



Island Times

Environmental Investigation and Cleanup News
Naval Station Treasure Island
Summer 2005, Newsletter No. 10

www.navybraacpmo.org

U.S. Department of Navy (Navy) developed this newsletter to update the community on their environmental program and recent field activities at former Naval Station Treasure Island (NAVSTA TI). NAVSTA TI encompasses both Treasure Island (TI) and Yerba Buena Island (YBI). The Navy established the Installation Restoration (IR) Program in 1981 to investigate and cleanup sites under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Environmental investigations and cleanup under the IR Program and other programs began on NAVSTA TI in the mid-1980s and continue today. The Navy has identified 33 IR sites on TI and YBI and is following the regulatory process of investigating and cleaning up each site. Please share this information with members of your family, friends, and representatives from any local organizations that may benefit. Individuals, businesses, and organizations can receive future newsletters by completing and returning the mailing coupon on the back page of this newsletter. We also welcome your comments on the newsletter.

NAVY SIGNS AND FENCES AT TI/YBI AND NON-DISTURBANCE OF TI BACKYARD SOILS

The Navy appreciates the cooperation of tenants and visitors in observing posted signs identifying areas where entry is prohibited for your safety. During 2000 and 2001, interim groundcover was installed in the backyards of Building 1211 Bayside Drive and Building 1235 Northpoint Drive, and one backyard each in Buildings 1213 and 1237, due to the identification of lead, PCBs or Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the soil. Please remember to adhere to the rules provided by your housing management for do's and don'ts in backyards, as well as common areas. All signs and rules are in place for your safety.

Housing rules were also amended in February 2003 prohibiting soil disturbance by residents in all backyards at Treasure Island. **Residents are not permitted to dig or otherwise excavate soil in backyards. Planting of backyard gardens and landscaping is prohibited except in planters or other above-ground containers using imported soil.** Residents are responsible for watering and pruning of existing vegetation and mowing of lawns in backyards, but should minimize contact with bare soil.

UPDATE ON THE TREASURE ISLAND HOUSING AREA (Site 12)

This past winter, all of the temporary fencing restricting access to environmental investigation areas in the housing area was replaced with new, sturdier fencing. Further investigation work is currently planned for the unoccupied housing area in Halyburton Court. This work will include sampling and analysis for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in soil and soil gas inside the unoccupied structures and in adjacent utility corridors. Based on those results, indoor air samples may also be collected to determine if potential for risks to future residents occupying those buildings exist. The anticipated completion date of the work is fall 2005.

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New fencing installed around environmental investigation areas at Site 12

UPDATE ON THE TREASURE ISLAND HOUSING AREA (Site 12) (continued)

The Navy also completed an investigation of elevated arsenic in groundwater near Buildings 1311 and 1313 on Gateview Court to evaluate its potential to affect surface water resources in San Francisco Bay (Bay). Elevated levels of arsenic in groundwater in this area are believed to be a result of the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons causing the movement of naturally occurring arsenic in soil. The results of the investigation indicate arsenic is naturally attenuating, or naturally decreasing in concentration, in the tidal mixing zone and it is not likely to adversely affect the water quality of the Bay. The results of this investigation were published in January 2005 in the “Technical Memorandum, Investigation of Arsenic in Groundwater, Installation Restoration Site 12” which can be found in the Information Repositories as record number 001253. (See page 8 for locations of Information Repositories.)

The Navy is currently working on completing the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report Work Plan. The draft Work Plan was issued for review in May 2005 and was developed with oversight from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board), and input from the Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA). The Work Plan is a “roadmap” detailing how the Navy will prepare the RI report and conduct the human health risk assessment for Site 12. The Work Plan will be finalized in August of 2005.

Next steps: The Navy will conduct the human health risk assessment outlined in the Work Plan and begin preparation of the RI report.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF PROPERTY TRANSFER?

The Navy is continuing to work on activities related to the transfer of property at TI and YBI to the city of San Francisco via the Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA), including continued discussions for a potential early transfer. During 2005, the Navy will be preparing two Findings of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) documents for portions of the property on TI and YBI where CERCLA or other environmental cleanup actions were not required, have been completed, or can be cleaned up after transfer.

A FOST documents that certain parcels of property are suitable for transfer by deed under Section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment. A Draft FOST for portions of TI was issued on July 12, 2005 and is available now in the Information Repositories for public review and comment. The Navy plans to issue a Draft FOST for portions of YBI in late July 2005. Please see the www.navybracpmo.org website for the public notices. The actual transfer will occur following the finalization of the FOST documents and completion of a property conveyance agreement between the Navy and TIDA.

TI/YBI HISTORICAL FACT QUESTION

Did Treasure Island ever have an airfield, and what unsolved mystery involved an airship? See answer on page 6.



Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) practice their marksmanship at Treasure Island during WW II
Official U.S.Navy Historic Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives

NAVY SIGNS FIRST RECORD OF DECISION AT NAVSTA TI!

On April 7, 2005, the BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT), including the Navy and the regulatory agencies, signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Site 13 Storm Water Outfalls and Off-shore Sediments of NAVSTA TI. Previously, an RI Report was finalized in 2001 and concluded that the site does not pose a risk. A remedial action is not required. Signing of this No Action ROD is a significant achievement for the BCT because it signifies the completion of environmental investigations for Site 13. The ROD can be found at the Information Repositories, see page 8 for locations. For details about the Site 13 investigations see “2005 Work at a Glance” on page 4.



James Sullivan, Navy, signs the first Record of Decision for NAVSTA TI

TEAM MEMBER PROFILE

Alice Pilram, Restoration Advisory Board Community Co-Chair

If you are familiar with the Island Times newsletter, chances are you have heard of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) at NAVSTA TI. Although you may know that the RAB serves as a community advisory board to the Navy on environmental cleanup issues at NAVSTA TI, you may still wonder what the functions of RAB members are. To give you a firsthand explanation of the RAB, the Navy recently interviewed the current community co-chair, Alice Pilram, to get her insight on what the RAB does and who should serve.



**RAB
Community Co-Chair
Alice Pilram**

NAVY: How long have you been a RAB member?

PILRAM: I've been a member for about 1½ years, but have only been the community co-chair for a couple of months.

NAVY: Why are you interested in NAVSTA TI?

PILRAM: I live on Yerba Buena Island, and have for about 3 years now. My husband, Atta, was familiar with the island so when we decided to move out of San Jose we knew this was a great spot for us. Atta likes to paint in his free time, and the island offers wonderful views for that.

NAVY: How did you find out about the RAB?

PILRAM: Actually, I found out about it from the Island Times newsletter!

NAVY: What made you decide to get involved in the RAB?

PILRAM: I've always been the sort of person who is involved in my community. When my children were little I was always involved in the Parent Teacher Association and other activities. I've helped with the annual Treasure Island picnic a few times, helping to prepare or serve food, or soliciting donations.

NAVY: And now your children are grown?

PILRAM: Yes. I have twin daughters, both attending University of California at San Diego. I work full-time, sometimes 50 to 60 hours a week, as a pediatric nurse practitioner; but I still like to be active in my community. My interest is in making this a thriving community.

NAVY: When your friends and neighbors ask you about the RAB and what you do, how do you explain it?

PILRAM: Well, basically, the RAB is involved in the process of turning this former Navy base over to the city of San Francisco. To do that, it's important to make sure that all of the environmental concerns are resolved. It's the biggest part of the base closure job.

NAVY: Does your medical background help with your involvement on the RAB?

PILRAM: No, my background isn't related at all. There is no particular background or training needed to be on the RAB. The only thing needed is an interest in TI, some concern for the environment, and a willingness to come to a meeting every once in awhile. When you are new, being willing to do a little bit of background reading is helpful. That was the most challenging thing for me when I was new. I was coming onto a board already very involved in the process, and I had to learn some of the history.

NAVY: So you do not feel people need a certain level of scientific background or other training to be on the RAB?

PILRAM: No, you just need a personal interest in this community. It can be rewarding. The most rewarding part for me has been the ability to see the whole process taking place. I see the Navy identify a problem, investigate, get people involved, remediate, then get approval from the regulators that a site is clean. Seeing the steps it takes to get issues resolved; it's all a rewarding process.

NAVY: Do you belong to any other groups or organizations?

PILRAM: Well, because of my job I'm a member of the Northern California Association of Nurse Practitioners. I'm also a member of the San Francisco Historical Society.

NAVY: There are many historical buildings at NAVSTA TI.

PILRAM: Yes, I'm very interested in the historical architecture here, such as the Nimitz House on Yerba Buena Island and some of the houses around it. I'm also interested in the World's Fair buildings and would like to see them preserved.

NAVY: Have you been inside the Nimitz House?

PILRAM: Yes, during a RAB meeting, we held a special event there. It's beautiful.

NAVY: Do you have any other hobbies?

PILRAM: Besides historical interests, I'm interested in travel. I am planning a cruise to Alaska.

NAVY: Is there anything else that you want people to know about the RAB?

PILRAM: I just want to encourage people to find a way to be involved in their community. We all have a voice in what is going on around us; the RAB is just one good way to be involved. If that isn't for you, try the Citizen's Advisory Board and the city's planning meetings. No one can do it all, there wouldn't be enough time to go to all of the meetings. The Navy has done a lot of work already, and it is almost completed. Now that the RAB meets only once every other month, it is very convenient.

Everyone is welcome at RAB meetings. For a current schedule of RAB meeting, dates, times, and locations, see page 8.

CERCLA DOCUMENTS AND ACTIVITIES COMING UP THIS YEAR

THE CERCLA PROCESS

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), is a law enacted in 1980 for the purposes of protecting human health and the environment. CERCLA contains requirements for a phased approach to environmental investigations and cleanup.

CERCLA STEP	CERCLA DESCRIPTION
Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection [The First Look]	A preliminary assessment/site inspection (PA/SI) is an initial evaluation of the site including reviews of historical records and visual inspections. Sampling and analysis of soil, surface water, and/or groundwater may occur to determine whether further investigations are necessary.
Remedial Investigation [A Closer Look]	An RI is a more focused evaluation including collecting samples to establish physical and chemical characterization and to assess risk to human health and the environment. An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis or a Time-Critical Removal Action may also be performed at this point.
Feasibility Study [What Works]	Data collected during the RI are used to evaluate cleanup alternatives that have been screened for protectiveness, effectiveness, implementability, and cost.
Proposed Plan [Public Comments]	A fact sheet is drafted describing cleanup alternatives and explaining the preferred alternative. This step requires holding a public meeting to provide information to the public and allow the public to comment on the preferred alternative.
Record of Decision [Agreement]	The selected cleanup remedy is documented and publicized in this document. A summary and responses to comments on the Proposed Plan are also included in this document.
Remedial Design [Plan for Cleanup]	A design for the selected cleanup remedy is prepared. A fact sheet is sent to the public before the Navy begins work on the cleanup.
Remedial Action [Cleanup]	The cleanup remedy is implemented and the public is kept informed.

2005 WORK AT A GLANCE

The Navy is following the CERCLA process (detailed above) to investigate and cleanup IR sites identified at NAVSTA TI. The text below describes the upcoming work the Navy currently has scheduled. For a map of all sites, see page 7. All CERCLA-related documents can be found in the information repositories for NAVSTA TI. (See page 8 for locations of the information repositories)

Site 6, Former Fire Training School – Located at the northeast corner of TI, this area served as a fire training school for 50 years. Contaminants of potential concern include dioxins from burned materials. The Navy will release a draft **Remedial Investigation report** during fall 2005.

Site 8, Army Point Sludge Disposal Area – Located on the eastern tip of YBI, Site 8 falls within California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) property. Historically, waste sludge from the waste-

water treatment plant was spread on the ground at the site to dewater; it is unknown whether the sludge was removed. Contaminants of potential concern include metals and pesticides. The Navy is preparing a **Remedial Investigation report** for YBI IR Sites 8, 28, and 29 concurrently and will issue the draft in fall 2005.

Site 9, Foundry – Located at the southern end of TI, this area was used as a foundry and paint shop. Contaminants of potential concern included solvents, lead, and petroleum products. The RI report was finalized in early 2005 and based on risk assessment results, the RI report concluded the site did not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. The Navy is preparing a **No Action Proposed Plan** and a public meeting for late summer 2005. Look for future announcements about the meeting.

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2005 WORK AT A GLANCE (continued)

Site 13, Storm Water Outfalls and Offshore Sediments –

Encompassing the offshore area around the perimeter of TI, the 2001 Final RI report evaluated the impact on ecological receptors from onshore storm water outfalls and building drains that discharged to San Francisco Bay sediments. Results obtained during four RIs, identified contaminants of potential ecological concern including metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), PCBs, DDT, and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH). Based on the results of ecological risk assessments, it was determined the Site 13 sediments did not pose an unacceptable risk to ecological receptors in the Bay. The Navy prepared a No Action **Proposed Plan** and held a public meeting in spring 2004. The No Action **Record of Decision** was signed by the Navy, DTSC, and the Water Board on April 7, 2005. (see details on page 2)

Site 21, Vessel Waste Oil Recovery Area – Located on the southeast corner of TI, this area included a solvent dip tank for cleaning and degreasing metal parts, and the area was used for waste oil recovery. The Navy will be completing the Final **RI report** in late summer 2005. Contaminants of concern include volatile organic compounds and TPH. A groundwater in situ anaerobic bioremediation pilot study will be implemented in summer 2005 to determine if naturally occurring organisms in the soil will breakdown the contaminant plume.

Site 24, Dry Cleaning Facility – Located on the southeastern portion of TI, just north of Site 33, this area served as a laundry facility from 1942 to 1977 and as a dry cleaning facility for an unknown period. Contaminants of potential concern include chlorinated solvents, petroleum, oil, and lubricants. The Navy conducted a pilot study in the source area to test an innovative groundwater remediation technology. Due to its success, the pilot study was expanded in early 2005 to treat the plume area and a **draft RI report** will be issued in winter 2005.

Site 27, Clipper Cove Skeet Range – Located on the southern shore in the cove between TI and YBI, this area had two adjacent skeet ranges, in operation from 1979 to 1989. The final RI Report was completed in 2001, and can be found at the Information Repositories as record number 000654. The Navy is currently drafting a **Feasibility Study**.

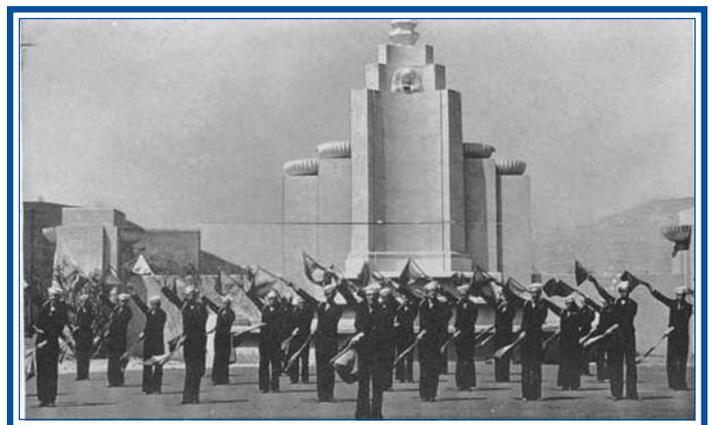
Site 28 (West Side On/Off Ramp), and Site 29 (East Side On/Off Ramp) – These sites are located on YBI and are adjacent to the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. The contaminant of potential concern is lead in surface soil from vehicle emissions and bridge painting and maintenance. The Navy is preparing an **RI Report** for YBI Sites 8, 28, and 29 concurrently and will issue the draft report in fall 2005.

Site 30, Daycare Center – Located inland from the housing area on TI, on the corner of Avenue D and 11th Street, this site is presently a daycare center. In spring 2002, buried burned debris was discovered and removed from the play area adjacent to Avenue D before the daycare was opened for use. The Navy prepared a **draft RI report** in spring 2005 and is scheduled to finalize the document in late summer 2005.

Site 31, Former South Storage Yard – Located just north of Site 30, this area was used as a storage yard during the 1970s and is currently the TI elementary school playground. Buried construction materials and burned debris were identified at the site. Contaminants of potential concern include PCBs, PAHs, TPH, lead, copper, DDT, and dioxins. The current asphalt playground cover provides a protective barrier. The Navy is currently preparing the **draft RI report** in summer 2005 and is scheduled to finalize the document in fall 2005.

Site 32, Former Training and Storage Area – Located on the northeast side of TI, on Avenue M, this area was used for vehicle parking, storage for hazardous materials and wastes, tear gas training, and had a former transformer that was known to have leaked PCB-containing fluid. The contaminants of potential concern include PCBs, TPH, dioxins, and pesticides. The Navy is preparing a **draft RI report** to be released in fall 2005.

Site 33, Water Line Replacement Area – Located on the southeast side of TI, just south of Site 24, this site was identified during a review of historical drawings. Utility crews conducting repairs observed and noted buried debris in waterline trenches. The contaminants of potential concern include dioxins and metals. The Navy is preparing a **draft RI report** for release in early 2006.



Signal flag practice on Treasure Island during WW II

Official U.S. Navy Historic Photograph

HISTORICAL RADIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT UPDATE AND SURVEY OF BUILDING 233

The Historical Radiological Assessment (HRA) is a detailed report documenting NAVSTA TI's historic radiological activities where radioactive materials were used or stored. In November 2004, the Navy mailed a fact sheet to the community about the work beginning on an HRA for NAVSTA TI. (See the website, www.navybracpmo.org, for a link to that HRA fact sheet.) To date, the Navy has completed a thorough records research and analysis of military historical archives, interviews with personnel, and a review of records at NAVSTA TI. The HRA summary report is being prepared and is scheduled to be completed late fall 2005.

During 2005, the Navy will conduct an abatement of asbestos and a radiological survey at Building 233, which was formerly part of the Navy's Damage Control Training Center at Treasure Island. On January 17, 1950, 40.3 milligrams of radium salts were accidentally spilled during an equipment calibration training exercise and subsequently cleaned up at that time. The 2005 survey will re-validate the original 1950 cleanup.

TI/YBI HISTORICAL FACT ANSWER

At the beginning of World War II an airfield was constructed at the northern end of Treasure Island in the present housing area. It appeared not to have been extensively used and the runway was later used for vehicle parking. The last portions of the runway were demolished when the housing was built in the 1960's. At the southern end of Treasure Island, Clipper Cove continued to be used throughout the war by Pan American Clippers, as well as Navy flying boats. The northern airfield was also used as a forward operating base for Navy airships (also known as blimps) from Moffett Field that were patrolling the California coastline for enemy submarines. On 16 August, 1942, Airship L-8 from Squadron ZP-32 took off from Treasure Island on what was supposed to be a routine patrol. It never returned, and the airship was later found drifting along the coastline, minus the two Navy pilots. The mystery of their fate was never solved.



BRAC CLEANUP TEAM CONTACT LIST

Name/Title	Organization	Phone/Fax	Address	E-mail
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Richard Perry Public Participation Specialist	California EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control	(510) 540-3910/ (916) 225-6680 Fax: (916) 355-3654	700 Heinz Ave. Suite 200 Berkeley, CA 94710	rperry@dtsc.ca.gov

NAVSTA TI IR PROGRAM SITE MAP



JOIN THE RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is composed of members of the community who work with the Navy and regulatory agencies to provide input on the environmental restoration of former NAVSTA TI. The RAB is a committee of interested community members who review and comment on Navy documents prepared for the environmental cleanup at NAVSTA TI. Regular meetings are held to discuss the progress of the IR Program. It is a great opportunity to **find out what is going on and to have your voice heard**. **RAB meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every other month and are open to everyone.** **RAB meetings are currently scheduled for August, October, and December 2005.** **Stop by!**

For more information, see the website at:

www.navybracpmo.org

or call James Sullivan at (415) 743-4704.



WEBSITE

You can find a listing of RAB meeting minutes, copies of fact sheets and newsletters, and other general information.

Please go to:

www.navybracpmo.org

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The following information repositories are provided for the community to review current documents related to environmental cleanup activities at NAVSTA TI:

Navy Base Realignment and Closure Program Management Office West

410 Palm Avenue, Building 1, Room 161
Treasure Island, San Francisco, California
(415) 743-4704
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

San Francisco Public Library

Government Publications Section
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, California
(415) 557-4400
Monday - 10:00 a.m. to 6 p.m.
T/W/Th - 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday - noon to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

UPCOMING RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETINGS



Date and Times:

Tuesday, August 16, 2005
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 18, 2005
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 20, 2005
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Place:

Casa de la Vista, Building 271, Treasure Island

NAVSTA TI Mailing Coupon

If you would like to be added to the NAVSTA TI mailing list and receive copies of future newsletters and fact sheets, please fill out the coupon below and mail it to:

James Sullivan
Navy BRAC PMO West
410 Palm Avenue
Building 1, Room 161
Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA 94130-1806

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

ADD MY NAME TO THE MAILING LIST

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James Sullivan
Navy BRAC PMO West
410 Palm Avenue
Building 1, Room 161
Treasure Island
San Francisco, CA 94130-1806



**The Navy Needs Your Participation on the
Restoration Advisory Board.
See Inside for Your Invitation**

You Are Invited... To Join the Treasure Island Restoration Advisory Board

The Treasure Island Environmental Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) has been established by the Navy to provide a forum for discussing the ongoing environmental investigation and cleanup program underway on Treasure Island. The RAB is composed of members of the local community as well as representatives of the Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, the City of San Francisco, and other public agencies. The RAB is intended to bring together community members who reflect different interests within the local community and foster the exchange of information, concerns, issues, and ideas between these community members and the agency representatives. Members of the RAB may be asked to review information on base cleanup activities, including draft technical documents. Although the RAB is not a decision-making body, its views and input will help influence the environmental restoration decision-making process.

The Navy encourages you to consider joining the Treasure Island RAB. Applications for membership are now being accepted. As a community member, there is no requirement to have any special skills or qualifications. To learn more about the Treasure Island RAB, you may attend the next RAB meeting, held every third Tuesday of alternate months at 7:00 p.m. at the Treasure Island Casa de la Vista.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Conditions for Membership: The Navy considers the RAB to be an instrumental part of the cleanup effort and consider RAB membership an important obligation. Duties and responsibilities will include attending meetings and reviewing and commenting on technical documents and activities associated with the Environmental Cleanup Program at former Naval Station Treasure Island. RAB members will be expected to be available to community members and groups to facilitate the exchange of information and concerns between the community and the RAB. If you need additional space for this application, please use a separate sheet of paper.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

Are you affiliated with any community or interest group? If so, specify:

Briefly state why you would like to be considered for membership on the Treasure Island Restoration Advisory Board:

What has been your experience working as a member of a diverse group with common goals? If you do not have this type of experience, please explain how you can contribute to the RAB.

**To return this application you may bring the completed application to the next Treasure Island RAB meeting
or send it to the contact information below:**

**For more information about RAB membership, please contact
Mr. James B. Sullivan, Caretaker Site Office, 410 Palm Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94130-1806;
E-mail: james.b.sullivan2@navy.mil, Phone (415) 743-4704, Fax (619) 532-0983**