

Panel looking for a few good members

Board to oversee Navy area cleanup

By Neil Strassman
Staff writer

LONG BEACH — Restoration of contaminated property at the Long Beach Naval Station and the Long Beach Naval Shipyard has started, but a joint Navy, state and community oversight panel is still looking for public members.

The panel, called the Restoration Advisory Board, met Tuesday night at the naval station, but the meeting was cut short because of a lack of participation from the public.

"We're looking for the public to become members of the board so that the cleanup decision can be made with community involvement," said Navy spokesman Lt. Karl Johnson. The deadline for

community members to join the board has been extended to March 15, the next time it meets, he said.

Thirteen contaminated sites — six at the naval station and seven at the shipyard — have been identified, though none of those sites poses an immediate threat to human health. Cleanup will cost about \$410 million.

Some of the contaminated areas were dump sites for old furniture and construction debris. But other sites were used as waste disposal pits for the worst kinds of hazardous waste — thinners, solvents, waste oils, paint sludges, plating materials, caustic and acidic wastes, sandblasting grit and toxic heavy metals such as mercury and lead — more than 30 years ago.

The naval station was

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NAVY: Panel needs public input on cleanup of sites

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ordered closed by the federal Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission in 1991 and is scheduled to be shut down in September. The shipyard narrowly escaped closure in 1993 and may have to fight for its existence when the base closure commission reconvenes in 1995.

The Navy estimates it will cost about \$210 million to clean up the naval station and \$200 million to clean up the shipyard. Funds for the cleanup come from the Pentagon's Installation Restoration Program.

A hillside east of the shipyard's giant drydock is the first site that has been partially cleaned.

Sandblast grit and lead and copper paint residues had been used as fill there years ago to create the hillside, said shipyard spokesman John Ryan. About 6,400 cubic yards of the grit will be covered with a cement cap in two weeks, he said, and the hillside has been reshaped.

"This is only an interim action to prevent further contamination of the groundwater and any other impact on the environment," said Ryan.

Preliminary soil samples have been taken at several sites, with more extensive sampling at the site just north of Ocean Boul-

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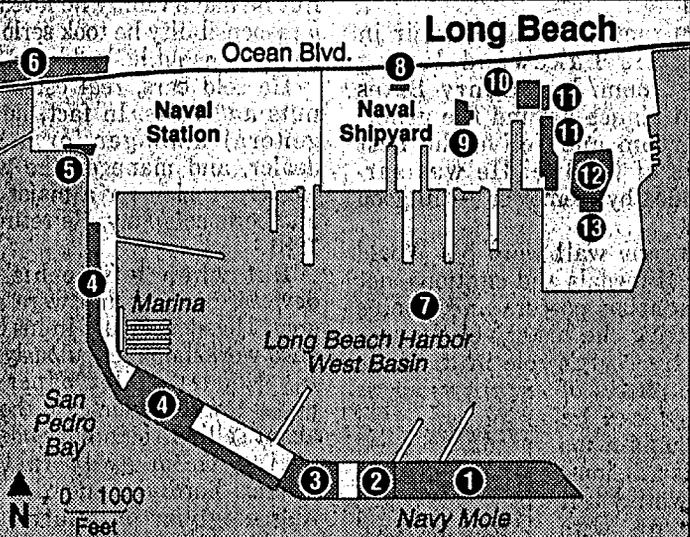
The Restoration Advisory Board, a panel of Navy, state officials and community members to oversee the cleanup of the Long Beach Naval Station and Long Beach Naval Shipyard, is looking for public members to join the board. Anyone interested should contact Lt. Karl Johnson of the Long Beach Naval Station at (310) 831-8729 or attend the board's next meeting at 7 p.m. on March 15 at the naval station. Individuals do not need any special training or knowledge.

levard, said Capt. Terry Ulaszewski, the shipyard's business and planning officer. He said additional sampling and tests still need to be done before the cleanup of the other sites can proceed.

The cleanup work ranges from simple procedures such as capping contamination so it can't blow around or wash away to complex problems such as cleaning the sediments in the vast harbor area.

Contaminated sites

A \$410 million cleanup and restoration project at 13 sites at the Long Beach Naval Station and Naval Shipyard has begun.



Waste description	Disposal period
1. Ash, 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 1986
6. Sandblast grit, old boats, waste oil, solid waste, lead batteries, mercury, waste oil	1942 to 1965, early 1940s to 1982
7. Rust preventative, lead caulking, solvents, PCB's, acids, waste oil, grease	Early 1940s to mid-1970s
8. Trichloroethene	1974 to 1980
9. Grease, solvents, trichloroethene, moline, 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