

**FORMER NAS MOFFETT FIELD
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD
MOUNTAIN VIEW CITY HALL, FOURTH FLOOR GALLERY
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA 94041**

NOTE: Glossary provided on the last page of these minutes

Subject: RAB MEETING MINUTES

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for the former Naval Air Station (NAS) Moffett Field was held on Thursday, 10 March 2005, at the Mountain View City Hall, fourth floor lobby, in Mountain View, California. Mr. Rick Weissenborn, the Lead Remedial Project Manager for Moffett Field, opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. He was filling in for Ms. Andrea Espinoza, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator and Navy RAB Co-chair.

WELCOME

Mr. Weissenborn welcomed everyone in attendance; introductions followed. Mr. Bob Moss, RAB Community Co-chair, introduced the agenda, noting that the order would be changed as follows: a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) presentation on the Site 25 Feasibility Study (FS) and Engineering Evaluation, a brief Navy announcement of the Site 25 FS Addendum Open House, a regulatory update, a Navy presentation on Site 29 (Hangar 1), a brief Navy announcement on the Environmental Program tour, followed by RAB business. The Moffett Field RAB meeting was attended by:

RAB Members	Regulators	Navy	Consultants & Navy Support	NASA	Public & Other
12	6	4	6	3	10

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The 13 January 2005 meeting minutes were adopted without changes.

DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW

Sign-up sheets for the following documents were circulated during the meeting:

#	DOCUMENT	APPROXIMATE SUBMITTAL DATE
1	Site 25 Draft FS Report Addendum	May 2005
2	Site 25 Draft Final Remedial Investigation (RI) Report Addendum	March 2005
3	Site 27 Draft Final Record of Decision (ROD)	March 2005
4	Site 27 Final ROD	April 2005
5	Site 29 (Hangar 1) Final RI/FS Work Plan	TBD
6	Site 29 (Hangar 1) Tech Memo on Risk Assessment Methods	May 2005
7	Draft Site 22 Operation and Maintenance Plan Addendum	March 2005

#	DOCUMENT	APPROXIMATE SUBMITTAL DATE
8	Completion Report for 2003 and 2004 West-Side Aquifers Treatment System (WATS) Optimization Work Plan Activities	May 2005
9	First Quarter 2005 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Reports for East-Side Aquifer Treatment System and WATS	May 2005

SITE 25 FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ENGINEERING EVALUATION (NASA)

Ms. Sandy Olliges from NASA introduced herself. She referred attendees to the sign-in table for a fact sheet providing further information about the Site 25 FS and Engineering Evaluation, the topic of her presentation. An overview of the presentation is provided here.

The objectives of the Site 25 FS and Engineering Evaluation are to assess the technical and fiscal feasibility of restoring the Site 25 Stormwater Retention Pond to a tidal marsh and to consider restoration feasibility in the context of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. The South Bay Project is region-wide and the project team is composed of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), California Coastal Conservancy and California Department of Fish and Game. The restoration project involves a large stakeholder process to work through various land use alternatives in order to provide different types of habitat.

NASA looked at existing conditions, including stormwater hydrology, physical processes and biological functions and values. NASA measured the physical processes and historical and current site topography. Much of the marsh plain is below sea level, and requires the addition of fill material to raise it to a level where marsh plants could grow again. NASA also examined several alternatives, including:

- No action, which would leave the site in its existing condition
- A second no action, which would restore just the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (MROSD) parcel to tidal marsh
- Partial restoration, which would naturally widen Stevens Creek and includes tidal restoration of part of MROSD's and NASA's property and an area of managed pond on NASA property
- A second partial restoration, which would restore the Northeast Basin and is dependent upon the fate of a pond called "A2E"
- Full restoration, which would restore the entire Site 25 Stormwater Retention Pond to tidal marsh

These alternatives were evaluated on the following criteria: stormwater management, biological habitat, nuisance species management, public access and cost effectiveness. NASA's preferred alternative is partial restoration: natural expansion of Stevens Creek. NASA presented this to MROSD, which agrees with this alternative. This alternative will include areas of both tidal marsh and managed pond.

Currently, the project team is preparing a joint environmental impact statement/environmental impact report to meet the requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act. The ACOE is preparing a separate environmental impact report to assess constructing levees needed to support the project.

NASA's report recommended conducting a more detailed topographic study; gather site-specific stormwater hydrology data, including the surface elevation for the Stormwater Retention Pond and hollows in the ground, in which water collects or in which salt is deposited, after

evaporation; consideration of the water level height and raising levee low spots; and conduct protocol-level surveys for ten special-status plant species.

Questions and Comments

- In response to a question from RAB member Peter Strauss about whether NASA is asking the Navy to clean up to the level that it anticipates for planned land use, Ms. Olliges explained that NASA will provide the Navy with its planned land use, and the Navy is required to take the planned land use into consideration in the Site 25 FS Report Addendum. The Navy is aware of NASA's study and is planning to look at tidal marsh restoration alternatives and what cleanup levels are required to be protective of that area.
- In response to another question from Mr. Strauss about whether the Western Diked Marsh, which is no longer part of Site 25, will be reopened for a new assessment, Ms. Olliges explained that, just because NASA will do tidal restoration, does not mean that it will become part of Site 25. Whether or not it becomes part of the site depends on historical patterns of stormwater contamination. Historically, stormwater was routed through the northeast corner of the marsh and then out to the pond. Early on, samples were taken from the marsh and there was no indication that concentrations were elevated above a background. Mr. Strauss asked about dichlorodiphenyltrichlorine (DDT) levels in the marsh. Ms. Olliges explained that farming and mosquito abatement was performed at the site for years and DDT was applied as part of a normal agricultural application, meaning that it is not considered a release for Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act purposes. She said that DDT in similar levels is found throughout Santa Clara Valley and areas where farming and mosquito abatement was conducted.
- In response to a question from Mr. Strauss about whether the Western Diked Marsh area was used exclusively for agricultural purposes and when Moffett Field used DDT for mosquito abatement, Ms. Olliges explained Moffett Field did not use the area for mosquito abatement, the Santa Clara Valley Mosquito Abatement District would have applied DDT. Farming occurred there back in the 1800s and through the early 1900s – not in the marsh itself, but in the area upland from it. The marshlands have wetland soil and are not conducive to agriculture, which seldom occurred there. Most of the agricultural activities occurred south of the marsh. Through aerial application and drifting DDT through the years, DDT is present in sediments and soils throughout Santa Clara Valley.

SITE 25 FEASIBILITY STUDY ADDENDUM OPEN HOUSE

Mr. Weissenborn explained the Navy has submitted the Site 25 Draft RI Report Addendum and is currently developing the Site 25 FS Report Addendum. He announced that in May, the Navy will hold an open house about the FS Report Addendum, similar to that for the RI Report Addendum held in October 2004. Mr. Weissenborn introduced Scott Gromko, Navy Remedial Project Manager, who announced that the open house will be held on Wednesday, 11 May 2005, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the fourth floor lobby of Mountain View City Hall. No presentations will be made and the public is encouraged to drop by at their convenience. The open house will be an opportunity for the public to speak with the project team, made up of the Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and NASA. There will be poster boards and handouts explaining site cleanup progress and information about the Site 25 FS Report Addendum, which the Navy will publish on 30 May 2005.

Questions and Comments

- In response to a question from Mr. Strauss about whether the Navy will “throw out” the Site 25 FS since NASA is preparing the Site 25 FS and Engineering Evaluation, Mr. Gromko said

that the FS will not be thrown out; the purpose of the addendum is to add to the Site 25 FS. He explained that the Navy, EPA and RWQCB have been working with NASA and sharing information. The information NASA has presented will be included in the Site 25 FS Report Addendum to address the risk the site poses to NASA's proposed land use.

REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Weissenborn introduced Ms. Adriana Constantinescu, project manager for RWQCB. She outlined RWQCB's current activities as follows:

- RWQCB provided comments on the Site 25 Draft RI Report Addendum in early February. In mid-February and early March, RWQCB held subsequent meetings with stakeholders to find a resolution to the comments submitted.
- RWQCB has begun working on the Site 25 Draft FS Report Addendum. The kick-off meeting for this was held in San Diego on 10 February 2005.
- On 11 March 2005, RWQCB will hold a technical meeting to look at the groundwater quality underneath Orion Park.

Mr. Weissenborn thanked Ms. Constantinescu and introduced Ms. Lida Tan, project manager for EPA, who outlined the agency's current activities as follows:

- EPA and RWQCB jointly issued a Statement of Dispute on the Site 29 (Hangar 1) Draft Final RI/FS Work Plan on 17 February 2005. The dispute pertains to the Navy's refusal to investigate contamination from the interior of Hangar 1 despite the existence of multiple pathways for contamination to reach the outside of the hangar.
- The Navy provided a response on 25 February 2005, and EPA and RWQCB will hold an informal meeting on 17 March 2005 to discuss a resolution. If no resolution is reached, EPA and RWQCB will enter the formal dispute resolution process.

Questions and Comments

- Mr. Moss said copies of the Statement of Dispute and a letter he wrote to the Navy expressing his view of its position not to sample the interior of the hangar were available on the sign-in table.

SITE 29 (HANGAR 1) UPDATE

Mr. Weissenborn introduced Mr. Art Tamayo, Navy Remedial Project Manager, who gave a presentation on the dispute resolution process for Site 29 (Hangar 1). He recapped events thus far:

- The Site 29 (Hangar 1) RI/FS Draft Work Plan was submitted September 2004.
- The Site 29 (Hangar 1) RI/FS Draft Final Work Plan was submitted January 2005. Not all of EPA's and RWQCB's comments to the Draft Work Plan were resolved.
- EPA and RWQCB invoked dispute resolution regarding the interior sampling of the hangar; the Navy responded 25 February 2005.
- An informal meeting to discuss a resolution is scheduled for 17 March 2005.
- Exterior sampling of the hangar is proceeding as planned.

Mr. Tamayo explained the dispute resolution process as stated in the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA). He stated that the first step in the dispute resolution process is to try to informally resolve the dispute. If the dispute cannot be resolved, any FFA parties may invoke the Dispute Resolution Procedure (DRP). The DRP is invoked upon submitting a written statement to the Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC). The DRC must reach a unanimous decision to resolve the dispute.

If the dispute is not resolved, a dispute statement must be written and received by the Senior Executive Committee (SEC) within seven days. The SEC requires a unanimous decision to resolve the dispute within 21 days and the EPA Regional Administrator must issue a written position within five days of resolving the dispute. The FFA parties have 14 days to elevate the dispute to the EPA Administrator. The Administrator must resolve the dispute within 21 days and confer with the parties (Navy and RWQCB). Upon resolution, a written decision will be issued.

The Navy must incorporate/implement the resolution within 35 days. While the dispute is being resolved, the Navy continues to work unless requested to stop by a DRC member.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM TOUR

Mr. Weissenborn announced that on 12 May 2005 the Navy will hold a Moffett Field Environmental Program tour. He explained that in order to gain entry to Moffett Field and tour NASA's property, those wishing to attend will need to complete a Declaration of U.S. Citizenship form. He passed out the form and explained that it could be filled out and turned in at the meeting or mailed later. The forms must be received no later than 29 April 2005.

The tour will give the public an opportunity to see the various environmental restoration sites at Moffett Field. The tour will provide a first-hand look at the progress that has occurred since the 2002 tour and the different remediation technologies being applied at the sites. It will also provide time to ask questions of the project team. An invitation and further site information will be mailed out to the Moffett Field mailing list.

RAB BUSINESS

RAB Schedule – The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, 12 May 2005**, from **5 to 6:30 p.m.** at the Mountain View City Hall, fourth floor lobby, and will be preceded by the Environmental Program Tour **from 2 to 4:45 p.m.** Tour attendees must meet in front of the Mountain View City Hall promptly at 2 p.m., where tour buses will be waiting to take them to Moffett Field.

The RAB meeting schedule for the remainder of 2005 is as follows:

- May 12, 2005
- July 14, 2005
- September 15, 2005
- November 17, 2005

Open House – The Site 25 Feasibility Study Addendum Open House is scheduled for **Wednesday, 11 May 2005 from 5 to 8 p.m.** at the Mountain View City Hall, fourth floor lobby.

Announcements - Mr. Moss announced that the Department of Defense (DoD) is requesting public comment on proposed regulations regarding the scope, characteristics, composition, funding, establishment, operation, adjournment and dissolution of RABs. DoD has proposed these regulations in response to 10 U.S.C. 2705(d)(2)(A), which requires the Secretary of Defense to prescribe regulations regarding RABs. Comments on this proposed rule must be submitted on or before 29 March 2005. He provided an overview of the proposed regulations.

Mr. Moss also announced that he sent a copy of his Site 29 (Hangar 1) dispute letter to the Palo Alto City Council. He received a response from the mayor five days later stating that the City supports sampling the interior of the hangar. He said that he plans to obtain a formal position paper from the Palo Alto, Mountain View and Sunnyvale city councils.

Questions and Comments

- Mr. Siegel said it is important to distinguish between RAB processes and the fact that people can disagree with specific cleanup decisions. He believes the Moffett Field RAB is a model for other RABs nationwide and the Navy has always given the community the opportunity to learn and comment about cleanup decisions, but sometimes, as in this case, the Navy and the community do not always reach the same viewpoint on cleanup decisions.

Future RAB Topics – The following topics were identified as potential agenda items for the next RAB meeting:

- Environmental Program Tour discussion
- Site 29 (Hangar 1) update
- Orion Park Housing Area update

Adjourn – Mr. Weissenborn adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Weissenborn may be contacted with any questions:

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THESE MINUTES

ACOE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BRAC – Base Realignment and Closure

DOD – Department of Defense

DRC – Dispute Resolution Committee

DRP – Dispute Resolution Procedure

DDT – dichlorodiphenyltrichlorine

EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

FFA – Federal Facility Agreement

FS – Feasibility Study

MROSD – Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

NAS – Naval Air Station

NASA – National Aeronautics and Space Administration

RAB – Restoration Advisory Board

RI – Remedial Investigation

ROD – Record of Decision

RWQCB – California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Region

WATS – West-Side Aquifers Treatment System

RAB meeting minutes are located on the Navy's Southwest Division Environmental Web Page at: <http://www.efdswnavy.mil/Environmental/Moffett.htm>