OXNARD PLAIN
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD
FACT SHEET

Naval Construction Battalion Center
Environmental Department
1000 23rd Avenue
Port Hueneme, CA 93043-4301
Attn: Ms. Gail Pringle

POSTAGE REQUIRED

MISSION STATEMENT

1. The RAB is a forum for open and candid two way communication between the community, the Navy, and the regulatory agencies to ensure consideration of all community concerns on the Oxnard Plain regarding the:

- Installation Restoration (IR) Program
- Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) cleanup process
- National Test Site

2. The RAB will serve the community by soliciting ideas and identifying concerns for presentation to the Navy and regulatory agencies.

3. The RAB is not a decision making body, but is a conduit for the solicitation and dissemination of community concerns and information.

4. As individuals and as members, our actions are based upon the foundation of openness, trust, and commitment to diverse representation with concern for public health, the environment, and social and fiscal responsibility.

VISION STATEMENT

1. The RAB insures that community concerns are actively considered enabling the navy and regulatory agencies to complete cleanup actions at all sites within the Oxnard Plain in a timely and cost effective manner. Innovative technologies, including the RAB process, are demonstrated and evaluated with community input for nationwide implementation.

2. The community is aware, supportive, participative, and educated about the work of the RAB. High trust exists among stakeholders. The RAB is the model for community participation.

3. The regulatory agencies value and actively seek RAB advice and give it key consideration in making new policies and in interpretation of current regulations.

BACKGROUND

In February 1994, the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) at Port Hueneme, the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) at Point Mugu, and the Naval Civil Engineering Laboratory (NCEL) began a joint effort to form a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). One primary purpose of forming the RAB was to create an opportunity to effectively involve the local community in the Navy's environmental cleanup programs (referred to as "Installation Restoration"), as well as the realignment of NCEL from it's current location to NCBC. **[Note: NCEL is now part of a consolidated Command, the Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center (NFESC).]**

Membership was solicited using radio and television advertising, personal contacts, and mailings to community members, community organizations and public agencies. A public meeting was held June 28, 1994 to discuss RAB roles and responsibilities, the Navy Installation Restoration Program, and the Applications were accepted for approximately three months; all who applied were made members of the Board. Currently, there are approximately 75 members on the membership listing, representing a variety of interests and perspectives within the community at large.

WHAT IS THE RAB?

The RAB is an advisory body designed to act as a focal point for the exchange of information between NCBC, NAWS, NCEL and the local community regarding restoration activities. The RAB is intended to bring together community members who reflect the diverse interests within the local community, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values and needs between the affected community and the installation.

RAB members meet the first Thursday evening of every month, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. They review and comment on technical documents and plans relating to the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities at NCBC, NAWS, and NCEL. Members are expected to serve as a liaison with the community and be available to meet with community members and groups. All RAB meetings are open to the public. Technical support staff is available to provide informational support and explanations to RAB members.

RAB ORGANIZATION AND ROLES

The RAB elected two community co-chairs and also has an installation co-chair. These three individuals set the agenda for each meeting, and lead the discussions during the meeting.

A RAB Administrator is the primary record keeper, arranges meeting logistics, and maintains the membership listing. **[Note: Gail Pringle currently is the RAB Administrator, at (805)982-2105.]**

The RAB has established four (4) working groups with different programs to review. The groups are:

- NCBC Installation Restoration
- Point Mugu Installation Restoration
- NCEL - BRAC
- National Test Site (An innovative cleanup technologies program at NCBC)

Each group has an installation and community co-chair. Meeting times vary, but the groups usually meet once per month.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS & GROUND RULES

At a Team Building Workshop, held in September 1994, the RAB drafted a mission and vision statement. Also, RAB members decided on the following membership requirements and ground rules:

Availability to the Community: Members should be willing to communicate with local community members and interest groups concerned with specific base cleanup issues; members serve as a direct and reliable conduit for information flow to and from the community.

Document Review: Members are expected to review and provide comments on draft or final environmental documents. A process, including timeframes, for making comments and receiving responses has been jointly developed.

Attendance: Members are expected to attend all RAB meetings, but not fewer than eight per year.

Membership: Membership is reviewed by the Board every six months. The goal is to ensure adequate numbers and diversity of members.

Public Comments: All meetings are open to the public and comments are welcome. An opportunity to raise items not on the agenda is offered at the start and closure of all meetings. The RAB does not attempt to gain consensus on issues; all viewpoints and comments are considered and will receive a response.

For further information regarding the RAB or to be on the mailing list, please fill out the questionaire or call Gail Pringle at (805)982-2105.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

INTEREST: _____