

**Detailed Meeting Notes
Hamilton Army Airfield Restoration Advisory Board
Novato Police Station Meeting Room
Novato, California
April 13, 2005**

Attendance

RAB Members Present:

Ed Keller; Jennifer Valenzia; Naomi Feger; Patricia Eklund; Richard A. Draeger; Lance McMahan; William McNicholas; Marucia Britto; Jim McAlister; Joan Dekelboum, Tom Gandesbery, Eric Polson, , Jennifer Valenzia, Laurent Meillier.

RAB Members Absent:

Sue Lattanzio;; Matthew McCarron; Theresa McGarry; Ray Zimny;, Manuel Mier; Preston Cook;; Ross Millerick; Jeff Johnston.

Others Present:

Joy Lanzaro; Hugh Ashley; Samantha Calamari; Travis Williamson; Jim Davies; Liz Barr; Christine Theran; Peter Theran; Dorthea Von Koch; Con Garretson; Eroca Lowe; Kevin Lowe; Susan Stompe.

Welcoming Remarks

Ed Keller welcomed the community to the April 13, 2005 meeting of the Hamilton Army Airfield Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The meeting began at 7:08 p.m.

Landfill 26, GSA, and North Antenna Field - Jim McAlister, USACE

Methane Monitoring Update

Mr. McAlister reported on the methane levels recorded since the buffer trench was installed. Mr. McAlister presented a graphic that showed contour lines representing concentration levels of methane throughout the landfill area. Mr. McAlister reviewed the methane levels in the soil gas since July 2001. As of March 2005, the landfill gas mitigation control trench that has been measuring methane through gas probes showed that the trench continues to be effective and shows a decrease in the levels of methane in surrounding soils. In some parts of the trench the methane levels are close to zero, but most readings are around 2 percent. The USACE continues to monitor the methane on a monthly basis along the south end of the landfill next to Hamilton Meadows.

Mr. McAlister noted that the USACE has received a Notice of Violation dated March 16, 2005 for not meeting the implementation schedule for Task 1 of CAO 01-139 and TSO 140. USACE has requested an additional 90 days, and plans to submit Task 1 documentation by May 31, 2005.

Mr. Draeger: When did you ask the contractor to start that work?

Mr. McAlister: The work began the middle of January.

Ms. Eklund: The City of Novato set up these two orders and so how did the Army miss these dates?

Mr. McAlister: We felt that collecting all that data was necessary but wanted to prevent a data gap.

Peter Theran: What are the methane levels detected?

Mr. McAlister: None of the samples taken around the landfill contained more than 0.10 concentrations of methane, which is typical during the winter season. This was also the case for the vent trench monitoring. In Hamilton Meadows, there was a reading of 4 percent concentration of methane on lot 30. The USACE has done a massive investigation and has determined this concentration to be a naturally occurring condition because Pacheco Creek had been in this area, and there are layers of organic material beneath the soil.

Ms. Eklund: What about the spikes? Is there any one from the Water Board that knows more about the data?

Mr. Meillier: I have commented on the data. There were some detections that were about 5 to 10 percent methane. They also had problems because some of the probes were flooded and inaccessible. Overall, the data was not all comprehensible.

Ms. Eklund: Does Lot 30 have a house on it?

Mr. McAlister: Yes

Future Activities

Mr. McAlister addressed the upcoming activities for Landfill 26.

- Currently completing the last of four semi-annual sampling events.
- Various monitoring reports are under review by regulatory agencies.
- Submit RWQCB Task 1 document May 31, 2005
- Submit RWQCB Task 2 document Dec 30, 2005

North Antenna Field

Mr. McAlister reported that the USACE has performed a remedial investigation on the North Antenna Field and the report went out to regulators in March 2003. The Risk Assessment Work Plan was processed as an addendum to the Risk Assessment that the BRAC had done on the adjacent parcel. However, the agencies pointed out that they never accepted the BRAC Risk Assessment, so we had to go back and create a stand-alone Risk Assessment. The wetlands people don't anticipate being ready for the North Antenna Field until the 2009 timeframe.

Mr. McAlister reviewed the schedule for the North Antenna Field clean-up.

- Risk Assessment Workplan to Agencies- September 2004
- Risk Assessment to Agencies- February 2005
- Risk Assessment Comments- May 2005
- Archives Search Report to Agencies- July 2005
- Feasibility Study to Agencies – December 2005

- Decision Document to Agencies – 2006
- Remedial Design- 2006
- Remedial Action- 2007-8

Navy BRAC Update — Jennifer Valenzia, DODHF Novato BEC

Project Update

Biosparging

The Navy has been working with the regulatory agencies since July 2004 regarding the transition from active biosparging treatment to monitoring for rebound. Since the Jan 2005 RAB meeting, monthly performance goal sampling events occurred in January, February, March, and April 2005. In addition, a quarterly groundwater-monitoring event was also completed in February 2005. The biosparging system has reduced the average MTBE concentration in performance goal monitoring wells by approximately 80%. No significant concentration reductions have been realized since May 2004.

The Navy began testing the shutdown of the biosparging system on March 16 and has incorporated the following regulatory requests:

- Performance goal wells monitored on a monthly basis for 6 months and a quarterly basis for 6 months
- Plume maps showing the distribution of MTBE concentrations based on all monitoring data submitted on a quarterly basis
- All monitoring data evaluated for rebound and plume status
- Reinitiate biosparging system in approximately 1 year to determine whether further MTBE concentration reductions can be achieved.

The Navy is committed to carefully evaluating the conditions of groundwater within the biosparging treatment area and will reinitiate the system if significant rebound is observed.

Ms. Eklund: Have you looked at other alternative to shutting off the biosparging system?

Ms. Valenzia: We evaluated 10 possible treatments and biosparging was selected as the most effective alternative. Pilot studies were also conducted using another alternative, yet biosparging was determined to be the best choice. Because of the heterogeneous conditions of the subsurface, there are limitations in the delivery of any treatment. It is proven, as shown throughout the plume that MTBE will naturally degrade without treatment. The Navy and regulatory agencies will evaluate groundwater conditions over the next year to determine the appropriate next steps.

Ms. Eklund: What are the alternatives if there is no effect after the system is turned back on?

Ms. Valenzia: We will evaluate whether or not additional treatment makes sense based on our observations over the next year as well as other technical and regulatory considerations. At this time, conditions do not pose unacceptable risks to onsite and offsite receptors using the most conservative risk assessment parameters. The Navy will

revisit the risk assessment once the system has been turned off and the conditions stabilize. It is possible that the agencies will request additional treatment.

Ms. Eklund: How is the funding currently? Do you have enough funding to complete the system clean-up?

Ms. Valenzia: We do have funding to complete treatment. We work on an ongoing basis.

Ms. Eklund: Isn't there an action goal?

Mr. Meillier: We agreed that that concentrations need to reach 1800 ppb.

Ms. Eklund: Is it possible to reissue an order to reflect these goals? When is the Water Board going to approve the shut off?

Mr. Meillier: The Board did approve the shut off.

Ms. Eklund: The school district is interested in taking that property over so they are wondering when they will be able to access the area.

Ms. Valenzia: The school district will be allowed to access the property to complete their studies to meet their State requirements; however, property redevelopment will occur once the property has transferred.

Mr. Gandesbery: What is the 1800 ppb measured on based on?

Mr. Meillier: It is based on a surface water nuisance criterion of 180ppb.

Ms. Eklund: What is the basis for a 10 fold factor?

Mr. Meillier. The 10-fold factor is a dilution estimate for ground water.

Ms. Valenzia: It is noteworthy to mention that releases from the gas station occurred 20 years ago. Routine monitoring of the nearest surface water body (Pacheco Creek) shows concentrations well below the stated odor threshold criteria. Therefore, existing conditions of the groundwater plume are neither causing a nuisance nor adversely impacting beneficial uses of nearby surface waters.

Ms. Lanzaro: Are the levels near the creek below the nuisance level? Is the water able to reach the system before it reaches the surface?

Mr. Williamson: While we do have concentrations higher than 1800ppb in groundwater, the groundwater concentrations decrease toward the creek because of natural degradation and the preferential flow path of groundwater.

Ballfield Parcel

Since the last RAB meeting, the Navy distributed the Final Work Plan to the BRAC Cleanup Team on March 15, 2005 and completed its sampling activities during the week of April 4th. Prior to sampling, the City of Novato moved stockpiled soils during the week of March 14th. The areas of investigation included five former airplane revetments, 2 former spoils piles, and the edge of perimeter drainage ditch.

Upcoming Activities

NEX Gas Station Site- conduct monthly sampling of biosparging performance wells for the next 6 months to evaluate potential rebound. A quarterly groundwater monitoring

event will be conducted in May 2005. The Navy will proceed with applicable property transfer activities.

Ballfield parcels- Receive sampling results in May 2005 and prepare a Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Report, scheduled for internal review in early August 2005.

Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project Update- Eric Polson, CSCC

Eric Polson gave an update on the wetlands project. The new construction for this year should start in summer 2005. This work will construct levees around the seasonal wetlands in the panhandle area. The Project is hoping to finish these levees by mid October. The wildlife corridor berm and other site work in the tidal wetland areas also occur this summer and fall. The first dredge material is currently scheduled to arrive in early 2006 and the contract for this material should be awarded in December. The project hopes to take a total of 2.0 to 2.5 million cubic yards in this first contract. The new Hamilton Partners Levee test fill is currently being monitored. That monitoring will be completed in July so the Project can fully evaluate the area and finalize the design of the project in this area. We are looking forward to getting the ball field property from the Navy in 2006.

Ms. Eklund: Discussing the wetland restoration project will be on the agenda for the next City Council meeting. Is there any thought to doing a newsletter or flyer before the dredge moves in?

Mr. Polson: We will be putting out a notice and holding a public meeting. We are looking to build a public relations plan.

Ms. Eklund: I thought the Bay Trail was going to be on the levee but now the plan is to be on the side of the levee. Does the plan include the additional weight?

Mr. Polson: The increased weight is so small that it should not affect the area.

Mr. McMahan: What is the status of the Notice of Preparation for the aquatic transfer facility project?

Mr. Polson: We are hoping to have a contract awarded in the next month or so. The aquatic transfer facility will not be ready for the Port of Oakland dredge materials.

Ms. Britto: What is the earliest you will have the result for the test fill on the levee?

Mr. Polson: We have data now. We will be reviewing the information and will have a completed report sometime in August.

Ms. Britto: Will the public have an opportunity to review and comment on the report?

Mr. Polson: Yes, it will be available.

Ms. Eklund: People have said that the six month test period may not be long enough. Do you have a response to that?

Mr. Polson: The USACE thought that the six month monitoring period was sufficient. We may still be monitoring past the six months without the consulting efforts

Ms. Eklund: How long until the dredge materials are brought into the area.

Mr. Polson: About a year from now. It's based on funding for the Port of Oakland.

Mr. Gandesbery: CSCC has to have the area prepared by November 1, 2005.

Ms. Eklund: Will there be no change in that area to prepare for the dredge materials?

Mr. Gandesbery: The area will not change; it will just undergo preparation for the dredge materials.

Ms. Britto: It seems that you are just looking for data that will confirm the information you suspect is correct. If it does not, do you have a plan B?

Mr. Gandesbery: No. This should not be an issue.

Mr. Draeger: Will there be a report issued after the six months of the monitoring? Will the Regulatory Agencies review it?

Mr. Polson: Yes, there will be a report available. The agencies will not be required to review it.

Mr. Draeger: Not monitoring for an entire year and not during the rainy season may be a problem.

Mr. Meillier: Where will the rest of the dredge come from?

Mr. Polson: They rest of the dredge will come from the Operations and Maintenance project. It can be used for federal or non-federal projects.

Mr. Meillier: Are you going to be re-vegetating any of the area?

Mr. Polson: That should not be necessary in the tidal wetland areas. There may be some planting in the seasonal wetlands.

Mr. McMahan: What is the earliest and latest that you will need the North Antenna Field ready for transfer?

Mr. Gandesbery: We can't tell at this point when we will need the North Antenna Field but probably a few years from now.

Mr. Polson: It depends on the authorization for this project.

Peter Theran: How do you move the dredge material from the outside to the existing levee and how loud will it be?

Mr. Polson: It moves through the pipeline, which is moved when needed. The noise will not be excessive because a plastic pipe is used and the materials are fine in texture. The maximum diameter of the pipe will be 30 inches.

Ms. Eklund: If you are going to be dredging from Oakland, is there going to be any odor?

Mr. Polson: It is not likely that there will be any odor.

Army BRAC Update: Ed Keller, BRAC Environmental Coordinator (BEC)

Documentation and Next Steps

Range Sites Remedial Investigation Workplan(due this week)

- *Revetment Sampling and Analysis Plan-* was distributed in March 2005- comments due April 20, 2005.
- *South Runway DDT Hotspot Remedial Action workplan-*due in April 2005

Field Work

Coastal Salt Marsh – The Army has completed all excavation work, including placing all backfill, and removing most temporary fencing. Stockpiles are being managed on site and stockpile waste characterization is in process.

Mr. Keller presented a number of photos displaying the field work in process over the past few months.

Ms. Britto: Will the remainder of the support for the former Sewage Plant outfall be removed?

Mr. Keller: The BRAC project not have the funding to do so.

Mr. Gandesbery: The Wetlands Restoration project has no plans to remove these either. However, there may be some use for converting them into a walkway for scientists.

Next Steps

Main Airfield Parcel

- Complete sampling required by ROD/RAP and site clean-up requirements (SCRs) for the range sites and the removed revetments
- Prepare remedial design documents;
- Implement remedial action for inboard areas this Summer

South Runway DDT Hotspot

- Excavate in May
- Stockpile off load in July

Range Sites

- Excavate in July/August, direct load and transport

Revetments

- Excavate in July, direct load and transport.

POL Hill

- Request site closeout this Summer
- Long term monitoring

Costal Salt Marsh

- Dispose of any Class 1 soils within 90 days and the rest this summer.
- Final grading of the levee and some backfill area.

- Monitor the re-vegetation of the backfilled excavation.

Mr. Gandesbery: How much of Class 1 and 2 soils do you have? What will be the work hours?

Mr. Keller: There are about 30,000 cubic yards of soils. It is estimated that less than 6,000 cubic yards will be classified as hazardous waste.

Ms. Theran: Will there be some kind of washing of the roadway? We are having a problem with the gates being locked and vandalism.

Mr. Keller: Yes, the roadways will be cleaned and the gates near the landfill and the wetlands will be locked.

Mr. Polson: Someone broke into one of the trailers but stole minimal things.

Mr. Gandesbery: We will be posting more notices to address this problem.

Ms. Eklund: The area by the south of the runway area, is that near Bayside? Have you notified the residents in that area?

Mr. Keller: It is south of Bayside near the hangers. Yes, there was a notice sent out.

Ms. Eklund: How many trucks will travel down Todd Rd. on a daily basis?

Mr. Keller: There will be about 60 trucks at the peak time. We can not say how long it would be for until a contractor is hired.

Ms. Eklund: Has anyone contacted the California Conservation Corp to remove the boat dock?

Mr. Gandesbery: They do strictly hand work not machinery; they will be involved in planting activities.

Ms. Theran: Is there a way to enforce a slow speed limit for the trucks?

Mr. Keller: Yes, a slow speed limit will be enforced by talking directly with the drivers, one on one.

Ms. Feger: Will you have a public meeting or just a notice to explain these activities? Can you also discuss mitigation actions?

Mr. Keller: We will send out a notice that discusses the project and mitigation actions.

Regulatory Agencies comments

Ms. Feger: We are hoping to release the tentative order for the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project before the next RAB meeting. All members will be distributed a copy in May for review. There is only one more RAB meeting. Who will be responsible for ensuring that public meetings will be held?

Mr. McMahan: Jim McAlister is looking into providing funding to keep the RAB meetings going. They will be updating the public participation plan. Mr. McAlister is also exploring a dispute resolution order. That should be developed in July. Beyond that, longer range plans are being explore.

Ms. Valenzia: Since the RAB is a joint RAB with the Navy and Army, the meetings will be held until the project is finished. The meetings may be held on a bi-annual basis.

Ms. Eklund: How much do they cost?

Ms. Valenzia: They cost about \$3000 for each meeting.

Mr. Keller: That cost covers recording and announcements for the RAB meetings.

Ms. Eklund: Please put this on the next agenda for discussion.

Ms. Feger: What are the Coastal Conservancy public outreach plans?

Mr. Gandesbery: We will be planning to have a newsletter and a website. Other than that we are open to suggestions.

Ms. Valenzia: The purpose of the RAB is to talk about the environmental programs.

Community Co-chair Nomination- Ed Keller

Mr. Keller announced that Tunstall Lang would like to step down from the position of Community Co-chair.

Mr. Keller: Matthew McCarron did contact me and said that although he is not able to attend this RAB meeting if he is nominated for the Co-Chair position he would accept.

Mr. McCarron was nominated and seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor of Mr. McCarron.

Ms. Threan: What is the status of the Pacheco Creek?

Ms. Feger: An inter-agency meeting is being scheduled.

Mr. Meillier: The Regulatory Agencies did meet last month regarding the Creek.

Meeting wrap up and Adjournment- Ed Keller

Mr. Keller announced that the next meeting will be held on July 13, 2005