

# FORMER MARINE CORPS AIR STATION EL TORO

## RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

May 30, 2007

### MEETING MINUTES

The 87<sup>th</sup> Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Former Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro was held Wednesday, May 30, 2007 at Irvine City Hall. The meeting began at 6:37 p.m. These minutes summarize the RAB meeting discussions and presentations.

#### WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA REVIEW

Mr. Darren Newton, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator (BEC) for Former MCAS El Toro and Navy RAB Co-Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that a variety of handout materials pertaining to Former MCAS El Toro are available on the information table. He stated that this was his last RAB meeting and that Mr. Rick Weissenborn has been delegated as the new BEC and his contact information was made available on the handout table. Mr. Weissenborn was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency.

Mr. Newton reviewed the RAB meeting agenda and the key topics for this RAB meeting are: 1) Anomaly Area 3 Supplemental Groundwater Monitoring, and 2) Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Site 24 System Update. Ms. Marcia Rudolph, RAB Subcommittee Chair, lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Newton asked for self-introduction of meeting attendees.

#### Announcements

Mr. Newton said if RAB members cannot attend RAB meetings to please contact either of the RAB Co-Chairs to inform them if they will be absent. Excused absences included Mr. Peter Hersh, RAB member (who requested copies of new handouts made available), and Mr. Quang Than, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Remedial Project Manager. Mr. Newton also announced that Mr. John Mills will be filling in for Mr. Steve Malloy, Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD).

Mr. Newton reviewed the handouts available on the information table, including the contact information for the BRAC Cleanup Team. Handouts with Navy and regulatory agency web sites were also available.

Mr. Newton read an excerpt from the RAB Mission Statement as a reminder of the RAB's mission:

*"The mission of the RAB is to promote community awareness and obtain timely constructive community review and comment on proposed environmental restoration actions to accelerate the cleanup and property transfer of MCAS El Toro. The RAB serves as a forum for the presentation of comments and recommendations to U.S. Marine Corps (Navy) and Remedial Project Managers of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control."*

Mr. Newton requested that anyone, who has questions regarding reuse and redevelopment issues should contact Mr. Glen Worthington, Orange County Great Park, or Mr. Jim Werkmeister, Lennar Corporation, for information.

Other announcements included Ms. Laura Butler postponing her RAB membership until the September RAB meeting. At a previous RAB meeting, Ms. Rudolph had requested an update on

the Defense Fuels Pipeline. Mr. Newton explained that DTSC will be providing comments or concurrence on the Draft Final Supplemental Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) for the on-station portion of the Defense Fuels Pipeline. All comments received on the Draft Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST), which includes portions of the on-station Defense Fuels Pipeline, will be responded to and included as an attachment in the Draft Final FOST.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Review and Approval of the March 28, 2007 RAB Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Bob Woodings, RAB Community Co-Chair, asked if anyone had any changes or input to the March 28, 2007 RAB meeting minutes. No objections or input were noted. The meeting minutes were approved without amendment.

### **MCAS El Toro RAB Subcommittee Report – Ms. Marcia Rudolph, RAB Subcommittee Chair**

Ms. Rudolph thanked Mr. Newton and Mr. Rich Muza, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Project Manager, for attending tonight's RAB Subcommittee meeting.

At the last RAB Subcommittee meeting on March 28, 2007, meeting participants discussed an implementation agreement document (Natural Community Conservation Plan & Habitat Conservation Plan for the County of Orange Central & Coastal Subregion). The document outlines the agreement regarding habitat restoration and an enhancement plan that may also pertain to preserve and protected habitat areas at Former MCAS El Toro. For anyone interested, Ms. Rudolph provided the website of the Nature Reserve of Orange County ([www.naturereserveoc.org](http://www.naturereserveoc.org)) and the link to the document ([www.naturereserveoc.org/implementation%20agreement.pdf](http://www.naturereserveoc.org/implementation%20agreement.pdf)) so these websites could be included in the meeting minutes.

The RAB Subcommittee also requested feedback from the Navy on naphthalene at IRP Site 1, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Area.

For IRP Site 1, the RAB Subcommittee requested further information on the status of various remedial alternatives. The RAB is interested to know when more discussions of potential recommended actions will occur and when a recommended action will be selected.

Ms. Rudolph expressed the RAB's appreciation to Mr. Newton for doing a great job as the BEC and asked for a round of applause.

Ms. Rudolph reminded all those in attendance at the RAB meeting are invited to attend the next RAB Subcommittee meeting. It is scheduled for September 26, 2007 at 5 p.m. in Room L-104, Irvine City Hall.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Regulatory Agency Comment Update**

Mr. Muza reported that U.S. EPA recently approved the Operating Properly and Successfully (OPS) Report for groundwater remedy at IRP Site 16. This site is a former firefighter training area with a small groundwater trichloroethene (TCE) plume in groundwater and the remedy implemented is monitored natural attenuation. The Navy has installed all the monitoring wells per the IRP Site 16 Remedial Design and collected and evaluated a years worth of data. The data show degradation of the TCE plume. U. S. EPA and DTSC discussed key issues and DTSC has provided comments that will be addressed by the Navy in the Final OPS Report. This effort will assist the Navy in moving forward and in position to transfer this property.

Also, the U.S. EPA signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for IRP Sites 8 and 12 in April 2007. Currently, U.S. EPA is reviewing the Draft ROD for IRP Sites 3 and 5.

Representatives from both DTSC and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) were not in attendance and no updates or handouts from these agencies were provided.

**Presentation – Status Update Anomaly Area 3 Supplemental Groundwater Monitoring, Mr. Jim Callian, Navy Remedial Project Manager (RPM)**

Mr. Callian explained that Anomaly Area 3 consists of an area of approximately 9 acres located in the northern portion of Former MCAS El Toro adjacent to Agua Chion Wash. Anomaly Area 3 was used as a source of borrow material for construction purposes from 1972 until 1988. Construction debris from the investigation derived waste management area at IRP Site 3 was disposed of at Anomaly Area 3. The debris was covered with a 2- to 5-foot thick layer of soil.

Environmental investigations at Anomaly Area 3 began with the pre-Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) investigation that included literature and records searches, groundwater sampling, geophysical investigation, and trenching and sampling of materials at the site. RSE field work was conducted in 2002 and a Draft Expanded Site Investigation Report was completed for regulatory agency review in 2003. Additional monitoring wells were installed and sampled, followed by the preparation of the Draft Remedial Investigation /Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report in 2005. Sampling and analysis data, from all investigations in the vicinity of and at Anomaly Area 3 (air, soil, soil-gas, groundwater, sediment, and surface water samples), provided the basis for the RI recommendations for the site.

The Draft RI Report concluded that the human-health and ecological risks are within the U.S. EPA risk management range ( $10^{-6}$  to  $10^{-4}$ ) and that there was no indication of a significant release of waste constituents to the groundwater. It was recommended that an evaluation of response actions for continued protection of human health and the environment be conducted due to the presence of construction debris, the proximity of the debris to the groundwater, and the elevated methane in soil-gas near the central portion of the site. The Draft RI/FS Report also recommended that no groundwater-specific response action is necessary for Anomaly Area 3.

Mr. Callian reported on the comments received from the RWQCB on the Draft RI/FS Report. RWQCB requested further investigation of general minerals to assess potential impacts to the groundwater.

A supplemental sampling work plan was finalized and issued in February 2007. The work plan laid out collection of new data to support the RI conclusions. Mr. Callian reiterated that there are no trends indicating significant releases of waste constituents to groundwater. Groundwater monitoring conducted in February 2007 sampled and tested for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), metals, general minerals (common cations and anions), and for general chemistry including total dissolved solids, total alkalinity, and total hardness.

Mr. Callian showed a map of the groundwater monitoring well locations along with a chart that provided the rationale for choosing those locations. The results showed the depth range for the groundwater flow approximately from 28 feet (well MW01) to 43 feet below ground surface (well MW02). The groundwater flow direction is west-southwest and is consistent with previous observations.

The results revealed no detections of VOCs, but SVOCs were reported in one well within the waste boundary (MW12) at 1.3 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) and in one downgradient point of compliance well (MW01) at 1.9  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) was detected in one well (MW12) within the waste boundary. Metals were consistent with background concentrations and were below the maximum contaminant levels, with the exception of selenium. Selenium was reported in an upgradient well (MW13) at 165  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Results for VOCs, SVOCs, metals, and TPH are generally consistent with previous results and the general chemistry results from upgradient and downgradient wells are consistent.

Mr. Callian discussed the schedule for Anomaly Area 3. In June 2007, the Navy will complete a statistical evaluation using data from all nine monitoring rounds. The Navy will then prepare a letter

report documenting Round 9 Groundwater Monitoring results and the statistical evaluation. In July 2007, the Navy will incorporate Round 9 Groundwater Monitoring results and the statistical evaluation into the Draft Final RI/FS Report.

## **Discussion**

Mr. Hills, IRWD, asked if construction at the Great Park area would change the conclusion regarding Anomaly Area 3 that stated, “No trends indicate a significant release of waste constituents has occurred.” Mr. Randy Kiefer, Navy BRAC Closure Project Leader, explained that all trenching for the Great Park will be performed on the other side of Irvine Boulevard and none of this construction activity will affect the Anomaly Area 3 site which is on Lennar Property.

Mr. John Moore, Santiago Creek Greenway Alliance, asked about the probability of the cancer risk for the U.S. EPA risk management range. Mr. Callian explained that the cancer risk is the probability that one additional person in a population of 10,000 to one additional person in 1,000,000 would develop cancer based on the assumption that people would live at the site and use groundwater pumped directly from the site for drinking and bathing over a 30-year period. If the risk range exceeds 1 in 10,000 ( $10^{-4}$ ), the Navy would then have to take action to lower the risk.

Ms. Julie Diebenow, RAB meeting attendee, asked what is the depth of the waste at Anomaly Area 3 landfill and if the groundwater runs into the waste at the site. Mr. Crispin Wanyoike, Earth Tech, stated that the waste extends to a depth of 30 feet below ground surface, and when groundwater elevations were at their highest point in 2005, there was a 5-foot separation between the highest elevation of the water table and the landfill waste. He noted that the water table elevation has dropped about 5 feet since 2005. He further clarified that there is no waste present in the groundwater and there have been no soil-gas detections beyond the boundary of Anomaly Area 3.

## **Presentation – Installation Restoration Program Site 24 System Update, Mr. Marc P. Smits, Navy RPM**

Mr. Smits discussed the operational status for IRP Site 24. At IRP Site 24 there are 35 extraction wells operating at flow rates ranging from 10 to 18 gallons per minute (gpm). The current flow rate of the extracted groundwater pumped IRP Site 24 to the IRWD treatment system is approximately 435 gpm. Since the startup of the system, approximately 72.9 million gallons of extracted groundwater has been pumped to IRWD treatment plant. Over 80 pounds of VOCs, mainly TCE, have been removed from the groundwater since system startup. He added that the groundwater drawdown due to extraction-well pumping is an average of 16 feet when compared to non-pumping conditions.

The system is designed to provide for remote monitoring and operation. A remote operator can view various operational screens via computer and start up the system remotely. Individual wells or the entire system can be shut down using this remote system. System alarms were established to identify any parameters that may be out of range or to provide notification of a system shutdown.

Mr. Smits provided a series of slides showing the actual computer screens that the system operator monitors on a daily basis to provide a realistic look at daily operation procedures. Screen views include the extraction well field, transfer station, well parameter overview, individual well operation, and alarm notification.

The main screen shows the 35 wells currently in use in the extraction well field. He explained the color coding of the wells (green - running; yellow - stop; red – fault). He also described specific characteristics.

For wells that are shown in yellow, transducers have been pulled.

The total flow of all the wells is also shown.

The “stop-all-wells” button can shut down the whole system. This would be useful if the operator had knowledge of an earthquake in the general area. The remote stoppage is also useful for inspections.

For the screen for the transfer station, Mr. Smits described the screen view.

Two equalization tanks (A and B) were shown. Each tank fills up with extracted groundwater in a controlled manner as water comes into and exits each tank.

Differential sensors have five levels, including: low-low; low; high; high-high, and high-high-high to maintain water flow within minimum range over time.

Discharge pumps have variable speeds. The system consists of two discharge pumps that are used alternately (each pump can run up to 16 hours at a time) to increase pump life. The use of two pumps also allows for the system to operate if maintenance is performed on one of the pumps.

Remote operation allows the operator to change equalization points and monitor water temperature and pH readings.

The screen for the well parameter overview shows:

The water level in each of the extraction wells.

The extraction rate range of 10 to 13 gpm for the wells.

A total flow reset for the flow counter which enables tracking on a yearly basis.

The pump status includes three wells that are stopped, and the remaining wells are running.

The screen for individual well operation shows:

The number of pump starts and how many times it cycles in a 24-hour period.

The remote access to manually test one particular well or to look at well components of other wells.

Start and stop buttons and the cumulative run time of each well.

A graph of tank level line flow readings.

Screen for alarm notification that shows a summary table which includes the following detailed alarm information:

Specific priority designations (14 or 15) for wells and discharge pumps. Priority 1 means a system shutdown that notifies the operator to shut off alarms and resolve issues.

Automatic system shutdown - the operator is alerted remotely and can call out local staff to get to the site within 30 minutes.

Mr. Smits explained that the Draft O&M Manual for the well field and conveyance system at IRP Site 24 was issued in January 2007. The Draft O&M Manual contains the following elements:

- Regulatory and site history
- System description
- O&M responsibilities
- System operation and maintenance
- Records and reporting
- Training and documentation
- Health and safety information

Weekly visual inspections are conducted by the Navy's consultants at each well and all water transfer station equipment.

Mr. Smits said the Draft Interim Remedial Action Complete Report (I-RACR) was issued in May 2007. This document was prepared to document the completion of the construction of the groundwater extraction and conveyance system as designed. The Draft I-RACR includes the following elements:

- Overview of the site
- Remedial objectives
- Remedial action description
- Demonstration of completion of construction
- Ongoing activities (system O&M and monitoring)

## Community involvement

Mr. Smits reviewed the schedule for the IRP Site 24 System:

- Draft Final O&M Manual – June 8, 2007
- Final O&M Manual – August 10, 2007
- Draft Final I-RACR – September 11, 2007
- Final I-RACR – November 13, 2007

### **OPEN Q&A/DISCUSSION -- ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS**

Mr. Don Zweifel, RAB member, asked if it was possible to receive a copy of the Draft I-RACR. Mr. Newton said a copy was available in the Information Repository at Heritage Park Regional Library in Irvine or at the Administrative Record at Former MCAS El Toro. Ms. Rudolph offered to lend Mr. Zweifel her copy. The Navy also offered to talk with Mr. Zweifel about obtaining a CD copy of the Draft I-RACR.

Mr. Moore asked if the Navy was dealing with soil at IRP Site 16. Mr. Smits clarified the Navy is only addressing groundwater at IRP Site 16.

### **MEETING EVALUATION AND FUTURE TOPICS**

#### **Upcoming RAB Meeting and Subcommittee Meeting**

The next RAB meeting will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Wednesday, September 26, 2007, at Irvine City Hall, One Civic Center Plaza, Irvine in the Conference and Training Center. The next regular RAB Subcommittee meeting will also be held on, from 5:00 to 6:00, in Room L-104, at Irvine City Hall.

#### **Future RAB Meeting Presentation Topics**

Suggestions future topics include:

- Addition of Ms. Laura Butler as RAB member
- Provide a brief overview of the habitat protection implementation agreement (Natural Community Conservation Plan & Habitat Conservation Plan for the County of Orange Central & Coastal Subregion) discussed at the RAB Subcommittee meeting
- Provide an update on the IRWD groundwater treatment system (system operation, status)
- An update on IRP Site 1 and perchlorate issues

#### **Recent RAB Subcommittee Meetings**

The most recent RAB Subcommittee meeting was held May 30, 2007, in Room L-104, Irvine City Hall, before the RAB meeting. The RAB Subcommittee meeting report presented in these meeting minutes provides an update on the latest issues discussed.

#### **RAB Meeting Adjournment – March 28, 2007 Meeting**

The 87<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MCAS El Toro Restoration Advisory Board was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

#### **5/30/07 RAB Meeting Attendance**

<u>TOTAL</u> PEOPLE IN	<u>TOTAL</u> PEOPLE	<u>TOTAL</u> RAB	<u>TOTAL</u> RAB	<u>TOTAL</u> RAB	<u>TOTAL</u> EXCUSED	EXCUSED ABSENCES –
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ATTENDANCE	ON SIGN-IN SHEET	MEMBERS PRESENT	AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT	ABSENCES RAB MEMBERS	AGENCY RAB/ COMMUNITY RAB
24	20	7	4	3	2	1/1

### **RAB and Subcommittee Meeting and Public Meeting Dates**

**RAB Members** - The list below indicates which dates are currently reserved for RAB and RAB Subcommittee meetings at Irvine City Hall, Conference and Training Center, Room L-102, and Room L-104, respectively. Please note that dates on this list may also serve as combined RAB/public meetings.

<b>RAB and Subcommittee Meeting Dates (meeting space confirmed)</b>	<b>RAB Meeting Conference and Training Center (CTC) or Room L-102 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Subcommittee Meeting Room L-104 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.</b>
Wed – Sept. 26, 2007 - RAB and RAB Subcommittee Meeting	CTC	Room L-104
Wed - Nov. 28, 2007 - RAB and RAB Subcommittee Meeting	CTC	Room L-104
Wed - Jan. 30, 2008 - RAB and RAB Subcommittee Meeting	CTC	Room L-104
Wed - March 26, 2008 - RAB and RAB Subcommittee Meeting	CTC	Room L-104
Wed - May 28, 2008 - RAB and RAB Subcommittee Meeting	CTC	Room L-104

### **Materials/Handouts Available at the 3/28/07 RAB Meeting Include:**

- \*RAB Meeting Agenda/Public Notice – 5/30/07 RAB Meeting – 87th Meeting
- \*Meeting Minutes from the 3/28/07 RAB Meeting – 86th Meeting
- MCAS El Toro RAB Mission Statement and Operating Procedures
- MCAS El Toro – Navy Team contact information
- MCAS El Toro – BRAC Cleanup Team Members and Key Project Representatives and Administrative Record File and Information Repository Locations and Contacts
- MCAS El Toro RAB – Membership Application
- MCAS El Toro RAB – Membership Roster
- MCAS El Toro RAB – Mailing List Coupon
- MCAS El Toro RAB – Environmental Websites
- Reuse – Redevelopment Information
- One-Page Glossary of Technical Terms
- Former MCAS El Toro – IRP Sites 18 and 24 (Timelines 1985-1999 and 2000-2006), Activities Pertaining to Soil and Groundwater Investigations and Cleanup
- Buildings/Structures/Facilities Within Leasable Parcels Finding of Suitability to Lease, Former MCAS El Toro, August 2005
- Environmental Condition of Property (with Carve-Out Boundaries), Former MCAS El Toro, August 2005
- Department of Defense – Responsibility for Additional Environmental Cleanup after Transfer of Real Property, July 1997
- Department of Defense – A Guide to Establishing Institutional Controls at Closing Military Installations, February 1998
- Department of the Navy – Policy for Conducting Comprehensive environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Statutory Five-Year Reviews, November 2001
- Department of the Navy – Policy for Optimizing Remedial and Removal Actions under the Environmental Restoration Programs, April 2004
- Department of Defense – Perchlorate Work Group Packet, January 2006
- Department of Defense – Institutional Controls, Spring 1997
- U.S. EPA Fact Sheet – A Citizen’s Guide to Natural Attenuation, October 1996

- U.S. EPA Fact Sheet – Perchlorate Update, March 2002
- U.S. EPA Fact Sheet – Superfund Sites: Five-Year Review, June 2001
- MCAS El Toro RAB Inquiry – Environmental Data Quality, September 2003
- Commonly Asked Questions Regarding The Use of Natural Attenuation for Chlorinated Solvent Spills at Federal Facilities
- *Presentation* – Status Update of AA3 Groundwater Sampling, Presented by Jim Callian, Navy BRAC Remedial Project Manager, May 30, 2007 RAB meeting
- *Presentation* – Installation Restoration Site 24 System Update, Presented by Mr. Marc P. Smits, Navy BRAC Remedial Project Manager, May 30, 2007 RAB meeting

\* Mailed to all RAB meeting mailer recipients on 5/23/07.

**Agency Comments and Letters - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)**

- No Items Submitted

**Agency Comments and Letters – California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA)**

- No Items Submitted

**Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)**

- No Items Submitted

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Santa Ana Region**

- No Items Submitted

*Copies of all past RAB meeting minutes and handouts are available at the MCAS El Toro Information Repository, located at the Heritage Park Regional Library in Irvine. The address is 14361 Yale Avenue, Irvine; the telephone number is (949) 936-4040. Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.*

**Internet Sites**

**Navy and Marine Corps Internet Access**

***BRAC PMO Web Site (includes RAB meeting minutes):***

Navy web site: <http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/>

For El Toro RAB information: [http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/bracbases/california/eltoro/rab\\_information.aspx](http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/bracbases/california/eltoro/rab_information.aspx)

**Department of Defense – Environmental Cleanup Home Page Web Site:**

<http://www.dtic.mil/envirodod/>

**U.S. EPA:**

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) (this is the homepage)

[www.epa.gov/superfund](http://www.epa.gov/superfund) (site for Superfund)

[www.epa.gov/ncea](http://www.epa.gov/ncea) (site for National Center for Environmental Assessment)

[www.epa.gov/federalregister](http://www.epa.gov/federalregister) (site for Federal Register Environmental Documents)

[www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2004/April/Day-27/i9203.htm](http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2004/April/Day-27/i9203.htm) (site for Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for the Riverside fairy shrimp)

**Cal/EPA:**

[www.calepa.ca.gov](http://www.calepa.ca.gov) (this is the homepage)

[www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov) (site for Department of Toxic Substances Control)

[www.swrcb.ca.gov/](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/) (site for Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board)