



April — June 2003

Environmental Action Update

A Quarterly Newsletter About Environmental Activities at McClellan

Nature Tour at McClellan



Brian Sytsma (center) points out the flight of a great blue heron to a group of students during the Nature Tour at McClellan Park. Visitors from children to adults came to see the foliage and wildlife at the facility's habitat Nature Area. While on this tour,

Molly Enloe, McClellan's natural resources coordinator (front right), showed the students red-winged blackbirds, Canada geese, a great egret, red-tailed hawks, blacktail jackrabbits and the children's favorite, ladybugs.

New Soils Management Manual – “user-friendly safety first guide”

When traveling through unfamiliar terrain, having a guide can help prepare you for what lies ahead. That's what the folks at McClellan's Air Force Real Property Agency had in mind when they developed the Soils Management Manual.

The manual ensures that contractors and workers are properly prepared when excavating soil at McClellan. Soil may be excavated or disturbed during construction or

maintenance activities such as utility upgrades or building demolition.

According to Paul Bernheisel, a field engineer at McClellan, the manual was designed to be a “user-friendly field guide for those performing any soil disturbance activity” on the former Air Force base.

“The Soils Management Manual walks them through the process from start to finish,”

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Air Force holds public meeting on Hexavalent Chromium Time-Critical Removal Action

Air Force officials held a public meeting March 27 to present their plan to remove slightly elevated levels of hexavalent chromium found in groundwater going to the groundwater treatment plant.

Hexavalent chromium is a form of metal that was used in the past at McClellan for chrome plating, steel hardening and painting.

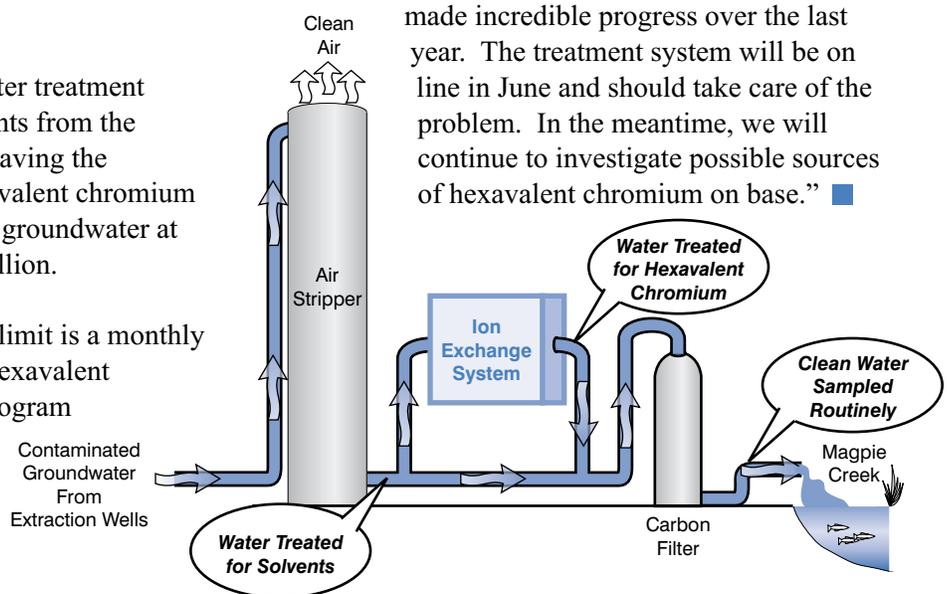
The Air Force is conducting the cleanup of this metal as a time-critical removal action to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

The Air Force operates a groundwater treatment plant at McClellan to remove solvents from the groundwater. Each month, water leaving the treatment plant is monitored. Hexavalent chromium was recently detected in the treated groundwater at levels of up to about 12 parts per billion.

“McClellan’s protective ecological limit is a monthly average of 10 parts per billion for hexavalent chromium,” says Mike Zabaneh, program manager with the Air Force Real Property Agency. The state limit is 11 parts per billion for fresh water aquatic life.

To address the situation, Air Force officials will treat the hexavalent chromium using an ion exchange method. “This method uses resin media, similar to a household water softener, to remove hexavalent chromium,” Zabaneh explained. “When modifications to the groundwater treatment plant are completed this June, the ion exchange system will be able to treat up to 750 gallons per minute.”

James Taylor of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board summed up by saying, “We made incredible progress over the last year. The treatment system will be on line in June and should take care of the problem. In the meantime, we will continue to investigate possible sources of hexavalent chromium on base.” ■



Soils Management Manual – “user-friendly safety first guide” *continued from front page*

Bernheisel said. “We tried to make it as clear as possible because even though the process isn’t complicated, it requires coordination.”

The manual addresses all aspects of soil management, from planning and permitting to soil classification and soil handling procedures, and it outlines how to deal with potentially contaminated soils dug up during projects. The manual also outlines health and

safety issues and stipulates when field workers need to be qualified to work with hazardous materials in case they encounter contaminated soils.

During construction activities, the ideal scenario is to return the dug up soil to its original location. But in the event excess soils are generated and require disposal, the manual describes how that soil will be labeled, tracked, segregated, containerized, stored and transported for disposal at an appropriate landfill, disposal or recycling facility. ■



April – June 2003

The *Environmental Action Update* is a publication of the Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) at McClellan, 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 AFRPA/DD-McClellan, 3411 Olson Street, McClellan, CA 95652-1003 or phone (916) 643-1742 ext. 233.

Environmental Action
Update

www.afropa.hq.af.mil/mcclellan

BRAC Environmental Coordinator **Paul Brunner**
Community Relations Coordinator and Editor **Dawn Young**

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James Taylor recognized for environmental excellence and teamwork

James Taylor left Texas right after high school, seeking the California dream. He found that dream and a lot more—his calling in environmental remediation. After a quarter of a century in the Golden State, the good folks back home in the Lonestar State are recognizing him for his environmental efforts.

Taylor is an associate engineering geologist and project manager at McClellan for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. He was one of six people nationwide, and the only regulator, to receive a Team Member Award from the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence as part of the 2003 AFCEE Technology Transfer Workshop held in San Antonio, Texas.

The award is presented annually by AFCEE to individuals who mostly embody the spirit of teamwork while acting as stewards of the environment. The award criterion states the recipient “must have been or is an integral member of a team who together solved a problem, applied a technology, mediated public concerns or accomplished any other successful task in spite of unfavorable odds.”

Taylor does that and a whole lot more. After graduating from CSU, Chico in 1984, and working in the oil industry and for a large environmental consulting firm, he joined the water board in 1993. Today, he faces the task of overseeing cleanup programs at the former McClellan AFB in a way that allows that effort to move forward.

“We have complex sites and strict state regulations, and are required to follow the rules within the federal cleanup framework,” he said. “We face technology and funding limitations, yet we are required to interpret the data and figure out solutions for surface and subsurface contamination that you can’t normally see or touch.

“It is really difficult to do, and it’s not something you can do by yourself,” he said. “It takes a room full of dedicated people to keep a handle on something as large as the McClellan cleanup effort. It’s a difficult process, but we are making steady progress.” ■



Paul Brunner, Air Force Real Property Agency (right), presents James Taylor with the AFCEE Team Member Award.

McClellan welcomes new regulator to program

So what do you call someone who likes to snow ski, windsurf, and ride her horses?



Labeling her an avid outdoors type is probably a bit of an understatement, though not too far from the truth.

Patricia Ryan is a Public Participation Specialist with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control who works primarily on military sites.

A native of San Francisco, Ryan likes variety and has held several positions prior to joining DTSC. She was a fire fighter for the U.S. Forest Service and served as a Fire Prevention Officer for the Eldorado National Forest. She also served as a Public Information Officer for the California Highway Patrol and was a professional photographer for Caltrans.

In addition to a degree in Forestry, she has a degree in Communication Studies from CSU, Sacramento.

As for McClellan’s Restoration Advisory Board, she said, “I look forward to working with the professionals at McClellan and the surrounding populace and building upon the good work that is underway.” ■

McClellan Environmental Remedial Scoreboard

As of January 1, 2003:

1,175,283

Pounds of volatile organic compound contamination removed from soil and groundwater.

AFRPA/DD
3411 Olson Street
McClellan, CA 95652-1003

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



For More Information about McClellan's Installation Restoration Program, please call:

Dawn Young

AFRPA, Community Relations Coordinator
(916) 643-1742 Ext. 233

Patricia Ryan

Cal-EPA/DTSC, Public Participation Specialist
(916) 255-2615

Viola Cooper

U.S. EPA, Community Involvement Coordinator
(415) 972-3243
(800) 231-3075

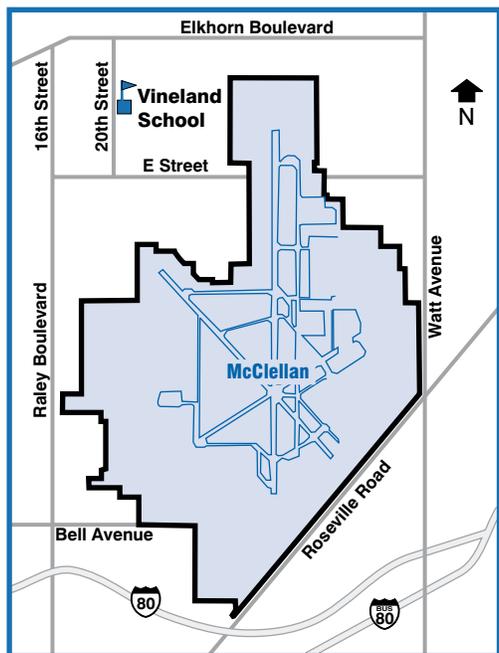
www.afrpa.hq.af.mil/mcclellan

McClellan Environmental Open House

Tuesday, June 17, 2003
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Vineland School Auditorium
6450 20th Street
Rio Linda, California

You are invited to a posterboard display of McClellan's environmental cleanup program. Highlighted projects will include time critical removal actions for hexavalent chromium and Confirmed Site 10, as well as the Initial Parcel Record of Decision. McClellan project managers and regulatory agency representatives will be available to answer questions. For more information or special accommodations for the meeting, please contact Dawn Young at (916) 643-1742, ext. 233.



Clockwise from top: A cleanup crew hard at work; Mohamed Ibrahim displays rollerblades; trash removed from creek; Fern Matin, one of McClellan's Creek Week Coordinators, gives a thumbs-up for a job well done cleaning the creek.



Creek Week