

State of California

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ALAMEDA POINT  
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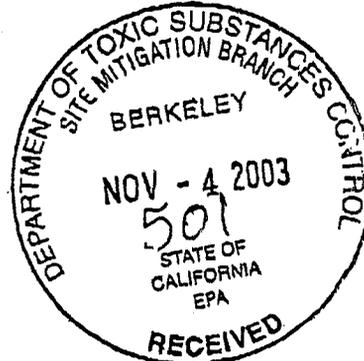


# Memorandum

Date: October 28, 2003

To: Ms. Marcia Liao  
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From: Charlie Huang, Ph.D.  
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Department of Fish and Game



Subject: **Comments on Draft Remedial Investigation Report, Seaplane Lagoon, Alameda Point, and Draft Seaplane Lagoon Remedial Investigation Report, Alameda Point, Response to Comments**

The California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response (DFG-OSPR) has completed its review of the "Draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report, Seaplane Lagoon, Alameda Point, California," dated January 28, 2003 and "Draft Seaplane Lagoon Remedial Investigation (RI) Report, Alameda Point, California, Response to Comments (RTC)" dated September 8, 2003. The document and RTC were prepared for the Navy by Battelle, Entrix Inc., and Neptune & Company. Per the Federal Facilities Agreement, we reviewed the document. The following comments are provided as part of our role as a natural resource trustee for the State of California's fish and wildlife and their habitats.

## Background

Alameda Point is a former U.S. Navy installation located at the western end of Alameda Island on the east side of San Francisco Bay. The installation, formerly known as Naval Air Station (NAS) Alameda, served as an aircraft maintenance, repair, and refit center and as a base of operations for Naval surface craft from before World War II until its closure in April 1997 under the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990. NAS was renamed Alameda Point in a reorientation of the facility toward civilian use.

Alameda Point is on Alameda Island at the western end of the City of Alameda in Alameda County. It is rectangular, with dimensions of 2 miles long from east to west and 1 mile wide from north to south, and occupies 1,734 acres of land.

Alameda Point is almost entirely modified by human activity. Industries and activities located at the facility include port facilities, aircraft repair facilities, office buildings, runways, and landfills. In addition, Alameda Point includes contiguous and noncontiguous properties such as constructed breakwaters. Major habitat types include open water areas; estuarine intertidal emergent wetlands; non-native grassland; ruderal upland vegetation; disturbed areas; beach, urban, and ornamental landscapes; and riprap. Several special status species that occur or are expected to occur have been identified at Alameda Point.

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Seaplane Lagoon (SPL) is located on the southeastern corner of Alameda Point. From the 1940s to 1975, SPL was a point of discharge for some of Alameda Point storm-sewer outfalls. The lagoon received approximately 300 million gallons of wastewater from industrial and storm-sewer outfalls. Industrial wastewater generated at the former NAS from the 1940s to mid-1970 was discharged directly to the storm drains, which subsequently discharged to the lagoon and other offshore areas. This wastewater was reported to contain heavy metals, solvents, paints, detergents, acids, caustics, mercury, and oil and grease. The lagoon also received concentrated hazardous materials from spills that subsequently were washed into the industrial waste or storm-sewer collection system. In 1975, industrial discharge to the lagoon stopped.

### Comments

1. DFG-OSPR appreciates this opportunity to provide guidance on the planned cleanup at Alameda Point, Alameda. This memo will serve to inform the Navy of our continuing interest in coordinating any natural resource issues, as one of the designated State natural resource trustees. This may be necessary should release(s) of any hazardous materials at the subject site affect State natural resources.
2. We have reviewed the comments prepared by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Region (RWQCB-SF), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for the Draft RI. We generally concur with the concerns expressed by DTSC, RWQCB-SF, and USEPA at a meeting with the Navy on September 11, 2003. We agree that sediment in SPL poses greatest ecological risks in the areas along the northeast and northwest corners of SPL. We believe that the Navy should not spend more funds for further studies, but should prepare a Feasibility Study (FS) report to address potential remedial alternatives for the SPL. DFG-OSPR concurs with the response to RTC provided by Dr. James Polisini of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) on September 24, 2003.

### Conclusions:

We generally concur with the concerns expressed by DTSC, RWQCB-SF, and USEPA at a meeting with the Navy on September 11, 2003. We agree with the conclusion that sediment in SPL poses an unacceptable ecological risk in the areas along the northeast and northwest corners of SPL. We join other regulatory agencies and trustee agencies to support immediate development of the FS Report for the SPL. Since Dr. Polisini's comments adequately captured the issues, I will not be sending out separate comments. If there is anything I can do to support your efforts, please let me know.

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DFG-OSPR appreciates the opportunity to review this document and the response. If you have any questions regarding this memo or require further details, please contact me at (916) 324-9805 or by e-mail at [chuang@ospr.dfg.ca.gov](mailto:chuang@ospr.dfg.ca.gov).

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