



Community Meeting Announcement

Rio Linda/Elverta Community Meeting

Sacramento County presents the McClellan Airport Good Neighbor Policy Update

Date: September 26, 2007

Time: Starts at 7 pm

Location: Rio Linda Depot Visitors' Center
6730 Front St.
Rio Linda, CA 95673

The purpose of this presentation is to update the Rio Linda/Elverta community on the progress of economic development, reuse, and airfield operations at McClellan.

Please contact **Kathy Broderick at (916) 646-9552** if you have questions.

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Environmental Action
UPDATE

Environmentally sound: McClellan's successful, continuing cleanup has enabled its simultaneous transformation to a thriving business park.

U.S. Air Force Environmental Action UPDATE

A Newsletter About Environmental Activities at McClellan

September 2007

McClellan celebrates a national first

On August 27, the Air Force, Sacramento County, McClellan Business Park and the regulatory agencies celebrated a base closure first.

A signing ceremony highlighted the first time in the nation the military funded an early transfer with privatized remediation project at a National Priority List site. The new approach was applauded by many, including the Governor of California.

"The transfer of this parcel at McClellan Air Force Base to Sacramento County is a huge step forward for expediting the cleanup and redevelopment of the once-booming area. Not only will the environmental cleanup be completed three years ahead of time, but when completed, the business park will bring over a thousand new jobs to the area, giving a boost to the local economy," Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said in a statement issued about the event.

The early transfer required the approval of the Governor and U.S. EPA. This deal transferred a 62-acre industrialized parcel with high redevelopment potential. It results in an expected 1,200 jobs and \$600,000 per year in increased tax revenues for the region. Officials at the ceremony said they were excited about the project because it establishes a template for additional land transfers at McClellan and other Defense NPL sites around the country.

"The Air Force is wildly enthusiastic about this project," said Kathryn Halvorson, Director of the Air Force Real Property Agency. "The Air Force's commitment to clean up McClellan has not changed. Who provides the cleanup has changed, and we think it makes a lot of good sense to get the land into the hands of the developer through Sacramento County."

Environmental regulators, including the top official for Cal/EPA and U.S. EPA's Region 9 Superfund Director, expressed confidence that their role to oversee the cleanup will continue to ensure health protection while moving the property back into reuse more quickly.

The Travis Air Force Base Honor Guard posted the colors during the ceremony that also included a ceremonial scroll signing.



Officials from the Air Force, Sacramento County, the State of California and U.S. EPA sign the ceremonial scroll, shown below.



Members of the community share a luncheon with the Air Force, local elected officials and regulatory agencies at Lionsgate Hotel and Conference Center following the signing ceremony.

Creating a New Day at McClellan
August 27, 2007

This ceremonial scroll signifies the early transfer and privatized cleanup of land from the U.S. Air Force to the County of Sacramento. It is the first such agreement in our nation.

This collaborative effort will further the revitalization of McClellan Park and the surrounding communities.

By signing this ceremonial scroll, we celebrate the success of this historic privatization effort and agree to continue to work together to achieve environmental restoration and redevelopment of McClellan Park.

Don Nottoli
Don Nottoli - Chair of Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

Kathryn M. Halvorson
Kathryn Halvorson - Director, Air Force Real Property Agency

Keith Takata
Keith Takata - U.S. EPA Region IX Superfund Director

Linda Adams
Linda Adams - Cal/EPA Secretary

Progress continues at McClellan

The Air Force continues to make great strides in its environmental cleanup program, as well as in transferring ownership of the property at McClellan.

Several important milestones have recently been reached, including three land transfer approvals and the completion of a Record of Decision (ROD) for Groundwater (see next page). The Air Force, along with state and federal regulatory agencies, has also continued to make significant progress on two other RODs for soil cleanup. RODs are legally binding documents that explain selected cleanup remedies.

Property Transfer

Slightly more than 145 acres have been transferred in the past few months. Most of this property has been transferred under Findings of Suitability for Early Transfer (FOSET), which means the property is transferred before all cleanup actions

are complete. The State of California and U.S. EPA have agreed to these FOSETs, which allow development to occur earlier than expected. The Air Force is still responsible for ensuring that required cleanup actions are completed on property that has been transferred under a FOSET.

Cleanup program

The Focused Strategic Sites ROD, which includes 11 sites that contain the largest volume of hazardous waste to be addressed at McClellan, has gone through the Proposed Plan and public comment period stages of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. The ROD is on hold while the Air Force awaits a jurisdiction decision by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the cleanup of radium dispersed in soil. That decision is expected later this fall.

The Initial Parcel #2 ROD is also on hold, but very close to completion. The ROD addresses the soil contamination at 23 sites. The Air Force and regulatory agencies are negotiating the details on the use of institutional controls for future construction at these sites, which moves the ROD one step closer to completion.

Approximately 25,000 cubic yards of excavated soil remain stockpiled inside the Confirm Site 10 (CS10) weatherization tent. The final solution for the stockpiled soil will be determined in the Focused Strategic Sites ROD, scheduled for completion in 2008.

1,412,511 pounds of VOC contamination removed to date from groundwater and soil

Property recently transferred to Sacramento County

Former McClellan AFB

62-acre Early Transfer with Privatized Cleanup Parcel (described on page one)

Groundwater cleanup decision finalized

After several years of work, the Air Force and regulatory agencies have finalized the Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in Groundwater Record of Decision (ROD) at McClellan.

"We're certainly happy we've come to this agreement. Most importantly, we've been aggressively treating the groundwater for many years—we didn't wait to get a decision in place to address the problem," said Don Gronstal, the Air Force groundwater program manager.

The ROD, completed on Aug. 1, explains the final cleanup remedy and how the Air Force plans to implement it. The U.S. EPA and State of California agree with the ROD and have signed it.

Under this agreement, the Air Force will continue to use pump and treat cleanup technology to clean the groundwater at McClellan. Soil vapor extraction will also be used to clean up and prevent contamination in the soil from migrating down to groundwater. Institutional controls also prevent the use of groundwater for any other purposes except monitoring and treatment. Groundwater cleanup has been ongoing at McClellan since 1987.

The Air Force has been treating the groundwater contamination under the Interim Record of Decision (IROD), signed in 1995. Under the IROD, the Air Force focused on containing the groundwater contamination within the base boundaries.

In 2006, after building and running a new model simulating cleanup, the Air Force and regulatory agencies agreed that the current treatment system, along with soil vapor extraction and institutional controls, should be the final cleanup remedy for VOCs in groundwater. This resolution is the same remedy the Air Force proposed in the 2004 Groundwater VOC Proposed Plan. Using the new modeling data, cleanup is now estimated to be complete in 55 years, as opposed to up to 500 years as predicted in the 2004 Proposed Plan.

It took many years of hard work by all of the parties to complete the Groundwater ROD. This is a major achievement for the McClellan cleanup program. The final remedy for the groundwater cleanup is protective of human health, will prevent further migration of contaminated groundwater, and will restore the groundwater aquifer to beneficial uses.

James Taylor, Regional Water Board remedial project manager



Pump and treat is used to clean contaminated groundwater at McClellan. A groundwater well is a hole drilled down into the ground. A pump inside the well pulls the contaminated groundwater out of the ground. McClellan has more than 100 groundwater extraction wells. The contaminated water is conveyed to an above-ground treatment system, where contaminants are removed from the groundwater. The resulting clean water is then discharged into Magpie and Don Julio Creeks.

Groundwater monitoring wells are used to collect groundwater samples to monitor the levels and locations of contamination. McClellan has more than 500 monitoring wells located on and around McClellan to ensure the treatment system is working properly.

GROUNDWATER CLEANUP

Timeline

1979

Groundwater contamination discovered in wells on and around McClellan.

Phase I of groundwater treatment system completed, including 17 extraction wells. The purpose of Phase I was to prevent the plume in the northwest area from spreading.

1987

Air Force connects 550 off-base residences to municipal water supplies.

Groundwater Interim Record of Decision. Under the IROD the Air Force focused on containing the groundwater contamination plume within the base boundaries.

1995

Phase II of groundwater treatment system completed, adding 40 extraction wells. Phase II helped prevent contaminant migration and further define the extent of contamination.

1999

Original Groundwater VOC Proposed Plan released, and disputed by regulatory agencies.

Groundwater VOC Proposed Plan dispute resolved. Resolution set cleanup level at 5 parts per billion for TCE, and the Air Force will evaluate feasibility of cleaning up to State Water Quality Objective (2.3 parts per billion).

2001

Ion exchange system added to the groundwater treatment plant to treat hexavalent chromium. Because treated water is discharged into Magpie Creek, the Air Force had to reduce hexavalent chromium levels to be protective of aquatic habitat.

2003

[July] Revised Groundwater VOC Proposed Plan released.

[April] Draft Final Groundwater VOC ROD is disputed by regulatory agencies because remedy was revised from the 2004 Proposed Plan to containment at former base boundaries.

2004

Phase III of groundwater treatment system completed, adding 46 extraction wells. This is anticipated to complete the groundwater treatment system.

2005

[November] Revised Groundwater VOC ROD Fact Sheet released to update community on dispute resolution.

2006

[August] Dispute resolution set interim decision as final remedy for VOCs in groundwater.

[August] Groundwater VOC ROD signed, the remedy is protective of human health and will restore the groundwater aquifer to beneficial uses.

2007