

Department of the Navy
Navy Assessment and Control of Installation
Pollutants Program
Community Relations Plan
(Installation Restoration Program)
Ex-Hunters Point Naval Shipyard
San Francisco, California

Community Relations Plan Ex-Hunters Point Shipyard

1. Overview of Community Relations Plan

The Department of the Navy seeks a proactive community relations plan to addressing issues of community concern regarding the Navy Assessment and Control of Installation Pollutants program activities at Hunters Point. NACIP is also known as the Installation Restoration Program (IRP), but in this plan NACIP will be used. The Navy's intent is to present factual and timely information, obtain community feedback, dispel rumors, and promote understanding.

Objectives for this plan are :

- * *gather information about the Hunters Point community*
- * *establish two-way communication between the Navy and concerned individuals*
- * *keep the public informed of ongoing actions*
- * *focus and resolve conflicts*

This community relations plan identifies concerns and outlines community relations activities to be conducted during the characterization and remedial action phases of the NACIP program at Hunters Point. Community interest in the site is very high, compounded by proposed homeporting plans for Hunters Point. An effective community relations plan should prepare for a high level of interest and consider simultaneous homeport planning actions. The community relations plan should educate, without alarming residents, so they better understand the NACIP process. In particular, the community relations plan should enlist the support and cooperation of city and local officials of San Francisco and Hunters Point. These individuals have a longstanding familiarity with the area and its residents, and hold visible positions of responsibility within the community. They should be considered a key resource in efforts to communicate openly and

effectively.

This draft community relations plan has been prepared to help the Navy meet the needs of the community.

The plan is divided into the following sections:

- * implementation responsibility*
- * capsule site description*
- * highlights of the community relations plan for Hunters Point*
- * community relations activities*

2. Implementation responsibility

Commander, Naval Base San Francisco, Naval Station Treasure Island, as senior naval representative and regional coordinator for the San Francisco Bay area, has implementation responsibility for the community relations plan. Western Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Mare Island Naval Shipyard provide public affairs support and technical assistance to Commander, Naval Base San Francisco.

3. Capsule Site Description

Hunters Point is located on San Francisco Bay in the southeast corner of the City of San Francisco on the point of a high, rocky, two mile long peninsula which projects southeastward into the Bay. The land area north and south consists of light industrial development. The center portion of the connecting land mass is an area of high density residential housing.

In 1869, the California Drydock Company constructed the first commercial drydock on the west coast here. Recognizing the importance of this privately owned deep water drydocking facility, in 1916, the Navy agreed to subsidize construction of a third drydock. These drydocks served all large deep draft vessels in San Francisco Bay until the Navy bought the Hunters Point Drydock in December 1939. They were leased to the Bethlehem Steel Company until December 1941 when the Navy took possession of "Hunters Point Naval

Drydock" and developed the facility as an annex to the Naval Yard at Mare Island. Drydock 4 was added in 1943; in 1944 the submarine overhaul facilities with Drydocks 5, 6 & 7 were completed.

By the end of WWII the shipyard had grown from a small group of workers to almost 18,000. The shipyard was primarily an industrial operation for the modification, maintenance, and repair of ships. The mission of Hunters Point prior to its decommission in 1974 was to:

Provide logistic support for assigned ships and service craft; to perform authorized work in connection with construction, conversion, overhaul, repair, alteration, drydocking and outfitting of ships and craft, as assigned; to perform research, development and test work, as assigned; and to provide services and material to other activities and units as directed by competent authority.

In April of 1973 the Secretary of Defense announced that Hunters Point Naval Shipyard would close. In May 1976 the Assistant Secretary of the Navy authorized the leasing of Hunters Point to Triple A Machine Shop Incorporated, a commercial ship repair concern.

4. Highlights of the Community Relations Plan Activities

The community relations plan at Hunters Point should provide an opportunity for the community to learn about and participate in the NACIP process, without disrupting the community's confidence that the site poses no new or immediate hazards. To be effective, the community relations plan must be gauged according to the community's need for information, and its interest and willingness to participate in the NACIP process. The community relations plan at the Hunters Point site should take the following approaches:

*** Enlist the support and participation of local officials in coordinating community relations activities.** These officials are visible and trusted leaders in the community, and are an invaluable resource in the Navy's effort to understand and monitor community concern. To gain the support of local officials, it is essential that they be regularly and fully informed of site activities, plans, findings, and developments.

*** Provide follow-up explanations about sampling and test results to area residents.** Concise and easily understood information should be available to all area residents on the schedule of technical activities, their purpose, and their outcome. Where information cannot be released to the public - either because of quality assurance requirements, or the sensitivity of ongoing litigation - a clear and simple explanation as to why the information must be withheld is in order. Finally, to ensure that inquiries from the community and the media are handled efficiently and consistently, a single Navy contact should be established for the site.

*** Educate area residents and local officials about the procedures, policies, and requirements of the NACIP program.** To dispel some of the current confusion about the Navy's purposes and responsibilities at the site, an effort should be made to circulate basic information to the community describing the NACIP process.

*** Let the community "set the pace" for the Community Relations Plan.** Staff should be aware that federal involvement in local issues has not always been well regarded by the community. Federal programs are seen as excessively bureaucratic and insensitive to the realities of local communities. It is important not to "overdo" or overplan community relations activities in a way that might discourage the community from participating. Large, formal meetings, or hearings, will almost certainly be inappropriate for this community, as will activities that are planned without the consultation of key local officials.

Exhibit 1
Community Relations Activities
During NACIP

Technical Phase

Activity

1. Prior to characterization

- * brief technical staff on community relations
- * contact local officials and citizens
- * hold small informal meetings with community members
- * distribute fact sheets on NACIP process and Hunters Point specifics
- * prepare mailing lists

2. During characterization

- * establish information repository
- * conduct community interviews
- * distribute periodic fact sheet on progress
- * maintain contact with key community reps

3. Feasibility Study

- * distribute fact sheet and/or letters to residents on the community relations plan mailing list
- * hold meetings with the community
- * issue a news release announcing the availability of draft Feasibility report and 30 day commenting period

4. Remedial Design

- * evaluate effectiveness of past community relations activities
- * distribute fact sheets explaining Remedial Action Plan

5. Remedial Action

- * hold small meetings or open houses to explain the remedial technology
- * conduct site tours
- * prepare an exhibit showing a pictorial history of the site

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10 JUN 1987

Mr. R. Notini
State of California
Health and Welfare Agency
Department of Health Services
2151 Berkeley Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Mr. Notini:

As requested, I am forwarding the enclosed draft Community Relations Plan (CRP) for ex-Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, San Francisco, California.

The principal contact for the Navy's Community Relations Program at Hunters Point is Lieutenant Commander George Farrar. Questions regarding the program should be directed to Commander, Naval Base, San Francisco, Naval Station, Treasure Island, San Francisco, California 94136-5018 (Attn: LCDR George Farrar, Public Affairs Officer, (415) 735-6056).

Sincerely,
Original signed by:
J.M. GREENWALD

Encl:

(1) Community Relations Plan,
ex-hunters Point Naval Shipyard,
San Francisco, California

Copy to:

COMNAVBASE San Francisco
SUPSHIP San Francisco
NAVSHIPYD Mare Island
NAVSTA Treasure Island
U.S. EPA Region IX

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LTC OFF

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