

Environmental Action

UPDATE

A Quarterly Newsletter About McClellan AFB Environmental Activities - California

July 1999

U.S. EPA approves McClellan's Five Year Plan

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), California Department of Toxic Substance Control and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board recently reviewed and approved McClellan Air Force Base's first *Five Year Review Report and Protectiveness Determination*.

This report is the first mandated review of all Record of Decision (ROD) related cleanup actions taken in the five years after the approval of the Operating Unit B1 Interim ROD and the Groundwater Interim ROD.

U.S. EPA and State of California officials say the report was well-written and properly took into consideration the interim cleanup actions being conducted prior to final Records of Decision. U.S. EPA and the State of California stated that McClellan's post-ROD actions are protective of human health and the environment.

U.S. EPA cited several factors that support McClellan's actions as generally protective. The plan recommendations on cleanup issues were addressed or are scheduled to be completed. The base is now operating ten soil vapor extraction

systems under close scrutiny by regulatory agencies. These systems reduce the threat of additional groundwater contamination.

Provisions are in place for any situation that requires immediate action. Meanwhile, ongoing investigations are scheduled under the Federal Facilities Agreement, resulting in decision documents within the next five year period.

Finally, U.S. EPA officials stated that McClellan Air Force Base's Environmental Management Program is working in a highly cooperative manner with regulators. ■

McClellan RAB Changes Co-Chairs

McClellan and Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members recently extended their appreciation to Chuck Yarbrough, as he departed from serving as community co-chair. Yarbrough served as the community's co-chair of the RAB for almost six years, but feels it is time for a change. Since 1983, he has been involved with environmental issues on and around McClellan and remembers a lot of the history of the base. Yarbrough will still be representing the community as a RAB member and in his duties as the Chair of the RAB Technical Report Review Committee.

Del Callaway is the new community co-chair. Callaway has been a member since 1994, and has volunteered his time serving as the chair for various RAB committees.

Paul Brunner, Director of Environmental Management and the BRAC Environmental Coordinator (right) presents a McClellan certificate of appreciation to Chuck Yarbrough (center). Del Callaway (left) succeeded Yarbrough as the RAB Community Co-Chair.





Coordinating with the Urban Creek Council, McClellan AFB recruited over 90 volunteers from the base and the surrounding community to cleanup the creeks.

Restoration Advisory Board Community Relations Committee Chair Sheila Guerra talks to creek cleanup participants about the McClellan AFB RAB.



Earth Week Cleaning local creeks, touring vernal pools and planting trees highlighted the annual Earth Week celebration at McClellan Air Force Base in April. Environmental Management organized several events to increase awareness of the importance of preserving and enriching the environment.

On Earth Day the public was invited on a tour of the McClellan AFB creeks and vernal pools led by Susan Capel (center).



Ben Mundell (left, holding the sign) master sculptor, and crew from McClellan AFB surround their winning entry at the Urban Creek Council sculpture competition.

Alien Leroy captured first prize. Creek cleanup participants from throughout the county brought their cleanup treasures to create sculptures at the picnic following the creek cleanup.

On Arbor Day local Cub Scouts planted trees on the base. Here two are hard at work supervised by Kirsten Christopherson, Environmental Management's natural resource specialist. Environmental Management sponsored a poster contest for the scouts. The scouts made posters completing the theme "A tree is..."

Local merchants and community members donated prizes and all the entries were displayed in Bldg. 200. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection presented McClellan AFB with a Tree City USA award at the Arbor Day event.



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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 95652-1389 or phone (916) 643-1742 ext. 457.

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IRP News Briefs

Progress on McClellan AFB's Installation Restoration Program (IRP) field activities continues. The IRP team made headway on site investigations and restoration projects. The following are just the highlights of some of the work accomplished this quarter.

- Video assessment of the buildings' lateral industrial sewer lines is continuing. To date, 37,507 feet and 2,427 drains have been inspected. The project is 93% complete, with an estimated completion date by the beginning of August 1999.
- Estimated completion of the main industrial sewer trunk line inspection is at the end of September 1999. Approximately 45,000 feet have already been assessed.
- Expansion of the groundwater treatment plant is complete. Tests are still being run on the plant; however, it is effective and operational.
- Repairs to soil vapor extraction systems are complete. All ten of the systems are on line and operating satisfactorily.
- Camp Kohler's vernal pools received protective delineation signs on May 28, 1999. 

Your Safety is Ensured by Institutional Controls

You're at the corner of Elkhorn and Watt Avenues in the pedestrian crosswalk. A flashing red hand tells you not to cross the street. Anyone crossing against this warning may be injured by an oncoming vehicle. You decide to wait until the "cross" light comes on. Your safety was just ensured by an institutional control.

People and the environment can likewise be protected from hazardous contaminants by a legal or institutional document. Institutional controls are commonly used as part of environmental cleanup remedies. They limit access to contaminated property or sensitive habitats, warn of hazardous materials, or protect cleanup equipment in the field. Easements, covenants, notices, zoning ordinances, inspections, and even education are examples of environmental institutional controls.

Institutional Controls Community Members Should:

- Review and comment on the Feasibility Study
- Know and understand the reuse plan and future land use
- Understand the relationship between cleanup standards and land use
- Review and comment on the Proposed Plan and Record of Decision
- At the time of the actual property transfer, review the draft final Finding of Suitability to Transfer or the Finding of Suitability for Early Transfer

Federal and State regulations require the use of institutional controls as long as hazardous substances above certain levels remain at a site. Both the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Contingency Plan mention institutional controls as possible parts of any final cleanup remedy.

According to Linda Hogg of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, "The community has a responsibility to know the institutional controls that will be proposed."

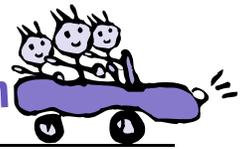
Hogg gave a training workshop on May 5, 1999, to prepare community members for their reviews of upcoming environmental documents that will contain institutional controls. Attendees learned of the importance and use of these types of controls.

With the sensitive habitats in McClellan's naturalized west area, and the anticipated cleanup time for soil and groundwater contamination throughout the base, institutional controls will be a very real part of our final remediation plan. 



Phil Mook, McClellan Environmental Management, received two awards recently. Mook is the program manager for the Alternative Fueled Vehicle Program and he received the White House Closing the Circle Award for an Individual in the category of Environmental Preferability for this program. He was also selected as Air Force Materiel Command Environmental Engineer of the Year. 

1999 Rideshare at McClellan



Previous Year **Renewals June 1999**



Web Site (Created April 1998)



What's the Score?

Environmental Management Remedial Scoreboard

As of
March 1999:

832,500

lbs. of contamination removed from soil and groundwater.



Check our web site:

<http://www.mcclellan.af.mil/EM/>
for documents and information.

All recently issued documents are also available at the Administrative Record at McClellan AFB. Call Danny Durkee at 643-1742 x 347.

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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