

# Environmental Action UPDATE

December 2015

AIR FORCE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES AT MCCLELLAN

## McClellan Restoration Advisory Board Holds Meeting to Discuss Environmental Cleanup

The McClellan Restoration Advisory Board met August 27 at the North Highlands Recreation Center to discuss the progress of the long-term cleanup at the former base. The board is comprised of community members who live on or near McClellan, environmental regulators, McClellan Park stakeholders, and the Air Force.

Attendance was higher than usual due to concerns related to hexavalent chromium, also known as chromium 6. Recent reports have raised concerns about chromium 6 in Rio Linda/Elverta Community District water, showing it just above the new California drinking water standard, 10 parts per billion, known as the maximum contaminant level.

At McClellan, there are currently two small identified chromium 6 groundwater plumes. These were discussed at the Restoration Advisory Board meeting. It was explained that the areas are very small, under active control and the Air Force does not believe they are impacting drinking water sources.

The new State standard requires the Air Force to re-evaluate the protectiveness of its on-going cleanup remedy. Previous reviews determined no impact on drinking water, however to address the protectiveness, the Air Force has completed a background study, and is writing a findings report. Once this is complete, a new chromium 6 cleanup standard will likely be established at the background level for the McClellan site, 14 parts per billion.



The current evaluation underway will ensure the Air Force continues to be protective of human health and the environment. It is being conducted with regulatory oversight by the U.S. EPA, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The findings report is anticipated to be complete by spring 2016 and the Air Force plans to report back to the Restoration Advisory Board on this topic at upcoming meetings.

For more information call the Air Force Civil Engineer Center at (916) 643-1250 x257.

# Davis Global Communications Site ROD Signed, Remedial Actions Completed

The Air Force, with regulatory approval, has signed the Davis Global Communications Site Record of Decision (ROD). A Record of Decision (ROD) is a public document that explains the remediation plan for the cleanup of a Superfund site. The ROD determined no further action was required and the environmental cleanup project is closed.

Implementation and completion of several remedial actions at the site has resulted in successful cleanup of the vadose zone and groundwater. The cleanup protects human health and the environment and complies with all applicable state and federal cleanup laws.

Located 4 miles south of Davis, CA, the Davis Site housed a former transmitter facility and currently consists of open grassland interspersed with vernal pools. The site was contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons and



*All facilities within the main compound area of the Davis Global Communications Site have been removed.*

chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that were likely related to the storage or disposal of solvents from parts cleaning activities.

# Summer Cleanup Season Wraps Up at the former McClellan Air Force Base

The 2015 field season at McClellan has come to a close. Over the course of the season, the Air Force continued cleanup and removal actions at several sites falling under one of the Air Force's most challenging projects at the former McClellan Air Force Base – the Focused Strategic Sites Project.



*A consolidated cap was constructed on PRL008 in 2015.*

**PRL008** - A former debris area in the Focused Strategic Sites Project, Potential Release Location (PRL) 008, was previously excavated, backfilled and restored in 2014. This summer the Air Force constructed a consolidated cap over the approximately 4-acre site.

**CS022** - A former base landfill, CS22 was excavated late last summer. The Air Force is currently waiting for final confirmation sampling to verify the site excavation is complete. The site will then be fully backfilled and seeded.

**Old Magpie Creek Channel** – Building 690 was torn down to gain access to potential contamination (Radium 226) in the ground below the site. Excavation of the site is scheduled to be completed later this year.

**Camp Kohler excavation** – Located on Roseville Road, a small excavation project to remove PCBs from governmental transformers was completed and the site was backfilled and restored.

# Air Force Transfers McClellan Deeds to Sacramento County for Redevelopment

This September, the Air Force Civil Engineer Center signed two deeds for property at the former McClellan Air Force Base, transferring 183.4 acres to Sacramento County. The County will in turn transfer the property to McClellan Business Park, the former military base's developer.

Since closure in 2001, approximately 60% of the 3,450 acre military base has been transferred. The entire former base is being reused under agreements between the Air Force, Sacramento County and their property developer.



*Approximately 60 percent of former base has been transferred.*

The deeds for the latest land transfers include 33 lots, with 84 facilities, predominately used for aviation and industrial purposes. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the transfers, which were then sent to the Governor of California for coordination under a process called “early transfer with privatized cleanup.”

This process facilitates timely and efficient reuse while maintaining protection of human health and the environment, according to Philip Mook, Jr., Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Chief of the Western Execution Branch at McClellan. He said this is the last of four property transfers to the County using the early transfer with privatized cleanup model.

“It has been a great process and learning experience,” he said. “When we first started, there was no model for this. We figured it out along the way. In the end, it was worth it because the Air Force achieves its goal of property transfer, the community obtains full title to the property more quickly, and public health and the environment are protected.”

Because some environmental cleanup work remains at these land parcels, the County requested early transfer to expedite reuse. The Air Force then employed the early transfer process, requiring US EPA and Governor approval and binding commitments for future remediation. The privatized cleanup portion of the deal calls for U.S. EPA to serve as the lead agency, in consultation with state regulators, of the cleanup performed by McClellan Business Park. The cleanup is funded by the Air Force who remains ultimately responsible for achieving cleanup.

The property is subject to land use controls pending completed cleanup work. These controls include digging and groundwater restrictions, as well as restrictions on the type of reuse, for example, preventing residential use until certain cleanup standards are achieved. Enforceable restrictions in the deeds prevent exposure from soil and groundwater contamination until remedial actions are completed. When cleanup is completed the need for continuing these environmental restrictions is reevaluated.

McClellan Business Park will reuse and develop the property in accordance with the Final McClellan AFB Reuse Plan. General uses of the parcels include light industrial, aircraft maintenance and repair, airfield taxiways and parking aprons, as well as manufacturing, assembly, warehouse and distribution activities.

# 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, and students.

## McClellan RAB Meeting - Thursday, Dec 10, 2015

**6:00pm** Holiday Social • **6:30pm** RAB Meeting

**Location: Lionsgate Hotel**

**3410 Westover Street McClellan CA, 95652, Club Ballroom A**

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

McClellan Community Relations  
(916) 643-1250 ext. 257

Find us online at [www.afcec.af.mil/brac/mcclellanafb](http://www.afcec.af.mil/brac/mcclellanafb).

} 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

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