



# Environmental Action

# UPDATE

A Quarterly Newsletter About McClellan AFB Environmental Activities - California

April 1999

## The Air Force is Cleaning House for New Tenants

Along with the new millennium will come new neighbors to the communities of North Highlands, Rio Linda, Antelope, and Elverta. By the year 2001, it is expected that the County of Sacramento Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) will have possession of most of the facilities at McClellan AFB under a long-term lease. But like anybody who is moving, the Air Force must make its property presentable to turn it over to the new tenants.

Paul Brunner, Director of Environmental Management (EM) at McClellan, says, "Each facility will be cleaned up to the level of expected reuse."

McClellan EM developed and is implementing a process to ensure that facilities are ready before

turnover to the new user. The first step in this process was to conduct a general walk-through of facilities to ascertain the level of effort required to clean facilities. Some facilities will not require cleanup other than general housekeeping, while some industrial facilities will require more extensive work.

Once a general sense of the level of effort required for cleanup is determined, EM prepares cleanup plans. Approximately 70 cleanup plans for over 100 facilities were prepared and coordinated with the regulatory agencies. These cleanup plans are now ready to be implemented to ensure that hazardous materials, wastes, and contamination are cleared from facilities before the new user takes over. *Continued on Page 2*

### News Notes

#### Community Relations Plan:

The McClellan Air Force Base Community Relations Plan describes the goals and strategy of the Community Relations Program at McClellan. It includes information on contamination found at the base, the standard cleanup process and the process at McClellan, how the community can participate, and the history and status of community relations and public participation activities. This plan has been reviewed by the Air Force, federal and state regulators and the public. The updated version will be available April 20. Contact Merianne Briggs to review a copy, or see it on our web site May 15 at: <http://www.mcclellan.af.mil/EM/>

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*Phil Mook, Chief of the Program Management Branch of Environmental Management, presented a class on soil vapor extraction systems to Restoration Advisory Board members on February 25, 1999.*



## News Notes \_\_\_\_\_

### Creek Restoration:

The creek project is the restoration of the area inadvertently damaged in 1997 when the Air Force cleaned the creeks in anticipation of expected winter flooding on base. Added to this project was the accidental damage by a truck to vernal pools the following May.

The public comment period on the draft *Environmental Assessment (EA)* and draft *Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)* ended March 24.

Federal and state environmental regulators and the Air Force have agreed to postpone the completion of the west area creek restoration environmental assessment and subsequent finding of no significant impact until a more detailed ecological assessment of the creek sediment in the area is completed within the next six months.

"The Air Force believes a short-term delay to fully assess the area will be beneficial to the success of the restoration effort," said Paul Brunner, director of McClellan's Environmental Management division. "The Air Force and the various regulatory agencies are working to put the best plan forward for the restoration of the west area."

### Radiological Sites:

Environmental Management increased investigation of the Northwest Taxiway for radiological contamination. The contamination was found to extend to about three times beyond the original 40 feet by 50 feet size. The site has been covered and marked by cones. The plastic covering will keep the soil dry and prevent vegetation from growing. The next step in the investigation is to collect soil samples to verify that the only contaminant is Radium 226. Sampling areas must be dry and vegetation free. The site is in a restricted area and poses no health risk.

A second site of Radium 226 contamination was also discovered southeast of the original site, still near the flightline. Several spots of low level radiological contamination have been identified. The site is also in the restricted area and does not pose a health risk.

Radium 226 was widely used in the past as an additive in paint to make the "glow in the dark" dials for watches, clocks, and aircraft cockpit instruments. 

## Does your organization want to learn more?

To keep the community informed of the McClellan Air Force Base Environmental Management program, speakers are available to come to your school, community group or organization. The presentation can be tailored to meet the needs of your meeting. For details, call Merianne Briggs at (916) 643-1742 ext. 457.

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As facilities and operations shut down, EM executes the cleanup plans. EM personnel conduct final walk-throughs of facilities to ensure that cleanup plans have been completed and that facilities are safe for new users to occupy. A joint walk-through with the LRA is conducted just before facility turnover. Keeping in mind that facilities are cleaned to the level of expected use, a facility that is currently used for industrial purposes will not be cleaned to the level that allows residential use. Completion of facility cleanup is then documented in *Site Specific Environmental Baseline Surveys, Findings of Suitability to Lease, and/or Environmental Condition Report* documents. 



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The *Environmental Action Update* is a publication of the Environmental Public Affairs Office at McClellan AFB, California, designed to keep the public informed of environmental activities at the base. For questions, comments, or to be added to the mailing list, please write to SM-ALC/EM, 5050 Dudley Boulevard, Suite 3, McClellan AFB, CA 95652-1384 or phone (916) 643-1742 ext. 457.

Director of Environmental Management **Paul Brunner**  
Chief of Environmental Restoration **Elaine Anderegg**  
Director of Public Affairs **Maj. Robert Gonzales**  
Environmental Public Affairs Specialist and Editor **Merianne Briggs**

## Representatives from the Local Area Attend National Conference



*The Defense Environmental Response Task Force is an advisory committee that provides recommendations to Congress on ways to improve and expedite environmental response actions at military installations affected by Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) legislation. It meets semi-annually near BRAC installations around the country. On February 2 and 3 it met in San Francisco.*

*Attending the conference from the McClellan AFB area was the base's Restoration Advisory Board Community Co-Chair Chuck Yarbrough (left) who addressed the task force during the public comment period. Merianne Briggs and Rick Solander represented McClellan Environmental*



*Management at the conference. Briggs also provided conference support. Gary Collier (right), from the Parker Homes community near the base, also attended and addressed the task force about issues in his neighborhood.*

## Groundwater Cleanup Continues

McClellan AFB is in the final stages of implementing Phase 2 of the *Groundwater Interim Record of Decision*, which will contain and restrict the movement of contaminated groundwater. Work to double the capacity of the Groundwater Treatment Plant and improve treatment cost effectiveness is nearing completion. Plant discharges will remain in compliance with regulatory water and air standards.

In Phase 2, 26 additional extraction wells were constructed. The wells were placed in all the known areas of concentrated contamination around the southern end of the base. They will be pumping groundwater from levels ranging from 105 to 230 feet below surface level.

Base Well 18 on the southwest side of the base and its carbon treatment units have been removed. Well 18's prime purpose was to help keep the groundwater from migrating further from base property. The two new extraction wells installed in that area replace Well 18 in accomplishing its job of stopping the contaminated plume from moving.

Phase 2 also includes expansion of the pretreatment unit in Operable Unit A. Groundwater that is contaminated above maximum levels allowed by the State of California is pretreated to an acceptable level at the site prior to its journey to the Groundwater Treatment Plant. Once there, it is cleaned to better than drinking water standards.

Newly installed Phase 2 monitoring wells will provide water sampling data to indicate whether or not the design is working. Every three months about 100 wells are sampled. Over time, the concentration of volatile organic compounds in the groundwater has continued to decrease, showing that the existing Phase 1 extraction wells are doing their jobs.

The next steps in the groundwater cleanup process are to develop a cleanup plan, to put the plan out for public comment, and then to issue the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Volatile Organic Compounds* to establish final groundwater cleanup standards. The community

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## What's the Score?

### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT REMEDIAL SCOREBOARD

As of  
December 1998:

807,388

lbs. of contamination  
removed from  
soil and groundwater.

*Please note that there was a math error adding the numbers from the documents to calculate the July 1998 Scoreboard. This was carried over to the October 1998 Scoreboard. From now on, the numbers will be taken directly from the Quarterly Status Reports.*

# 1999 Rideshare at McClellan

**Previous Year**

**Renewals January 1999**

1,112

753

**Commuter Cards Issued for Regional Transit**

576

231

**Carpool Parking Placard Applications**

7

7

**Vanpools at McClellan**



**Web Site (Created April 1998)**

**Previous Year**

**As of Mar 1**

3,897

4,418

**Visits to the Site**

46

49

**Applications for Carpool Partners Generated**

## Is Your Name and Address Correct?



We want our mailing list to be as accurate as possible. Please let us know if your name and address on this mailing is incorrect. You are welcome to mail us, fax us: (916) 643-5880, or call us: (916) 643-1742—either Merianne Briggs (ext. 457) or Roxanne Yonn (ext. 354).

Do you know people who would also like to receive this newsletter? Please let us know so that we can add them to the mailing list.

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will have an opportunity to review and comment on the cleanup plan and groundwater cleanup standards during the public comment period. The comments received from the public comment period will be considered in the *ROD*, expected to be signed in 2000. Until then, work continues on the groundwater Phase 1 and Phase 2 containment remedy.

A third phase is planned to increase the number of extraction wells on base from 60 wells to about 106 wells. Construction of Phase 3 should begin in early 2002. All of this activity means that within 25 years, we plan to see an 80% reduction in the plume size. 

## Environmental Action **UPDATE**

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