

Environmental Action UPDATE

AIR FORCE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES AT MCCLELLAN

March 2014

McClellan RAB welcomes new co-chair

Carolyn Gardner elected Community Co-Chair at December 2013 RAB meeting

The words “restoration advisory board” and “rock star” most likely have never been used in the same sentence. Until now.

When asked to describe her fellow McClellan Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members, recently elected Community Co-Chair Carolyn Gardner did just that.

“I think we have a group of rock stars,” she said. “This group is awesome. I find the people to be very interesting and we each have something different to offer in terms of who we represent.”

A RAB member since 2009, Carolyn brings an honest thirst for knowledge and abundant curiosity to her new role.

“I like smart people and I like being around people who know more than I know,” she said. “I find it fascinating to learn about what is being done with the cleanup at McClellan. I’m always interested in process.”

Never one to shy away from the tough questions, Carolyn feels one of the RAB’s most important roles is making sure the community understands exactly what is happening with McClellan’s environmental process.

“I’m very direct,” she said. “If I don’t understand something I will ask two or three other questions to get it clarified. It’s important for everyone to understand what’s happening.”

The North Highlands native graduated from Highlands High School before leaving behind her small town roots to travel the world as a singer and entrepreneur (she is one of the founders of the Famous Amos Cookie Company).

After living and working in southern California for years, she returned to North Highlands and fell in love with the renovated officers’ housing at McClellan.



Carolyn Gardner, a McClellan Park resident and Highlands High School graduate, has been a RAB member since 2009.

“After living here for a while my curiosity led me to the RAB,” she said. “And I’ve really enjoyed it. It’s kind of a cooperative, everyone brings something to it and the community really benefits from that.”

Meet your community RAB members

First in a series of interviews with the McClellan Restoration Advisory Board



Paul Green Jr.

A resident of Rio Linda, Paul served as the McClellan RAB community co-chair from 2007 to 2010.

Q What community do you represent as a member of the McClellan RAB?

A I represent the education community. When I see a major problem, which I have not seen in about five years, I go to their board meetings and I brief them on it. Lately everything seems to be functioning quite well, so there has not been a need for that in some time.

Q What do you enjoy most about being a RAB member?

A I enjoy how smooth it functions. I've been a part of it for ten years and I've seen where it's come from. There's no longer dissention amongst the RAB members and the quality of the questions is no longer so technical, they are more representative of the community.

Q What other organizations are you involved with?

A I serve on the Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District Board and I was recently elected

to serve on the Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), a countywide commission which ensures the orderly formation of local governmental agencies, preserves agricultural and open space lands and discourages sprawl.

Q What do you feel you bring to the RAB?

A When you give a briefing you are supposed to give them at an eighth grade level. I don't speak at an eighth grade level and neither do the presenters, but I'm the one that will usually ask the question "what does that mean?" when something doesn't make sense. My philosophy is, if I don't understand it the public won't understand it. Acting as a go-between is how I see a RAB member playing a valuable role.



Randy Orzalli

A resident of Citrus Heights, Randy graduated from Grant High School. As an administrator for Grant (and later Twin Rivers) School District, Randy worked in redeveloped office space at McClellan Park.

Q What communities do you represent?

A I represent the educational community. I was an administrator in Grant District and later the Twin Rivers District. When I was with Grant I was in charge of the public benefit conveyance of property where the school district acquired property on McClellan and that's how I became involved with McClellan Park and then the RAB.

Q What do you enjoy most about serving on the RAB?

A The opportunity to gain an understanding of the scope of the endeavor. It has been a huge

benefit. As well as being a great way to provide accurate information to community members.

Q What other public service work do you do within the community?

A I work with the John Garcia Youth and Wildlife Foundation, which provides opportunities for urban area kids to connect with the outdoors. And I also sit on the board of the Sacramento Metro Fire District.

Q What do you bring to the RAB?

A I've worked in the community for 39 years and I'm very familiar with the nature of the community and I feel I bring a broad perspective about their concerns.

McClellan SVE getting closer to closure

Soil Vapor Extraction systems are working themselves into extinction

Steadily chugging along since the early 1990s, the soil vapor extraction system (SVE) at the former McClellan Air Force Base is progressively heading the way of the dinosaur - into extinction.

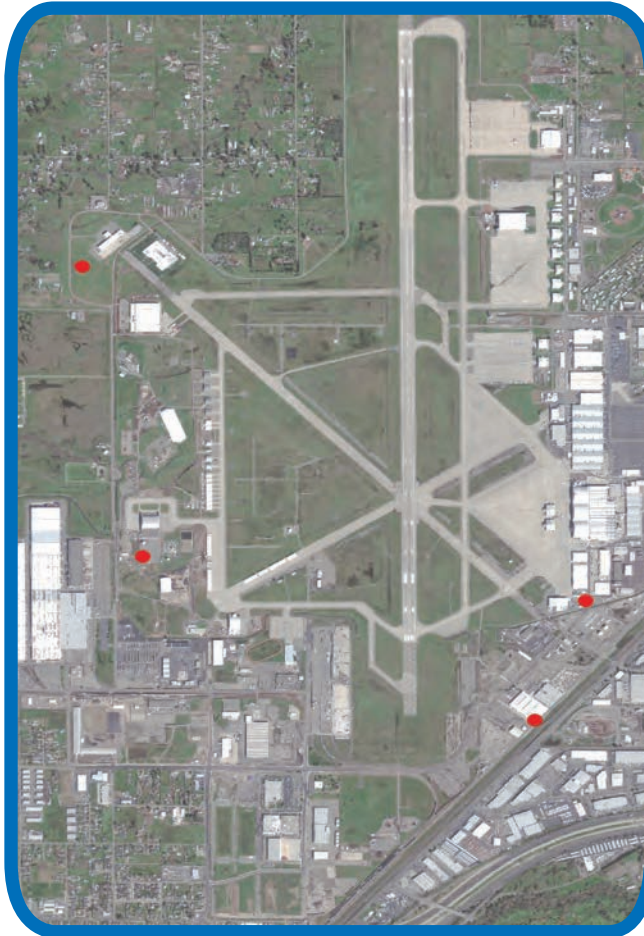
The majority of the SVE systems that were operating at McClellan have worked themselves out of a job. They've removed all the contaminants they can reach and have been shut down.

Only four systems remain in operation and the Air Force expects those to be closed within the next two years.

"The systems have made great progress," said Steve Mayer, base environmental cleanup coordinator for the Air Force.

SVE is a key component of the overall groundwater cleanup program. Removing contaminants from the soil by SVE can be quicker and less costly as compared to later removing them from the groundwater.

SVE works by vacuuming volatile organic compounds (VOCs) out of the spaces between the particles of soil.



The picture above shows the locations of the four remaining SVE systems operating at McClellan.

When ongoing monitoring shows that contaminants have been removed to a prescribed level, the SVE system at a site is temporarily shut down for approximately six months then the wells resampled.

If contaminants are trapped in small tight soil pockets, they may re-emerge (or rebound) and show up in that six-month resampling. If they do rebound, then the system will be restarted and will operate until sampling results (over several months to years) consistently show that contaminants have not rebounded. At that point the system is no longer needed and it is permanently shut down and the wells are removed.

To date, McClellan's SVE systems have removed more than 1.4 million pounds of contaminants. These contaminants are from past activities at McClellan that involved the use of fuels, solvents, cleaners, and other chemicals.

"We started out with 26 areas, or plumes of VOCs in the soil, and now there's four," said Ken Smarkel, McClellan's groundwater remediation program manager. And we're hoping to close those four within the next couple years, so it's definitely made impressive progress."



McClellan Consolidation Unit closed for winter

The consolidation unit (CU) on the west side of McClellan was closed and winterized in late October. Protective tarps cover the CU to keep rainfall from reaching the contaminated soil. Pumps move water off the tarps and into drains after the water is tested and confirmed to be clean. Tarps will be removed this spring.

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

What is a RAB?

A Restoration Advisory Board is an important way for the public to be involved in the environmental cleanup at the former McClellan Air Force Base. RAB members are committed to public outreach and communication with their community. They advise the Air Force and regulatory agencies about community concerns and provide comments on McClellan cleanup decisions.

Who are the McClellan RAB members?

RAB members represent local stakeholder groups, the United States Air Force and federal and state regulatory agencies.

Stakeholder groups can include local government officials, local residents, environmental groups, the education community, the local business community, the religious community and students.

McClellan RAB Meeting - Tuesday April 15, 2014, 6:30pm North Highlands Recreation Center

To find out more about the McClellan RAB, add your name to the mailing list or learn about the environmental cleanup at McClellan contact:

Mary Hall

McClellan Community Relations

(916) 643-1250 ext. 232

mary@sytsmagroup.com

Find us online at www.afcec.af.mil/brac/mcclellanafb or on Facebook at McClellan Environmental Cleanup.



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

AFCEC Western Region
3411 Olson Street
McClellan, CA 95652

