

Environmental Action UPDATE

JUNE 2013

AIR FORCE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES AT MCCLELLAN

Air Force Signs Record of Decision for McClellan Ecological Sites

The Air Force, with regulatory approval, has signed the Ecological Sites Record of Decision (ROD) for the former McClellan Air Force Base. These sites are primarily on the west side of the base and include portions of Don Julio Creek, Magpie Creek, Second Creek, and Robla Creek, as well as several vernal pools and sediment tailings piles.

The sites became contaminated through spills, discharges, and runoff through years of industrial activities on the base. Contaminants at the sites include dioxins, furans, metals, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

For most of the ecological sites, these contaminants are not present at levels that represent a risk to human health. However, they could pose a risk to ecological receptors. The creeks and vernal pools at McClellan are home to a variety of plants and wildlife, including the river otter, western meadowlark, green heron, deer mouse, red-tailed hawk, and the federally threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp. Two other threatened species, the giant garter snake and valley elderberry longhorn beetle, have potential habitat there. The cleanup will help ensure the long-term protection of these species.

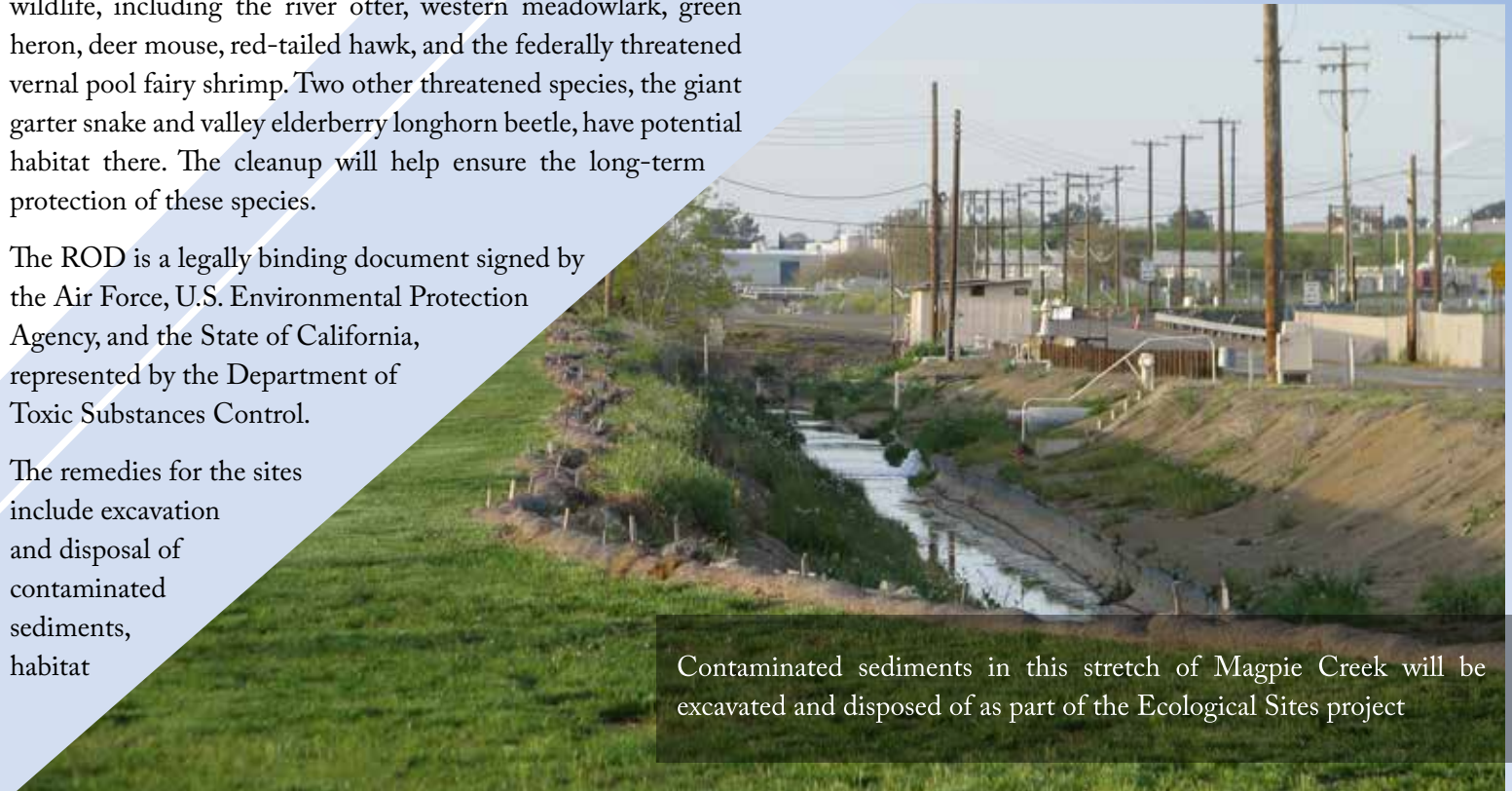
The ROD is a legally binding document signed by the Air Force, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the State of California, represented by the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

The remedies for the sites include excavation and disposal of contaminated sediments, habitat

restoration, land use restrictions, and monitoring. Field work is scheduled to begin this summer with the project to be completed in 2014.

The cleanup protects human health and the environment and complies with the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The public provided comments on the proposed cleanup plan during a public comment period from Feb. 4 through Mar. 7, 2011. These comments and the Air Force's responses can be found in the Responsiveness Summary portion of the ROD.

The Ecological Sites ROD is available for public review in the online McClellan Administrative Record at: <http://afrpaar.lackland.af.mil/ar/docsearch.aspx>. Select "McClellan" as the base and enter 7668 in the "Full Metadata Search" field.



Contaminated sediments in this stretch of Magpie Creek will be excavated and disposed of as part of the Ecological Sites project

A Cleanup Landmark Comes Down

The mammoth white tent, an icon of the McClellan cleanup program, was demolished this spring, testimony to the cleanup progress at the former Air Force base. The tent was set up in 2001 to keep wind and rain out of a landfill, known as Confirmed Site 10, while it was being excavated. When the excavation halted in 2003, the tent remained over the 2-acre site to keep rainwater out of the 32-foot deep pit while the Air Force and regulators worked to determine a final cleanup remedy for it and 10 other sites.

The landfill received a variety of industrial waste, including radiological waste from former radium painting operations, when McClellan was an active base. In 2012, the Air Force and regulators signed the Focused Strategic Sites Record of Decision which specified the remedy for CS 10 and 10 other large former landfills and disposal pits at McClellan.

The centerpiece of that protective remedy is the construction of an engineered consolidation unit, or CU, at the site of CS 10. The pit will be expanded and a leachate collection system and two layers of liners will be installed before accepting soils.

When constructed, the tent was the largest free-standing tent in the world. At 630 feet long x 204 feet wide x 66 feet high, it

was both longer and wider than the California Capitol building. Comprised of 31 arches, the tent was held in place with 5-foot anchors and withstood winds in excess of 78 mph.

“Demolishing the tent is an exciting milestone in the cleanup at McClellan. It’s a visible indicator of the progress that we are making.” said Steve Mayer Air Force remediation program manager for McClellan. “We’ve cleared the site and are moving forward with the CU, which should be open and accepting soils by September this year.”

The consolidation unit is scheduled to remain open through 2019 to accept soils from other McClellan sites before the final protective cap is installed. Follow-up long-term monitoring and maintenance will be required.



October 5, 2001



April 10, 2013



April 15, 2013



April 16, 2013



April 22, 2013

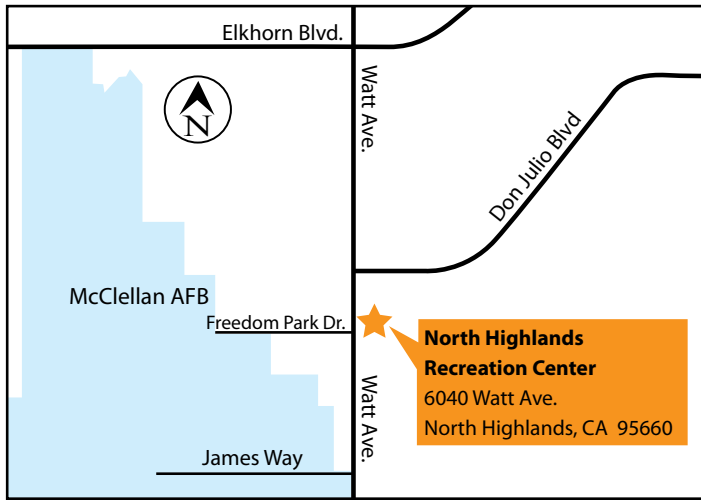


April 23, 2013

The Next **RAB** Meeting is **JUNE 18.**

TOPICS INCLUDE:

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



WHEN

Tuesday, June 18, 2013
6:00 p.m. Open House Poster Session
6:30 p.m. RAB Meeting

WHERE

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

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

For more information, contact McClellan Community Relations at 916-643-1250 ext. 232 or email mary.hall.5.ctr@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.

AFCFC Western Region
3411 Olson Street
McClellan, CA 95652

