

# Environmental Action UPDATE

March 2012

AIR FORCE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES AT MCCLELLAN

## Air Force speeds up cleanup for Dudley Blvd improvements

At the request of Sacramento County, the Air Force and regulatory agencies worked together to accelerate the cleanup of a site along Dudley Blvd. so that a major road improvement project could move forward.

Sacramento County has been working since the base closed in 2001 to upgrade and improve the “gateways” into McClellan Park. Wrapping around the southern end of the airfield, Dudley Blvd. is the only route within McClellan to travel from the east side of the base to the west side.

The county completed the first phase of the Dudley Blvd. improvements with a \$2.4 million grant from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) and additional funds from the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency and McClellan Business Park. That project provided for the widening of the roadway to include bike lanes and storm water drainage, an at-grade railroad crossing, sidewalks, and landscaping from just east of Forcum Ave. to half way around the “Dudley Curve.”



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The project stopped at the curve because of a radium site cleanup that needed to occur along the southern boundary of the eastern approach to the “Dudley Curve.” The approximately 8,200 square foot Dudley site was contaminated with radium while McClellan was an active Air Force base.



The Air Force accelerated the cleanup of this site on Dudley Blvd. so that the County could take advantage of a \$1 million grant to continue improvements to that roadway.

The Air Force originally had the Dudley site cleanup bundled with five other small sites scheduled for cleanup in 2012. However, that would have been too late for the county to take advantage of the additional \$1 million OEA funding for the Dudley Blvd. improvements, so the county asked the Air Force if the cleanup could be accelerated.

The Air Force, its contractors, and the regulators worked together to elevate the Dudley site in the document preparation and review process. A 30-day public comment period was held August 11, 2011 to September 10, 2011 and field work was completed in November 2011.

That clears the way for the county to continue the Dudley Blvd. improvements around the curve in 2012. The County is currently seeking additional federal funds to complete the improvements to the remainder of Dudley Blvd.

## Five soil vapor extraction sites closed

The Air Force permanently closed five soil vapor extraction (SVE) sites in the southeast portion of McClellan in December 2011 after determining that the SVE systems operating on them had successfully completed their cleanup missions.

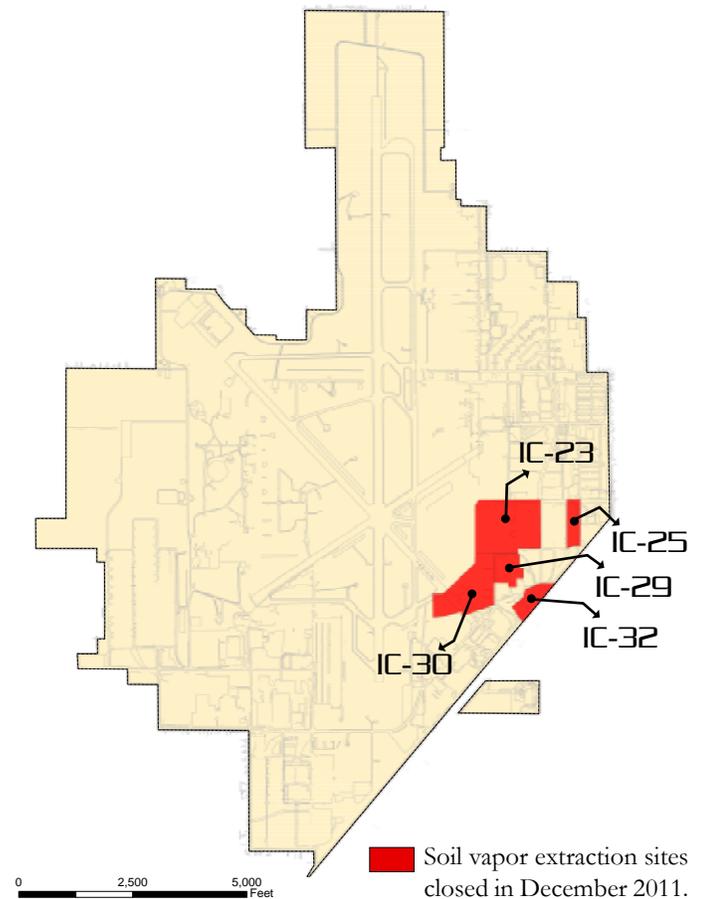
At the former base, there were 26 plumes of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the soil. If left alone, the contaminants would eventually migrate down into the groundwater, increasing the time and cost of cleanup.

In 1993, the Air Force installed a series of SVE systems to remove from the soil the air containing these VOCs by vacuuming it out of the spaces between the soil particles. The VOCs are removed from the air through treatment above ground, and then the clean air is released into the atmosphere.

The five closed SVE sites include IC 23, 25, 29, 30 and 32. These sites are all in the former industrial corridor along Dudley Blvd. When the base was active, this area was home to a number of processes involving the use of fuels, solvents, cleaners, and other chemicals. The SVE systems at these sites were put in place between 1997 and 2001 and removed a combined total of 7,334 pounds of VOCs from the soil.

Before making the final determination to close the SVE sites and remove the wells, the Air Force conducted a number of “rebound” studies at each site to ensure that contaminants wouldn’t migrate or rebound back into the area if the systems were shut down. Final evaluations determined that the cleanup goals had been met and, in 2011, the Air Force received regulatory approval to close the sites.

These sites are scheduled to be transferred to McClellan Business Park later this year.



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## Skeet range cleanup field work complete

The Air Force has reached another cleanup milestone with the completion of the field work at the McClellan Skeet Range in the northwest area of the former base. As implied by the name, the site was used for skeet shooting (and trap shooting) from 1971 to the mid 1980s. As a result, the soils in the area were contaminated with lead shot and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), a binder used to make the clay targets.

The cleanup included excavating some 9,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil and disposing of it at a licensed landfill. Some soils were treated onsite by mixing in Portland cement, which binds the lead so it cannot be leached from the soil. This treatment enabled the soils to be classified for disposal in a less expensive landfill category.



The Air Force removed some 9,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the former skeet range in the northwest portion of the former base and disposed of it in a licensed landfill.

## Building 252 coming down

McClellan's Building 252, on the corner of Peacekeeper Way and Luce Ave. has a long Air Force service record. Built in 1938 and expanded in 1955, its primary mission was as an instrument repair facility, where radium dial painting and mercury manometer repairs were done.

In 1992, the Sacramento Air Depot Historic District, which includes Building 252, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the significant events preceding World War II that took place within the district and for its architecture.



The original Bldg 252 was built in 1938 in an art deco style. Much of the exterior was covered during a 1955 expansion. The building served as an instrument repair facility when the base was active. The Air Force will remove the building this spring in order to remove radium- and mercury-contaminated soil beneath it.

Over the years, spills and leaks left radium and mercury contamination in the building and the soil beneath it. The Air Force has removed all contamination from the building itself, but contaminants remain in the soil beneath Building 252. In order for the Air Force to remove the contaminated soils and protect human health and the environment, the building must be removed.

“The Air Force is pleased to be moving forward with this project,” said Steve Mayer, Air Force remediation program manager for McClellan. “Cleanup of Building 252 has been a high priority for the cleanup team so that the property can be returned to productive redevelopment and reuse.”

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the Air Force has determined that the necessary building demolition will have an adverse impact on the historic district. The Air Force and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) are developing a memorandum of understanding (MOA) that will specify the mitigation for the loss of the building. The mitigation will most likely include archival documentation including photos and narrative of the building. The photos will be processed for archival permanence in accordance with the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) photographic specifications.

Copies of the documentation would be retained by the Air Force and be available to the County of Sacramento, Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center, Aerospace Museum of California, SHPO, University of California Davis, California State University Sacramento, Sacramento Public Library, and to any other repository or organization upon which the Air Force and SHPO, through consultation, agree. An electronic copy of the documentation would also be placed on the McClellan Business Park website.

The public was invited to review and comment on the finding of effect and mitigation requirements during a public comment period from February 17, 2011 to March 2, 2011. The Air Force anticipates the building demolition to take place in April 2012, with the soil remediation under the site following immediately and being completed by late summer 2012.

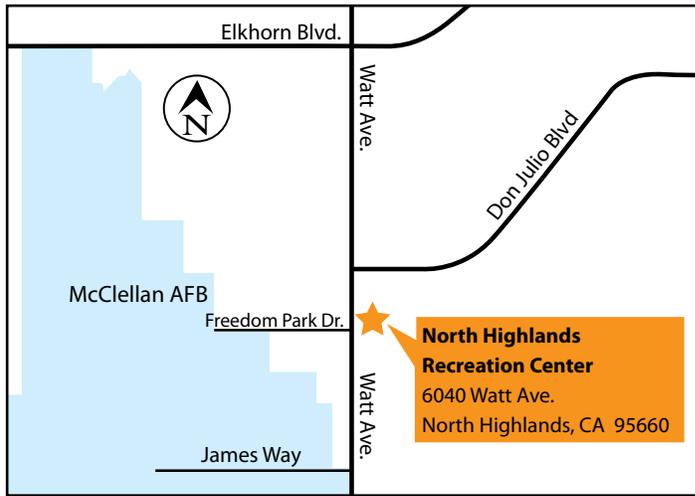
## Questions about the environmental cleanup program at McClellan?

Contact the Air Force Real Property Agency Community Relations team at McClellan: 916-643-1250, ext 232, or email [afrrpa.west.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:afrrpa.west.pa@us.af.mil)

# The Next **RAB** Meeting is **March 20**

## TOPICS INCLUDE:

CLEANUP UPDATE | REGULATORY UPDATE | SACRAMENTO COUNTY LOCAL REUSE AUTHORITY UPDATE



## WHEN

Tuesday, March 20, 2012  
6:00 p.m. Information Poster Session  
6:30 p.m. RAB Meeting

## WHERE

North Highlands Recreation Center.  
6040 Watt Ave.  
North Highlands, 95660

The McClellan Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) provides a forum through which the local community regulatory agencies and the Air Force can share information on current and future environmental cleanup programs and reuse at the former base.

For more information, contact McClellan Community Relations at  
916-643-1259 ext.232 or email [mary.hall.5@us.af.mil](mailto:mary.hall.5@us.af.mil)

**COME TO THE RAB MEETING AND BE A PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY.**



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

AFRA Western REC  
3411 Olson Street  
McClellan, CA 95652

