



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
SOUTHWEST DIVISION  
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND  
1220 PACIFIC HIGHWAY  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92132-5190

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MARE ISLAND  
SSIC NO. 5090.3.A

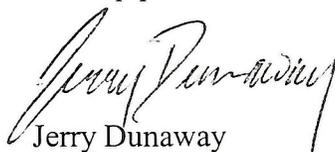
February 18, 2002

Dear RAB members,

Welcome to the Mare Island Naval Shipyard's Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). You are testimony to the living spirit of community volunteerism in the Vallejo area. Your efforts truly add a unique perspective to the Navy's environmental cleanup program. Cleaning up the land from past industrial practices that were once considered to be non-consequential is a difficult and many times daunting task. As the results of that work are so important to the local community, the RAB community members provide that direct link between the Navy and the communities surrounding Mare Island. Your contributions help the Navy make better decisions about cleanup actions, and the positive benefits to your community are unquestionable for generations to come. You are participating in a forum that is intended to have a limited duration, but it has lasting consequences. You should feel proud of your efforts.

For those who have observed the last two years of activities at Mare Island, you know many things have occurred, and the RAB has been a major stakeholder. Mare Island officially closed in 1996, and in 2000 various parcels began to transfer to the City of Vallejo. This means that they physically become part of the community, but first the Navy—with the RAB's input—is required to ensure those parcels are safe for the new users of the land. Six parcels have transferred in these past two years. But even more significant, Mare Island has been the focus of two new attempts at more quickly getting the land into a safe condition for community reuse. Many of you on the RAB have contributed hours, days and weeks to the two "early transfer" projects that started in 2000, and 2002 is expected to yield successes for both. Many eyes in government, industry and communities across the country are observing how these initiatives are performing. The RAB has certainly helped shape the Navy's direction in accomplishing these early transfers. Again, be proud of your contributions. As part of the RAB's influence these past two years, you will continue to participate in the ongoing cleanup of those lands that needs further work. Much work remains, and the Navy has forged great partnerships to accomplish much of that work through these early transfers. Of course, the community perspective is as vital as ever, and we have preserved that participation in these partnerships.

This packet was assembled to provide you with the basic information you need to understand the RAB and the cleanup process. It also contains references to point you in the right direction for additional information. We hope you will find this packet to be a useful resource. The volunteer work you provide ensures that the important component of community acceptance is part of the cleanup process. Welcome aboard!

  
Jerry Dunaway  
RAB Navy Cochair

  
Myrna Hayes  
RAB Community Cochair