

Meeting Minutes
 Travis Air Force Base
 Installation Restoration Program
 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

McBride Senior Center, Vacaville, California
 24 January 2002

RAB members present:

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Col. Jan Swickard	Travis Air Force Base, RAB co-chair	✓
Whalen, Jim N.	Mayor Fleming's Office in Vacaville/RAB Community co-chair	✓
Child, David	Fairfield Resident	
D'Lima, Anne	Travis AFB Resident	✓
Flores, Lalo	BDC Marine	
Foster, John	City of Fairfield Representative	✓
Kanouff, David F.	National Association of Retired Federal Employees	✓
Lucey, John	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	✓
Marianno, David	Suisun City Resident	
Morad, Cyrus	Fairfield Resident	
Moseley, Michael	Daily Republic	
Negron, Daniel	Vacaville Resident	✓
Raker, Sarah	SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board	✓
Root, Rev. David	Chaplin-Solano County Sheriff Department	✓
Rued, Emily	Vacaville Unified School District	
Rundlett, John	Suisun City Council	
Salcedo, Jose	Department of Toxic Substance Control	✓
Taylor, William W.	Travis Unified School District	✓
Tolentino, Ron	Solano Garbage Company	✓
<i>Dohm, Greg for</i> Urquhart, Kurt	OEA Aerospace	✓

Public Members present:

None

Agencies and Contractors present:

- Glenn Anderson Travis AFB
- Allen Brickeen Travis AFB
- Wilford Day Travis AFB
- Bruce James Travis AFB
- DeAnn Lehigh Travis AFB
- Dale Malsberger Travis AFB
- Tom Sreenivasan Travis AFB
- Steve Stopher Travis AFB
- Linda Weese Travis AFB
- Daryl Greenway CH2M Hill
- Joe Erdley ECC
- Elizabeth Allen Techlaw
- Traci Bjers URS
- Joe Saxon URS
- Deena Stanley URS

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Colonel Jan Swickard called the meeting to order and welcomed all that were present.

Colonel Swickard announced that the 60th Civil Engineering Squadron Environmental Restoration Division won the General Thomas D. White Restoration Award for best restoration program in Air Mobility Command (AMC). Dale Malsberger also earned individual honors for significant contributions to the Environmental Restoration Program.

Colonel Swickard also announced that Tim Guido resigned from the RAB.

Approval of Minutes

The October 25, 2001, RAB meeting minutes were approved as final.

Meeting Minutes Comments

John Foster commented that the RAB meeting minutes did an excellent job of encapsulating the meeting discussions.

Discussion Topics

Colonel Swickard reviewed the discussion topics.

Wetland Mitigation Activities

Mr. Malsberger gave an update on the wetland mitigation activities.

Wetland mitigation is a means to compensate for unavoidable impacts to wetlands. There are three ways to mitigate: enhancement, restoration, or creation of wetlands.

Wetland mitigation is necessary at LF007. The site developed vernal pools over time as a result of subsidence. Mr. Malsberger showed pictures of the site. In order to be classified as

a wetland, a site needs to be permanently or seasonally wet. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers surveyed the site and found 95 wetlands on this site.

LF007 is scheduled to become the corrective action management unit (CAMU) for the base and will eventually be capped. During this process, the vernal pools will be destroyed. Therefore, according to Air Force regulations, new vernal pools must be created on base equaling the acreage of pools that will be destroyed at LF007.

The 2.2 acres of vernal pools were moved to a 40-acre preservation area located next to housing. Five pools were created. They selected plants that either existed in the original site or that existed on the preserve so the new wetlands very closely resemble the wetlands from LF007. The Air Force also plans to generate community involvement with this project in order to maintain the vernal pools. This summer, Travis AFB plans to add trails and signs so people can visit.

Bill Taylor asked how deep the pools are. Mr. Malsberger stated that the pools are approximately 1 to 2 feet deep.

Mr. Taylor asked if mosquitoes are a problem. Mr. Malsberger stated that they should not be. The pools are dried up by April.

Mr. Taylor stated that he will give the Air Force contacts for student volunteers.

Dan Negrón asked what is planned for LF007. Mr. Malsberger stated that they plan to build the CAMU as soon as the West/Annexes/Basewide Operable Unit (WABOU) Soil Record of Decision (ROD) is signed.

Cleanup Program Status Report

Real Estate Agreements

Tom Sreenivasan stated that the escrow funds were further delayed. The property owner needed quicker response from the Air Force for funds, so they contacted Congresswoman Tauscher's office. AMC Headquarters completed the paperwork, and funds were submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers on December 18, 2001. Escrow closed on December 28, 2001. Preliminary surveys will be conducted, and FT005 construction is scheduled to be completed by August 2002.

South Base Boundary Groundwater Treatment Plant Update

Mr. Sreenivasan gave an update on the South Base Boundary Groundwater Treatment Plant (SBBGWTP).

On December 3, 2001, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) approved the use of a sequestering agent at the SBBGWTP. The air stripper was restarted with the approved sequestering agent on January 2, 2002, and sample results have since have not found any contaminants in the treated water.

The treatment plant has had a number of minor communication failures, which have been fully corrected. All extraction wells are on line and are functioning normally.

The large rental holding tank is being replaced by a small unused tank from another project resulting in a savings of \$500.00 per month for the Air Force.

Colonel Swickard commented that obtaining approval for the sequestering agent is a success story. He thanked the RAB for expressing their concerns. Colonel Swickard thanked Sarah Raker and DeAnn Lehigh for their efforts in this accomplishment.

West/Annexes/Basewide Operable Unit Soil Record of Decision

Glenn Anderson gave an update on the WABOU Soil ROD. Currently, there are no major issues to be resolved.

- The ecological protection technical memorandum received final approval on January 9, 2002.
- A compromise agreement for establishing cleanup levels for RW013 was reached. The levels initially selected were overly conservative. The Air Force determined that the levels could not be measured using today's technology.
- Skeet range and land use controls issues were resolved.

Draft Final WABOU Soil ROD

Mr. Anderson reported that the draft final WABOU Soil ROD was submitted to the agencies on December 31, 2001. The agencies have 30 days to sign the document.

Mr. Anderson stated that Travis AFB has been successful with getting previous decision documents signed through the AMC. In December 2001, AMC lost their authority to sign the decision documents. The signatory authority has been moved to the Air Staff at the Pentagon. AMC staff will recommend to the Pentagon that the ROD be signed.

Air Staff is currently briefing their appropriate personnel on the ROD, and it is believed that the ROD will be signed by February 1, 2002.

Mr. Negron asked who will sign the ROD and what it will cost the Air Force if it is not signed. Al Brickeen will discuss the budget later during this meeting.

Mr. Negron asked why the Air Force would decide not to sign the document. Mr. Anderson stated that this ROD is precedent-setting in regards to enforcement issues.

John Lucey commented that if there is a delay by the Pentagon, it is not a big deal. It will hopefully be resolved in a reasonable amount of time. Mr. Lucey has briefed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) management and they are ready to sign the document. However, USEPA officials would like to sign the document concurrently with the other agencies.

Jose Salcedo stated that California Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) status on signing the document is the same as USEPA's. His management also wants to make sure everyone will sign the document concurrently.

Ms. Raker announced that RWQCB signed the ROD on January 25, 2002. If the Pentagon does not sign the ROD by February 1, she will have to go back to the Water Quality Control Board to request a new signature letter.

Mr. Foster commented that USEPA and DTSC should follow RWQCB's lead in obtaining signatures on the ROD.

Fiscal Year 2002 Program

Mr. Brickeen gave an update on the fiscal year 2002 (FY02) program. The defense budget was delayed in being signed. Headquarters has indicated that it will be signed in March 2002.

The following operations may be impacted by this delay:

- Groundwater Sampling and Analysis Program (GSAP) — Travis AFB will propose to the agencies to cancel the February sampling round and extend the sampling to the end of the year.

Mr. Lucey commented that the USEPA goes through this same process with budgets. Is there any way to protect against these delays? Mr. Brickeen stated that if Travis AFB had foresight, they could have sought funds under the continuing resolution agreement; however, Travis AFB was told that the funding was imminent, and that route was not taken.

Mr. Negron asked if Travis AFB is setting itself up for a notice of violation. Ms. Raker stated that enough data has been collected, and trends have been established, so there should be no problems if this round of sampling is delayed. Mr. Foster asked if the decision has already been made to cancel the sampling. Mr. Brickeen stated that it depends on when the funds are received.

- SBBGWTP will continue to operate until March 2002.
- SS041 Remedial Design - if funding is received in March 2002, there will still be time for it to be completed. Ms. Raker commented that the agencies would like to see the design packages in its entirety.
- Final remedial design for SD042 is to be completed by mid-April 2002.
- FT005 off base work delays have increased the cost. This site now requires additional sampling to delineate the plume. Funding this site may present a problem.
- Complexities of the landfill cap/CAMU design have increased the design cost. Mr. Brickeen reviewed the Project FY02 CAMU construction schedule, which depicted the critical path and noncritical path items.

Air Force Organization

Mr. Brickeen gave a presentation on the Air Force Organization.

The Air Mobility Command (AMC) is one major command out of nine. It is located at Scott AFB in western Illinois. There are twelve bases within AMC.

Travis AFB is the home of the 60th Air Mobility Wing, which is made up of four groups: operations, logistics, medical, and the support. Within the support group there are five squadrons, including the Civil Engineer Squadron. The Civil Engineer Squadron has eight flights, including the Environmental Flight. The Environmental Flight has four sections: compliance, conservation, pollution prevention, and restoration.

Responsibilities at each level are as follows:

- Air Staff - provides direction and goals for all the Air Force restoration programs.
 - AMC - provides direction to and oversight of all the AMC bases and lobbies for funding.
 - Travis AFB Environmental Protection Committee - senior management (Colonel Swickard, chairs), oversight, and direction for the Base environmental program.
 - Environmental Flight - oversees all environmental programs.
 - Restoration Section - execution of restoration program, including maintaining the administrative records, information repository, and community relations programs, of which the RAB is part.

One example of an Air Force goal is to have remedial actions in place at all high relative risk sites by the year 2007. David Root asked if Travis AFB is ahead of this goal. Mr. Brickeen stated that Travis AFB plans to have remedial actions in place at high relative risk sites by 2005.

Within the CERCLA Process, Travis AFB operates under the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA), which was signed in 1990. This is the agreement between the Air Force, USEPA, and State of California that defines how the restoration program will be executed. The technical processes include the following:

- Identify contamination - Once a site is validated, funds will be released to clean the site. All sites on Travis AFB have been validated;
- Agree on remedial action in a formal agreement (i.e., ROD);
- Take remedial action;
- Operate systems until the site(s) are cleaned.

Within the budget process, the Air Force requests funds from Congress and allocates the funds to the commands. AMC allocates funds to their bases based on an allocation model. This model, which was established in 1996, is based on the percentage of operation and maintenance projects, high relative risk projects, and risk-plus projects. Historically, Travis AFB has received 75% of the available funds within AMC. With the addition of Andrews and McGuire AFBs to the National Priority List, this percentage has decreased significantly. Manpower allocation uses the same model.

Travis AFB identifies projects by adding them to the Air Force Restoration Information Management System (AFRIMS) database. AMC uses AFRIMS to prioritize projects for funding. Air Staff uses AFRIMS to monitor cleanup progress toward its goals. Travis AFB has over 700 projects in AFRIMS, and 95% of these projects are operation and maintenance.

AMC receives a target budget from Air Staff for a five-year period. The budget allocation changes because of uneven distribution of projects over the years; changes in requirements by the bases; program delays; and funding cuts by Congress. AMC must continually balance the budget for all years.

Focus Group Reports

Community Relations Focus Group

Mr. Brickeen reported that the Community Relations Focus Group (CRFG) met on January 17. The CRFG reviewed its goals for last year:

- RAB Membership - Recruit members from the City of Fairfield and the University of California, Davis. This was achieved; Mr. Foster is the representative for the City of Fairfield. A suggestion was made to set up an internship program with UC Davis.
- Community Outreach - Develop school displays and come up with new ways to announce the RAB meetings. A school display was not developed. Meeting announcements are placed on the city cable channels for Travis, Fairfield and Vacaville.
- Update the Community Involvement Plan - Kevin Jackson updated the Plan before he left. Mr. Jackson also put together a "Smart Sheet" that describes the status of the restoration program and made improvements to *The Guardian*, Travis' environmental cleanup newsletter.
- Public Participation - Public awareness was maintained.

The CRFG developed the following 2002 Goals:

- RAB membership - Replace RAB members who have resigned, recruit members from the Northern Solano County Board of Realtors.
- Community Relations Material
 - Develop display panel targeted at schools
 - Investigate posters for school science classes
 - Investigate video presentation
 - Develop presentations for on-base and off-base
 - Investigate inviting Heartland (public television) to Travis AFB
 - Include additional background in *Guardian* articles
 - Update Web site content
 - Investigate links to other Web sites
 - Articles or fact sheets on 2002 program
- Public Participation
 - New wetland maintenance

RAB/Public Questions

No questions were asked.

Set Time and Place for the Next RAB Meeting

The next RAB meeting will be on April 25, 2002, at the Fairfield Senior Center.

Next meeting topics/suggestions

Suggested meeting topics are WABOU Soil ROD update, groundwater remedial design, CAMU acceptance level, 2002 Restoration Schedule, and a presentation of RWQCB's organization.