



**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BASE CLOSURE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY GROUP**

**MEETING SUMMARY
FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 1992**

**California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control**



OFFICE MEMO

STD. 100 (REV. 10/87)
87 46331

DATE
12/28/92

TO:

Lt. Commander J. L. Snyder
Long Beach Naval Station

ROOM/STA. NO.

FROM:

Clair Bed
Sup. of Toxic Substances
Central

PHONE NUMBER
(310) 590-4949
ROOM/STA. NO.

ATSS

SUBJECT:

Advisory Group Summary
Near Commander Snyder

The enclosed advisory group
summary is from the
September meeting in Sacramento.
If you have any comments
or concerns about the
advisory group, please call
me at (310) 590-4949.

Sincerely
Clair Bed
Public Participation

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

400 P Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806



November 2, 1992

Dear Advisory Group Member:

Due to difficulties in scheduling facilities, the next Base Closure Environmental Advisory Group Meeting has been changed to Wednesday, February 3, 1993 instead of February 4.

The meeting will be held at the same location as our September meeting - 400 P Street, Room 1170, Sacramento and will begin at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting summary from the last meeting and a tentative agenda for the February meeting will be distributed within the next two weeks.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (916) 324-6544.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Woodson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Larry Woodson
Public Participation Specialist

cc: SEE ATTACHED
DISTRIBUTION LIST



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PAGE 1 – MEETING AGENDA

MEETING SUMMARY FOR 17 SEPTEMBER 1992

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1220 PACIFIC HIGHWAY
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TELEPHONE: (619) 532-3676

BACKGROUND

The second Base Closure Environmental Advisory Group (Advisory Group) meeting was held September 17, 1992 at State offices in Sacramento, at 400 P Street, Room 1170. The first Advisory Group meeting was held on June 26, 1992, at the Sterling Hotel Conservatory in Sacramento, California. The Advisory Group has been established to increase public participation in the base closure, cleanup, and reuse process. The Advisory Group is made up of representatives of varying interests, including environmental groups, business interests, redevelopment interests, agricultural groups, and State agencies (see Appendix A for a full list of Advisory Group members and alternates).

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Larry Woodson, from the California Environmental Protection Agency's (Cal/EPA) Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), served as the moderator for the meeting. After welcoming everyone to the second Advisory Group meeting, he introduced the Advisory Group members and other involved officials present at the meeting (see Appendix A). Mr. Woodson asked for comments on the June 1992 Meeting Summary and George Gomes, of the California Farm Bureau Federation, remarked that he thought the summary was "very well done." Mr. Woodson reported that DTSC has established a new Base Closure Branch, headed by David Wang, and then introduced Bill Ryan of DTSC for some welcoming remarks.

WELCOMING REMARKS

Bill Ryan, Acting Deputy Director of DTSC's Site Mitigation Division, attended the meeting on behalf of Brian Runkel, Deputy Secretary of Regulatory Improvement, and James M. Strock, Secretary for Environmental Protection, for Cal/EPA. He expressed that Cal/EPA will continue to devote high-level attention to this very significant group and introduced William Soo Hoo, Director of DTSC.

Mr. Ryan remarked that the base closure process was making relatively strong progress. Clean parcel transfer procedures, which were discussed in the June meeting, are now in the preliminary stages of application. Reports on continuing progress will be provided at future meetings. Mr. Ryan announced that the California Base Closure Environmental Committee (Committee) met for the two days prior to this Advisory Group meeting. The Committee members discussed a wide spectrum of topics, with some successes and some topics still requiring continued efforts for resolution. Mr. Ryan noted that the Committee's process of communication among a variety of involved agencies is creating results.

PAGE 3 – OVERVIEW OF THE REUSE PROCESS

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Some questions and comments were raised regarding this presentation, which were answered or addressed at the meeting. A question-and-answer document will be distributed in the future to summarize these questions, answers, and comments.

LEGISLATIVE AND BRAC II FUNDING UPDATE

Jim Cornelius, Principal Water Resources Control Engineer at the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) provided the group with both a legislative and BRAC II funding update.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Cornelius reported that there had not been significant updates in the legislative news since the first issue of the Cal/EPA Base Closure Environmental Update, but that both SWRCB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) have legislative offices that are tracking developments as they occur. Mr. Cornelius highlighted that the concept of when remedial activities are "operational" is very important because groundwater plumes can require decades of cleanup activities, sometimes up to 50 or 100 years. He noted that HR 4016 will help allow the reuse to move along on clean parcels while long-term remediation continues.

BRAC II FUNDING UPDATE

Good news was reported on BRAC II funding: as of September 15, 1992, the Senate passed a supplementary funding Bill #84 to Bill #10. The supplementary bill is now in a committee for issue resolution. Final approval of the supplementary bill is expected within approximately a week. If final approval is not given for this bill, it will detrimentally affect a number of California cleanup efforts on closing bases.

ROUNDTABLE ADVISORY GROUP MEMBER DISCUSSION

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Woodson invited open discussion among Advisory Group members. Three main issues were discussed: the process for addressing buried, abandoned, unexploded ordnance (impact areas), differences between public and private property transfer procedures, and endangered species on closing base property.

PROCESS FOR "IMPACT AREAS"

Veronica Ferguson of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) began this discussion by stating that Fort Ord in Monterey County has an "impact area" (an area with buried, abandoned, unexploded ordnance) that may be a Superfund site. She asked what the process will be to deal with such impact areas. She noted that

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Dr. Wong stated that the answers to these questions could not be answered in the day's meeting and Mr. Woodson closed the discussion by reaffirming that local reuse groups will take the first cut at developing an approach to deal with impact areas in their Community Plan and stating that this issue would be placed on the Action Items list to be addressed at a future meeting (see page 14 for the list of Action Items).

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY TRANSFER PROCEDURES

Karen Davis of the League of California Cities opened this discussion by stating a concern about differences in parcelization and indemnification procedures between the Federal (publicly-owned) and local (privately-owned) levels. She asked what the rationale was for treating Federal property transfers differently than private property transfers (procedures for parceling Federal properties are underway to help expedite closing base reuse, while these types of procedures are not available for private property transfers). She stated that this leaves local governments at a disadvantage.

LTC Walker responded by saying that private companies are less reliable because they can go bankrupt, whereas the Federal government is more reliable and will likely always be around for future funding. Ms. Davis remarked that this is still a key issue and that dealing with a Federal entity makes it hard to transfer a property quickly. **Robin Parker** of the League of California Cities asked if any attention would be given to this issue on a Congressional level. Mr. Woodson suggested placing this issue on the list of Action Items and wondered if individual lobbying would be effective to draw attention to the issue. Ms. Davis expressed that an organized lobbying effort would be more successful than individual efforts. Mr. Smith stated that he was not sure that private entities do not have parcelization procedures available to them, as the Federal government does.

Ms. Davis remarked that private companies have an advantage over local communities for parcelization. LTC Walker stated that if the Federal government did not have cleanup requirements, the property could be sold off right now and that the whole point of the base closure process was to ensure that closing base property is clean before transfer is allowed. **R. Dee Reynolds** of CSAC added to LTC Walker's comment by stating that there is a Federal guarantee for cleaning up the property, as the legislation is written to ensure that no final sale occurs until the cleanup is complete.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ON CLOSING BASE PROPERTY

Julius Tsai of the California Resources Agency opened this discussion by asking what the connection is between the base closure process and Federal and State endangered species acts and what will be done if endangered species are found on closing bases? Ms. Maco responded by saying that because DOD is the lead agency required to ensure Federal cleanup of closing bases, they would be responsible for conducting a wildlife inventory for each closing base. She also stated that DOD is subject to the applicable endangered species laws and that the issue should be dealt

**PAGE 7 – REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BASE
CLOSURE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

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Action is already being taken to gather information on available innovative remediation technologies. Mr. Wang provided copies of a Proposed Model Agenda for Base Specific Reuse/Environmental Assessment Meeting, and one for the Mather Internal Study Team (see Appendix B).

**BARBARA MACO, SUPERFUND FEDERAL FACILITIES ENFORCEMENT,
U.S. EPA, REGION IX**

Barbara Maco began her report by announcing that Cal/EPA and U.S. EPA are working on a strategy for holding several meetings with reuse committees on a variety of environmental assessment and reuse issues. A few proposed model agendas have been developed in anticipation of these meetings, which will also be attended by DOD representatives (see Appendix B, Selected Meeting Handouts). Ms. Maco ensured meeting participants that base closures continue to be a high priority at U.S. EPA and that they will continue their participation in information exchanges.

Ms. Maco provided background on the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), often referred to as Superfund. She also addressed the subject of Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Regulations (ARARs), noting that a detailed discussion on them would be useful for a future Advisory Group meeting. She explained that the purpose of ARARs is to ensure that hazardous substances are not just transferred from one media to another. The "applicable" regulations refer to promulgated standards and the "relevant and appropriate" regulations are discretionary regulations determined on a site-specific basis. She explained that there are three types of ARARs: chemical, location, and action-specific ARARs and that for base closures, ARARs will be examined on a site-by-site basis. She stated that DOD must either comply with the ARARs or formally waive them, if appropriate. In closing, Ms. Maco announced that U.S. EPA has meetings planned with DOD to determine the ARARs for each base and a workshop for Federal Facilities in early 1993.

**JIM CORNELIUS, PRINCIPAL ENGINEER, STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD**

Jim Cornelius began his report by describing the SWRCB "anti-degradation" policy, which is designed to ensure the protection and quality of ground and surface water during site cleanups. He noted that leaking underground storage tanks are a big concern for SWRCB. Mr. Cornelius expressed that he is particularly excited about the Committee's site characterization action team that will develop a standardized approach for site characterization and prepare a standard siting document for use in base closures. Mr. Cornelius noted that this Committee Action Team has another meeting planned in October.

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AIR CREDITS

Ray Menebroker, Chief, Project Assessment Branch, Air Resources Board opened his presentation on air credits by describing the structure of air pollution control regulation in California. Mr. Menebroker described the three main levels of air quality regulation as follows:

- Local Districts – each of the 34 local districts has its own district-specific regulations, but all deal only with non-vehicular pollution sources.
- Air Resources Board – the Board provides oversight on the local districts to ensure compliance with State laws and provides technical assistance.
- U.S. EPA – this Federal agency provides oversight on State regulations to ensure compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act and is involved with developing an air emissions trading policy.

Of the 34 local air districts, only seven local districts will be affected by military base closures, including:

- San Diego Air Pollution Control District (APCD)
- San Bernardino APCD
- South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)
- San Joaquin Valley APCD
- Bay Area AQMD
- Sacramento AQMD
- Monterey APCD.

Mr. Menebroker announced an upcoming meeting to acquaint the affected local districts on base closure issues.

Mr. Menebroker provided a general explanation of air credits: when a facility is closed, it may obtain credits for the air pollution that will no longer be emitted from the closed facility. The quantity of credits awarded will depend upon the historical emissions of the closed facility. The closed-facility owner may retain the credits for future development projects or may trade the credits to another party who wishes to proceed with a development that will involve air pollution. Mr. Menebroker explained that how credits are dealt with on the local level is very complicated and that the air credit policies may differ from one local district to another. For this reason, he suggested that specific questions be addressed on a local level.

Some questions and comments were raised regarding this presentation, which were answered or addressed at the meeting. A question-and-answer document will be distributed in the future to summarize these questions, answers, and comments.

PAGE 11 – REPORT ON RADIOACTIVE/MIXED
WASTE AT CLOSING BASES

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Dorothy Wilson of U.S. EPA, Region IX attended the meeting representing Dianna Young, Chief of Community Relations for Region IX. Ms. Wilson began her presentation by describing the purpose of Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs). The primary focus of TAGs is to help community groups affected by Superfund sites to understand the volumes of technical reports produced about the site in question. U.S. EPA grants up to \$50,000, to last for a three-year period, to one community group for the purpose of hiring a technical advisor of their choosing.

Since the program's inception, U.S. EPA, Region IX has awarded seven grants, two of which were to Federal Facilities, of which, one was a facility on the base closure list (Hunters Point Naval Annex). For instance, the Bayview/Hunters Point Homeowners Association was awarded a TAG in May 1992. That group is currently determining its needs before hiring a technical advisor. Ms. Wilson ended her presentation by providing a fact sheet on TAGs and stating that she welcomes any questions; she may be reached at (415) 744-2179.

Some questions and comments were raised regarding this presentation, which were answered or addressed at the meeting. A question-and-answer document will be distributed in the future to summarize these questions, answers, and comments.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Larry Woodson, Public Participation Coordinator, DTSC, provided a report on community outreach for base closure issues. Mr. Woodson announced the premier issue of the Cal/EPA Base Closure Environmental *Update*, a newsletter devoted to providing a progress report on the hazardous waste cleanup at closing California military bases. Since the Advisory Group is not all-inclusive, the newsletter was developed to ensure communication of base closure progress to a larger, more diverse audience. The newsletter will be distributed quarterly (or as needed), between Advisory Group meetings. Future issues of the *Update* will be more timely and will be distributed to a wider mailing list. Future articles will include some of the issues discussed at Advisory Group meetings. Mr. Woodson asked for feedback on the premier issue and received a favorable response.

Mr. Woodson requested comments on the mailing list used for the premier issue of the *Update* to correct any mistakes and expand the list, as necessary (the mailing list was passed out to all meeting participants). Comments on and additions to the mailing

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OPEN DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT
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suggested sending both the first and second issues of the *Update* to new additions to the mailing list.

WHAT ARE THE MILITARY'S PLANS FOR OBTAINING LOCAL PERMITS?

Jody Sparks of the Toxics Assessment Group opened this discussion by asking how the military plans to approach various local permits. She mentioned that local governments often do not have the staff to review permit documents submitted and wondered if DOD would pay for local government administrative costs for assessing permits. LTC Walker of DOD suggested obtaining more detail on the types of permits in question before addressing the issue further. Lenny Siegel, who attended the meeting to represent Ted Smith of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, recommended examining government-owned-contractor-operated facilities (GOCOs) as well. Barbara Maco of U.S. EPA suggested that the Advisory Group recommend a process to include local reuse groups' concerns in the ARAR standards, so that all necessary environmental permits are incorporated early in the process.

WHAT IS THE BEST MODEL FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT?

Mr. Siegel began this discussion by posing the question of what the best model is for public involvement? He suggested that the State's highest priority should be encouraging the development of local task forces and that the task forces require technical assistance to be effective. He stated that whatever the State's role in public involvement, that the State should ensure that local task forces are developed. Mr. Siegel also stressed that continued public involvement is essential. At this point, Mr. Wang remarked that although the workshop is mandated, there is some flexibility in how they are conducted. He wondered what the most effective approach would be to plan and conduct the workshops. Mr. Woodson recommended that meeting participants call him with further ideas and suggestions for workshop planning (see page 15 for Mr. Woodson's telephone number). Dr. Hiatt suggested contacting local Boards of Supervisors for input on potential workshop participants.

ACTION ITEMS, ISSUES, AND SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

ACTION ITEMS

- Research policy and process for impact areas with unexploded ordnance
- Plan for base-specific fact sheets that address ARARs for public awareness and a process for including local regulations early-on in the ARAR process
- Identify applicable air quality districts, credits, and regulations
- Identify closing bases with radioactive and mixed wastes
- Obtain the Senate committee report on sites with radioactive or mixed wastes (Leslie Lawton, SWRCB)
- Research alternative funding for technical assistance
- Research potential Federal funding for health studies (Barbara Maco, U.S. EPA)

APPENDIX A

ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

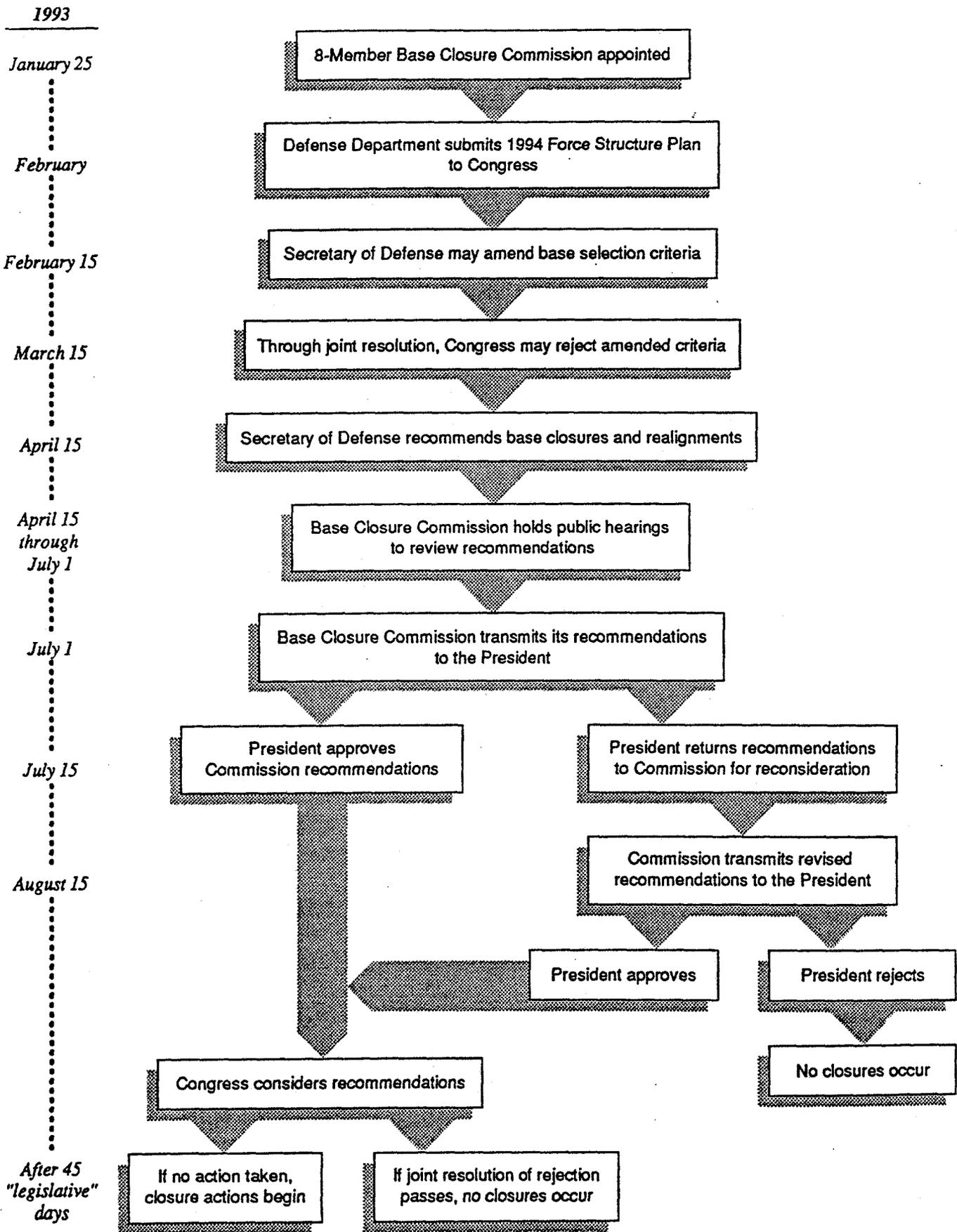
MEMBER	TELEPHONE	SEPTEMBER ATTENDEE
Lynn Anderson Office of Assemblyman Bill Filante	916-445-7827	No
Cori Ayala Office of Assemblyman Sal Canella	916-445-8570	No
Lori Christensen Office of Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg	916-324-4676	No
Dr. Harvey F. Collins Health and Welfare Agency	916-322-2308	Represented by Gary Butner
Karen Davis [alternate] League of California Cities	408-730-7599	Yes
Veronica Ferguson California State Association of Counties	408-755-5065	Yes
Leslie Friedman The Nature Conservancy	415-281-0427	No
George Gomes [alternate] California Farm Bureau Federation	916-924-4075	Yes
John Healy Department of General Services	916-323-5351	Represented by Jim Derby
Dr. Ted Hiatt California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO)	415-499-3707	Yes
Collette Johnson-Schulke Office of Congressman Robert Matsui	916-551-2850	Yes
Tom Lee California Redevelopment Association	916-440-1319	Yes
Robert Lucas California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance	916-444-7337	No

APPENDIX B

SELECTED MEETING HANDOUTS

1993 Military Base Closure Process

BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT ACT



California Military Base Closures

KEY:

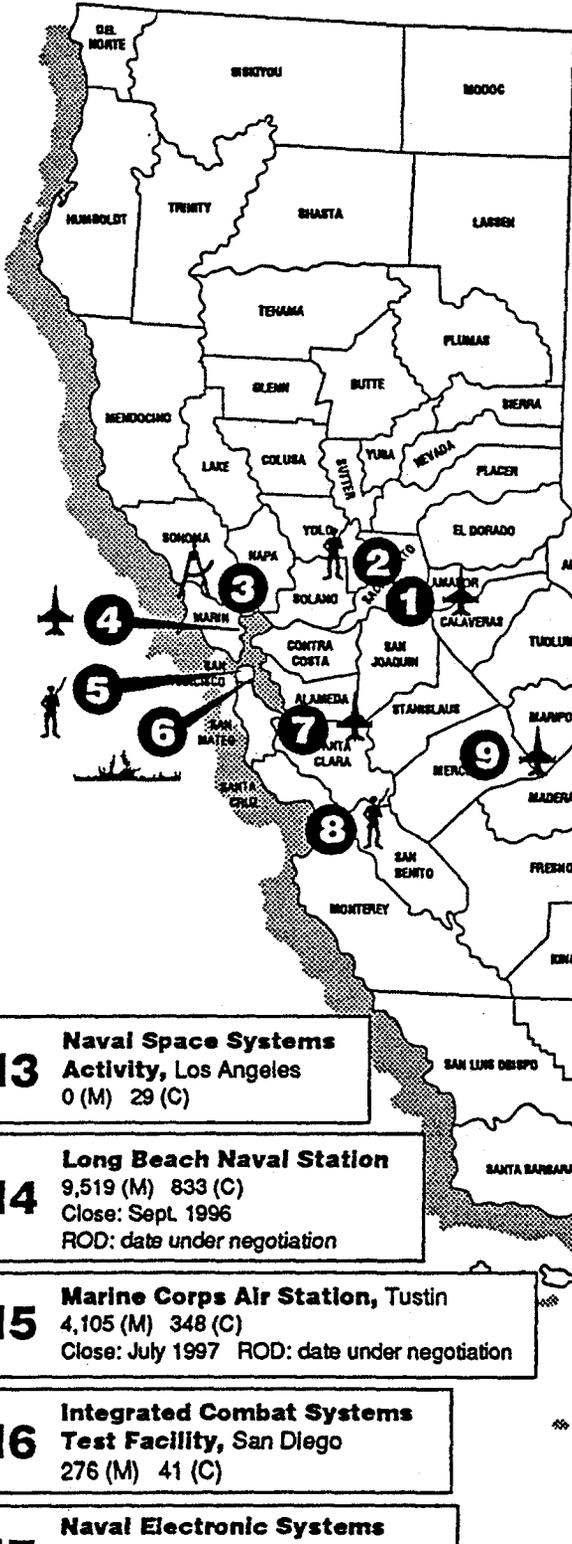
(M) Military personnel (C) Civilian personnel

Close: Projected base closure date

ROD: Estimated date environmental clean-up

Record of Decision signed

* Minor closure - no facilities will become available



1 Mather Air Force Base, Sacramento
1,988 (M) 1,012 (C)
Close: Sept. 1993 ROD: June 1994

2 Sacramento Army Depot
334 (M) 3,164 (C)
Close: Sept. 1996 ROD: April 1996

* **3 Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Center, Vallejo**
8 (M) 314 (C)

4 Hamilton Army Air Field, Novato
5 (M) 20 (C)
Close: June 1995 ROD: 1989

5 Presidio Army Base, San Francisco
2,140 (M) 3,150 (C)
Close: Sept. 1994 ROD: June 1995

6 Hunter's Point Annex
5 (M) 63 (C)
Close: Sept. 1996 ROD: August 1994

7 Naval Air Station, Moffett Field
3,359 (M) 633 (C)
Close: Sept. 1997 ROD: Sept. 1996

8 Fort Ord
13,619 (M) 2,835 (C)
Close: Sept. 1997 ROD: Sept. 1997

9 Castle Air Force Base
5,239 (M) 1,164 (C)
Close: May 1995 ROD: April 1995

10 George Air Force Base, Victor Valley
4,852 (M) 506 (C)
Close: Dec. 1992 ROD: July 1995

11 Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino
4,520 (M) 2,133 (C)
Close: April 1994 ROD: Oct. 1993

12 Salton Sea Navy Base
0 (M) 0 (C)
Close: Sept. 1995
ROD: date under negotiation

* **13 Naval Space Systems Activity, Los Angeles**
0 (M) 29 (C)

14 Long Beach Naval Station
9,519 (M) 833 (C)
Close: Sept. 1996
ROD: date under negotiation

15 Marine Corps Air Station, Tustin
4,105 (M) 348 (C)
Close: July 1997 ROD: date under negotiation

16 Integrated Combat Systems Test Facility, San Diego
276 (M) 41 (C)

* **17 Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Center, San Diego**
0 (M) 619 (C)

JUN 11 1992

Amended June 11, 1992 additions in bold-deletions with strikeout

DoD GUIDANCE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PROCESS TO REACH A

FINDING OF SUITABILITY TO TRANSFER

I. INTRODUCTION This policy provides general guidance to the Military Departments on the necessary process to identify and document parcels of real property that are environmentally suitable for transfer at bases undergoing closure. The military departments will develop implementation procedures which can contain additional requirements based on their own specific needs and unique requirements. This guidance applies to transfer of uncontaminated property by deed.

II. OBJECTIVES

- A. Develop a DoD-wide environmental process to identify and document properties which are suitable for transfer.
- B. Ensure that transfer of properties does not interfere with cleanup actions being conducted at National Priority List (NPL) sites under the provisions of a Federal Facilities Agreement or at non-NPL sites under the provisions of other types of agreements.
- C. Assure compliance with all applicable environmental requirements and allow the Department to make the covenant required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 120(h) before properties are transferred. This process is structured to provide adequate public and regulatory participation without unduly encumbering the Department's authority and mandate to make property available for reuse in a timely manner.

C. Transfer

1. A senior-level environmental official, equivalent to at least a Deputy Assistant Secretary from the military department, based on review of the EBST, will certify one of the following conditions through a Finding of Suitability of Transfer (FOST):

a. The requirements of 120(h)(3) have been met for this parcel, because the EBST has concluded that no known reportable quantity release has occurred; ~~i.e., all remedial action necessary to protect human health and the environment has been taken;~~

b. No hazardous substances were stored for one year or more, known to have been released, or disposed of on the parcel.

2. The EBST should be included or attached to required reuse/disposal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation.

3. Regulatory agencies will be notified at the initiation and completion of the EBST and will be included in a consultative role throughout its development.

4. The public and regulatory agencies will be notified of the intent to sign a FOST. ~~This will take place at the earliest possible time, but no later than 30 days prior to a transfer.~~ The notification and EBST will be mailed to the regulatory agencies and made available to the public. This will take place at the earliest possible time, but no later than 30-days prior to a transfer. Additional supporting documentation will be made available upon request. The military departments will address relevant comments from regulatory officials or other appropriate entities that have been received within this 30 day period. After consideration of all relevant comments (unresolved comments will be included as an appendix to the FOST) and signing of the FOST, the military departments will include the signed FOST

PROPOSED MODEL AGENDA

BASE SPECIFIC REUSE/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT MEETING

PURPOSE: Exchange information: (1) on reuse proposals and any desired phases reuse by local communities, (2) on base contamination, necessary cleanup standards and current clean-up schedule, and (3) evaluate changes in cleanup schedule/standards to address reuse priorities.

ATTENDEES:

Governor's Office of Planning and Research
Reuse Committee members
Real Estate Representatives (Base Disposal Staff) from the Base
Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) from Base, EPA, DTSC and RWQCB
Environmental Assessment Specialist from DTSC
Base Closure Staff from EPA, SWRCB

TOPICS:

1. Introductions.
2. Presentation of Reuse Plans. (Reuse Committee Members).
3. Initial Review of Plans. (Base Real Estate Representatives).
4. Summary of Environmental Contamination and Cleanup Activities. (All RPMs).
5. Reuse Priorities. (Reuse Committee).
6. Current Cleanup Schedules, Need and Ability to Revise to Address Reuse Priorities. (RPMs and all attendees).
7. Feasibility and Scheduling for Environmental Baseline Surveys and Findings of Suitability to Transfer. (Environmental Assessment Specialist, Base Closure Staff from EPA and SWRCB, with Base Real Estate Representatives and all attendees).
8. Other Issues.
9. Next Steps, Need to Involve General Public, Scheduling EBST's, Review and Meetings.

Superfund Technical Assistance Grants

Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
Hazardous Site Control Division (OS-220)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

WHAT ARE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Background of Program -- In 1980, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) -- otherwise known as "Superfund" -- established a trust fund for the cleanup of hazardous waste sites in the United States. CERCLA was amended and reauthorized when Congress passed the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), working in concert with the States, is responsible for administering the Superfund program.

An important aspect of the Superfund program is citizen involvement at the local level in decision-making that relates to site-specific cleanup actions. For this reason, community outreach activities are underway at each of the 1,200 sites that are presently on, or proposed for listing on, the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is EPA's published list of the most serious abandoned or otherwise uncontrolled hazardous waste sites nationwide, which have been identified for possible remedial cleanup under Superfund.

Recognizing the importance of community involvement and the need for citizens living near NPL sites to be well-informed, Congress included provisions in SARA to establish a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program intended to foster informed public involvement in decisions relating to site-specific cleanup strategies under Superfund.

In addition to regulatory and legal requirements, decisions concerning cleanup initiatives at NPL sites must take into account a range of technical considerations. These might include:

- Analytical profiles of conditions at the site;
- The nature of the wastes involved; and
- The kinds of technology available for performing the necessary cleanup actions.

The TAG Program provides funds for qualified citizens' groups to hire independent technical advisors to help them understand and comment on such technical factors in cleanup decisions affecting them.

Basic Provisions of the Technical Assistance Grants Program

- Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to community groups for the purpose of hiring technical advisors to help citizens understand and interpret site-related technical information.
- The group must cover 20 percent of the total costs of the project to be supported by TAG funds.
- The group must budget the expenditure of grant funds to cover the entire cleanup period (which averages six years).
- There may be only one TAG award per NPL site; however, the grant may be renewed.

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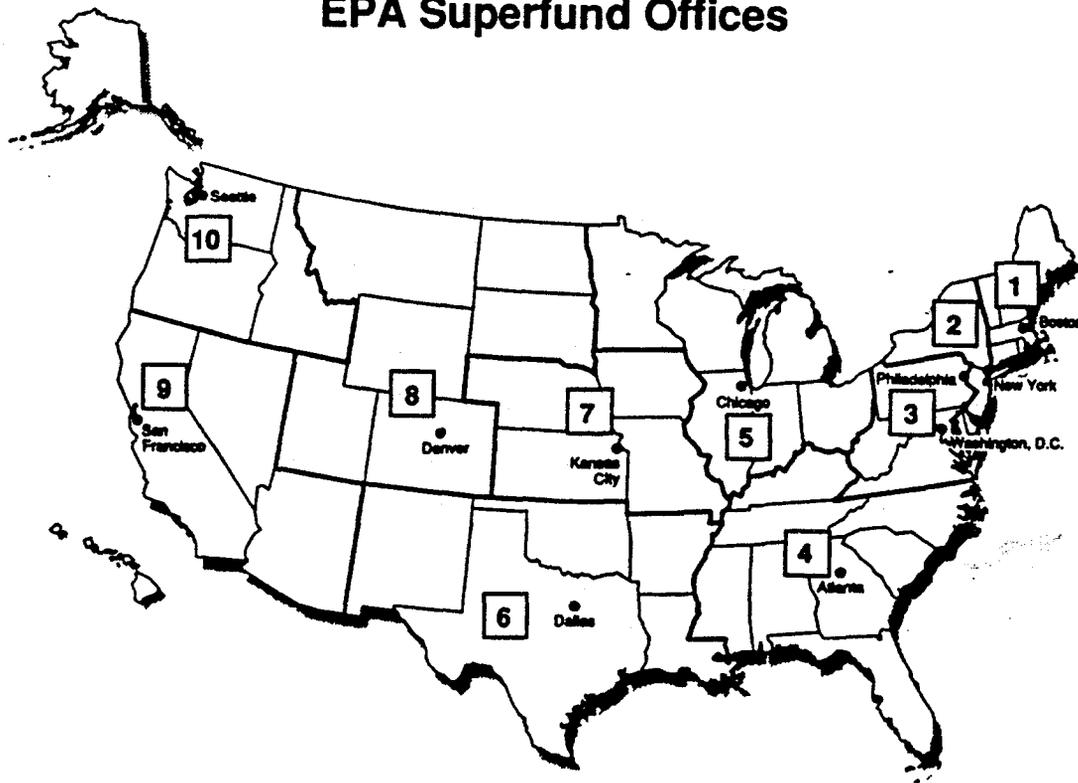
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