

## Input Sought on Proposed Plan for the Cleanup of Non-Volatile Organic Compounds in Groundwater

**T**he Air Force is seeking public comment on its **Proposed Plan for the Cleanup of Non-Volatile Organic Compounds in Groundwater at the Former McClellan Air Force Base.** Non-volatile organic

compounds (non-VOCs) are a group of compounds that do not readily evaporate at room temperature. They include metals, pesticides, petroleum, hydrocarbons, dioxins/furans, and radionuclides.

The Proposed Plan identifies the Air Force's preferred alternative for cleaning up non-VOCs in groundwater as well as the other alternatives that were considered. A public comment period is being held from November 24, 2008 through January 7, 2009. The Air Force will make a final cleanup decision after all

comments have been considered. Detailed information about the public comment period and how to provide comments is provided on page two.

### Contaminants of Concern

The contaminants of concern (COCs) addressed in this Proposed Plan are total and hexavalent chromium, 1,4-dioxane, and perchlorate. Total chromium and hexavalent chromium are heavy metals that were used in paint pigments, chrome plating, and anodizing aluminum, and as a corrosion inhibitor in cooling tower water. At McClellan, these contaminants may have come from plating shops, paint spray booths, and associated segments of the industrial waste lines, as well as disposal pits, when the base was active.

1,4-dioxane is a semi-volatile organic compound used primarily as an industrial solvent or as a stabilizer for chlorinated solvents. It is recognized as a common groundwater contaminant because it is soluble in water and does not readily adsorb to soil particles.

Perchlorate is an inorganic salt resulting from perchloric acid, which was reportedly used at the radiochemistry laboratories where it may have been disposed of through industrial drains. Data available to date suggest there are no radiological COCs in the groundwater at McClellan.

The COCs do not pose an immediate impact to human health because the groundwater at McClellan is not used for public consumption and the Air Force has an active cleanup system already in place.



## Non-VOC

*Continued from Page One*

However, the Air Force is committed to cleaning the groundwater to levels that are protective of human health and the environment. To that end, the Air Force analyzed three cleanup alternatives which are summarized in the Proposed Plan.

## Proposed Treatment

The Air Force's preferred alternative for non-VOCs in groundwater is to utilize the groundwater pump-and-treat system currently operating at McClellan. 1,4-Dioxane and perchlorate will be blended with water entering the plant for treatment to meet drinking water standards while hexavalent chromium will be treated at the plant using ion exchange technology. One additional extraction well will be installed at site PRL S-008 (a former plating shop) to remove and treat the hexavalent chromium there.

The last component of the proposed remedy is monitoring and continuing institutional controls already in place for the cleanup of VOCs in groundwater to ensure that contaminated groundwater is not being used for public consumption. Institutional controls are administrative or legal mechanisms, such as permits, zoning, or deed restrictions, that protect property users and the public from existing contamination that continues to be present during use of a site.

More information on the preferred alternative is provided in the Proposed Plan.

## Public Comment and Final Decision

A public comment period for the Proposed Plan is running from November 24, 2008 through January 7, 2009. A public hearing was held on December 9. The Air Force will make a final cleanup decision after all comments have been considered. Depending on public comments or new information that may become available, the final cleanup decision might be different from the alternative presented in the Proposed Plan.

The final cleanup decision for non-VOCs in groundwater will be documented in an Amendment to an existing record of decision: The Basewide Volatile Organic Compound

Groundwater Record of Decision (August 2007), which addresses VOCs in groundwater at McClellan.

The ROD Amendment is currently scheduled to be completed in early 2009. Comments and responses will appear in the ROD Amendment, in the Responsiveness Summary.

**For more information on how to submit comments or receive a copy of the Proposed Plan contact Mary Hall or Brian Sytsma at:**

### Community Relations

Air Force Real Property Agency

3411 Olson Street

McClellan, CA 95652

(916) 643-1250, ext. 232

brian.sytsma.ctr@lackland.af.mil or

mary.hall@ch2m.com

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**In addition, the Proposed Plan and supporting documents may be viewed at the following locations:**

### McClellan Information Repository

3411 Olson Street, McClellan, CA 95652

Hours: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday – Friday

For an appointment, call (916) 643-1250, ext. 201

### North Highlands-Antelope Public Library

4235 Antelope Rd. , Antelope, CA 95843

(916) 264-2920 *Call for hours of operation*

### Online

<https://afrrpaar.lackland.af.mil/ar/docsearch.aspx>

Select "McClellan" as the base and enter "6517" as the AR document number.

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**Comments must be received by  
5:00 p.m. January 7, 2009**

## Air Force Signs Record of Decision for 23 Sites at McClellan

**T**he Air Force, with regulatory approval, has finalized the Local Reuse Authority Initial Parcel Record of Decision (ROD) #2 at the former McClellan Air Force Base. This ROD sets the cleanup plan for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in shallow soil gas at seven sites and for both VOCs in shallow soil gas and non-VOCs in soil at an additional 16 sites at McClellan. The regulatory agencies are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State, represented by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

VOCs are organic compounds that readily evaporate into the air and can enter a building. The most common VOCs, trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), benzene, and toluene, were used in many products at McClellan, including paints, cleaners, and degreasers.

At McClellan, VOCs are found dissolved in the air and water between soil particles. This ROD addresses VOCs in the shallow (within 15 feet of the ground surface) soil gas that may present a threat to human health through vapor inhalation. Shallow soil gases can enter buildings, an

*SEE IP ROD2, Page Six*

## Potential Discarded Military Munitions Site

**T**he Air Force completed an excavation project in October of a potential Discarded Military Munitions (DMM) site. According to an interview conducted in 2004, a former base employee stated that bombs were buried at the site after World War II. This site, now known as Area of Concern (AOC) 327, is located in the northwest portion of McClellan. There were no identified witnesses to the potential burial of the bombs, just a third-hand account that it had occurred in the past.

As part of the DMM program, the Air Force conducted a scan of the area in 2005 using ground-penetrating radar to identify the location of any buried metal objects. This scan identified more than 700 anomalies.

The fieldwork to dig up the anomalies took about two weeks. No items representing explosive or chemical hazards were found. Most of the items recovered included materials such as wire, cable, rebar, nails, sheet metal, and other metal debris. Three B7 bomb racks were also recovered.



## McClellan Gives Yolo County Halloween Treat

The rain stopped in Yolo County, California, just long enough on Halloween for the celebration of the early transfer of the 314-acre Davis Global Communications Site, an annex of the former McClellan Air Force Base, to Yolo County.

The property will be added to the 320-acre Yolo County Grasslands Regional Park, which is comprised of land the Air Force transferred to the County in 1973. The park has recreation uses and areas of protected habitats for threatened and endangered species, such as the Swainson's hawk, tadpole shrimp, white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, Colusa grass and one of the only known populations of Solano grass.

McClellan, an air logistics center in Sacramento, and the associated Davis property closed in 2001 under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law. The Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) is responsible for addressing environmental issues at the Davis site and transferring the property to the local redevelopment authority, Yolo County.

Approximately 60 hearty souls braved the wind and threatening skies to mark the event with City of Davis, county, state, and federal officials. Phil Mook, the AFRPA western region senior representative, hosted the event introducing representatives from all levels of government.

"As you will see this morning, to reach this point, it has been a total team effort," Mook said. "On behalf of the United States Air Force, I'd like to thank everyone who has had a hand in making this happen."

Congressman Mike Thompson, California 1st District, thanked the Air Force, noting the importance of the cleanup efforts to the successful early transfer of the site.

A small portion of the site is undergoing further environmental cleanup by the Air Force and the Regional Water Quality Control Board will continue its oversight role as the lead regulatory agency. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund, the land can be transferred as an "early transfer" before the cleanup is



finished with approval from the governor and assurances that the cleanup will be completed.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger approved the early transfer on October 15. The Regional Water Board and Yolo County will enter into a State Land Use Covenant, a binding agreement, which will restrict the use and activities at the site to ensure continued protection of human health and the environment.

The National Park Service serves as federal sponsor for the property transfer under a public benefit conveyance. David Siegenthaler, outdoor recreation planner for the National Park Service, marshaled the transfer through its final stages. At the ceremony, he noted the importance of protecting and embracing local lands, such as the Grasslands Park, as well as the spectacularly unique lands found in many of our national parks.

Yolo County Supervisor Mariko Yamada thanked the Air Force for its hard work and dedication and said this transfer was "a Halloween treat, not a trick" for the County, noting the transfer marks a conservation opportunity, a public



AFRPA Western Region Program Manager Rick Solander (center), chats with community members before the property transfer ceremony for the Davis Global Communication Site (an annex of the former McClellan Air Force Base) on Oct. 31. Congressman Mike Thompson (1st District, California) is in the foreground.

## KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### U.S. AIR FORCE

- Address environmental contamination issues through investigation and ongoing cleanup
- Prepared Finding of Suitability for Early Transfer (FOSET) document for regulatory approval
- Prepared deed transfer documents to the federal sponsor (U.S. National Park Service) as a Public Benefit Conveyance

### YOLO COUNTY

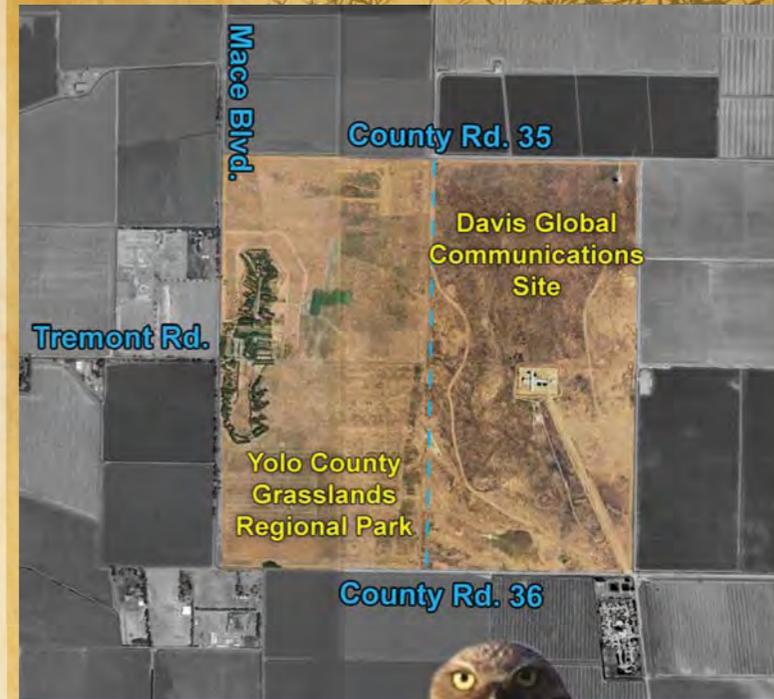
- Is the Local Redevelopment Authority for the property
- Completed the homeless screening through Housing and Urban Development
- Helped maintain natural resources at the site prior to property transfer

### REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

- Lead regulatory oversight agency for environmental investigations and cleanup
- Helps ensure human health and the environment are being protected
- Assembled the early transfer package and was proactive in obtaining the Governor's approval

### U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- Is the federal sponsor for the property
- Worked through property transfer documents very expediently to enable transfer of the property to Yolo County very soon after the early transfer package was approved by the Governor



The above map shows the property that was transferred from the Air Force to Yolo County.



AFRPA Western Region Senior Representative Phil Mook speaks at the Davis transfer ceremony. Mook recognized this transaction as a "total team effort" and thanked Yolo County, the Regional Water Board, and the National Park Service for their collaborative efforts to make this early transfer a reality.



## IP ROD2

Continued from Page Three

exposure pathway referred to as the vapor intrusion pathway. Soil gases closer to the ground level have a greater impact on indoor air quality as they more readily enter buildings through the vapor intrusion pathway.

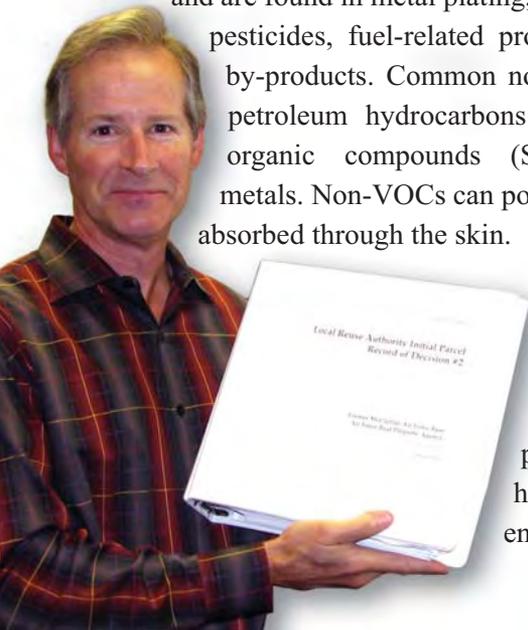
“This is a **great accomplishment** for our **cleanup program** ...”

— **Steve Mayer**  
*McClellan base realignment and closure environmental coordinator*

The signing of this ROD makes it one of the first decisions related to cleanup levels for indoor air quality to be finalized under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

“This is a great accomplishment for our cleanup program that came after several years of working through the details of this decision with the regulatory agencies. We at McClellan are really at the point of the spear nationwide in dealing with cleanup issues as they relate to shallow soil gas and the indoor air pathway,” said Steve Mayer, McClellan base realignment and closure environmental coordinator.

Non-VOC contaminants tend to be less mobile than VOCs and are found in metal plating, electrical components, pesticides, fuel-related product and combustion by-products. Common non-VOCs include total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and heavy metals. Non-VOCs can potentially be ingested or absorbed through the skin.



The remedies for the 23 sites include one or a combination of the following activities to provide protection to human health and the environment:

- Excavation and offsite disposal of contaminated soil
- Restricted land use by covenant in the deed
- Institutional controls to prohibit residential use

At some sites, no further action is required, depending on the level of contaminants present. The specific remedies to be applied to each site are detailed in the ROD.

This ROD is a legally binding document. The cleanup protects human health and the environment and complies with CERCLA. The public provided comments on the Air Force’s proposed cleanup plan during a 30-day public comment period. These comments and Air Force responses to them can be found in the Responsiveness Summary portion of the ROD.

“The signing of the ROD is a significant milestone in the CERCLA process,” Mayer said. “It is the last step before actual design and implementation of a cleanup remedy to protect human health and the environment from these contaminants.”

**The Local Reuse Authority Initial Parcel Record of Decision #2** is available for public viewing in the McClellan Information Repository at 3411 Olson Street, McClellan, CA 95652. The repository is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. **For an appointment, call (916) 643-1250, ext. 201.**

The ROD may also be viewed online at: <https://afarpaar.lackland.af.mil/ar/docsearch.aspx>. Select “McClellan” as the base and enter “6504” as the AR document number.

## Focused Strategic Sites Update

**T**he Focused Strategic Sites Record of Decision (ROD), which will address the final cleanup remedies for 11 sites containing the largest volumes of hazardous, including radioactive, waste to be addressed at McClellan, is targeted to begin the regulatory review process in early summer 2009. These sites include large disposal pits, landfills, a fire training area, and a small arms firing range.

The Air Force's preferred cleanup alternatives for these sites were presented to the public as part of the Focused Strategic Sites Proposed Plan issued October 30, 2006 in compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). A public comment period on the proposed plan ran from October 2006 to January 2007.

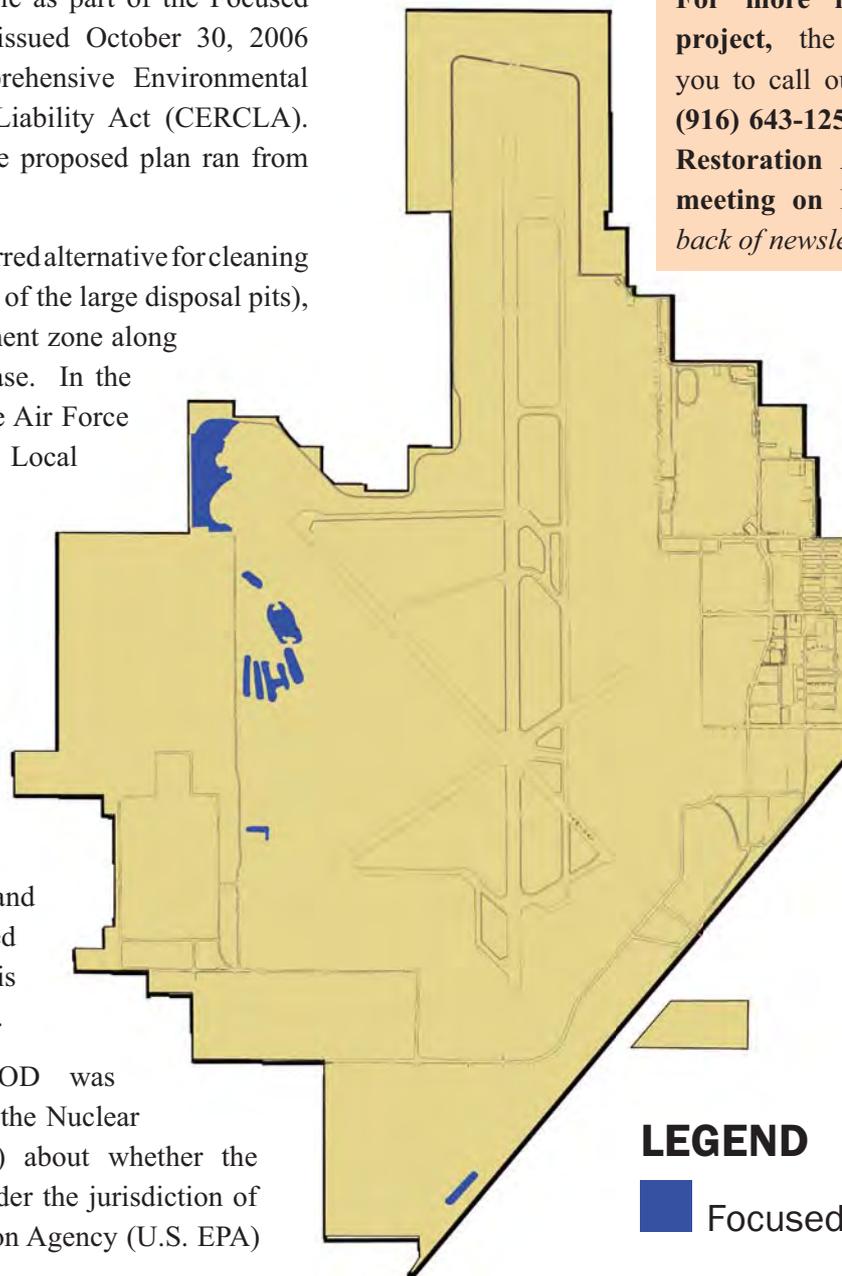
The Air Force is adjusting its preferred alternative for cleaning up Confirmed Site (CS) 024 (one of the large disposal pits), which is located in a redevelopment zone along the southern boundary of the base. In the October 2006 Proposed Plan, the Air Force proposed capping CS 024. The Local Reuse Authority (Sacramento County), the developer (McClellan Business Park) and members of the public raised concerns about property values in and around this site if the proposed capping strategy were to be implemented. In response to these concerns, the Air Force now intends to excavate CS 024 and place the waste in an engineered consolidation unit the Air Force is proposing to construct at CS 010.

Preparation of the draft ROD was delayed due to discussions with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) about whether the cleanup effort should remain under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

or under the NRC because of the presence of radium, special nuclear material, and byproduct material in the soil. It has been resolved that the U.S. EPA remains the lead regulatory agency and the cleanup will continue under the CERCLA process with the NRC being kept informed of CERCLA decisions and findings.

The Air Force will continue to keep the community informed about this project.

**For more information about this project**, the Air Force encourages you to call our public affairs office at (916) 643-1250 ext. 257, or attend the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting on February 17, 2009 (see back of newsletter for details).



### LEGEND

Focused Strategic Sites

Environmental Action  
**UPDATE**

AFRPA Western REC  
3411 Olson Street  
McClellan, CA 95652

PRSR STANDARD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Sacramento, CA  
Permit 604

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

## Get Involved and be Heard at the McClellan Restoration Advisory Board

The McClellan Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is an important avenue for the public to be involved in the environmental cleanup at McClellan. RAB members advise the Air Force and regulatory agencies about community concerns and provide comments on McClellan cleanup documents. The RAB is committed to public outreach and facilitates communication with the community.

The RAB includes representatives of local community stakeholder groups, the Air Force and regulatory agencies. These stakeholder groups include local government, environmental groups, the education community, local businesses, the religious community, residents, and students.

The public is encouraged to attend the quarterly RAB meetings. Upcoming meetings are advertised in the Sacramento Bee, and announced in newsletters and flyers. Call (916) 643-1250, ext. 232 to be added to the mailing list.

**Next RAB Meeting: February 17, 2009, 6:30 p.m.  
Lions Gate Hotel, McClellan**

