will continue to be available on a Mather website at <http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afropa/legacybrac/mather/index.asp> Another source of information is the Administrative Record online at <https://afropa.af.mil/docsearch/newdocsearchform.asp>.

The USAF will amend the Community Relations Plan (CRP) as the cleanup program progresses and will use it as a roadmap for continued community involvement. The most recent version of the CRP is available on the Mather website: <http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afropa/legacybrac/mather/index.asp> Click the Quick Link to Mather Document Library on the right side of the page.

The USAF will perform other activities as necessary. Community involvement activities will include keeping a point of contact list of interested stakeholders and providing a USAF point of contact on the website. They may also include conducting future public availability sessions.

An installation may reestablish an adjourned RAB if there is sufficient and sustained community interest and environmental restoration activities are ongoing at the installation.

Chapter 10 of the September 2001 Management Guidance for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) (Attachment G) outlines the regulatory procedures governing RAB adjournment.

For more information about USAF activities, please contact the Air Force Real Property Agency Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator (BEC), Mr. Douglas Fortun at (916) 643-6420, extension 203 or the AFRPA Regional Public Affairs Officer, Ms. Linda Geissinger at (916) 643-6420, ext. 109.

## V. Recommendation for Adjournment

As the Air Force Co-chairman of the Mather RAB, I recommend adjournment of the Mather RAB.

Linda Geissinger

Linda Geissinger

3 AUG 2011

Date

## VI. Adjournment

As the Senior Representative of the Air Force Real Property Agency, I hereby adjourn the Mather RAB.

Philip H Mook, Jr.

Philip H. Mook, Jr.

8/3/11

Date

Please note: copies of public notices published in *The Sacramento Bee* and *The Grapevine Independent*, published in Rancho Cordova, California, announcing RAB adjournment are included in Attachment B.

VII. Attachments

A. Chart: Attendance at RAB Meetings

## Attendance at Mather Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meetings, Dec. 2005 to Feb. 2011

Meeting Date	Air Force & AF Contractors	Regulators	RAB Members	Representing Elected Officials	The Public (including those with organizational affiliations)*
9 Feb. 2011	4	2	3	0	1
10 Nov. 2010	8	3	3	0	0
8 June 2010	4	4	1	0	0
20 Jan. 2010	6	3	4	0	2
19 Aug. 2009	3	0	3	0	0
11 March 2009	6	0	4	0	0
10 Dec. 2008	4	1	2	1	2
24 Sept. 2008	5	1	1	1	2
12 March 2008	8	3	3	1	2
8 Aug. 2007	7	3	3	0	3
4 April 2007	7	1	3	0	4
19 Oct. 2006	8	3	3	0	2
19 April 2006	8	3	2	0	1 (+ 1 invited briefer)
7 Dec 2005	8	3	2	0	4 (+2 invited briefers)

\*Organizational affiliations such as Cordova Parks and Recreation District, Boeing, Sacramento County, etc.

B. Public notices



Sacramento Bee  
"Our Region" Section  
Page B2

wednesday  
18 May 2011

**MATHER ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP**

**RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING**  
**Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 6 p.m.**  
**Courtyard Sacramento Rancho Cordova**  
**10683 White Rock Rd. Rancho Cordova CA 95670-6002**

You are invited to the Mather RAB meeting for a discussion on the progress of the environmental cleanup at the former Air Force base.


**Topics of Discussion**

- Cleanup update
- Update on community outreach
- Discussion of possible adjournment of the Mather KAB



The purpose of the RAB is to promote community awareness and obtain community review and comments on the cleanup of the former Mather Air Force Base. Representatives from regulatory agencies and the Air Force are available at the meeting to answer questions.

**For more information contact:**  
**Brian Sytsma at (916) 643-1250 ext.257 or**  
**bsytsma@napkincomm.com**



Sacramento Bee  
"Our Region" Section

wednesday  
25 May 2011



### Former Mather Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Proposed RAB Adjournment



The Mather RAB is composed of volunteer community members, as well as federal, state and local representatives who routinely meet to advise the Air Force on environmental restoration efforts at the former base. Public interest in the RAB has declined steadily over the years and all major cleanup decisions have been made. As a result, the Air Force now invites the public to comment on the proposal to adjourn the Mather AFB RAB.

**The 30-day public comment period begins  
May 25, 2011, and ends June 24, 2011.**

Information on environmental restoration efforts will continue to be made available to the public through the AFRPA Public Affairs Office at (916) 643-1250 ext. 257, on the internet at: <http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afipa/legacy/brac/mather/index.asp>, and in the Information Repository located at 3411 Olson Street, McClellan, CA 95652.

Questions or comments on the proposed RAB adjournment should be sent to:

Brian Sytsma, AFRPA WREC Public Affairs  
3411 Olson Street, McClellan, CA 95652  
phone: (916) 643-1250 ext. 257  
e-mail: [afipa.west.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:afipa.west.pa@us.af.mil)

Friday  
16 Dec 2011

Grapevine Independent  
Page A-16



#### Notice of Mather RAB Adjournment



The Air Force has adjourned the Mather Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The Department of Defense (DoD) established RABs in 1994 to provide a forum for community involvement in the environmental restoration process at an active or former military installation. The Mather RAB, composed of volunteer community members, as well as federal, state and local representatives, held public meetings at least twice a year since 1994.

The decision to adjourn the RAB was in accordance with DoD RAB Rule (32 CFR Part 202). Public interest in the RAB has declined steadily over the years and all major cleanup decisions for the former Mather Air Force Base have been made. The Air Force held a 30-day public comment period on the proposed adjournment from May 25, 2011 to June 24, 2011. No comments were received. The topic was also discussed at the May 25, 2011 RAB meeting.

Information on environmental restoration efforts will continue to be available to the public through the Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) Public Affairs Office at (916) 643-1250, ext 257, online at <http://www.safle.hq.af.mil/afropa/legacy/brac/mather/index.asp>, or in the Information Repository located at 3411 Olson Street, McClellan, CA 95652; call (916) 643-1250, ext. 201 for an appointment.

For more information, contact AFRPA Western Region Execution Center Public Affairs, 3411 Olson Street, McClellan, CA 95652. Phone: (916) 643-1250, ext. 257, or email [afropa.west.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:afropa.west.pa@us.af.mil)

Wednesday  
21 Dec 2011Sacramento Bee  
"Our Region" Section  
Page B2**Former Mather Air Force Base**

The Air Force has adjourned the Mather Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The Department of Defense (DoD) established RABs in 1994 to provide a forum for community involvement in the environmental restoration process at an active or former military installation. The Mather RAB, composed of volunteer community members, as well as federal, state and local representatives, held public meetings at least twice a year since 1994.

The decision to adjourn the RAB was in accordance with DoD RAB Rule (32 CFR Part 202). Public interest in the RAB has declined steadily over the years and all major cleanup decisions for the former Mather Air Force Base have been made. The Air Force held a 30-day public comment period on the proposed adjournment from May 25, 2011 to June 24, 2011. No comments were received. The topic was also discussed at the May 25, 2011 RAB meeting.

Information on environmental restoration efforts will continue to be available to the public through the Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) Public Affairs Office at (916) 643-1250, ext 257, online at <http://www.aafle.hq.af.mil/afpra/legacybase/mather/index.asp>, or in the Information Repository located at 3411 Olson Street, McClellan, CA 95652; call (916) 643-1250, ext. 201 for an appointment.

For more information, contact AFRPA Western Region Execution Center Public Affairs, 3411 Olson Street, McClellan, CA 95652. Phone: (916) 643-1250, ext. 257, or email [afpra.west.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:afpra.west.pa@us.af.mil)

C. Newsletters



# Environmental News Update March 2011

## Status of the Mather Cleanup:

*What's been done? What's left to do?*

Mather is in the final stages of environmental cleanup. All major decisions have been made, documented and overseen by the Air Force Real Property Agency, the U.S. EPA, Department of Toxic Substances Control, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Integrated Waste Management Board. Community members have provided input through the Mather Restoration Advisory Board since 1994.

The Air Force has spent more than \$162 million on the cleanup and millions more will be spent for ongoing monitoring and operation of groundwater treatment and soil cleanup systems, and maintenance and monitoring of landfill sites. Of the 89 sites identified at Mather, 75 sites have been cleaned up so far. The 14 remaining sites are being cleaned or awaiting official closure documentation. All cleanup systems are in place and operating properly.

### BACKGROUND

Mather Air Force Base, earlier called Mather Field, operated from 1918 to 1993, including some breaks in service. Mather was used for combat pilot and navigator training. During that time, Mather's military workforce used chemicals,

including fuels, solvents and oils in support of national defense. Chemical leaks and spills, as well as outdated disposal methods, contributed to soil and groundwater contamination. Such disposal practices, legal in the past, are now known to cause environmental contamination and are no longer used.

Contaminated water is not used for drinking water. Drinking water is supplied by the Sacramento County Water Agency. Wells providing drinking water are tested regularly, and annual water quality reports are provided to water customers as required by law. In addition, the Air Force samples the water from many



## Quick Facts

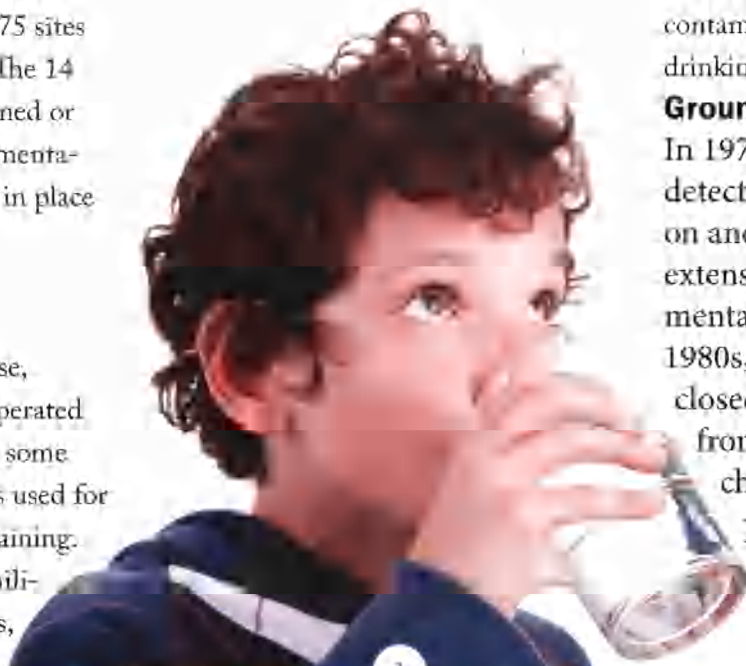
### Mather Cleanup Update 2011

- 89 sites identified
- 75 sites are clean
- Drinking water is strictly monitored and safe
- Contaminated groundwater is being treated
- Former landfills are monitored

drinking water wells to ensure that the contaminated water doesn't impact drinking water supplies.

### Groundwater Cleanup

In 1979, contamination was detected in water supply wells on and near Mather. More extensive testing and environmental cleanup began in the 1980s, years before Mather closed. The biggest problem was from solvents such as tetrachloroethene (TCE) and perchloroethene (PCE), which is also known



SEE Mather Status, Page 3

# Mather Today

**A**t the end of 2010, the former Mather Air Force Base housed 54 businesses and government agencies, an enormous regional park and 18-hole golf course, more than 1,200 single-family homes, a cargo-focused airport and other amenities. An estimated 4,192 people worked there.

services for 1,250-1,300 veterans from throughout Northern California every day.

Sacramento County is the local redevelopment agency (LRA) for the former base. Much of the property at the former base (about 4,188 of 5,717 acres total) is still owned by the Air Force. The airport and

parks are owned by the Air Force and leased to Sacramento County until the property is deeded to county ownership.

Mather Airport, operated by the Sacramento County Department of Airports, reopened as a civilian airport in 1995. With two parallel runways and a 24-hour air traffic control tower, the airport has attracted general aviation, commercial air cargo, military use and air taxis. One major

cargo carrier, UPS, operates at Mather. Despite the economic downturn, more than 50,000 flights went through Mather Airport in the year ending in August, 2010.

An adjacent sports center run by the Cordova Recreation

and Park District provides the public with recently-renovated facilities such as a state-of-the-art softball complex, a huge new skateboard park, an all-weather soccer field, a gym, racquetball courts, a weight room, aerobics classes, an outdoor jogging trail, lockers and showers. Nearby is Mather Community Campus, a two-year transitional housing program for the homeless run by Volunteers of America.

In the south part of the former base, dilapidated military housing was demolished and replaced with 1,271 attractive homes comprising a community known as "Independence at Mather." Proximate amenities include the 1,434-acre Mather Regional Park, with an 18-hole golf course and a lake stocked with bass and trout. Hikers and picnickers enjoy the area, and vernal pools – with their seasonal displays of wildflowers – attract thousands of visitors in spring.

Another big draw is the annual California Capitol Air Show, which attracted a record 120,000 viewers to Mather in September 2010.

Largest Employers at Mather – End of 2010	
Companies	Approx. # of Employees
Sacramento Veterans' Affairs Medical Center at Mather	800
Sutter Health and Sutter Health Information Services	700
California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA)	330
Federal Aviation Administration's Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON)	300
Blood Source (administration building and lab)	250

The bustling Sacramento Veterans' Affairs Medical Center at Mather – operated by the federal government on land located within the city limits of Rancho Cordova, a city incorporated years after the former base closed – provides medical



## Mather Status

*Continued from Page 1*

as tetrachloroethene. The cleanup primarily involves removing contaminants from groundwater located beneath the land surface. Three pump-and-treat systems were built at Mather to pump groundwater to the surface and remove contaminants.

- More than 12 billion gallons of groundwater have been pumped out of the ground and treated at Mather.
- Some 4,050 pounds of solvents have been removed from the water and the cleaned water is injected back into the ground or used to maintain the level of Mather Lake during the dry season.
- More than 600 wells are in use at Mather as part of the groundwater cleanup. Thirty-four wells extract water for treatment, eight are injection wells that return cleaned water back into the ground, and the rest are monitoring wells, used to track and measure contamination.
- There are four plumes, three of which have an active pump-and-treat remedy.
- The Air Force will continue managing the cleanup process until the cleanup is finished.

## LANDFILL CLEANUP

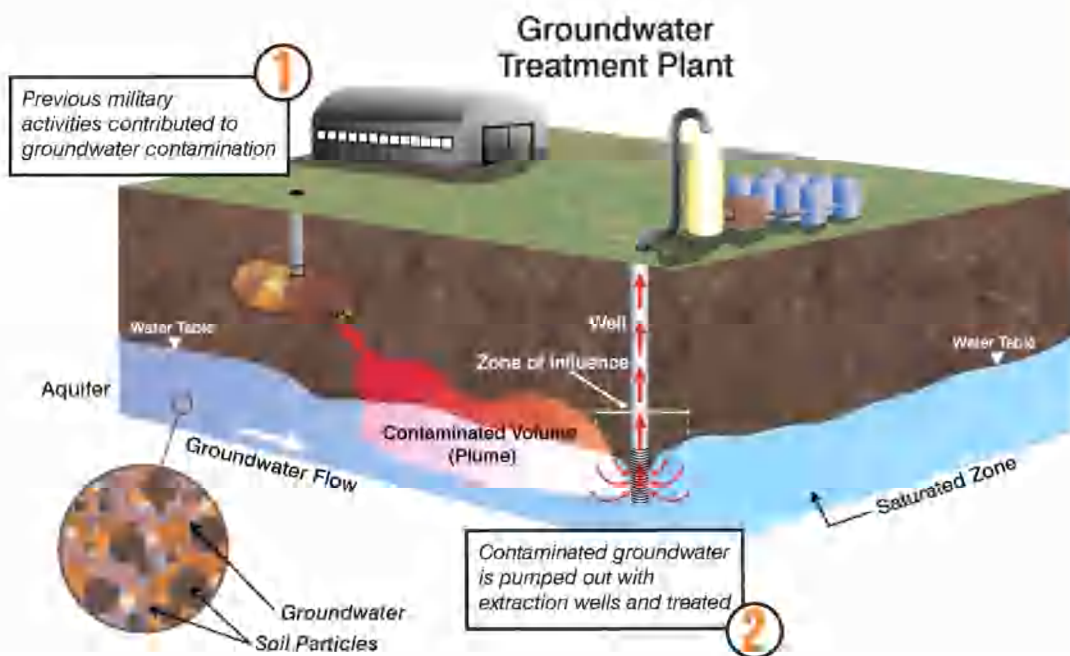
As part of the environmental cleanup, former landfills at several sites were dug up and their waste was placed in landfill 4. Landfill sites 3, 4 and 7 were then "capped," or covered with impervious barriers. Such barriers keep rainwater from percolating through the waste and minimize the potential for contaminants to leach into the groundwater. Landfills are monitored to track landfill gases and groundwater quality near the landfills.



## SOIL CLEANUP

Environmental cleanup began in the 1980s, years before Mather closed. The cleanup primarily involves removing contaminants from the soil using various processes. These include soil vapor extraction and bioventing.

- Soil vapor extraction, which vacuums chemical vapors from the spaces between the grains of soil above the water table, has removed an estimated 1,118,195 pounds of petroleum products from the soil.
- Soil vapor extraction has also removed some 7,411 pounds of solvents from the soil.
- Bioventing pumps air underground so oxygen moves through the soil to promote the destruction of contamination by microorganisms such as bacteria.







## **MATHER** Environmental News Update

**AFRPA Western REC**

3411 Olson Street

McClellan, CA 95652

{ The drinking water on and around Mather is SAFE }

## New Website is all about Mather

To read the latest news about Mather, to check on upcoming events, find answers to Frequently Asked Questions, or review past history of the former base, check out the Air Force Real Property Agency's newly expanded Mather website at:

<http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afropa/legacybrac/mather/index.asp>

**Next RAB meeting is  
May 25 at 6 p.m.**

Courtyard Sacramento Rancho Cordova  
10683 White Rock Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6002





# Environmental News

## May 2011

### UPDATE



### Note to Mather Community Members

A decision to adjourn the Mather Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is being considered by the AFRPA Western Region Senior Representative, Philip H. Mook, Jr. The Mather RAB has been meeting since 1994 to discuss environmental cleanup at the former Mather Air Force Base. If you would like to learn more about the cleanup, or the RAB, or the adjournment process, you are encouraged to attend a Mather RAB Meeting on Wednesday, May 25 at 6 pm. at the Courtyard Sacramento Rancho Cordova, 10683 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. For more information, call 916 643-1250, ext. 257.

### Frequently Asked Questions

## FAQ about Restoration Advisory Board Adjournment

#### *Why is a RAB adjourned?*

A Restoration Advisory Board, or RAB, may be adjourned because there is no longer sufficient and sustained community interest. Other reasons to adjourn a RAB can include: all cleanup remedies are in place, all Records of Decision are signed, RAB goals have been achieved, or the land is transferred to an entity not controlled by the Department of Defense.

#### *Who decides to adjourn a RAB?*

The Installation Commander makes that decision after consulting with and considering comments by community members, the Environmental Protection Agency, the state, tribes (if applicable), and RAB members. In the case of Mather, the Installation Commander is Philip H. Mook Jr., Senior Representative, Air Force Real Property Agency Western Region.

#### *Have RABs been adjourned at other former Air Force bases in California?*

Yes. In California, RABs have been adjourned at the former George AFB in Victorville, the former Castle AFB in Atwater, and the former Norton AFB in San Bernardino.

#### *What is the process for adjourning a RAB?*

If the Senior Representative is considering adjourning the RAB, he shall: consult with EPA, the state, tribes, RAB members, and the local community, as appropriate, regarding adjourning the RAB and consider all responses before making

a final decision. If a final decision is made to adjourn the RAB, the Senior Representative will document the rationale for adjournment in a memorandum for inclusion in the Administrative Record. He will also notify the public of the decision through written notice to RAB members and through publication of a notice in a local newspaper of general circulation, and describe other ongoing public involvement opportunities that are available once the RAB is adjourned.



## Frequently Asked Questions

# Mather Environmental Cleanup

**Q:** Is the water on the Mather property safe to drink and where does it come from?

**A:** Yes, the water is safe to drink. The water provider for Independence Housing and the rest of the Mather property is the Sacramento County Water Agency. This water meets the rigorous standards set by the California Department of Health Services. The groundwater pollution issues at Mather have no impact on the quality of drinking water provided through the water system there.

**Q:** How can you be sure the water is safe to drink?

**A:** The contaminated water is not used for drinking water. Wells providing drinking water are tested regularly, and annual water quality reports are provided to water customers as required by law. In addition, the Air Force samples the water from many drinking water wells. Many of the more than 600 Air Force monitoring wells track and measure contamination and ensure that the contaminated water doesn't impact drinking water supplies.

**Q:** What about the soil? Is it hazardous?

**A:** Since the cleanup began in the 1980s, the Air Force has gathered extensive information about the locations where hazardous waste was dumped, leaked or spilled. The few locations where fuel tanks leaked in the housing area (at two gas stations and a generator under the water tower) have been cleaned up. The other contaminated sites at Mather are in former industrial areas, where cleanup actions have been completed or are in progress, and are not in or near housing.

**Q:** Can I dig in my yard?

**A:** As in any community, you must first obtain permission to be sure you don't damage underground utility lines and pipelines, including those associated with the Air Force's Mather cleanup monitoring program. Contact the dig alert phone number (800-227-2600) 48 hours before digging in your yard.

**Q:** If I live on Mather, can I plant a garden? Is it safe to grow vegetables or work in the soil?

**A:** It's safe to plant a garden and grow vegetables. There are no restrictions within the yards of homes built on the former base, such as yours. The only possible concern is lead from lead-based paint that was on the former military houses. However, this is no different from any other site that has or had buildings built prior to 1978.

**Q:** I've heard a lot about perchlorate in the region. Can you tell me if it's a problem at Mather and where it is?

**A:** There are a couple of areas where perchlorate from sources east of Mather has traveled over time into the groundwater underneath Mather. The locations and depths of these underground plumes are well understood and the monitoring and cleanup programs are conducted by the responsible parties under the regulatory oversight of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.





**Q:** I'm curious about the piping, equipment and signs for cleanup systems I see when I drive around Mather. What is coming out of these and is it dangerous to breathe?

**A:** The vapors released are mostly water vapor, but may contain low concentrations of environmental contaminants. These low concentrations do not pose a significant health threat and are also released from exhaust stacks that carry the vapors away from ground level. There are no special problems associated with the air at Mather.

**Q:** The cleanup at Mather seems to be going on for a very long time. Why?

**A:** Even using the best available technology, the removal of contaminants in the soil and groundwater is a time-consuming process. The cleanup process is managed to methodically achieve cleanup while avoiding unneeded expense to taxpayers, and occurs with oversight by numerous regulatory agencies to protect human health and the environment.

**Q:** When did the Air Force start the cleanup and when will they be finished?

**A:** The Air Force began cleaning up Mather in the 1980s. As of 2009 all cleanup systems were in place working to remove contamination. The Air Force will continue with the cleanup until the job is done. Most soil vapor sites are expected to be cleaned by about 2015, but groundwater cleanup may continue in some areas until at least 2050. Landfill monitoring will extend indefinitely.

**Q:** Where can I get more information about the cleanup?

**A:** You can look on our website: [www.afropa.hq.af.mil](http://www.afropa.hq.af.mil). Then, in right-hand column, select "BRAC Bases" from the pull down menu. Choose "Mather AFB, California". To get on our mailing list, email [afropa.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:afropa.pa@us.af.mil) or phone (916) 643-6420 x257.

**Q:** Is my home or business affected by the ongoing cleanup operation?

**A:** There is no exposure to contamination at any home or business, but some homes and businesses are located close to cleanup equipment such as wells or piping.

*Don't forget to visit us at*

**[www.afropa.hq.af.mil](http://www.afropa.hq.af.mil)**

*or for Mather AFB*

**<http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afropa/legacybrac/mather/index.asp>**



## MATHER Environmental News Update

### AFRPA Western REC

3411 Olson Street  
McClellan, CA 95652

{ The drinking water on and around Mather is SAFE }

# New Website is all about Mather

To read the latest news about Mather, to check on upcoming events, find answers to Frequently Asked Questions, or review past history of the former base, check out the Air Force Real Property Agency's newly expanded Mather website at:



<http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afrpa/legacybrac/mather/index.asp>

D. Letter proposing adjournment



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR FORCE REAL PROPERTY AGENCY**

**APR 11 2011**

AFRPA Western Region Execution Center  
 3411 Olson Street  
 McClellan CA 95652-1003

Dear Mather Community

After Mather Air Force Base (AFB) closed in 1993, the Air Force set up a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) to answer questions and solicit advice about the environmental cleanup. Since 1994, the RAB has been the Air Force's main way of communicating with community members about the cleanup. A few dedicated RAB members have attended these meetings faithfully; however, over time, public attendance has dwindled significantly.

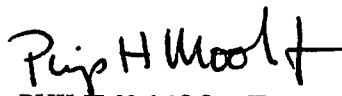
When the program began decades ago, we knew little about the condition of the property. Today, we have more than one million data points to help us track and monitor Mather's environmental condition. Currently, 75 of 89 sites are cleaned up and all Records of Decision are complete. The 14 remaining sites are being cleaned or awaiting official closure documentation. All cleanup systems are in place and operating properly. The cleanup will continue until it is finished. Meanwhile, safe drinking water at Mather is supplied by the Sacramento County Water Agency.

Over the past year, we've been discussing if it's time to adjourn the RAB. In public meetings and informal settings, we've listened to what the last few RAB members think about this. We've also been talking with our federal and state regulatory agencies. There are several reasons the Air Force is seeking public input on adjourning the RAB at this time. One is a lack of community interest. Another reason is that all major decisions have been made. And the final reason is that the primary property recipient, Sacramento County, is well-informed and pleased with the progress to date. These are the reasons why I am considering adjourning the Mather RAB.

Adjournment has no effect on the cleanup at Mather. The Air Force is required by law to complete the cleanup. We'll also continue to provide the status of remaining efforts. A public website [www.safie.hq.af.mil/afropa/legacybrac/mather/index.asp](http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afropa/legacybrac/mather/index.asp) provides updated information, and questions can be directed to the AFRPA Public Affairs Officer at (916) 643-6420, ext. 257. Requests by community members for briefings, tours, and other information can also be made by calling Public Affairs.

The former Mather AFB now offers jobs, housing, and many recreational amenities to the community. We are proud of the part the Air Force has played in managing the environmental cleanup that enabled this impressive transformation. If you have any questions or concerns about the cleanup at Mather, or RAB adjournment, I suggest that you attend the May 25<sup>th</sup> RAB meeting, at 6 p.m. at Courtyard Sacramento Rancho Cordova, located at 10683 White Rock Road in Rancho Cordova.

Sincerely

  
 PHILIP H. MOOK JR.  
 Senior Representative

E. Other published materials



Grapevine Independent • February 25, 2011

# RANCHO BEEFLECTION

## Mather Cleanup On My Mind

By Robert J. McGarvey, Mayor of Rancho Cordova

I have a unique perspective on the cleanup the Air Force is doing at Mather, because I was in the Air Force, stationed at Mather in the 60s. Back then, when we did our work using solvents to clean the grease off airplane parts and other things, we disposed of solvents differently than people do now.

It turns out that a lot of what was done was not what's considered safe now. Because of those past practices, we're still cleaning up the groundwater at Mather. Other communities are doing the same kinds of clean-ups at former Air Force bases around the country.

Please note that none of the contaminated water is used for drinking water anywhere on the former base, which is partly in the city of Rancho Cordova and partly in unincorporated Sacramento County. Safe drinking water is supplied by the Sacramento County Water Agency.



Mayor Robert McGarvey

I've been on the Mather Restoration Advisory Board since it was started in 1994, because I had to pay attention – it was really important to me. When we first started the RAB, we used to have a reporter and quite a few people come to the meetings, but the cleanup takes a long time, and people kind of lose interest.

The Air Force has the legal responsibility to clean up Mather's soil and groundwater. By the end of 2010, they had spent more than \$162 million on the cleanup.

For me and the other RAB members, it's been a learning process – learning about the problems and the science and technology used to clean it up.

As years went by, we could see that the equipment was being used well. People are now using Mather again while we're getting it cleaned up. The vast majority of the contaminants are gone, but the cleanup continues, and it's being watched by state and federal regulators. The cleanup will continue until it's done.

If you want to learn more about the cleanup at Mather, you can look at a website: [www.safefly.af.mil/afipa/legacy/mmc/mather/index.asp](http://www.safefly.af.mil/afipa/legacy/mmc/mather/index.asp)

Now that all the cleanup decisions have been made and the equipment is in place, we are looking at winding down our RAB meetings by the end of the summer.

If Mather is on your mind, too, and you'd like to learn more about the cleanup, ask questions, or make comments, please come to our next RAB meeting on May 25. It starts at 6 p.m. Check the website for details and location.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE REAL PROPERTY AGENCY

AFRPA Western Region Execution Center  
3411 Olson St.  
McClellan, CA 95652

AUG 08 2011

Robert McGarvey  
2008 Maryvale Way  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Dear Mr. McGarvey

I'm writing, first of all, to thank you for your outstanding service on the Mather Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). Created in 1994, this board provided public input to the Air Force and regulatory agencies on the environmental restoration of the former Mather Air Force Base. You have spent countless hours at meetings devoted to improving the Mather cleanup. You have given this task your attention and have dedicated yourself to understanding the technical issues involved in the cleanup.

I'm certain that you could have found other productive uses of your time, yet you chose to volunteer as a RAB member, serving your community in this important way. I speak for the Air Force when I say thank you for participating in this forum for public opinion.

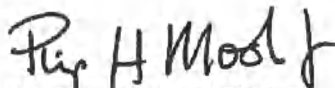
Second, I'm writing to let you know that I have decided it is time, after 17 years, to adjourn the Mather RAB. As we've been discussing over the past year, all Records of Decision are signed, cleanup actions completed or in-place, and attendance low at our meetings. The recent advertised 30-day public comment period (May 25-June 24, 2011) attracted no comments on the topic of RAB adjournment.

Adjournment will have no effect on the cleanup at Mather. The Air Force is required by law to complete the cleanup. Updated information regarding the cleanup can be found at the Mather website, at <http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afropa/legacybrac/mather/index.asp>. Questions and concerns can be directed to the AFRPA Public Affairs Officer at (916) 643-6420, ext. 257.

The former Mather AFB now offers jobs, housing, open space, and many recreational amenities to the community. We are proud of the part the Air Force has played in managing the environmental cleanup that enabled this impressive transformation.

An appreciation event is being planned for Wednesday, August 31 at 6 p.m. at Rancho Cordova City Hall to honor you and the great strides we have made together at Mather. I hope you will be able to attend. Thank you again for your time and your efforts.

Sincerely,



PHILIP H. MOOK JR.  
Senior Representative

cc:

CVWB, Attn: Marcus Pierce

CVWB, Attn: Conny Mitterhofer

DTSC, Attn: Franklin Mark

DTSC, Attn: Nathan Schumacher

U.S. EPA Region IX, Attn: John Lucey

U.S. EPA Region IX, Attn: Viola Cooper



**RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING**  
**Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 6 p.m.**  
**Courtyard Sacramento Rancho Cordova**  
**10883 White Rock Rd.**  
**Rancho Cordova CA 95670-8002**



You are invited to the Mather RAB meeting for a discussion on the progress of the environmental cleanup at the former Air Force base.

Topics that will be discussed include:

- Cleanup update
- Update on community outreach
- Discussion of possible adjournment of the Mather RAB



The purpose of the RAB is to promote community awareness, obtain community review and comments on the cleanup of the former Mather Air Force Base. Representatives from regulatory agencies and the Air Force are available at the meeting to answer questions.

For more information please contact **Brian Sytsma**, at (916) 643-1250 ext. 257 or [bsytsma@napkincomm.com](mailto:bsytsma@napkincomm.com)



**The public is encouraged to attend and participate in the meeting.**



Enclosed is your refrigerator magnet to remind you to check the Mather website for cleanup updates and contact information.

## F. Responsiveness Summary

Responsiveness Summary for the  
Public Comment Period on  
Proposed Adjournment of the  
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) at the  
Former Mather Air Force Base (AFB), California

A public comment period was initiated at the May 25, 2011 RAB meeting to allow the public to provide input on the proposed adjournment of the Mather RAB. Comments were accepted through June 24, 2011. Zero comments were received during the public comment period. Had any comments been received, this summary would have responded to them.

G. Management Guidance for the DERP, Chapter 10

## 10. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

10.1. It is DoD policy to involve the local community in the environmental restoration process as early as possible and to seek continued community involvement throughout the environmental restoration process.

10.2. Each installation or FUDS will develop a Community Relations Plan defining the comprehensive stakeholder involvement program that will be implemented during the course of environmental restoration activities. A Community Relations Plan will also address the applicable requirements of EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* (February 11, 1994). The installation shall ensure the scope of, and level of detail contained in, the Community Relations Plan is commensurate with the extent and duration of the environmental restoration activities. In this assessment, the installation shall ensure the CRP:

10.2.1. Meets the specific requirements for community involvement under the NCP;

10.2.2. Reflects input gained through interviews with a sufficient number of persons to represent the diversity of the community;

10.2.3. Provides analysis of the impacts of the environmental restoration activities on the community;

10.2.4. Evaluates the degree and nature of community concerns or interest in the restoration activities; 10.2.5. Identifies and considers environmental justice issues (i.e., issues associated with minority and economically disadvantaged populations) in the community surrounding the installation or FUDS;

10.2.6. Identifies appropriate and required mechanisms for disseminating information to the public (e.g., local media, public meetings, websites); and

10.2.7. Contains strategies for providing opportunities for community participation in the program.

10.3. Each installation or FUDS shall designate a point of contact (POC) for environmental restoration activities. The POC shall be identified to the local community through appropriate means (e.g., a newspaper notice) and will serve as the entry point for community inquiries or comments. Installations shall also provide the community the name of a POC at the installation's or FUDS' Headquarters organization.

10.4. As required by CERCLA and the NCP, each installation or FUDS shall establish an Information Repository. The Information Repository provides the public with a single reference source for information about environmental restoration activities at an installation or FUDS. Because it is intended for use by the public, the Information Repository shall be at a location near the site, a location that is easily accessible to the public, and that will make the information available for inspection at times convenient to the public. The Information Repository shall, at a minimum, include a copy of the

Administrative Record (the documents that form the basis or the selection of a response action) for the installation or FUDS as required under the NCP.<sup>23</sup> The Information Repository may also contain other documents pertinent to the activities at the installation or FUDS.

10.5. Information on environmental restoration activities shall be made available to the public in a timely manner using appropriate mechanisms for disseminating information to the public (e.g., local media, public meetings, websites). Such mechanisms shall be identified in the Community Relations Plan and used in a consistent manner. Draft Final versions of documents that are considered the equivalent of primary documents as defined in Federal Facility Agreements (FFAs) or other regulatory instruments shall be placed in Information Repositories at the same time that these documents are provided to regulatory agencies for review. The availability of these documents shall be announced to the public.<sup>24</sup>

10.6. Stakeholders shall be given opportunity for involvement in updating the installation or FUDS Management Action Plan (MAP) or equivalent, except for updates to elements that include government cost estimates for future procurement actions.

10.7. Each installation or FUDS shall establish a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) where there is sufficient and sustained community interest. A RAB fulfills the requirements of 10 USC §2705(c), which directs DoD to establish Technical Review Committees (TRC). Where TRCs or similar advisory groups already exist, the TRC or similar advisory group shall be considered for conversion to a RAB, provided there is sufficient and sustained interest within the community. Only one RAB or TRC will be recognized per installation. Where RABs are not formed initially, installations shall reassess community interest at least every 24 months. Where the reassessment finds sufficient and sustained community interest, the installation or FUDS shall establish a RAB. Where the reassessment does not find sufficient and sustained community interest in a RAB, the installation or FUDS shall document, in a memorandum for the record, the procedures followed in the reassessment and the findings of the reassessment. This document shall be included in the Administrative Record for the installation or FUDS.

10.7.1. The purpose of the RAB is to:

10.7.1.1. Act as a forum for the discussion and exchange of restoration program information between agencies and the community.

10.7.1.2. Provide an opportunity for RAB members to review progress and participate in a dialogue with the installation's decision makers. Installations shall consider the recommendations provided by the RAB, including advice given that represents the minority view of members. Because DoD does not intend for Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) requirements to apply to RABs, consensus is not a prerequisite for RAB recommendations. Each individual provides advice as an individual, not as a group.

10.7.2. Each RAB shall develop and formally document its operating procedures. These procedures shall include, at a minimum:



- 10.7.2.1. Clearly defined goals and objectives for the RAB;
- 10.7.2.2. Attendance requirements;
- 10.7.2.3. Development and approval procedures for the minutes of RAB meetings;
- 10.7.2.4. The meeting frequency and location;
- 10.7.2.5. Rules of Order;
- 10.7.2.6. The frequency and procedures for conducting training;
- 10.7.2.7. Procedures for selecting or replacing co-chairs and selecting, replacing, or adding other members;
- 10.7.2.8. Specifics on the size of the RAB membership and the periods for membership and cochair length of service;
- 10.7.2.9. Methods for resolving disputes;
- 10.7.2.10. The process for reviewing and responding to public comments on issues being addressed by the RAB; and
- 10.7.2.11. Procedures for public participation in RAB activities.

10.7.3. In developing these operating procedures, the RAB must consider and incorporate the following:

- 10.7.3.1. The RAB must be comprised of representatives of the Component, members of the local community, and representatives from EPA, state regulatory agencies, tribal, or local governments, as appropriate. DoD shall ensure that members reflect the diverse interests within the community.
- 10.7.3.2. The RAB must be chaired jointly by a representative of the Component and the local community. The community co-chair will be selected by the community members serving on the RAB.
- 10.7.3.3. A RAB is not subject to the requirements of the FACA; however, all RAB meetings, correspondence, discussions and proceedings shall be conducted in public, and no member of the public will be denied access (unless there is cause for concern for the safety of those involved with the RAB meetings). Documents related to RAB proceedings or communications will be included in the Information Repository and the Administrative Record.
- 10.7.3.4. A RAB may only address issues associated with environmental restoration activities under the DERP. Environmental groups or advisory boards that address issues other than environmental restoration activities

are not RABs.

10.7.3.5. Subject to the availability of funds, funds requested for environmental restoration activities that were appropriated to Components' ER or BRAC accounts or the ER-FUDS account may be used to provide administrative support to RABs. Such funds shall not be used to support the activities of environmental groups or advisory boards in addressing issues other than environmental restoration activities. The activities of the RAB and expenditures of such funds for administrative expenses shall be reported to ODUSD(I&E), at a minimum, on an annual basis. Appendix 5 provides examples of eligible and ineligible RAB expenses.

10.7.3.6. Each installation is required to report regularly on the status and impact of the RAB to the installation's or FUDS' environmental restoration program. The RAB should consider means to assist the installation with this reporting requirement.

10.7.4. An installation commander may adjourn a RAB when there is no longer a need for a RAB or when community interest in the RAB declines. In making such a decision, if environmental restoration activities are not complete, the installation commander shall ensure that the community involvement program detailed in the Community Relations Plan provides for continued effective stakeholder input.

10.7.4.1. RAB adjournment shall not be an independent, unilateral evaluation on the part of DoD. The installation commander shall discuss adjournment with regulators and the community as a whole before making a final decision.

10.7.4.1.1. If a decision to adjourn the RAB is made, the rationale for adjournment shall be formally documented and the community as a whole notified of the decision.

10.7.4.1.2. An installation may reestablish an adjourned RAB if there is sufficient and sustained community interest in doing so and there are environmental restoration activities still ongoing at the installation.

10.7.4.2. Where a RAB is adjourned and environmental restoration activities continue, the installation or FUDS shall reassess community interest at least every 24 months. Where the reassessment finds sufficient and sustained community interest, the installation or FUDS shall reestablish a RAB. Where the reassessment does not find sufficient and sustained community interest in reestablishing the RAB, the installation or FUDS shall document (in a memorandum for the record) the procedures followed in the reassessment and the findings of the reassessment. This document shall be included in the Administrative Record for the installation or FUDS.

10.7.5. Although installation commanders are expected to make every reasonable

effort to ensure that a RAB performs its role as efficiently as possible, circumstances may prevent a RAB from operating efficiently or fulfilling its intended purpose. When this occurs, the installation commander will make a concerted attempt to resolve the issues that impact the RAB's effectiveness. If unsuccessful, the installation commander may elect to dissolve the RAB. Where an installation commander elects to dissolve a RAB, the installation commander shall:

10.7.5.1. Ensure that the comprehensive stakeholder involvement program is providing sufficient opportunities for the community to provide input on environmental restoration activities.

10.7.5.2. Notify, through the command chain, the Component's Environmental Deputy Assistant Secretary (or equivalent) and ODUSD (I&E) of the status of the RAB, the specifics of the irreconcilable issues, and the intent to dissolve the RAB.

10.7.5.3. In consultation with EPA, state, tribal, or local government representatives, as appropriate, notify the RAB community co-chair and members in writing of the intent to dissolve the RAB and the reasons for doing so, and provide RAB members 30 days to respond in writing.

10.7.5.4. Consider RAB member responses, and in consultation with EPA, state, tribal, or local government representatives, as appropriate, determine the appropriate action.

10.7.5.4.1. If a decision is made to proceed with dissolution, notify the public of the proposal to dissolve the RAB and provide a 30-day public comment period on the proposal.

10.7.5.4.2. If the dissolved RAB will be reconstituted, provide details to the public of the process by which that will happen and provide a 30-day public comment period on the proposal.

10.7.5.5. At the conclusion of the public comment period, review public comments, consult with EPA, state, tribal, or local government representatives, as appropriate, and render a recommendation.

10.7.5.6. Notify the public of the recommendation, and forward all documentation to the Component's Environmental Deputy Assistant Secretary (or equivalent) for approval or disapproval.

10.7.5.7. The Component's Environmental Deputy Assistant Secretary (or equivalent) shall notify ODUSD(I&E) of the decision to approve or disapprove the request to dissolve the RAB, and the rationale for that decision.

10.7.5.8. The installation commander shall notify the public of the approval or disapproval of the dissolution of a RAB through written notice to the RAB members and through publication of a notice in a local

newspaper of general circulation.

10.8. Information on the activities of a RAB including, but not limited to, documenting the installation's efforts to survey community interest in forming a RAB, steps taken to establish a RAB where there is sustained community interest, how the RAB relates to the overall community involvement program, and steps taken to adjourn the RAB, shall be included in the Information Repository. To the extent that RAB input is considered in a decision regarding response activities, information about the RAB shall be included in the Administrative Record.

#### 10.9. Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP).

10.9.1. Opportunities for technical assistance through DoD's TAPP program shall be made available to community members of RABs or TRCs in accordance with 10 USC §2705(e) and the TAPP regulations found at 32 CFR Part 203. Community members of a RAB may request from an installation's commanding officer, or appropriate DoD official, technical assistance from private-sector sources. (See Appendix 6 for a list of eligible and ineligible TAPP activities.)

10.9.2. Only community members (not government members) of RABs and TRCs may ask for TAPP support on behalf of the community members of the RAB. Any request for TAPP must represent the wishes of the majority of the community members of the RAB/TRC, and the RAB/TRC must certify this to be true on the TAPP application (see Appendix 7). The RAB/TRC requesting assistance must be recognized by the Component.

#### 10.9.3. TAPP Funding.

10.9.3.1. A TAPP will be funded from the appropriate Component ER or BRAC accounts or the ER-FUDS account. TAPP is categorized as a program administration cost. There is no guaranteed or automatic TAPP funding allocation per installation and no separate account.

10.9.3.2. TAPP funding may not exceed \$100,000 over the life of the restoration program at the installation. The limit for a single fiscal year is \$25,000, or 1 percent of the installation's total projected environmental restoration cost-to-complete, whichever is less.

10.9.3.3. Waivers to the \$100,000 total and \$25,000 annual funding limits may be approved by the Component's Environmental Deputy Assistant Secretary (or equivalent). Requests for waivers are initiated by the RAB/TRC community members and forwarded by endorsement with recommendations by the installation commander through the chain-of-command to the Component's Environmental Deputy Assistant Secretary (or equivalent).

10.9.4. In the event that a dispute arises concerning the approval of a TAPP request, the RAB/TRC community members may appeal DoD's decision. Appeals will be considered within the chain-of-command, and in general, will be resolved at the lowest possible level. The highest level of appeal will be at the

Component's Environmental Deputy Assistant Secretary (or equivalent).

10.9.5. The fact that a community has received Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) or Technical Outreach Services to Communities (TOSC) from EPA does not preclude them from getting a TAPP award. These other sources of funds are, however, relevant considerations during the decision process.

10.9.6. Each RAB/TRC that receives a TAPP award must submit an annual TAPP Results Report to the installation. The installation will forward this report to the installation's Headquarters. This report will indicate:

10.9.6.1. The amount of TAPP funds obligated by fiscal year.

10.9.6.2. An evaluation for each project concerning whether the TAPP assisted the community in participating in the restoration program.

**FINAL PAGE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

**FINAL PAGE**