



BRAC Environmental Office
Hamilton Army Airfield
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Novato, CA 94949

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HAAF ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

HAMILTON ARMY AIRFIELD

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Update

RAB Responsibilities

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), is an advisory board made up of interested and concerned community members who reflect the diverse interests of the local community as well as representatives of state, local, and federal agencies. The RAB is designed to serve as a focal point for the exchange of information between the Army and Navy and the community regarding those restoration activities presently underway, as well as those planned for future studies and remediation.

The Hamilton RAB meets on the third Wednesday of every other month. The next RAB meeting is April 23, 2003. To receive further information regarding the RAB, community involvement, environmental clean-up at Hamilton, or to be added to the Hamilton RAB mailing list, please contact: Joy Lanzaro (415) 883-6386.

Upcoming Meetings

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

•April 23, 2003, 7 p.m.

For More Information

HAAF Army BRAC Environmental Office

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Information Repositories

Marin County Public Library, Novato Branch

1720 Novato Boulevard, Novato, CA 94947
 tel: (415) 897.1141

HAAF Army BRAC Environmental Office

Please call Joy Lanzaro at (415) 883-6386 for an appointment.

www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-pm/haaf/rab/rab.html
www.efds.w.navy.mil/Environmental/Novato.htm

Restoration Advisory Board Members

Co-Chairs

Ed Keller
Army BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Thomas Macchiarella
Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Tunstall Lang
Community Co-Chair

Community Members

Marucia Britto
Preston Cook
Joan Dekelboum
Richard Draeger
Patricia D. Eklund
Thomas Hinman
Matthew McCarron
Manuel Mier
Sabrina Molinari
Karol Raymer
Jack Walton

Regulatory Agency Representatives

Naomi Feger
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jim Ponton
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lance McMahan
California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
Theresa McGarry
California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
Rich Seraydarian
US Environmental Protection Agency

Technical Support

Ray Zimny
US Army Corps of Engineers
Jim McAlister
US Army Corps of Engineers

JOIN THE RAB!

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD SEEKS NEW MEMBERS



"The RAB provides a great opportunity to get involved in community service and with the overall clean-up of the former Hamilton Airfield. By getting involved you can make a difference." Pat Eklund

An important part of cleaning up former military bases is making sure that members of the public have a voice in the process. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Defense agree that community involvement in the clean-up process is important, and in 1994 these agencies jointly published guidelines on the formation of Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs).

The RAB includes members of the local community, representatives from the Department of Defense, and representatives from local regulatory agencies. RAB members represent the interests of the general public and serve as a community point of contact.

Twelve Marin County community members serve on the Hamilton RAB, along with representatives from the Army, the Navy, the U.S. EPA, the California

Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The regular RAB meetings are forums for the public and the RAB to discuss concerns and exchange information about the Hamilton environmental cleanup programs.

Every two years, beginning in September 1996, a selection panel reviews the RAB membership to ensure that it reflects the diverse interests of the community. In 2002, a subcom-

Continued to inside panel



"Within several years, our work will be complete and a clean bill of health will be issued for our neighborhood. It continues to be an honor for me to serve with such dedicated and determined people," Preston Cook

Continued from front panel

Join the RAB!

mittee of the RAB concluded that up to four new RAB members should be chosen for the 2003-4 cycle. Applications are now being accepted, and the RAB will review candidates and choose up to four new members in Spring 2003.

RAB members should live and/or work in the local area or be affected by the environmental restoration program. Each RAB member has the following responsibilities:

- Act as a resource to the community
- Increase community understanding of the DoD's cleanup program
- Provide advice on cleanup activities
- Participate in regular meetings

If you are interested in serving on the RAB, please contact Joy Lanzaro at (415) 883-6386 for application materials.



"Both the Army and Navy have been responsive to our concerns. It's nice to represent the community and feel that we are getting something accomplished," Matthew McCarron



"Through my involvement with the Hamilton RAB I am able to stay abreast of the contamination issues, which was important to me when I decided to buy a house here" Marucia Britto

Hamilton Opens Doors to Seniors

In December 2002, the Villas at Hamilton opened its doors to low-income seniors. The 128 unit, three-story complex is located between the Hamilton Town Center and the Hamilton Hangers, occupying three buildings that were once used to house bachelor officers.

The first of the three buildings was completed in December and is now almost entirely occupied. A second building was completed on February 1st and is also quickly becoming filled. Construction will continue through March on the third building, but leases for the units are already being negotiated. All buildings offer a selection of spacious studios, one-bedroom, and two bedroom units, as well as a variety of floor plans.



"It's a really nice place to be," says Dee Brown, assistant manager of the Villas at Hamilton. "We've had a lot of interest [in the units] from the start but there are still openings." Please visit the leasing office in the middle building or call Susan Joyce or Dee Brown at (415) 884-2535.

Gas Migration Control Trench Completed at Landfill 26

January 2003 marked the third and final phase of trench construction, with the installation of an impermeable barrier. The first phase of construction began in January 2002 when the Corps dug approximately 1,000 linear feet of trench and backfilled it with gravel. In the summer of 2002, the Corps completed a second phase of construction involving another 600 linear feet of trench. The impermeable barrier installed during the third phase of construction will help prevent migration of methane gas beyond the trench.

The trench is 2 feet wide and averages 13 to 14 feet in depth, running along a layer of bedrock within the soil. To help dissipate excess gas, 16 venting pipes were installed along the trench, one every 100 feet or so. The vent risers are visible as candycane-like pipes that rise ten feet above the ground. The Corps' design was reviewed and approved by the Integrated Waste Management Board, the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The Corps Sacramento District will monitor the trench on a quarterly basis over the coming year to determine if methane gas is migrating from Landfill 26.

For more information, contact the Corps Sacramento District Public Affairs Office at (916) 557-5100.



A large metal jig is used to align sheets of impermeable plastic as they are driven into the trench. The contractor is shown holding a piece of plastic as it is being vibrated into place.

SOIL REMOVAL ACTIONS



Stockpiled soil at Revetment 6

During the week of October 10, 2002, the Army removed 202 truckloads (4,726.21 tons) of non-hazardous waste soil. The soil was comprised of soil from Spoils Pile F, soil underlying Revetments 6 and 7 (aircraft parking areas), and soil surrounding former Building 41.

The Army had excavated this soil about 10 months earlier during wet weather. Since disposal costs are measured by weight, the Army contained the soil in stockpiles and allowed it to dry out over the summer. By October 2002, the soil had lost 20 to 30 percent of its moisture content, and the Army disposed of it prior to the first rain of the season, thereby reducing the cost of transportation and disposal.

The sources of the contaminants were above ground fuel storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks, and wood that had been preserved with creosote. Fuel-derived contaminants originated from routine aircraft maintenance and testing.

The soil was identified as Class II, contaminated soil that is not at toxic concentration; and Class III, "clean" soil that can be disposed of at any municipal waste facility. The soil was moved to the Altamont Landfill, in Alameda County, where it is being used as daily cover soil to provide a cap for the municipal and residential waste the landfill accepts each day.

ARMY BRAC PROPERTY

• Parcel A-4

The Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) has been signed by the Army. The New Hamilton Partners have been selected as the developers for the property, and the deed for the parcel is expected to be processed within the next few months. Construction will begin by summer 2003 and will be completed nine (9) months from the start date.

• Hospital Hill

The deed language for the Hospital Hill parcel has been accepted by the City of Novato. Escrow on the property is expected to close in March 2003.

• High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE) Debris Stockpile

Over a five-day-period in December 2002 the Army removed an estimated 1,620 to 3,000 cubic yards of plastic that occupied approximately 10,000 square feet of the Hamilton Airfield runway.

The plastic was used to cover excavated soil that was being stockpiled on the runway. The Army had excavated the soil from where the Southgate neighborhood now resides. The soil that was contaminated was disposed of offsite, and the remaining soil was consolidated. The excess HDPE sheeting was piled up on the south end of the runway. At the time of removal the HDPE pile also contained wood debris, incidental soil, and other construction debris. Composite soil samples were obtained to characterize the soil that would be picked up in the process of removal. The material was then recycled or disposed of at the Altamont Landfill in Livermore, CA.

HAMILTON BAY TRAIL

On January 28, 2003 Novato City Council approved a consultant services agreement for the Hamilton Bay Trail. RHL Design Group of Petaluma was chosen to design the planned Bay Trail improvements such as adding a parking lot, restrooms and an information kiosk at the trailhead on Hangar Drive near the soccer and baseball fields. RHL will also design trail improvements to the Reservoir Hill/Vista Trail connection to the levee. The project will be funded by a \$375,000 grant from the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). The construction project will go out for public bid sometime in late spring/early summer 2003.