



# Guardian

A PUBLICATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 2022

## October Restoration Advisory Board Meeting to Be Held Online

The Travis Air Force Base (AFB) Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) will hold the next Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting in an online interactive virtual format. The meeting will be held on October 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. local time.

The virtual meeting will start with general introductions and a review of the meeting agenda, followed by updates on the ongoing environmental investigations and restoration activities across the Base. Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) will provide regulatory agency updates. The RAB meeting will conclude with a public question-and-answer session on any aspect of our ERP.

### Travis AFB Virtual RAB Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 2022; 7:00 p.m. local time

Please RSVP by emailing [enviropa@us.af.mil](mailto:enviropa@us.af.mil) before October 11, 2022.

If you are interested in attending the October 20, 2022, virtual RAB meeting, please email [enviropa@us.af.mil](mailto:enviropa@us.af.mil) before October 11, 2022. Additional details on how to attend the meeting will be provided to you prior to the meeting. *Please note: We will not share your contact information; all Personal Identifiable Information is protected under Federal Privacy Act regulations and will be treated as confidential.*

For more information or to request special accommodations, please contact Travis AFB ERP project staff at (707) 424-3955 or [enviropa@us.af.mil](mailto:enviropa@us.af.mil).

We look forward to "seeing" you online again in October!

## Importance of the Restoration Advisory Board to the Environmental Restoration Program

One of the many unfortunate consequences of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is that our RAB has not been able to meet in-person since April 2019. During that time, some of our treasured members have retired or moved on, while new residents have moved into the Travis AFB community.

We'd like to share a bit of information about the purpose and importance of the RAB to the ERP to encourage you to apply for membership. If you live within 25 miles of the base boundary, you are eligible to apply. You do not need to be a technical expert to be a member and contribute to the RAB; our technical support staff will provide all members with informational support and explanation as needed or requested.

The Travis AFB RAB is an advisory body established by a formal charter signed in 1995. The RAB is designed to act as a point of information exchange among the Travis AFB ERP staff, federal and state regulatory agency representatives, and the local community regarding environmental restoration activities at Travis AFB. The RAB is intended to bring together community members who reflect the diverse interests within the local community, enabling the early and continued flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the local community and the Travis AFB ERP.

RAB members are an important part of the cleanup process because they serve as liaisons between the Air Force and the community. Because RAB members are well-informed about cleanup activities at all stages, an active and engaged RAB can prevent misinformation about the cleanup project from spreading within a community. RABs often bring valuable and often unknown information to the project. Examples of how RAB input has benefitted other installations include a RAB member reminding the project team about the location of a former missile testing site, and in another instance, RAB members informing the technical team of a homeless encampment near a potential groundwater plume.

The RAB is led by two co-chairs; one military/government co-chair appointed by the installation, and a community co-chair elected by RAB members representing the community. Both are equally empowered and assist with development of the meeting agenda and materials presented during meetings and tours.

Community members wishing to join the RAB are expected to serve as volunteers without compensation, and to provide individual advice to decision makers on environmental restoration plans for Travis AFB. Potential members are encouraged to serve on the RAB for at least one full year and may serve as long as they would like until the RAB is formally dissolved.

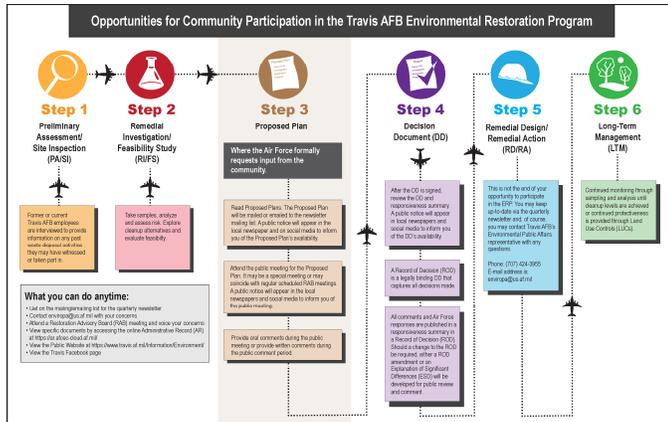
The RAB meets at least twice every year (typically for a meeting in April and either a tour of active sites in the summer, or another meeting in October) to review and comment on technical documents and plans relating to the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities at Travis AFB. Members are expected to attend all meetings and tours, or send an alternate in their place when unable to attend. All RAB meetings and tours are open to the public. Notices are placed in the *Vacaville Reporter*, *Daily Republic*, and *Tailwind* advertising each meeting and event.

If you are interested being considered for RAB membership, please contact us at [enviropa@us.af.mil](mailto:enviropa@us.af.mil). We will provide a community interest form for you to fill out and return to us. Once we receive your completed form, the Air Force ERP staff will review it and make a recommendation to the RAB members, who will vote to approve you as a RAB member at the next scheduled RAB meeting.

# Opportunities for Public Involvement at Travis AFB

The Air Force encourages and welcomes input from the RAB and greater community on all of our ongoing projects, so we wanted to give some insight into the opportunities for public input throughout the cleanup process.

The following figure (click on it for a larger version) provides a bit of information about the cleanup process that we follow at all of our sites, with an emphasis on when and how you can actively participate. While most of our cleanup activities have successfully progressed to the Long-Term Management phase, we do have some projects in the early phases of the process.



The Air Force is in the process of conducting a remedial investigation (RI) for aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a fire retardant commonly used at military bases to put out fires. We are also planning an RI to better characterize recently discovered soil and groundwater contamination at Site SD031. Once these investigations are complete and the results are analyzed, the technical teams will then evaluate several potential cleanup options.

RI Reports are fairly technical documents, so our team of experts will summarize the information in the Proposed Plans. The Proposed Plan is a document intended to facilitate public involvement in the remedy selection process for a given site. It summarizes information from previous investigation documents and identifies the preferred cleanup response out of all the evaluated options. The Air Force will publish a notice in the local newspapers letting the public know where and when the documents can be reviewed, and what dates the Air Force is accepting formal comments. The Air Force may also hold a public meeting to present the contents of the Proposed Plan. The final decision regarding the selected remedy will be documented in the Record of Decision, after all comments received from the public have been considered.

We will keep you updated on the progress of both the AFFF RI and the Site SD031 RI through future issues of the *Guardian* and at upcoming RAB meetings. Stay tuned to your inbox and be sure to join us at the next meeting!

## Phase I Remedial Investigation for AFFF Areas – Field Event #2 Update

Field activities for the Phase I RI for AFFF areas at Travis AFB continue. The second field event is almost complete, and consists of sampling groundwater, soil, surface water, sediment, and well development following the installation of new groundwater monitoring wells. In June 2022, groundwater samples from 122 existing monitoring wells and 19 surface water and co-located

sediment samples were collected and submitted to a Department of Defense (DoD)-accredited analytical laboratory for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) analysis.

Drilling activities began onsite in July 2022, which includes installation of new monitoring wells and advancing soil borings to collect soil samples. Experienced project geologists are working alongside drilling operators to advance and log soil from borings using hollow-stem auger and direct-push technologies. Efforts to coordinate equipment and project support services for drilling rigs, sampling equipment and services, waste management, biological monitoring, and other project coordination items are ongoing. Each work area is reviewed in a collaborative effort with project biologists to coordinate conservation measures for working in sensitive areas near habitats for California tiger salamanders and other endangered species.



The drilling operator and team are shown constructing a screened 2-inch monitoring well.  
 Photo Credit: Colton Ranson / Oneida Field Team Lead

As of August 2022, 17 new monitoring wells have been installed, and soil samples have been collected from 38 soil boring locations. Fieldwork will continue into Fall 2022 to install additional monitoring wells and soil borings and to collect soil and groundwater samples for laboratory analysis. Following laboratory analysis, the data will be reported, validated by project chemists, and brought into the project database for evaluation. Data collected in Field Event #2 will be assessed with other site data to make recommendations for Field Event #3, which is anticipated for Summer 2023.



The Oneida project geologist logs soil presented in acetate liners from borings as drillers begin constructing a monitoring well using hollow-stem augers.  
 Photo Credit: Colton Ranson / Oneida Field Team Lead

## Restoration Advisory Board Tours and Meetings

Community members are cordially invited to attend the public RAB meetings and tours. **The next RAB meeting will be an online virtual meeting, scheduled for October 20, 2022**, at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please email us at [enviropa@us.af.mil](mailto:enviropa@us.af.mil) **before October 11, 2022**, and let us know. Virtual meeting attendance details will be provided by email for those who RSVP prior to the meeting.

*If you are interested in finding out more about the Travis AFB RAB, wish to be included on the email mailing list, or want to inquire about becoming a RAB member, let us know:*

[enviropa@us.af.mil](mailto:enviropa@us.af.mil)

(707) 424-3955

*For more information about Travis AFB's Environmental Restoration Program, please contact us:*

**Remedial Program Manager**

(707) 424-2812

**Public Affairs Officer**

(707) 424-2011

*Or visit:*

<https://www.travis.af.mil/Information/Environment/>