

LOCAL NEWS

# Navy cleanup, restoration under way

## L.B. plan could top \$400 million

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 Staff writer

LONG BEACH — The Navy has begun a cleanup and restoration program of contaminated property at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard and the Long Beach Naval Station that could cost more than \$400 million dollars.

Thirteen sites have been identified; six on the naval station and seven at the shipyard. Navy officials disclosed their plans Wednesday night at a public meeting at the base officers club.

Some of the sites pose an immediate threat to human health, the officials said.

Some of the contaminated areas were dump sites for old desks, bed frames and construction debris, while other sites are covered waste disposal pits in which the worst kinds of hazardous waste were summarily disposed of decades ago.

The materials include a wide variety of waste oils, thinners and solvents, paint sludges, plating materials, caustic and acidic wastes, sandblasting grit and toxic heavy metals like lead and mercury.

"We're working on a fast track to clean the area," said Alan Hurt, in charge of cleaning up the Long Beach bases for the Navy. The cleanup is being supervised by the state Environmental Protection Agency's toxic substances department.

The naval station, ordered closed by the federal base closure mission in 1991, is scheduled to shut down in September 1994, and much of the cleanup work should be well under way by then, said Lt. Karl Johnson, a

Navy spokesman in Long Beach.

It will cost roughly \$210 million to clean up the naval station and \$200 million to clean up the shipyard, said Jeanne Light, a spokeswoman for the Navy's engineering command in San Diego.

Funds for the cleanup will come from the Pentagon's Installation Restoration Program and the Navy, said Glenn Flood, a defense department spokesman.

"Two years ago it was estimated that it would cost \$25 billion to clean up contamination at all the nation's military bases, but that number could go higher," he said.

The Clinton administration has asked that the cleanup process be speeded up, said Flood, so properties can be turned over to the communities and be reused.

The cleanup work ranges from relatively simple procedures like covering up contamination at some sites so it can't blow around or be washed away, to extensive studies of polluted areas that may require complex solutions.

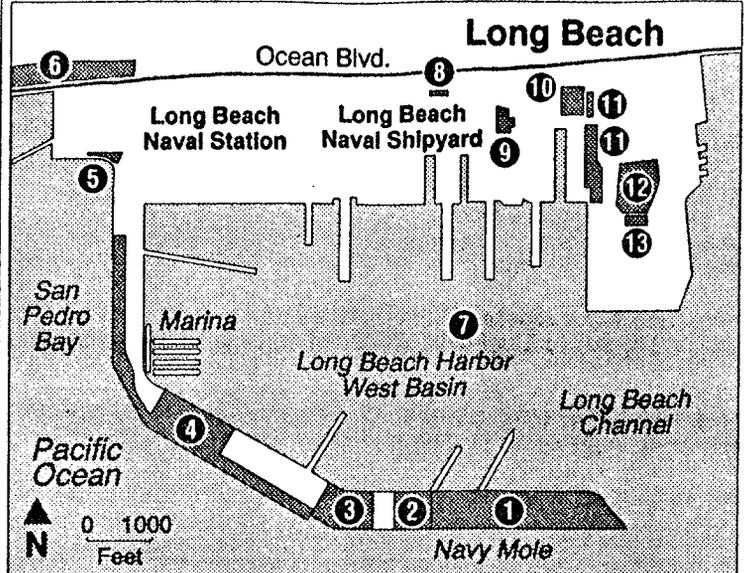
Covering a hillside at the shipyard littered with sand blast grit could begin as early as October, said shipyard spokesman John Ryan.

However, cleaning the sediments of the vast harbor area is a complex procedure that will require extensive sampling, said William Fisher, a fish and wildlife biologist who is studying the area for the Navy. The contaminants in the sediment have to be identified, the extent of contamination has to be determined and a plan must be devised for the cleanup.

"We don't have a lot of data on the harbor. I honestly don't know what's out there," Fisher said.

### Hazardous waste sites

The federal government plans to clean up 13 hazardous waste sites at the Naval Station and shipyard.



Waste description	Disposal period
1 Trash, metal scrap, sandblast grit, asbestos	Mid-1940s to mid-1960s
2 Waste oils, acids, solvents, paints	Mid-1960s to 1980
3 Waste oils, acidic wastes, sludges, trash	Late 1940s to early 1970s
4 Construction debris, sandblast grit, petroleum products, asbestos, trash	1950s to 1972
5 Bed frames, desks, solid waste, construction debris	Mid-1930s to 1968
6 Sandblast grit, old boats, waste oil, solid waste, lead batteries, mercury, waste oil	1942 to 1982, early 1940s to 1982
7 Rust preventative, lead caulking, solvents, PCBs, acids, waste oil, grease	
8 Trichloroethene	1974 to 1980
9 Oil, grease, solvents, trichloroethene, cosmoline, paint	1940 to 1973
10 Batteries, waste oil, solvents, mercury	1952 to 1957
11 Sandblast grit, cuprous oxide	1950s to 1975
12 Sandblast grit, tributyltin, solvents, petroleum products, paints, trichloroethene	1971 to 1975
13 Sodium nitrite, sulfides, citric acids, trisodium phosphate, oil, solvents	1970 to present

SOURCE: U.S. Navy