

HAAF ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

HAMILTON ARMY AIRFIELD

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Technical Support

Ray Zimny
US Army Corps of Engineers

Jim McAlister
US Army Corps of Engineers

New Technical Manager for BRAC Property

AN INTERVIEW WITH RAY ZIMNY

What is the role of a technical manager?

My role is to support Mr. Ed Keller, the BRAC environmental coordinator (BEC) in the environmental restoration of the BRAC property. I hope I can live up to the success of the previous manager, Hyland Morrow, who moved on recently to work on other Corps projects. My responsibility is to build and maintain a team of experts that can meet and exceed the needs of my Army client (Mr. Keller). As technical manager, I ensure that the work necessary to complete environmental restoration (engineering and environmental studies, designs, and remediation) is adequate and is executed professionally. To do this I initiate work, manage costs, maintain quality, expedite execution and optimize resources.

What is your background that lead to your work with Hamilton? I started my career by digging ditches for the Water Company at age 16. Later, I worked at two separate Bachelors of Science: one in civil engineering and one in political science. Then, I worked on a Master's Degree in water resource engineering from University of California- Davis.

Overall, I have 26 years experience in project engineering and management with the Corps of Engineers. During this time, I have worked on a range of projects.

For more than a decade I was a Corps project engineer on the Red River Waterway and Mississippi Flood Control project in New Orleans, Louisiana. Then, my family and I moved to California 13 years ago. As a project manager in Sacramento, I was to provide new

facilities for relocating Army reserve units impacted by base closure. Units from San Francisco's Presidio and Hamilton were to be placed on Hospital Hill, POL Hill but were redirected to Moffett Airfield instead. I worked on my first Restoration Advisory Board with the LA Airforce Base from 1992 to 1995.

How did studying engineering and political science help mold your career? The ability to understand the point of view of the engineer who can sometimes be opinionated but who is trying their best to develop solutions is important in understanding both sides. If you are also customer-orientated at the same time, you can identify with the customer side and reach an overall better conclusion.

What are some of the similarities you see on past RAB projects you have worked on and the issues that Hamilton faces? The greatest similarity is having an informed community that understands what is going on, and trying

continued on page 2



AN INTERVIEW WITH RAY ZIMNY cont. from page 1

to end their suspicion of the government. We need to show that we are using good science and are being honest brokers.

What are some successes your past RAB projects? The Corps has really been successful in all aspects of remediation thus far. The biggest challenge in these projects continues to be listening to the concerns of the client because the client is the American taxpayer as well as the Army. Clients may be diametrically opposed to each other in their viewpoints, so you have to develop good listening skills and have to be creative in your responsiveness to achieve negotiated resolution.

How did you become involved in this project? Having 13 years in New Orleans in Civil Works and being able to think outside of the box help me prepare for this project. Also, it helped to have former experience with the Base Closure project at Hamilton.

What makes Hamilton special? Hamilton is a beautiful spot and people should be able to enjoy it and have a connectivity with nature. I think the developers have done a great job with the residential housing. The wetland restoration project is also a great project and really ties in the Corps' mission of recreating this landscape and restoring the environment.

Where do you and your family live? We live in Davis and my wife works at UC Davis. We have 3 kids. My oldest son is 21 and a musician. My daughter is a senior in high school. My youngest son just turned 16.

Do you have any hobbies? I used to coach baseball and soccer and now I referee soccer. I used to race cars back in the 1960s and like to work on old cars but they just don't make them like they used to.

BUILDING 41



GOING, GOING, GONE!

Building 41, a former pump station, was demolished during December 2001 and January 2002 to make way for the wetland restoration project. Building 41 was located in the proposed main channel for the wetland, an area which will provide a passageway for Bay water to flush the wetland area with water and sediments as part of the Bay's daily tidal cycle. The demolition work had to be completed before the start of the Clapper Rail nesting season, which started on February 1st. Figure 1 shows the location of the proposed main channel and the former Building 41.

The original purpose of the pump station was to move water from the perimeter drainage ditch, which captures runoff from the airfield, into the outfall drainage ditch, which drains to San Pablo Bay. Because the airfield is 6-7 feet lower than San Pablo Bay, stormwater from the airfield needs to be pumped to ensure that it doesn't accumulate. The Building 41 pump station was no longer operational. Two other pump stations (building 35 and 39) continue to keep the airfield dry.

Operation of Building 41 required the use of a diesel engine on a day-to-day basis, which led to diesel contamination around the perimeter of the building. It was also possible that creosote—a petroleum-based product—was applied to the station's underground foundation framework during construction. The Army demolished the building and excavated all of this material in February, and then took confirmation samples to determine whether any more diesel contamination remained. The confirmation samples indicated that all of the contaminated soil had been removed.

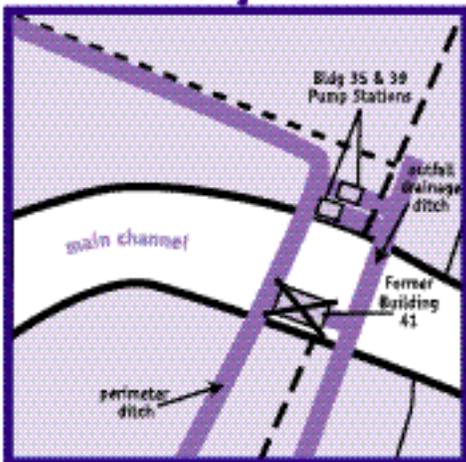
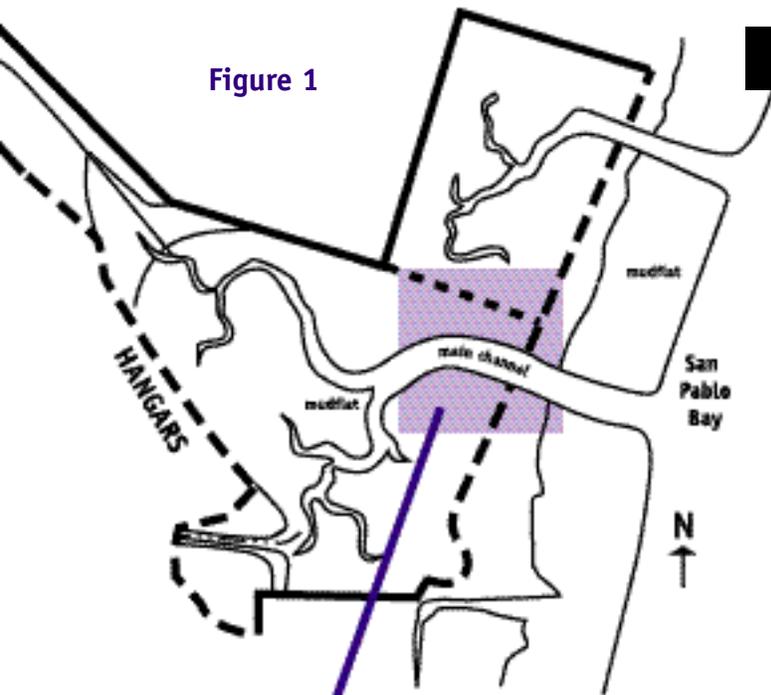
BUFFER TRENCH CONSTRUCTION NEARING COMPLETION

In our last issue, we reported that the Corps would be constructing a buffer trench along the southeast side of Landfill 26. The trench would allow methane gas generated by the Landfill to be continually dispersed to the atmosphere. As required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the trench would prevent the natural buildup of methane gas at the Landfill, and would provide an added measure of safety for those living along the Landfill's boundary.

As you probably already know, the Corps began construction of the trench in January 2002 and completed 1,000 feet of the 1,600-foot trench before the rising groundwater table on the south end of the landfill prevented the trench from being extended into that area. Now that the rainy season is ending and the ground is drying out, the Corps will be starting up again and should complete the trench this summer.

Hamilton Links

Figure 1



Army BRAC Property

Airfield Parcel The Army is planning to transfer the property to the State of California in 2002.

Hospital Hill The public comment period on the Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) documents for Hospital Hill is closed. The document has been sent to Army headquarters for signatures.

Outparcel A-4 The public comment period on the Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) documents for Outparcel A-4 has closed. The document has been sent to Army headquarters for signatures.

Commercial Areas

Hangar 5 The Marin Community Foundation has moved into an entire floor in Hangar 5.

North Hamilton Park The skate park is now under construction. Construction is expected to be complete by the beginning of June. A grand opening celebration will be held at the park on June 22, 10:30 am.

Enlistment Barracks The construction of 128 senior rentals is underway. Completion of the first building is scheduled for December 2002.

Chapel Unity Marin held their first service on Palm Sunday. The services are now opened to the public.

Wetlands Restoration Project

Transfer of the Airfield property may take place later this year, allowing construction of the wetland project to start shortly afterward. The current schedule calls for some placement of dredged sediment in Spring 2003.

The California Coastal Conservancy and the Corps of Engineers Civil Works will be signing a Project Cooperation Agreement, a contract, between the State and Federal government, for funding the construction and monitoring of the wetlands. The State will provide 25% of the funding needed to complete the project and the remaining 75% will come from Federal funding.

An official signing ceremony for the agreement will occur on April 22nd at 2pm. For information about the location, please visit: www.spn.usace.army.mil.

In the late fall, the Corps undertook a comprehensive study of the geotechnical aspects of the wetland project, which included soil borings to assess the engineering properties for the levees.

During the winter months the Corps installed a segment of the off-loader pipeline, a large steel pipe placed between the San Pablo Bay and the wetlands site, which will allow dredge material to be "off-loaded" from ships.

Navy BRAC

The public review and comment period for the Draft Proposed Final Corrective Action Plan (CAP) has ended. The document proposes various remedial actions the Navy will take to address MTBE contamination: biosparging, institutional controls and monitored natural attenuation. If there are no public comments that would cause any further revisions to the CAP, then the proposed remedial actions would be implemented and fully operational as early as June 2002.

The latest quarterly groundwater monitoring report shows that the average concentration of Benzene and MTBE has decreased over the past two years, and concentration levels are now lower than all applicable thresholds for concern. Remedial actions that the Navy proposes to implement now would effectively stop MTBE from migrating any further from the site, and would continue to reduce the levels of MTBE and benzene in the plume.





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RAB UPDATE

RAB Responsibilities

The main responsibility of a RAB member is to attend bimonthly meetings and share information with community residents. After the Army BRAC property transfers, the RAB would like to continue meeting to oversee remediation of the North Antenna Field, Landfill 26, and the Coastal Salt Marsh, which could last up to two years.

Upcoming Meetings

The next **RAB Meeting** will be held at the Hamilton School Multi-Purpose Room.

- April 17, 2002, 7 p.m.
- June 19, 2002, 7 p.m.

For More Information

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Information Repositories

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www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-pm/haaf/rab/rab.html

www.efds.w.navy.mil/Environmental/Novato.htm