

NAVAL AIR STATION ALAMEDA RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING SUMMARY

NAS Alameda Bachelor Officers Quarters  
NAS Alameda, California

Tuesday, July 2, 1996

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Co-Chair Announcements

Ken O'Donoghue, the community co-chair, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Navy co-chair Steve Edde made the following announcements.

- The Navy has arranged for microphones for the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings as was requested at the RAB meeting on June 4, 1996.
- Norma Bishop has hired a librarian, Mike Dwyer, to organize the RAB library; he has experience in technical document organization and is scheduled to work in the RAB library for at least 7 months.
- A RAB picnic is being planned for the fall. Proposed dates are September 14 or September 28.
- The Navy has made available copies of the Naval Air Station (NAS) Alameda section of the Department of the Navy Environmental Restoration Plan for Fiscal Years 1996-2000.

Mr. O'Donoghue announced that the meeting was designed to be a continuation of the discussion started at the June 4, 1996 RAB meeting.

Karen Hack announced that currently under consideration in Congress is a proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) that would exempt the Navy from the requirement to have a cleanup remedy in place before property is transferred to the community. She encouraged people to write letters in opposition to the amendment and send them to their representatives. Ms. Bishop stated that the amendment will not exempt the Navy from responsibility for cleaning up the base, but will allow for expedient transfers of property if delaying transfer causes an economic hardship on the community.

Ms. Hack stated that if there is early property transfer, this may lessen the base's priority for receiving funding. Ms. Bishop and Ms. Hack each stated that anyone wanting more information should contact each of them.

Teresa Bernhard distributed to the RAB a fact sheet on the history and geology of NAS Alameda, and a preliminary draft of a Site 18 fact sheet.

Tom Okey announced that he designed a study to track cancer incidents in Alameda census areas relative to NAS Alameda. He explained that the census area farthest from the base revealed

increased incidents of cancer. He stated that a report of the findings is available through the Department of Health Services Cancer Surveillance Section. Mr. Okey also announced that he brought to the meeting a poster board display on the transport of site-specific sediment contaminants to bay ecological receptors. He invited the RAB to view the poster boards during the break and after the meeting.

## II. Minutes

Mr. O'Donoghue asked whether any RAB members had comments on the May 7, 1996 meeting summary. No revisions were requested and the May 7, 1996 minutes were approved. Mr. O'Donoghue asked if any RAB members had comments on the June 4, 1996 meeting summary. Malcolm Mooney requested that the minutes reflect that there were "four" breakout groups instead of "five." The June 4, 1996 minutes were approved with the requested changes.

## III. Discussion on Issues Raised at June Meeting

Heidi Gitterman introduced James Ricks, who gave the following presentation.

Mr. Ricks stated that many issues had been brought to the attention of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT) at the last RAB meeting. He stated that tonight's meeting will again deviate from the usual format. It will be used to continue the discussion started at the last meeting and to identify specific actions that can be taken to begin to address the issues of concern. He stated that the focus of the meeting will be the issues raised regarding the RAB process. He gave the following overview of the meeting structure:

- **Purpose:** use input generated at the June 4, 1996 RAB meeting breakout sessions to improve the working relationships among the BCT, the RAB, and the community
- **Goals:** evaluate, clarify, and develop recommendations; create a process that allows for a diversity of opinions
- **Expectations:** this is a working session; everyone will have an opportunity to comment and provide input; we will be organized into groups with clear tasks, goals, and timetables for implementation

Mr. Ricks stated that the challenge is what to do with the wealth of information collected at the June 4, 1996 RAB meeting. He stated that it is important that the information must be distilled and recommendations made. He then explained that the breakout sessions would be structured using the round robin approach. He stated that in a round robin, everyone is encouraged to express three goals or issues at each of the three breakout stations. Each station will have a flipchart with issues distilled from the June 4, 1996 RAB meeting regarding the RAB process. He explained that the BCT studied the information on RAB process identified at the June 4, 1996 RAB meeting and came up with the following three common "goal statements."

- **Goal Statement 1:** ensure that the general community is aware of the RAB and its purpose and role in the cleanup of NAS Alameda

- **Goal Statement 2:** ensure that input is received from the general community and included in RAB deliberations
- **Goal Statement 3:** ensure that the relationship between the BCT and the RAB is based on a mutual commitment to openness, integrity, partnering, and working toward consensus.

Mr. Ricks and Tom Lanphar stated that Goal Statement 3 is relevant to the relationship within the RAB and the BCT. Mr. Ricks explained that the Navy and regulatory agencies are not always in agreement.

Mr. Ricks explained that each group would have 5 minutes at each station to make comments. Then, each group would take one Goal Statement, make specific recommendations, and set a schedule for specific tasks to be completed this month by the members of the group to address the issues raised. He stated that the groups would act as temporary problem solving groups.

Mr. Mooney stated that he has lived in Alameda for many years and there is no unified, single community. He explained that if there is no "lightning rod" issue, the general community is not interested in cleanup at NAS Alameda.

#### IV. Breakout Sessions

RAB members, including regulators and community members, divided into three groups and visited each goal statement station.

#### V. Breakout Session Reports

RAB and community members reconvened and a spokesperson for each station reported what had been written on each flipchart.

Mr. O'Donoghue read the recommendations suggested under Goal Statement 1.

**Goal Statement 1:** ensure that the general community is aware of the RAB and its purpose and role in the cleanup of NAS Alameda

- Ensure the community knows about the RAB
- Make videos available to the public
- Liaison with city council members
- Recruit volunteers for community outreach
- Vote to make decisions
- Write editorials and letters to the editors of local newspapers
- Have a float in the parade
- Use public television for outreach
- Clarify purpose and role of RAB
- Identify measurable tasks that individuals are responsible for
- Visit schools, K through twelfth grade
- Hang banner at College of Alameda
- Business outreach

- Have available in the RAB library videos of cleanup activities

Michael Torrey read the recommendations suggested under Goal Statement 2.

**Goal Statement 2:** ensure that input is received from the general community and included in RAB deliberations

- Publish RAB agenda throughout community
- Publicize public meetings
- Publicize issues
- Conduct surveys
- Create a WEB site
- Use community access cable channel
- Create speakers bureau
- Knock on doors: each RAB member talk to three people a month
- Focus groups update the full RAB
- Recruit students and retired people to help get the information out
- Have community input as a standard agenda item
- Report distribution
- Create public questionnaire for newspaper
- Large publicity meetings
- Funding for outreach
- RAB members talk with members of RABs at other installations
- Bring a friend to the RAB meeting

Jim Haas read the recommendations suggested under Goal Statement 3.

**Goal Statement 3:** ensure that the relationship between the BCT and the RAB is based on a mutual commitment to openness, integrity, partnering, and working toward consensus.

- RAB member attend BCT meetings and report back to the RAB
- Understanding roles and responsibilities
- Regular position statements from the BCT
- Conflict resolution and consensus training
- BCT identify issues before there is deliberation
- Allow for more individual interaction at meetings
- Start and end meetings on time
- Offer optional meetings for additional information
- Create process for identifying issues
- Identify time-tables for various processes
- Have dual community RAB member and BCT presentations
- RAB retreat
- Eliminate facilitator position
- Focus on partnering

Mr. Lanphar stated that it is important to identify specific tasks that can be completed by RAB members. He asked that participants divide into two groups and identify specific tasks to be

completed before the next RAB meeting (Goal Statements 1 and 2 were combined for this exercise).

## **VI. Breakout Sessions Task Reports**

Mr. Lanphar reported on the action items decided on by the group addressing Goal Statement 1 and 2.

The group will meet at 7 p.m. at the RAB library on July 9, 1996, to prioritize the following tasks:

- Plan RAB retreat to define roles and responsibilities
- Plan RAB picnic for September 14 or 28, 1996
- Contact absent RAB members and bring them into the process
- Evaluate the organizational structure of the RAB

Mr. Mooney reported on the action items decided on by the group addressing Goal Statement 3.

The group will meet at 7 p.m. at the RAB library on July 11, 1996, to further discuss the following action items.

- Discuss purpose and role of the RAB
- Clarify and assign action items
- Develop a process for addressing issues

Several members of the RAB thanked Mr. Ricks for preparing and facilitating the RAB meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6, 1996, at the Bachelor Officers Quarters, NAS Alameda.