

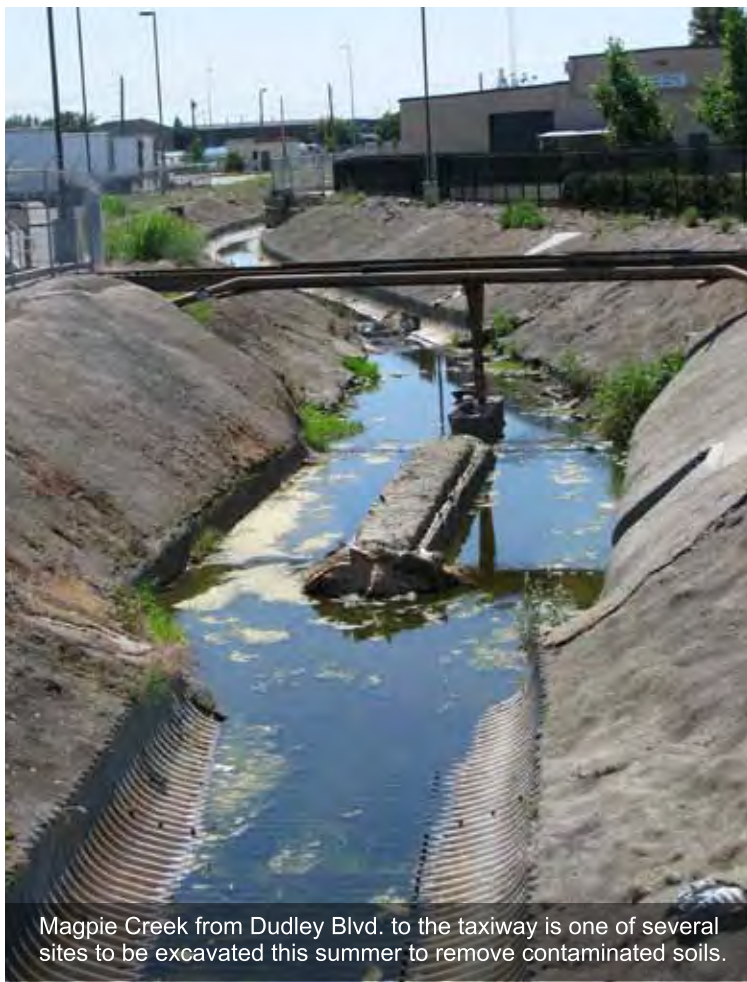
# Environmental Action UPDATE

June 2012

## AIR FORCE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES AT MCCLELLAN

### Summertime cleanups scheduled for McClellan

This will be a busy summer for the environmental cleanup at McClellan with several small removal actions scheduled for June through September.

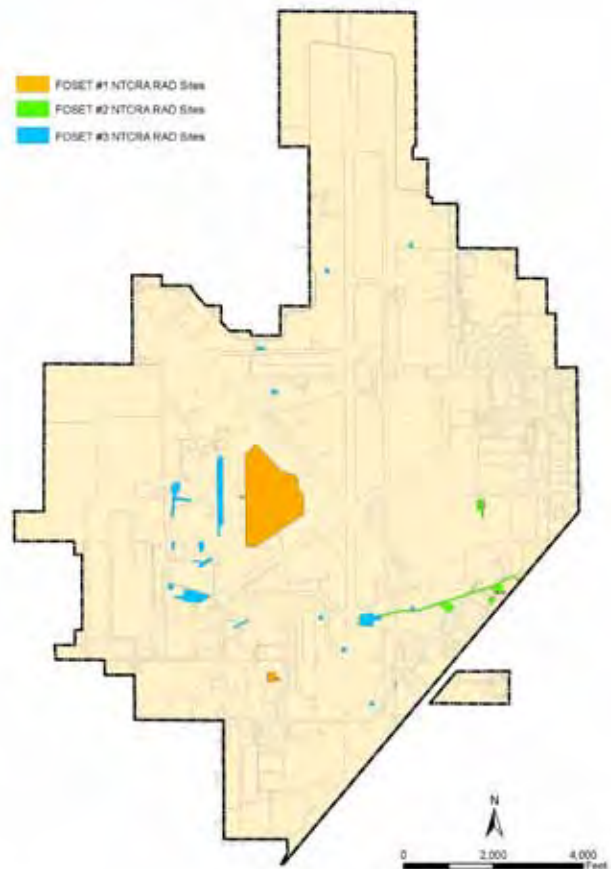


Magpie Creek from Dudley Blvd. to the taxiway is one of several sites to be excavated this summer to remove contaminated soils.

These non-time-critical removal actions (NTCRAs), performed as part of McClellan's Comprehensive Environmental Restoration, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) cleanup, will address radium contamination in soil at more than 20 sites. These sites include Building 252, some former disposal trenches and pits, burn areas, storage ponds, a portion of Magpie Creek, the former wastewater treatment facility site, and storage areas. The goal is to speed the cleanup process for these sites and facilitate property transfer.

The Air Force estimates that 36,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil will be removed. Most of that soil will be disposed of at an offsite permitted facility. Approximately 13,000 cubic yards will be stockpiled in a secured location at McClellan and disposed of in an engineered consolidation unit to be constructed at Confirmed Site 10.

The removal actions will be executed under three projects: Finding of Suitability for Early Transfer (FOSET) #1 NTCRA, FOSET #2 NTCRA, and FOSET #3 NTCRA. The public was invited to comment on these projects during public comment periods: Aug. 11 – Sept. 10, 2011; Sept. 2 – Oct. 1, 2011; and Apr. 2 – May 2, 2012, respectively.



This summer, the Air Force will clean up a number of small sites impacted by radiological contamination at McClellan.

## Groundwater cleanup flowing smoothly

Groundwater cleanup at McClellan continued to make steady progress in 2011 with an estimated 375 pounds of volatile organic compounds (VOC) removed from 772 million gallons of groundwater. As is expected every year, this is a decrease from the 430 pounds removed from 745 million gallons of groundwater in 2010.

Steve Mayer, McClellan remediation program manager, said the ongoing cleanup continues to lower the concentrations of contaminants in the groundwater. This, in turn, decreases the amount of contaminants that can be removed from each gallon of water flowing through the groundwater pump and treat system.

A key component of the groundwater cleanup program is soil vapor extraction, or SVE. Soil vapor extraction began at McClellan in 1993 because it was more cost effective to remove the vaporized contaminants from the air in the soil before it percolated down to the groundwater.

At McClellan, 50,661 pounds of vaporized contaminants were removed by SVE in 2011, bringing the total to date to 1.6 million pounds removed in eight years of operation. In addition, SVE was permanently discontinued at five sites following the successful soil vapor cleanup at these sites. Five additional sites are temporarily shut down and are in final analysis for permanent shutdown and decommissioning.



Technicians collect groundwater samples throughout the year to monitor the progress of the cleanup program.

## Relocating wells a win – win for cleanup and redevelopment

The Air Force continues to look for ways to optimize the groundwater cleanup system to increase efficiency, decrease cost, and decrease the time to complete the cleanup.

2011 brought a unique optimization opportunity, while also increasing the redevelopment potential for Parcel C-6 in the southwest corner of McClellan. This parcel was transferred to Sacramento County and McClellan Park in 2007.

The groundwater contaminant plume in the area of Parcel C-6 has been shrinking over the years of cleanup. The Air Force realized that if it could shift the extraction wells, it would be more effective in removing the remaining contaminants. However, shifting the wells is a costly endeavor, and taxpayer dollars are limited.

In 2011, McClellan Park had a prospective buyer for the property, with one condition: no remediation infrastructure, including groundwater wells, on site.

That created a win-win opportunity for the Air Force cleanup program and McClellan Park's redevelopment efforts. McClellan Park paid for closing the 37 wells on the parcel and replacing them with 15 wells strategically located outside the parcel boundary. The new locations were approved by Federal and state regulatory agencies.

The result? The new wells are a significant improvement to the efficiency of the system. In only eight months of operation in 2011, the wells removed more than twice the VOC mass that the old wells removed in the entire year of 2010.

“By working together to realign part of the groundwater extraction system, the Air Force was able to optimize the system in that area, and McClellan Park was able to deliver a clean parcel that

was free of remediation infrastructure to the prospective buyer,” said Alan Hersh, McClellan Business Park senior vice president.



Moving groundwater wells off of Parcel C-6 not only increased the treatment system efficiency, but also increased the appeal of the property for a future property buyer.

# Air Force Signs Record of Decision for Focused Strategic Sites

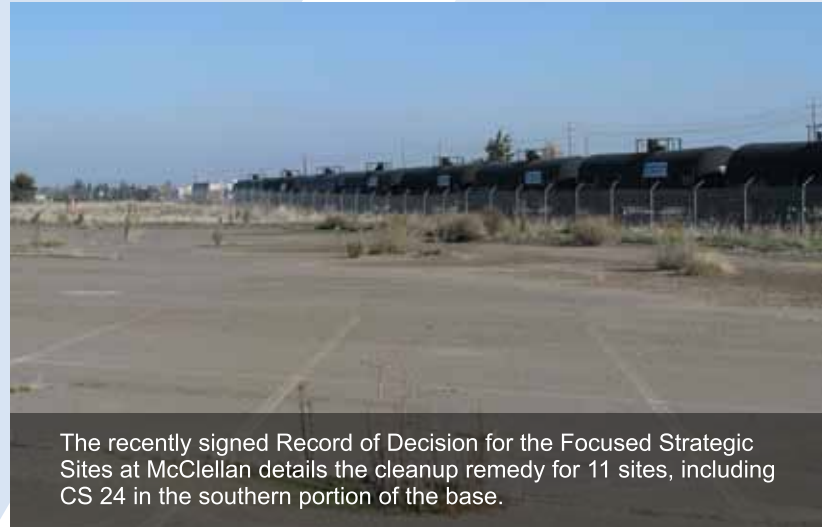
The Air Force, with regulatory approval, has signed the Focused Strategic Sites Record of Decision (ROD) for the former McClellan Air Force Base. The 11 Focused Strategic Sites include nine large waste disposal pits, a fire training area, and a small arms firing range.

The ROD is a legally binding document that details the selected remedy for contaminants at the sites including volatile organic compounds, metals, petroleum compounds, pesticides, dioxins, furans, and radionuclides. The cleanup protects human health and the environment and complies with the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

“We call these ‘strategic sites’ because they contain some of our largest soil volumes and drive some of the most significant costs for the cleanup program here at McClellan,” said Steve Mayer, Air Force remediation program manager for McClellan.

The remedies for the sites include:

- Site CS 10: Completing the excavation of this site; constructing a consolidation unit on the site; and disposing of the soils in the engineered consolidation unit.
- Sites CS 24 and the Small Arms Firing Range: Excavating and disposing of the soils in the consolidation unit at CS 10.
- Site CS 22: Excavating to seven-feet below surface; capping below grade; and placing clean soil on top to restore to surface grade.
- Vadose Zone Site (OU D cap): Continuing monitoring and maintenance of existing cap.
- Sites CS 11, 12, 13, and 14, PRL 008, and the Fire Training Area: Constructing a composite cap.
- All sites: Annual monitoring and maintenance in perpetuity.



The recently signed Record of Decision for the Focused Strategic Sites at McClellan details the cleanup remedy for 11 sites, including CS 24 in the southern portion of the base.

The Proposed Plan for this project was issued in late 2006 with the public comment period running from October 2006 to January 2007. The Air Force listened to the feedback from the community on the Proposed Plan, strongly considered these comments, and adjusted the planned approach. These comments and the Air Force’s responses can be found in the Responsiveness Summary portion of the ROD.

“In developing the ROD, the Air Force and regulatory agencies worked thoroughly and diligently to select remedies for these sites that are safe and protective of human health and the environment, while also being good stewards of taxpayer dollars,” Mayer said.

In addition, the selected remedies have been designed to work with the future use and redevelopment of the former base. The Air Force coordinated closely with the intended property recipients to keep them informed and will continue to work with them in the final design phase.

“This close working relationship has helped to make McClellan the model for military base redevelopment in the United States,” Mayer said.

**The Focused Strategic Sites ROD is available for public review in the McClellan Information Repository. The Information Repository is McClellan’s library of cleanup-related documents.**

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

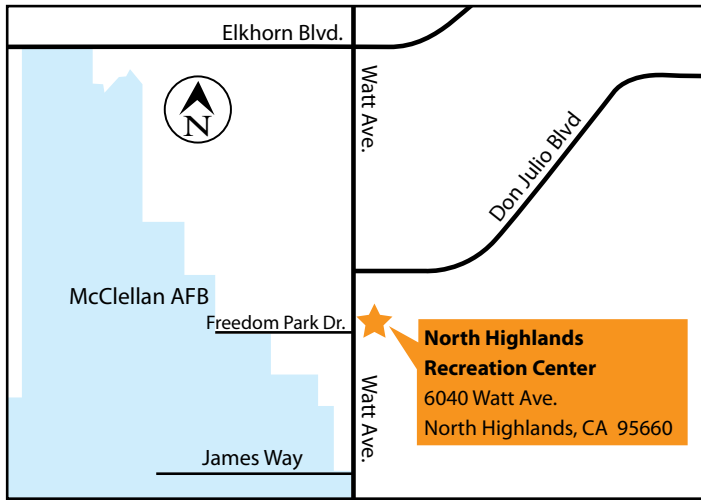
The ROD also may be viewed online at <http://afarpa.lackland.af.mil/ar/docsearch.aspx>. Select “McClellan” as the base and enter 7522 in the “Full Metadata Search” field.

For more information, contact Air Force Real Property Agency Community Relations at (916) 643-1250 ext 232 or [afarpa.west.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:afarpa.west.pa@us.af.mil).

# The Next **RAB** Meeting is **June 19**

## TOPICS INCLUDE:

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



## WHEN

Tuesday, June 19, 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

