Naval Air Station
Alameda
Environmental Program

Restoration Advisory Board

Community participation in the environmental cleanup of a closing military base

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Closing and converting Alameda's Naval Air Station (NAS) provides an opportunity for many new uses. Businesses, housing, education and recreation facilities can be expanded inside Alameda's city limits with this additional land area. The many bird and mammal species that have made NAS Alameda their home must be protected and encouraged to thrive.

With 1,500 acres of land to put to new uses, we have the potential to improve the quality of life for people living all over the Bay Area. However, before the Navy leaves, before new uses can be determined, the land and several hundred buildings must be evaluated, restored, or removed. This includes deciding how to deal with a wide variety of toxic substances such as nickel, chromium, DDT and PCBs now found in the soil and water.

Restoration Advisory Board

In the spring of 1994 a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) with 22 volunteer community members was formed according to federal guidelines to:

- work with the Navy throughout the restoration process
- promote community awareness of restoration issues
- provide advice to the Navy on case-by-case cleanup procedures
- regularly inform the community about remediation progress
- invite community involvement

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Understanding environmental restoration is time consuming and challenging. RAB members have developed five focus groups to specialize in different aspects of the environmental program and tackle the technical issues.

Dedicated members of each focus group review documents, receive special briefings, and meet with experts to gain the best knowledge possible. They are then able to answer questions, address issues, and disseminate information.

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Concentrates on cleanup actions scheduled first to accommodate early reuse of base property.

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Keeps informed about environmental issues affecting reuse, leasing, or transfer of Navy properties.

- *Technology*

Advises and comments on various technologies to be used in cleanup, including innovative methods.

- *Outreach Group*

Helps coordinate RAB activities and community outreach, acting as a liaison with the Navy, Federal and State agencies, and other RAB members

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Specializes in the effects of environmental conditions and cleanup on wildlife.

NAS Alameda is performing environmental cleanup including the removal of underground storage tanks (left). Public input to the cleanup of the closing base is very important. The Restoration Advisory Board reviews the process and helps get the information to the community.

RAB Member Selection

RAB members were selected through an application process with over 14,000 notices and application forms sent to residences, businesses, civic leaders, and environmental groups in the area. Articles were printed in local newspapers, and two public meetings were held prior to selection.

A panel consisting of representatives from the Navy, regulatory agencies, and the community made selection decisions. Currently there are two Naval

representatives, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and California EPA personnel, and 22 persons from the local community, two of which are former base employees.

The RAB was carefully selected to provide diversity. Members are men and women who live nearby, and are involved in the business community, reuse interests, the school district, local environmental and civic groups, labor unions, and homeowner's organizations.

The Naval Air Station, Alameda and City of Alameda

How Your [illegible]

There are several ways to become involved in the RAB. One is to attend open monthly meetings and participate in discussion of environmental topics concerning the base.

You may also visit the NAS Alameda Information Repository at the Main Alameda Public Library, 2264 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, (510)748-4661. At the repository, many documents are available for your review. You can learn more about the environmental conditions at NAS Alameda, upcoming cleanup actions, and issues facing the RAB. Then when you attend a RAB meeting, read an article in the newspaper, or talk to your friends and neighbors, you will be able to participate in a meaningful discussion on environmental cleanup issues.

Not only RAB members can comment at meetings or on upcoming environmental actions. Your comments too are invited and appreciated.

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For information on how to contact RAB members, use the library, obtain a meeting schedule, or contact technical experts, please call the NAS environmental office representative, Sherri Withrow, at (510)263-3724. You may also call the RAB hotline to leave a message and hear about meeting schedules at (510)869-5087.

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The State of California, Department of Toxic Substances Control representative, Susan Jun, at, (510)540-3935.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency representative, Dorothy Wilson, at (415)744–2179.