

PUBLIC STATEMENT ON U.S. NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION EFFORTS AT THE FORMER NAVAL AIR STATION ALAMEDA

June 2009

The Department of the Navy (DON) is the lead agency responsible for conducting environmental investigations and remediation of hazardous substances and petroleum products at the former NAS Alameda. Since 1999, this cleanup effort has been conducted under a Federal Facilities Agreement that provides for oversight from the U.S. EPA (the lead regulatory agency), the California EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The Navy and regulatory agencies are committed to involving the public in the cleanup process.

Much progress has been made. Of the 34 sites identified for investigation, 15 are in the cleanup phase or require no further action. Cleanup alternatives are currently being evaluated or proposed at 16 more sites, and only 3 sites are still in the investigation phase. Where appropriate, the DON has used interim actions to excavate and dispose contaminated soil, and to remove contamination from groundwater. For example, the DON removed contaminated debris from the Seaplane Lagoon, and replaced contaminated storm drain lines that discharge to the lagoon.

The DON CERCLA investigation and cleanup activities at the former NAS Alameda are being conducted according to a remedy selection process specified in regulations issued under CERCLA. This remedy selection process involves nine criteria in three tiers of importance. The most important, or "threshold" criteria are that the remedies must be protective of human health and the environment, and be conducted in accordance with environmental laws and regulations. To help match the level of cleanup with the planned reuse, the DON uses the Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority's (ARRA) 2006 Preliminary Design Concept (PDC) as guidance. If the planned reuse is residential, the DON will perform, to the extent practicable, cleanup to residential standards. If the planned reuse is industrial/commercial or recreational, the DON will perform cleanup to standards that are appropriate for the type of reuse envisioned in the PDC.

Currently, portions of the former NAS Alameda are subject to a ballot initiative proposed by SunCal Companies, master developer of the ARRA. In this initiative, currently scheduled for the November 2009 ballot, SunCal Companies presents the Specific Plan. In some areas, the Specific Plan contemplates a land use that is inconsistent with what was established and agreed to between the DON and ARRA in the ARRA's 1996 Community Reuse Plan and the subsequent 2006 PDC. In those instances where the DON planned cleanup does not match the new SunCal Specific Plan, it will be the responsibility, and financial obligation, of the developer to coordinate with the appropriate regulatory authorities to determine what actions must be taken to ensure the revised development plan is protective of human health and the environment.

The DON remains committed to the timely remediation of the NAS Alameda property and will complete all necessary remedial actions to support successful redevelopment of

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this former Naval installation. Community members interested in the status of the DON environmental program and progress at the former NAS Alameda can find information at the following website:

http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/basepage.aspx?baseid=42&state=California&name=nas_alameda.

To learn more about the DON environmental program, the DON invites all interested parties to participate or become a member of the Alameda Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), which holds monthly meetings at NAS Alameda. Information about the RAB can also be found on the website or by contacting Mr. Pat Brooks at (619) 532-0907.