

FACT SHEET

OCTOBER 2002



Navy Environmental Restoration Program Update National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Crows Landing Flight Facility [Former Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, Crows Landing]

The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to provide an update on the verification activities that were conducted at the former sewage treatment plant during the summer of 2002 at the NASA Crows Landing Flight Facility (the Facility), formerly known as the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF), Crows Landing in Stanislaus County, California.

The former sewage treatment plant, designated as Installation Restoration Program Site 11A, is located in the eastern section of the Facility adjacent to Bell Road. The former sewage treatment plant was constructed in approximately 1943. The plant included four oxidation ponds, a septic tank, and an incinerator. The plant was abandoned in the early 1950's when a new sewage treatment plant was constructed near the northeastern boundary of the Facility, more than 2,000 feet north of the former plant. The abandoned oxidation ponds at the former plant were filled with soil and other materials to match the nearby ground surface.

Geophysical surveys were conducted at the former oxidation pond area in 2000 and 2001. The surveys provide information on subsurface conditions and are capable of identifying areas with buried metallic debris and other debris. Several areas with potential buried debris were identified during the surveys.

Verification activities were conducted at and adjacent to the former oxidation ponds during August 2002. An excavator excavated small trenches at the areas suspected of having buried debris, and visual inspections of the excavated materials and trench walls were conducted and documented.

Concrete, steel, and timber debris were observed in some of the trenches. Possible incinerator ash was identified in one of the trenches. The results of the verification activities will be used to develop plans for the excavation and removal of buried debris at the former pond area.

The following photographs show the excavating equipment at the former oxidation ponds.

Photograph 1. Excavator at Former Oxidation Pond.
Date of Photograph: August 2002.



Photograph 2. Concrete and Other Debris in Excavated
Trench at Former Oxidation Pond.
Date of Photograph: August 2002.



Historical Background

The former NALF Crows Landing was commissioned in May 1943 and has served primarily as an auxiliary airfield for operations from Naval Air Station, Moffett Field.

The Navy closed the Facility in 1994 in accordance with the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act. The Facility was transferred to NASA on July 1, 1994. In October 1999, NASA was authorized by legislative act of the 106th Congress of the United States of America to transfer the facility to Stanislaus County. On April 10, 2001, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors adopted the Crows Landing Flight Facility Reuse Plan. Phase 1 of the Reuse Plan maintains the status quo, with ongoing environmental remediation, agricultural production, and planning. Phase 2 of the Reuse Plan adds general aviation uses to those listed as Phase 1. The Reuse Plan was approved following adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and is in full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Navy is responsible for the restoration of contaminated sites that were the result of historical Navy operations at the Facility. The Navy is the lead agency for the implementation of the environmental restoration program, and regulatory oversight is provided by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Navy will provide periodic updates to the community through these Fact Sheets. The Fact Sheets are available for viewing on the Navy's Community Relations Program web site at the following address:
<http://www.efdswnavfac.navy.mil/Environmental/CrowsLanding.htm#facts>.

The most current project correspondence, plans, reports, and other documents are available for inspection by the public at the local information repository at the Patterson Branch Library. If you have comments or questions pertaining to the Navy's projects, please send them to Ms. Marianna Potacka, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92132-5190.

Environmental Restoration Program Mailing List Update Form

To better serve the community regarding the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program projects at the NASA Crows Landing Flight Facility, we are continuing to update our mailing list. If you would like to receive copies of fact sheets and proposed plans, please complete the form and return to the following address:

Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
BRAC Programs
Code 06CC.LMH (Lynn Marie Hornecker)
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92132-5190

Or Fax the form to Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command at (619) 532-0780.

Mailing List Update Form – Please provide all information:	
Name:	_____
Organization:	_____
Address:	_____
City:	_____
State & Zip Code:	_____

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information pertaining to specific projects, please contact:

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Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Administrative Record documents are available at the Information Repository at the Stanislaus County Library, Patterson Branch in Patterson. The Information Repository also includes an index of all documents contained within the CERCLA Administrative Record. The Navy's CERCLA Administrative Record is maintained at Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command in San Diego. For assistance with the CERCLA Administrative Record or requests for copies of documents contained within the CERCLA Administrative Record, please contact the records manager, Ms. Diane Silva, at (619) 532-3676.

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