

# ALAMEDA POINT FOCUS

## THE NAVY'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Issue #5



**BRAC**  
PMO WEST

Fall 2006/Winter 2007

### INTRODUCTION

This newsletter provides interested community members with information about the U.S. Navy's environmental activities at Former Naval Air Station Alameda, now commonly referred to as Alameda Point, in Alameda, California. Environmental activities began at Alameda Point in the early 1980s and continue today. These activities include investigations, remedial actions, and site restoration. Your input is important for the program's success. Please contact the Navy if you have questions, want more information, or would like us to make a brief presentation about plans for Alameda Point at your next community group event. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please fill out the mailing coupon at the back of this newsletter. The Navy welcomes the opportunity to share information about the ongoing environmental activities at Alameda Point with as many community members as possible. I hope to hear from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Macchiarella  
Alameda BRAC Environmental  
Coordinator  
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### Cleanup Alternatives Selected for Several Alameda Point Sites Records of Decision Signed for Sites 15, 17, and 26

The Record of Decision document is a key milestone in the CERCLA process (see inset for more info on this process). Records of Decision (ROD) are reports that document the remedy selected to cleanup contamination in soil, groundwater, sediment, or air at a particular site. It comes after a site has been investigated, samples from the site have been studied, and several alternatives have been evaluated. The remedy is chosen because it has been determined to be the best for the site based on how effectively it will work, the time it will take, how cost-effective it is, regulatory agency concurrence, and community input. A ROD includes a section with all of the community comments on the evaluated alternatives and responses from the Navy.

If the ROD remedy is no further action, environmental investigations at the site are considered complete. If further action is required, then the site goes into the Remedial Design and Remedial Action Workplan phase, where the specific plans for the remedy are decided. The Navy will keep the community updated throughout the process.



**The Navy and Regulatory Agencies sign the Site 17 ROD**  
**Back Row:** Erich Simon, Gina Kathuria, Dot Lofstrom, Amy Jo Wileman, Mark Ripperda.  
**Front Row:** Curtis Scott, Rick Moss, Kathleen Johnson, Thomas Macchiarella.

At Alameda Point, Final RODs are signed by the Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board).

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*The ROD is significant because it is a key milestone in the steps to complete the environmental process at an environmentally impacted or potentially impacted site, and ultimately transferring land at BRAC installations.*

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In 2006, the following Alameda Point RODs were finalized:

- Site 15** – Former Transformer Storage Area (No Further Action)
- Site 17** – Seaplane Lagoon (Moving to the Remedial Design Phase)
- Site 26** – Western Hangar Zone (Moving to the Remedial Design Phase. See article on page 3)

To read any of the completed ROD documents, or previous environmental documents about these sites, please visit the Navy's Information Repository. See details at right.

In 2007, the following RODs are planned for finalization:

- Site 1** – 1943-1956 Disposal Area
- Site 14** – Former Fire Fighter Training Area
- Site 25** – Estuary Park and Coast Guard Housing Soil
- Site 27** – Dock Zone
- Site 35** – West Housing Area
- Operable Unit 1**
  - Site 6-Former Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Facility
  - Site 7- Former Naval Exchange Service Station
  - Site 8- Former Pesticide Storage Area
  - Site 16- Former Shipping Container Storage Area

**Operable Unit 5** - Groundwater

## Information Repository

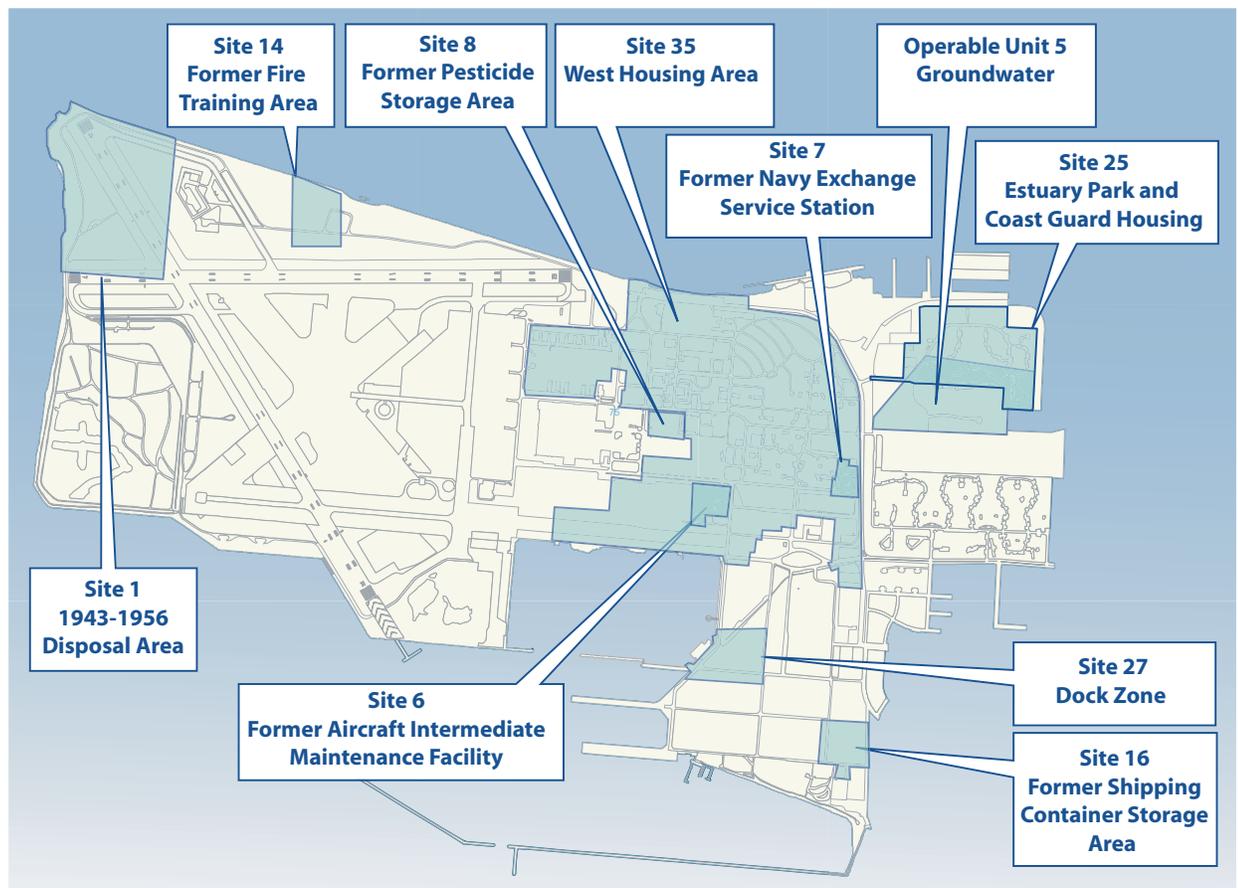
The Navy maintains an Information Repository for Alameda Point that contains project documents and other reference materials related to the investigation and cleanup program. You are encouraged to review the documents to gain a more complete understanding of the environmental work. The repository is updated as new information becomes available. Please note that Navy documents currently out for public review can also be found at the new Main Alameda Public Library, located at 1550 Oak Street; call (510) 747-7777 for hours. The new library will keep documents that are currently available for review and/or public comment. For the complete collection of Navy environmental documents for Alameda Point, visit the main Alameda Point Information Repository at the following location:

### Alameda Point

950 West Mall Square  
Building 1, Room 240  
Alameda, CA  
(510) 749-5952

### Hours:

Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Sites with RODs Available in 2007

## Focus on Technology: Chemical Oxidation Treatment Planned at Site 26 – Western Hangar Zone

**Are you interested in the technology the Navy uses for their environmental cleanup program at Alameda Point? Read on for a discussion of planned cleanup at one of the Navy's sites. You are also invited to attend the Navy's monthly Restoration Advisory Board meetings to hear presentations about on-going investigations and work, and discuss them with the Navy and the regulatory agencies.**

The Navy and one of its contractors, Innovative Technical Solutions, Inc., recently completed an investigation at Site 26, the Western Hangar Zone, to prepare a design to remedy contamination in groundwater at the site. Previous investigations identified an area of volatile organic compounds (VOC) in groundwater in the area of Building 20. The recent investigation further defined conditions below the ground and confirmed the boundary of the VOC area at Building 20.



**Building 20 In-Situ Chemical Oxidation Location  
Site 26**

Building 20 is one of four former aircraft hangars currently occupied by businesses that are tenants of the Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority. Groundwater beneath Site 26 is not used for drinking water, irrigation, or industrial supply. However, future residents or workers could

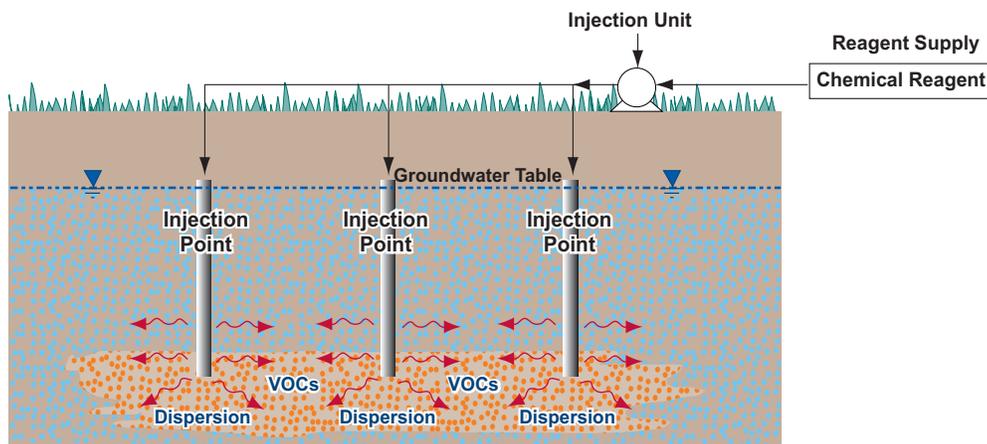
be exposed to the VOCs in the air inside buildings because VOCs sometimes migrate from the subsurface to indoor air. The Navy is working on a Remedial Design to cleanup the VOCs to protect possible future residents and workers for the long-term.

The Navy, with concurrence from the regulatory agencies, finalized a Record of Decision (ROD) for Site 26 selecting the preferred remedy for groundwater. The process is called In-Situ Chemical Oxidation (ISCO). The ISCO process involves injecting chemicals into areas of groundwater with VOCs to break them down. The Navy will inject a chemical reagent that will break down the VOCs into harmless compounds including carbon dioxide and water. ISCO is particularly effective at degrading the type of VOCs found at Site 26, and is expected to work quickly.

After the ISCO process is complete, the Navy will take more samples to confirm that the VOCs have been cleaned up to the appropriate levels. If necessary, the Navy will use another method called In-Situ Bioremediation (ISB) to complete the cleanup. The ISB process is the acceleration of the natural process of microorganisms “destroying” or “degrading” the contaminants. An oxygen compound is injected into the area to feed the microorganisms so they will multiply and consume the contaminants more quickly.

The Remedial Design for the ISCO and ISB is currently under development and will undergo the Navy and regulatory agency review process prior to implementation. The Navy expects to start the remedy in Fall 2007 and will continue to update the community about the progress of the cleanup.

If you have any questions, please contact the Navy for more information. See page 5 for contact information. For more information on ISCO or ISB see the Environmental Protection Agency's technology innovation website at: <http://clu-in.org/techfocus>



**In-Situ Chemical Oxidation Process**  
Injected reagents transform contaminants to water and carbon dioxide.

## Alameda Point Team Member Profile:

### Dot Lofstrom

The Navy recently sat down to talk with Dot Lofstrom, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Project Manager for the Alameda Point project.



Dot Lofstrom

#### **Navy: Where did you go to school, and what did you study?**

**Lofstrom:** I got my B.S. from Missouri

State University in Springfield, where I majored in geology with an emphasis in chemistry. I went on to get my M.S. from the University of Missouri- Columbia. My graduate work was economic geology, with an emphasis on water/rock interactions in hydrothermal environments.

#### **Navy: How long have you been with the DTSC?**

**Lofstrom:** I've been with DTSC for 5 years this past October. I spent my first few years with the agency in RCRA [Resource Conservation and Recovery Act] permitting. I've been working on the Alameda Point project for about a year now.

#### **Navy: Where else have you worked?**

**Lofstrom:** I worked for the San Joaquin County government in their underground storage tank program, and for the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Bureau of Land Management. I taught environmental technology and geology for 5 years at Arizona Western College. During the period when I worked at Arizona Western College, I served as the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Community Co-chair for the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma in Yuma, Arizona. I've also worked in consulting.

#### **Navy: What are your specific focus areas and your responsibilities at Alameda Point?**

**Lofstrom:** As the DTSC lead project manager, I review and evaluate all the reports that are submitted to the regulatory agencies, with assistance from a DTSC toxicologist and geologist. My primary purpose is to ensure the work being completed is technically sound and in regulatory compliance. I strive to make decisions based on reasonable, logical thought processes. I particularly dislike emotion-based decision-making,

and do everything I can to base my decisions on evidence and data. As a member of the BCT [Base Realignment and Closure Cleanup Team], I participate in decisions regarding cleanup investigations and remedial design. I also coordinate guidance offered by other state regulatory agencies, specifically Department of Health Services and the California Fish and Game Department. At the office, I keep DTSC management informed on progress and issues at Alameda Point, and serve as a communication link between the Navy, the community, and DTSC.

#### **Navy: What do you like best about the Alameda Point project?**

**Lofstrom:** The work is at a very exciting and challenging point. Much of the investigation has been completed and we're beginning to discuss cleanup options and design. I really like the overall goal of the project: to take land that was used by the Navy and turn it over for reuse to the community while ensuring that people who live in and around Alameda Point will not be subject to risk from contaminants remaining on site. It's win/win for everybody, for the Navy, for the community, and for the environment, and I love that aspect of this project.

#### **Navy: What do you find challenging or rewarding about your job/this project?**

**Lofstrom:** The reports come in at a very rapid rate, but at the same time, that means we're moving forward and making progress on the project, and I love that. The scope and immensity of the site is challenging, especially when you're new. But I'm learning the sites and their history and I am feeling much more comfortable than I did in the beginning.

#### **Navy: What do you like to do in your free time?**

**Lofstrom:** I spend a lot of time hiking. In fact, a childhood dream of mine came true when a book I co-wrote was recently accepted for publication. The book is called "Geology Hiking Trails of Northern California," and it provides a geologic explanation for almost 100 hikes in Northern California in non-technical language. One reason I wanted to move here (from Yuma, Arizona in 1998) was to take advantage of the abundance of cultural opportunities in this area. I subscribe to two theaters, and to the Stockton Symphony. I also teach a night course in geology at Delta Community College. I start each morning by exercising at the gym, which I started 2 years ago and absolutely love. One of my goals is to hike in Switzerland someday.

*If you have questions for Dot Lofstrom, or for any of the Alameda Point BCT members, about environmental work, we would like to hear from you. See the contact information on page 5.*

## Upcoming RAB Meetings

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is a group of representatives of the community who advise the Navy as well as state and federal regulators on community concerns about environmental cleanup issues and strategies for Alameda Point. You are invited to attend all of the monthly RAB meetings to learn more about cleanup activities at Alameda Point. The RAB meetings are typically held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the City of Alameda offices, 950 West Mall Square, Building 1, Room 140. See you there!

**For a current schedule, see our website at:**  
[http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/bracbases/california/nas\\_alameda](http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/bracbases/california/nas_alameda)

Congratulations to the returning RAB Community Co-Chair, Mr. George Humphreys. George was recently re-elected by the RAB to continue to serve as the Community Co-Chair. The Navy would like to thank George and all of the RAB members for dedicating their time and efforts to their advisory roles.

## For More Information

The Navy welcomes your input. If you have questions or concerns or want more information, or if you wish to be added to the Alameda Point mailing list, please contact:

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**To be included in the Navy's mailing list for Alameda Point or to make inquires regarding the RAB, please complete and return the form on the last page.**

## Contacts

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<b>Erich Simon</b> Project Manager	San Francisco Bay Water Board	(510) 622-2355	1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400 Oakland, CA 94612	ersimon@waterboards.ca.gov

## Alameda Point Environmental Mailing List

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ADD ME TO THE MAILING LIST

DELETE ME FROM THE MAILING LIST



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