



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

May 3, 1993

Mr. Stephen Chao
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Western Division
900 Commodore Way, Bldg. 101
San Bruno, CA. 94066

Re: Site Wide Ecological Assessment Site Walk Protocols

Dear Mr. Chao,

On April 29th, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) met with various federal and state of California natural resource trustees in an attempt to formulate a list of protocols to assist field workers performing the initial phase of an ecological assessment at a Superfund site. Since we are at this stage at Moffett Field, I wanted to send you an informal list of ideas generated during this meeting. This is not intended to be an official list, but a draft list that may be released as guidance in the future.

Please call me if you have any questions at 415-744-2383.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael D. Gill".

Michael D. Gill
Remedial Project Manager
Federal and Technical Programs Branch

cc: Elizabeth Adams (RWQCB)
Cyrus Shabahari (DTSC)
Bobbie Smith (RWQCB)
Kim Walsh (JMM) (Fax)

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Site Walk Protocols
Draft

Major Habitat Groups

1. Marine Waters - sediments - intertidal
2. Terrestrial
 - Forest
 - Oak Woodland
 - Grasslands (savannah)
 - Jepson Prairie
 - Vernal Pools
 - Riparian Areas
 - Deserts
 - Dunes
 - Coastal Chapparal
 - Agricultural Areas
 - Landscaped Areas
3. Transition Zones (migratory species)

Deliverables for a Qualitative Risk Assessment

1. Habitat Maps
 - Show all habitats (canopies, shrubs, herbs, slopes)
 - USGS Quad maps (for Phase I)
 - Research for existing maps
 - Soil Conservation Service Maps
 - County Maps
 - Agricultural Outlease
 - "Natural Resource Management Plan"
2. Table of Observations
 - Species / Season / Diet / Call / Scat / Nests (Photo) / Nocturnal
3. Summary Table of Contaminants
4. Table of Historical Land Use
 - Landfills
 - Firing Range
 - Strafing Area
 - Burn Pits
 - Undocumented Releases

5. Phase I Site Walks should include:

visual notes
photography
video

should not include:

trapping
netting

6. Summary of Deliverables -

TABLES

HABITAT MAPS

BEGINNING OF SITE CONCEPTUAL MODEL

BEGINNING OF NRDA (ASSESSMENT ENDPOINTS)

Site Specific Questions

Conduct walk during wet season / dry season / both ?

Aerial photos available?

How many walks?

3 minimum - dawn - 9AM
midmorning
sunset (if desert, also at night)

Layout? Transect vs. grid vs. perimeter

Who? State or federal manager and biologists.
Important to limit numbers to avoid upsetting habitat
or alarming critters.

Notification - important to let all parties know of sitewalk, even non-participants.