

**NAVAL FUEL DEPOT, POINT MOLATE
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD
March 6, 1997**

LOCATION: Richmond City Hall, Employment and Training Building
330 25th St., Conference Room 1
Richmond, CA

PURPOSE: To provide: (1) an introduction of the RAB administrative support consultant, (2) a review of the RAB response to Technical Assistance to Public Participation (TAPP) Proposed Rule, (3) an update of the environmental projects, (4) a discussion of the proposed charter amendments, and (5) an update on the plant survey.

These minutes summarize the items discussed during the RAB meeting; they are not a verbatim transcript.

RAB community members present: Don Gosney (RAB Co-Chair), Lois H. Boyle, Henry Clark, Jean Siri, Torm Nompraseurt, Sarah Eeles, Nagaraja Rao, Bruce Beyaert, Allan Jensen, Thomas H. Cowling, Stephen Linsley, Gary Gruver, and Lucretia Edwards.

Government agencies present: Izzat Ahmadiyya, Navy Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Remedial Project Manager (RPM); Phillip Ramsey, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA); Mary Rose Cassa, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC); Susan Jun, DTSC; James Nusrala, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and La Sandra King, FISC Oakland.

Attachment A provides the attendance list, Attachment B provides the meeting agenda and Attachment C provides the presentation handout materials.

I. WELCOMING REMARKS/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Don Gosney called the meeting to order at 7 p.m., noting that a quorum was present. He announced that Mr. Larry Douchand, BRAC Environmental Coordinator and Navy Co-chair was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

The members were introduced to Darlene Brown, Gutierrez-Palmenberg, Inc.(GPI), project manager for the Navy's new community relations support contract. Ms. Brown explained that the Point Molate Restoration Advisory Board will be provided with administrative support to include meeting preparation, meeting announcements, recording and distribution of meeting minutes, updating attendance and mailing lists, and distribution of handouts. She noted that additional services are available such as preparation of fact sheets and newsletters, training, workshops and other forms of information exchange.

As a point of order, a suggestion was made to make an attendance list available for each meeting so that RAB members can check off their attendance when they arrive. Telephone numbers and work numbers will be collected by the Community Co-chair for inclusion on a membership list, and a copy will be given to each RAB member. Members were asked to note whether they want phone numbers or addresses made public. Evening and daytime numbers should be corrected.

Mr. Gosney directed the board to comment on the January meeting minutes. Mr. Beyaert noted that Item 3 discusses a resolution that could not be adopted due to the lack of a quorum. He requested that the minutes reflect that all the RAB members present did endorse the resolution. Mr. Gosney commented that the vote was advisory and non-binding. It was recommended that the resolution be attached to the minutes. The board approved the minutes with the above changes.

The board accepted the minutes of February 6, 1997 with the following amendments: item 3, Ms. Sarah Eeles should read Mr. Nagaraja Rao. The word "nominated" should be replaced with "selected" (two places). "Terry" should read "Terri" (2 places). "Warner" should read "Werner" (two places). "Steve Lindsley" should read "Stephen Linsley."

II. RAB RESPONSE TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (TAPP)

Mr. Gosney announced that RAB members tried to meet the night before the comments were due for the Technical Assistance to Public Participation Proposed Rule. The RAB responded to DoD by fax on February 24. (see Attachment C).

Essentially the DoD is proposing a program set up to issue grants to RABs and TRCs so that they can hire a consultant to: 1) help clarify the technical aspects of the information provided from the military or 2) help lend credence to the information provided. The money comes directly from the cleanup funds which has a cap (percentage of the amount allocated for the given year with a lifetime cap of \$100,000). This was the second round of review comments. Three proposals were made, two were eliminated. Mr. Gosney found the proposal favorable as a whole, but expressed concern that DoD was offering assistance in a manner not practical or available in a timely fashion. He perceived the procedure lengthy and burdensome. Gary Gruver thought technical documents should be made readily available to the RAB and provide for small articles in the newspapers to update the community.

Susan Jun of DTSC commented that, by following the CERCLA process, the RAB can anticipate when a document is due, and apply for a TAPP to secure a contractor to help with document review. The community had been asked to submit comments on the TAPP application form. Assistance may be received on an as needed basis. A RAB may apply ahead of time for

anticipated needs. There are no deadlines to apply for a TAPP.

Mr. Gosney mentioned the need for a number of specialists that could provide understanding to certain issues the RAB may encounter. Henry Clark stated that technical assistance may be considered for the Point Molate RAB. Mr. Beyaert asked the Navy to let the RAB know when the TAPP Rule is finalized so that they may ascertain their needs and look for available contractors. Ms. Siri stated that she could have already used some technical assistance when interpreting Water Board information sent to her. A member commented that the TAPP Rule appeared to be written by small contractors, but Ms. Jun gave assurance that this was not the case.

Mr. Nompraseurt asked if the RAB has input into the proposal process, i.e., what is the fee and how far can it go, and is the amount really enough to help the community? Ms. Jun emphasized that open public comment was sought in the process and stated that \$100,000 was not a final cap and more may be available than the established percentage rate depending on circumstances. Richmond, being a lower socioeconomic area, may be a candidate for more funding.

Mr. Clark asked if \$100,000 was enough money and how much other RABs had received as a grant. Ms. Jun replied that Moffett Field received a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) to enable the RAB to hire their own contractor. Mr. Gosney reiterated the importance of a second opinion when reviewing document review to lend credibility to documentation.

A motion was made to apply for TAPP funds within the next 10 days. Mr. Gosney noted that it must be specified what technical assistance and qualifications are needed by the RAB. The Remedial Investigation Work Plans are coming out and may need further interpretation. The group may need to determine what is involved in the RI, what the issues are and what other military bases are doing. Ms. Jun suggested this as a possible agenda item. The RAB should anticipate what type of assistance may be needed.

Ms. Cassa suggested that the RAB fill out the existing application in preparation of submittal when the rule is finalized. She requested that the Navy provide an inventory of documents and a time line of when they are expected (**Action Item**).

In addition, the Navy was asked to notify the RAB when the TAPP rule is finalized and to provide the RAB with the Final Rule (**Action Item**).

Mr. Rao suggested that the Technical Assistance Subcommittee look at the TAPP application and start filling it out.

III. UPDATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

A written schedule of projects was provided by Izzat Ahmadiyya. He suggested that members contact him with questions regarding ongoing and proposed projects, or other concerns. He

updated the group on the following items (refer to Appendix C).

1. Seawall repair and wetland restoration. Repair work to the cement seawall and wetland area restoration was completed January 31, 1997. The Navy is awaiting a proposal from the landfill to dispose of removed soil and debris. Ice plants have taken over sensitive plant species in the wetlands restoration area. The ice plants were removed and a swale was put in to allow the water to surround the sensitive plant area.

2. Packaged Groundwater Treatment Plant. Construction has been completed on the groundwater treatment plant, located in the northeast end of the treatment ponds. The purpose is to treat the groundwater from the extraction trench. The package is comprised of a bioreactor that works with biological organisms to remove hydrocarbons. The system has filters that take out sludge coming off the bioreactor and residual petroleum bed hydrocarbons. Monitoring of the discharge will be part of the NPDES permit which is awaiting approval from the Water Board.

Contaminated water is piped into the plant. Extraction wells exist along the trench that work on a continuous basis depending on the level of groundwater. The water is pumped into a sump and then into the treatment plant. Storm water is treated when collected in French drains, installed in 1942, that surround the underground storage tanks (USTs). The storm water is then piped into the pond's treatment system.

The treatment ponds became non-compliant last April. The Navy is now upgrading the treatment ponds. This includes adding a new filtration system which has organic clay that removes the petroleum components. The ponds are scheduled to start up 17 March. It is unknown how many years of operation are expected. The ponds treat only water collected in French drains and valve boxes. Mr. Bayaert requested a long term plan for the water treatment ponds.

3. Site 2 Removal Action. Sandblast grit was disposed of by the Navy as a result of metal cleaning. The spent grit contains basically rust; sandblast grit will be removed from soil that has any visible contamination. Mr. Gosney stated that prior to 1972, paint had lead in it. Ms. Cassa stated that the grit reportedly was not used to remove paint, and testing has shown that the grit does not contain elevated concentrations of lead. Mr. Ahmadiyya noted that other areas may need cleaning up based on sampling. The Removal Action will remove visible grit, sample the soil, and determine whether further action is needed. The grit is not classified as hazardous waste, as there are no constituents that are classified as hazardous waste. The grit does pose a risk to the environment, due to low levels of metals, i.e., nickel, chromium, arsenic, thallium. The Navy will go through the full procedure to properly dispose of the waste. The landfill requires a full suite of analyses before the landfill will accept the waste. The Navy will characterize the waste before sending it out to the landfill. The Navy asked for information concerning drum cleaning that the RAB may have and proposed removing the sandblast grit in June.

4. Phase II Remedial Investigation. The Phase II RI will be site wide to include all IRP sites. The shoreline, ponds area, waste disposal, and the sandblast area will be investigated. The

investigation will take one year. The next phase will be the Feasibility Study which presents the best way to cleanup certain areas. Groundwater monitoring will be undertaken during the RI which will occur every 6 months.

There are parcels that have been identified that may need additional investigations based on the Environmental Baseline Surveys. The RPMs are identifying parcels that may require additional sampling, which are identified as Category 7 in the EBS. Mr. Clark stated that the RAB may need technical assistance right now due to the presence of contaminated material that is not hazardous, yet not characterized.

Mr. Ahmadiyya pointed out that preliminary sampling will take place to resolve Category 7 parcels and allow for transfer.

Ms. Siri asked whether the regulatory agencies check on the actual adequacy of the system, expressing concern about the groundwater going directly to the Bay. Mr. Nusrala with the Water Board stated that they are working closely with the Navy concerning the trench and storm water discharge ponds. There are three discharge permits: 1) the package plant, 2) the aeration ponds, and 3) storm water. Permitting requires sampling and monitoring of all discharges. A general storm water permit covers storm water drains and conduit pipes (12 outfall pipes) that drain the facility; they are checked twice yearly.

Ms. King asked if it was the responsibility of the regulators to provide verification of the information provided by the Navy. Mr. Ramsey of US EPA stated that there is a constant interchange of information, consulting, and work that facilitates planning environmental remediation projects. The BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) meets monthly and works together to reach agreement on issues. Ms. Siri asked for a report of disagreements that the regulators may have with the Navy. Mr. Ramsey stated that the RAB will be kept informed of the disagreements.

5. Site for Removal Action. Site 4 is the shoreline. The RA is still in the design phase for the trench extension and is undergoing regulatory discussion. Mr. Gosney questioned the lengthy time it has required for this process and expressed concern about the contaminants being washed out into the Bay before action is taken. Mr. Ahmadiyya replied that field work and sampling was required before commencement of the design work. The Action Memorandum is based on the sampling results and must be finalized before design can be undertaken.

Mr. Nusrala noted that the Agencies are not in agreement with the Navy over the length of the trench. The Agencies fundamentally disagree over containment of contaminated groundwater. There is free floating fuel existing south of the existing trench, as well as contaminated groundwater. The Agencies believe the trench should be extended to contain contamination in the groundwater. The Water Board has performed bioassays on the groundwater to determine contamination of the groundwater. The toxicity tests show mixed results regarding the effects on organisms from contaminated groundwater.

Mr. Ahmadiyya remarked that the Navy feels strongly about containing free floating product and feels that the level of groundwater contamination does not present an imminent threat. If a wall is extended, then the Navy is committing to long term monitoring. The Navy believes there are other technologies that may be more appropriate to address the groundwater contamination.. The agencies results showed two out of three samples were not toxic; Navy experts determined that the levels are not toxic. The Navy must look at the most economical way for dealing with this issue.

Agreement is coming along and does not preclude the Removal Action from progressing. The Navy believes that by the time the water seeps into the Bay, it may not present a threat to the organisms.

Groundwater contamination issues will be addressed as part of the RI contract issued in April. The Navy has a proposal to use bio sparging technology to inject air into the groundwater which oxygenates the water and aids in clean up. The RAB members were invited to attend the next BCT meeting when this is discussed further. The RI process will take about one year, and the FS will require a year to complete. Ms. Eeles requested a list of specific sites involved in each of the investigations.

IV. PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Mr. Gosney addressed the following items (see Attachment C):

1st Item: Voting Procedures: "A quorum shall consist of half the RAB members." Approved by majority.

2nd Item: "Each Community RAB member or their duly registered alternate should be entitled to one vote." Unanimously approved.

V. UPDATE ON PLANT SURVEY

Mr. Beyaert stated that the Navy agreed to conduct a plant survey. He requested the contractor's scope of work for the survey from the Navy, however was denied this information. He noted that on the previous plant survey, the Navy reported 66 native plant species, whereas the Native Plant Society found about three times more. One of the endangered plant species noted in the Reuse Plan, the Santa Cruz star plant, blooms in the middle of summer, but the survey will be conducted in April and May. He expressed concern over the adequacy of Navy's investigation.

Mr. Ahmadiyya responded that the Navy will conduct the survey in the spring. The Department of Fish and Game guidelines will be followed for the survey. The contractor is the same one that conducted the surveys for Treasure Island and Mare Island. He will find out if this contractor also performed the previous plant survey for Point Molate and report back to the RAB. The survey

will take place in April 1997. Ms. Cassa will inquire about the name of the contractor and inform the RAB.

A request was made to the Navy to provide the RAB with the reasoning for their denial of information regarding the contractor's scope of work for conducting the plant survey (**Action Item**). The board also discussed other options including sending a letter to U.S. Senators Feinstein and Boxer and Congressman Miller, and informing the newspapers.

A motion was made that the Co-Chair send a letter to Congressman Miller and two senators outlining the Navy's lack of cooperation in providing information about the plant survey to this RAB. A second motion was made that the Navy put all denials for information into writing, with each RAB member receiving copies. Mr. Gosney requested that the letter from the Navy be received before writing letters to the senators. Mr. Rao requested that a time frame be placed on receipt of the letter - one week from today which is 13 March. The motion to write letters to the congressman and senators was voted on and passed.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND WRAP-UP

None were made.

The following Action Items were addressed:

- 1) **Update from the Navy about the small arms range.** - There are a lot of questions but nothing has been done yet. Mr. Gosney will talk to Larry Douchand about the RAB's concerns, such as lead from the bullets.
- 2) **Determine whether the drums were sandblasted.** RAB members will research their information.
- 3) **How long the skim ponds/treatment ponds will be used** - The Navy will use the ponds as long as needed because the treatment plant cannot handle the capacity in case of a rain event. Sampling will determine the extent of use. Mr. Beyaert added that the RAB would like a long term treatment plan for the use of the Skim and Treatment Ponds. The plan should address when they will be available for reuse.
- 4) **Technical Review Committee will work on application form for TAPP Grant.**
- 5) **Notify RAB about final TAPP rule approval.**
- 6) **Provide RAB with a copy of document inventory.**
- 7) **News release regarding openings on RAB.** Emily Gurnan of the West County Times places announcements based on receipt of RAB minutes; she only needs the meeting date, time,

and place. Ms. King sent out an announcement last week for RAB member openings and is expected to appear in the paper by the end of this week or first of next week. All RAB members were invited to contact reporters to attend RAB meetings.

8) Regulatory agency comments should be included as regular agenda items to apprise RAB of regulators' opinions.

Ms. Cassa volunteered to lead a guided tour through the BRAC Cleanup Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at the same location, Thursday April 3rd, at 7:00 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A
MEETING AGENDA

ATTACHMENT A – MEETING AGENDA

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ATTACHMENT B
RAB MEETING ATTENDANCE SHEETS

ATTACHMENT B – RAB MEETING ATTENDANCE

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ATTACHMENT C
PRESENTATION MATERIALS

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