

Meeting Minutes
 Travis Air Force Base
 Environmental Restoration Program
 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
 22 July 2004

RAB members present:

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Col. Michael L. Sevier	Travis Air Force Base (AFB), RAB co-chair	✓
Whalen, Jim N.	Mayor Augustine's Office in Vacaville/RAB Community co-chair	✓
Curtis, Richard	Northern Solano Board of Realtors	
Foster, John	Northern Solano County Association of Realtors	✓
Kanouff, David F.	National Association of Retired Federal Employees	
Lucey, John	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)	✓
Marianno, David	Suisun City Resident	✓
Moriarty, Eamon	Goodrich Corporation	✓
Morad, Cyrus	Fairfield Resident	
Raker, Sarah	SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board)	✓
Alan Friedman	SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board)	✓
Mike Reagan	Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee	✓
Root, Rev. David	Crosswinds Church	
Rundlett, John	Suisun City Council	
Salcedo, Jose	Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	✓
Taylor, William W.	Travis Unified School District	✓
Tolentino, Ron	Solano Garbage Company	
Velez, Phil	Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee	✓

Public Members present:

Agencies and Contractors present:

- Lt Col Richard Houghton Travis AFB
- Mark Smith Travis AFB
- Troy Martinson Travis AFB
- Glenn Anderson Travis AFB
- Wilford Day Travis AFB
- Dale Malsberger Travis AFB
- Linda Weese Travis AFB

- Tom Sreenivasan Travis AFB
- Steve Stopher Travis AFB
- Gregory Parrott Travis AFB
- Roby Gregg AFCEE
- Kristine Escarda DTSC
- Viola Cooper U.S. EPA
- Elizabeth Allen TechLaw
- Eric Rixen Shaw
- Mike Wray CH2M Hill
- Amir Matin URS
- Monique Meyer EarthTech

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Mark Smith welcomed the attendees.

Mr. Smith introduced Mr. Alan Friedman who is replacing Ms. Sarah Raker as the Water Board's Remedial Program Manager (RPM) and Lt Col Rich Houghton, the new Base Civil Engineer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 2004 meeting minutes were approved and went final.

Additional Agenda Items, Comments, and Questions

None

DISCUSSION TOPICS

NEWIOU Soil ROD Status

Mr. Malsberger gave an update on the North, East, West Industrial Operable Unit (NEWIOU) Soil Record of Decision (ROD).

Human Health Technical Memorandum – the Human Health Technical Memorandum addresses human health concerns with regard to contamination in soil, sediment, and surface water in the NEWIOU. This document was developed from previous presentations during the Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) meeting. This document includes agency input and agreement on preliminary cleanup actions and levels. The draft was issued on 12 April 2004. Currently, the Air Force is in the process of resolving a few agencies' comments.

Ecological Protection Technical Memorandum – the Air Force issued the draft Ecological Protection Technical Memorandum on 15 September 2003. This document will be updated to reflect the agencies comments. Sampling of the sediment and surface water in Union Creek was collected during the first week of June 2004 to update the data. The Draft Field Sampling Plan was submitted on 5 May 2004. Preliminary sample results show reduced contamination in Union Creek. With this current data, the Air Force will proceed to complete the Ecological Technical Memorandum, which will include risk management decisions.

Draft Record of Decision (ROD) – the Air Force will incorporate all preliminary comments and agreements. The technical memoranda are being used to reach consensus on actions and cleanup levels that will be documented in the ROD. The draft ROD will be submitted on 3 December 2004 to the regulatory agencies and the RAB.

Mr. Malsberger gave a photographic presentation of the Union Creek sampling event.

Mr. Marianno asked if the water continuously flows in Union Creek. Mr. Malsberger stated that it does. The flow rate now is approximately 200 gallons per minute (gpm); during the sampling event, the flow rate was approximately 400 gpm.

Mr. Marianno asked if there are stagnant spots. Mr. Malsberger stated that he is not aware of any stagnate areas but there are wide areas where the creek flows very slowly. Mr. Marianno expressed concerns about the West Nile virus. Mr. Smith stated that Travis AFB's treatment plants discharge a large amount of water into Union Creek year round and that helps maintain the flow of water.

Mr. Reagan asked if Travis AFB's Civil Engineering deal with mosquito abatement. Mr. Smith stated that he is not aware of any active mosquito abatement policy on Travis AFB. He stated that he will check into it.

Middle School Presentation

Mr. Sreenivasan gave a talk on the Middle School Presentation.

Mr. Sreenivasan stated that in 1999 a former RAB member and retired school teacher, Ms. Emily Rued suggested environmental education to Middle school students.

In 2002, Travis AFB and URS arranged a presentation on environmental education for the Epsom Elementary School students. The response from the students and teachers was excellent.

To continue this community event, Travis AFB environmental team was given the opportunity to conduct a presentation in May 2004 at Golden West Middle School. Approximately 240 students attended the presentation. Ms. Sarah Raker of Water Board was also present.

Mr. Sreenivasan reported that the presentation was well received by the school administration and the teachers, and the students were enthusiastic and interested.

Ms. Raker commented that she was impressed on how the presentation was received by the students. Ms. Raker encouraged everyone to attend future middle school presentations. She also commended URS for a well-organized event.

Mr. Reagan asked if this will be done annually. Mr. Smith stated that the Travis AFB will do these types of presentations as time and funding allows. The best scenario would be annually or bi-annually.

RAB Tour

Mr. Smith presented the RAB tour during June 2004. (The last RAB tour of the base was in 2001.) The June 2004 tour lasted approximately three hours.

The RAB members met on base and were driven around to the following environmental restoration sites: Groundwater Treatment Plants, phytostabilization treatability study, DP039, the CAMU, and the seasonal wetlands.

Mr. Smith stated that future tours will be scheduled upon request and will be limited to two hours. He is also willing to have the tours scheduled during weekends or after work hours to increase attendance.

Mr. Marianno stated that he was pleased to see the progress that has been made in 10 years. He also stated that he was impressed with the landscape and upgrades that were done at Travis AFB.

CLEANUP PROGRAM STATUS REPORT Potrero Hills Cleanup Update.

Mr. Anderson gave an update on the cleanup of Potrero Hills.

Mr. Anderson explained that Travis AFB owns a 25-acre Annex at Potrero Hills that is surrounded by private and industrial property. The Potrero Hills Annex was built in 1956 by the U.S. Army as a NIKE-AJAX missile battery. The Army operated the battery from 1956 to 1964 as part of the Travis AFB defense area. The Army closed the battery and proceeded to transfer the property to private use. The Air Force kept the 25-acre Annex, which it leased to an explosive product-manufacturing firm in 1967. Over the last few months, soil cleanup activities have taken place at and around the Annex.

The primary regulatory issue involves the presence of metals in the surface soil around several locations where the testing of explosive products took place. The requirements for addressing all contaminants at Potrero Hills were described in an Administrative Order that was issued to the Air Force and several industrial companies by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

For over five years, the responsible parties listed in the Administrative Order have worked together to investigate the potential source areas, conduct human health and ecological risk assessments, and select the appropriate cleanup remedies.

The soil cleanup action at Potrero Hills included the following three-steps.

1. The contaminated soil from all sites on and around the Annex are excavated and consolidated in the soil holding area in the vicinity of the launch bays.
2. The contaminated soil is mixed with stabilization compounds in a pugmill to prevent the contaminants from leaching out of the soil.
3. The stabilized soil is sent via truck to an off-site landfill for disposal.

Mr. Anderson stated that a soil cleanup report will be reviewed by the Water Board.

Mr. Whalen asked what is the cost of an operation. Mr. Anderson stated that the cleanup action is expensive; however, the cost has been carried by Travis AFB and others.

Mr. Reagan asked what percentage of cost was used for moving dirt. Mr. Anderson answered approximately 80%.

Mr. Lucey asked how much dirt came from the annex portion of the site. Mr. Anderson stated less than half.

Ms. Escarda asked what type of contamination is found near the transformer panel. Mr. Anderson stated lead.

DP039 Optimization

Mr. Anderson gave a presentation of DP039 optimization.

DP039 represents a body of contaminated groundwater that originated from a former battery acid neutralization sump at the base Battery and Electric Shop (Building 755). A dual-phase extraction (DPE) system was installed within the former sump area and is actively cleaning up the highly contaminated portion of DP039. The DPE has been operating for over four years, and there may be other locations where the DPE would be an efficient way to remove solvents. Travis AFB is attempting to improve upon the existing cleanup action in a way that will speed up the cleanup or reduce its cost. A potential optimization strategy involves the use of the Haloprobe, which is a direct push tool that is designed to identify chlorinated solvents.

Mr. Anderson gave a brief explanation of the mechanics of the haloprobe.

- The probe had difficulty in penetrating some of the subsurface layers found between 6 and 10 feet below ground surface.
- The strength of the Haloprobe readings tended to be low, which correspond with low solvent concentrations.

More information on the Haloprobe detections will be available when the data evaluation is complete, which is expected to be received in August. The data will then be used to plan the next field effort at DP039.

REGULATORY AGENCY REPORT

Ms. Raker announced that she will be moving into the Planning Division at the Water Board; working on basin planning and groundwater policy.

Ms. Raker stated that it has been a great pleasure working with the Travis AFB team. She reminded the RAB of the great accomplishments that have taken place in the last four years.

- Agreement on the sequestering agents;

- Improvement of the quarterly and annual groundwater treatment plant reports;
- Groundwater Sampling Analysis Program (GSAP), an excellent document to see what is going on at Travis AFB because the presentation of the data is outstanding;
- The WABOU ROD has come into fruition;
- The design and construction of the CAMU; and
- The Underground Storage Tank Program is approximately 90% in order with the remainder waiting for funding.

Ms. Raker reiterated the pleasure it has been working with the Travis AFB's environmental team.

Ms. Raker introduced Mr. Friedman who will be replacing her.

Mr. Friedman gave a brief background of his experience in the environmental field. He has been with the Water Board for approximately 18 years. He has experience with the NPDES Permitting issues, surface water discharges, industrial/municipal facilities, as well as storm water permitting. For the last seven years he has been involved in various groundwater cleanup activities and solid waste disposal units. Mr. Friedman stated that he is looking forward to working with the team.

Mr. Smith stated that it has been a pleasure having Ms. Raker on the team. She has been an enthusiastic and very organized member on the team. She will be missed.

FOCUS GROUP REPORTS.

Mr. Whalen stated that Mr. Marianno and Mr. Reagan have agreed to meet with the Community Relations and Budget Focus Group, respectively, and will notify Mr. Smith when they are prepared to meet.

RAB/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Col. Sevier requested that the RAB get an update on the JP-8 lines that bring fuel onto Travis AFB. It is his understanding that the JP-8 lines may be replaced in the future, and a presentation on the lines and where they exist may prove to be interesting.

Mr. Whalen requested that Travis AFB give a presentation on the white phosphorus.

NEXT MEETING

The next RAB meeting will be held at the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors Office, Fairfield, California on 28 October 2004.