



Meeting Summary

Hunters Point Shipyard

Community Informational Meeting

April 2, 2011

MEETING TIME/DATE: Saturday, April 2, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION:: Portola Family Connections,
2565 San Bruno Avenue
San Francisco, California 94134

MEETING TOPIC: Draft Community Relations Plan

I. Meeting Ground Rules

Yolanda Jones, of Yolanda's Construction Administration and Traffic Control (YCAT), introduced herself as the meeting facilitator and began by presenting the ground rules to ensure a productive meeting. Ms. Jones reviewed the meeting agenda and announced the meeting would consist of three segments: a Navy presentation, followed by a break-out session with Navy personnel and regulatory agency representatives, and an open forum for questions.

II. Welcome/Introductions

Lara Urizar (Navy) introduced herself as a Navy remedial project manager (RPM) for Hunters Point Shipyard (HPS). She also introduced the regulatory agency representatives in attendance at the meeting, including Mark Ripperda, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) RPM; Ryan Miya, California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) RPM; and Ross Steenson, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) RPM.

Ms. Urizar explained that in an attempt to reach the broader community affected by the ongoing remediation at Hunters Point Shipyard (HPS), the meeting's presentations and discussions would be in both English and Cantonese. To achieve this goal, the Navy had two translators present at the meeting: Linda Tsoi (iInterpret) and Terrance Choy (iInterpret). The materials discussed were translated throughout the meeting by Mr. Choy. Presentation materials and information packets were also offered in both English and Chinese.

Ms. Urizar introduced the meeting topic, as the Navy's Draft Community Involvement Plan (CIP), and reviewed the meeting agenda in more detail. She explained that the meeting would center on the general topic of the draft CIP presented in the first session of the meeting by Carolyn Hunter of Tetra Tech EM Inc. Ms. Urizar explained that the original agenda was to also include a discussion of the early transfer process at HPS with the City of San Francisco; however, the early transfer process would be discussed at a later meeting if the community is interested. Ms. Urizar also said any specific questions on the draft CIP or the early transfer process could be asked during the breakout session or open forum following the main presentation.

Ms. Urizar introduced the breakout topic tables to be held later in the meeting. She said that Navy contractors, Ms. Hunter (Tetra Tech EM) and Leslie Lundgren (CH2M HILL) would lead the "Community Involvement Plan" tables. The purpose of these tables would be to discuss the draft CIP in greater detail, obtain suggestions for how the Navy could improve communication with the community, and also to obtain comments on the planned Navy community involvement activities. The "Meet the Regulators Table" would be led by the representatives from USEPA, DTSC, and Water Board to allow community members to engage in a more open exchange with the regulators. Ms. Urizar also said that the breakout sessions would provide a chance to talk to and ask questions in a casual discussion with Navy and regulatory agency representatives who work on the project.

Ms. Urizar indicated a representative from each table would record action items during the breakout session to be presented to all meeting attendees before the open forum session. Meeting participants would receive a 5-minute warning when the breakout session was about to conclude to allow them to wrap up questions and conversations with the various representatives at the tables. All action items would be identified before the open forum for general questions. Ms. Urizar requested that if a community member had a question throughout the meeting that the Navy was unable to answer to please provide an email address or alternative contact information on a comment card for the Navy to provide a response after the meeting.

III. Community Involvement Plan Presentation

Ms. Hunter introduced herself as a Navy contractor and an author of the draft CIP, which was currently out for public comment. She explained that formulation of the CIP document was a process that relied on public comment to achieve that best result in tailoring a communication program to fit the needs of an individual community. Ms. Hunter said that while the Navy is completing the draft CIP, new ways to communicate with the public were being tested to provide information to the broader HPS community affected by ongoing remediation and requested feedback on the effectiveness of current communication initiatives, including the following:

- The Navy is trying to more successfully engage non-English speaking communities by distributing fact sheets in multiple languages and participating in popular radio programs in both Spanish and Chinese, including the Ida Choy show.
- New meeting times and locations were being tested for upcoming community presentations to allow individuals with conflicting schedules or travel constraints to obtain information and provide public comment.
 - April 27 Community Meeting will be held at HPS
 - May 25 Community Meeting will be held at a location identified based on community input and preference.

Ms. Hunter explained that the community members present were encouraged to offer suggestions for meeting locations, times, dates, or potential topics for discussion during the information breakout session. Ms. Hunter also said that the draft CIP was issued on March 8, 2011, and the Navy would be accepting public comments on the document through April 8, 2011. Community members were informed that copies of the draft CIP could be obtained on

line , at local libraries, or through the Navy by providing an email on the signup sheet provided at the meeting.

Ms. Hunter defined the purpose of the draft CIP as an information and communication resource for both the Navy and the surrounding community. The draft CIP provides information on the history of HPS, the past and current environmental cleanup strategies and stages, as well as summaries of community feedback regarding HPS remediation and communication methodologies. In addition to the text, the draft CIP also contains many helpful resources, including contact information for Navy representatives and regulatory agencies, health information, acronyms, and recent and upcoming community involvement activities.

Ms. Hunter explained that the draft CIP was a commitment from the Navy to complete proposed actions planned to improve community involvement. One method the Navy used to obtain information and community concerns was to interview a large number of community members. The interviews were conducted by members of the Navy and regulatory agencies in a conversational format to create a dialogue and allow the participants to more freely voice their opinions and concerns. To cast a wide net while identifying interviewees, the Navy called individuals and mailed invitations to more than 3,000 community members within the three surrounding Zip codes, as well as members of the public who serve the HPS area but do not reside or work at the shipyard. Seventy-three interviews were conducted in person or on the phone to inform the CIP process and provide information and perspectives from differing organizations and residents within the community.

Information obtained from the interviews was summarized to highlight overarching community concerns and develop an overall theme for the opinions expressed. Interviews for the 2011 draft CIP indicate that, overall, the community would like the cleanup to be completed in a way that protects current and future community users and its neighbors. Additional themes identified during the process were highlighted as follows:

- The Navy is not effectively communicating to the broader HPS area. One communication method will not reach the entire community. The Navy will need to incorporate multiple outreach strategies and activities to involve more members of a diverse community.
- Not much general information is available to the public regarding the HPS history and remediation activities.
- The basic cleanup process and methodology as well as the redevelopment strategy for the area are not clearly communicated to the public.
- Health effects of the HPS contamination and remediation are a general concern.
- The Navy needs to coordinate with existing community groups to more effectively reach members of the public.

Ms. Hunter explained that, moving forward, the draft CIP will incorporate these concerns and provide a plan to address issues raised during the interview process as well as those submitted or expressed during the public comment period.

In addition to the information gathered from interviews, the draft CIP also reviewed current census information to assess general community trends. Combining the census data with the interview themes will allow the Navy to better identify and address community concerns.

The Navy is committed to providing public information that is accessible, easily understood, and available in multiple languages to achieve open and transparent communication regarding the HPS remediation projects. The Navy will ensure that community input regarding outreach methods as well as the cleanup program is obtained and community questions are addressed. Ms. Hunter explained some activities and strategies the Navy plans to adopt in the future to achieve the previously identified communication goals and asked the meeting participants to provide additional suggestions during the breakout session. Future activities identified or suggested are included below:

- Post an annual calendar of community events online to allow the public to plan for and schedule time for meetings.
- Appoint a local community involvement manager to improve the Navy's communication.
- Hold public meetings in more locations.
- Routinely update the Navy website and use additional online sources to distribute information, such as Facebook.
- Update the current mailing list to better supply the community with information.
- Post public notices in local newspapers for upcoming meetings or events.
- Contact community members directly through neighborhood contacts and a canvassing program.

In addition to the future activities identified above, Ms. Hunter also acknowledged the former existence of the HPS Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), which had been the primary method of communication with the Navy in the past. The Navy dissolved the RAB after 15 years when it stopped meeting its intended goals that were identified and assigned by the Navy and public. After it was dissolved, the Navy committed to reviewing alternative methods of communication to reach effected members of the community and will continue to assess the need for a RAB in the future.

Ms. Hunter concluded the presentation by repeating that the Navy would accept and appreciate public comment on the draft CIP, including questions or suggested topics and community activities. Written comment forms were supplied at the meeting as well. Ms. Hunter explained that comments could be submitted directly to the Navy during the meeting or later via the mailing address supplied on the form itself. Ms. Hunter also said that members of the public may also request an extension of the comment period if they need more time to review the draft CIP.

IV. Summary of Community Comments from Breakout Session Tables

As a result of the number of community members at the public meeting, it was suggested that the meeting proceed directly to the open forum session rather than disperse for individual table discussions. This suggestion was thought to be most efficient while also providing enough time for community members attending to ask questions and participate in a dialogue on the issues or any concerns.

V. Open Forum

Comment 1: A member of the community wanted to know why construction crews or general workers are not hired from the HPS neighborhood. Ms. Urizar responded that the Navy works diligently to hire from the surrounding community and often specifies use of local workers in its contractor's scopes of work. Mr. Ripperda (USEPA) also commented that the remediation process typically hires a small number of technical specialists to complete the cleanup, which differs from the redevelopment process where thousands of general contractor and construction jobs will be required.

Comment 2: A community member raised a concern that radioactive materials from HPS were disposed of improperly in the past by simply sweeping up the contaminated debris and placing it in a general garbage cans for disposal. She wanted the Navy to clarify how potential or actual radiation found onsite is handled.

Ms. Urizar explained that low levels of radiation are found in many locations at HPS, and all radioactive areas identified must be cleaned up before transfer to the city. The Navy is currently conducting a complete cleanup of all areas where elevated levels of radiation were detected under federal and state regulatory agency oversight.

Mr. Miya (DTSC) also explained that radiation was detected in underground pipes as well as onsite buildings and confirmed that any elevated levels of radiation detected near the pipes would be removed before transfer.

Ms. Urizar confirmed Mr. Miya's statement that underground pipes and associated material would be removed; however, Ms. Urizar clarified that the highest levels of radiation were detected in the Parcel E-2 (former landfill) and that an alternative method for cleanup – other than complete excavation of soil – may be applied to the landfill site. No decision has been made.

Comment 3: A community member wanted to know if radioactive materials were moved from one location onsite to another. Mr. Ripperda (USEPA) responded that the Navy cannot and does not transfer radioactive materials onsite. Materials with elevated levels of radiation are removed and transported to a special disposal facility authorized to treat and store radioactive contaminants.

Comment 4: A community member wanted to know how the Navy tracks the level of radiation in the air. Ms. Urizar explained that the Navy requires its workers to wear personal radiation monitoring badges while they are working in contaminated areas, and no exposure risks have been detected on site.

Mr. Ripperda (USEPA) responded that the Navy has radiation monitors that are required for all work conducted on HPS. USEPA oversees work conducted at HPS and reviews all monitoring data and has confirmed that the Navy is not releasing radiation. No radiation from HPS is entering the surrounding area.

Comment 5: A community member asked how long the HPS cleanup process will take and if a deadline or public cleanup schedule was available. Mr. Miya explained that the HPS site was divided into various areas depending on the characteristics of the site and the cleanup strategies required. Some sites will begin the transfer process in approximately 1 year, while others may take multiple years before they are ready to transfer.

Ms. Urizar also said that a schedule for individual parcels can be mailed to community members on request, but that, in general, the last parcel is scheduled to reach transfer status in approximately 6 to 8 years.

Comment 6: A community member wanted to know what agencies or organizations are reviewing the cleanup process. Mr. Miya explained that multiple federal and state agencies were overseeing the cleanup, including the three represented at the meeting: USEPA, the California DTSC, and the Water Board.

Comment 7: A community member inquired when the next scheduled tour would be conducted of HPS. Ms. Urizar stated that a bus tour was scheduled for the summer of 2011.

It was suggested that the tour be conducted as soon as possible for interested community members to learn more about the site and current cleanup operations. Once the members of the surrounding community know more about the site in general, they will naturally have additional questions.

Comment 8: A community member wanted to know if the schedule of public events could be accessed online. Ms. Urizar responded that the schedule is not currently available but will be provided in response to the request.

Comment 9: A community member asked how community members can follow up with the Navy in the future regarding issues or requests raised during the public meeting. Ms. Urizar responded that any additional questions can be submitted to the Navy contact, Keith Forman, listed on the meeting handout and community fact sheets. His mailing address was also provided.

A community member responded that it is unlikely that people will contact Mr. Forman if they cannot speak or write English well.

Comment 10: A community member suggested that the Navy host a dedicated phone line that can be accessed for updates in multiple languages and a message center for community questions and concerns. Ms. Urizar responded that the Navy would review the possibility of establishing a hotline in the future to address community concerns as part of its improved community outreach effort.

Comment 11: A community member stated that he was a local contractor and had many workers with no work. He wanted to know why local workers are not involved in the cleanup process and if he could contact Mr. Forman with questions regarding upcoming work and job availability.

Mr. Urizar confirmed that community members are able to contact Mr. Forman with any questions related to HPS. She also explained that, once a year, the Navy holds a contractors' meeting that gives advice on how to become a Navy contractor or work at HPS.

Ms. Lundgren offered to provide the community member's business contact information to other contractors working at HPS.

Comment 12: Mr. Ripperda asked the community members at the meeting with whom they thought the Navy should speak to inform the community of organized events. He also asked how meeting participants had heard about the current meeting. Many attendees responded that they were informed of the meeting over the radio. It was suggested that notices be posted in local Chinese newspapers (*World Journal* or *SingTao Daily*) and in popular stores in Chinatown.

Comment 13: A community member inquired how the Navy notifies members of the community in areas adjacent to HPS that she perceives are most affected by site remediation and future redevelopment.

Ms. Hunter informed the community member that fact sheets and public notices have been translated into various languages in an effort to reach and communicate with the diverse community surrounding HPS. Some materials have also been distributed door to door by YCAT to ensure that these residents are receiving necessary information.

Ms. Lundgren also noted that, because of this concern, the Navy is experimenting with new ways to meet and engage the HPS community.

Comment 14: A community member wanted to know how to reach the meeting held on HPS since the site is restricted. Ms. Jones responded that Bus 19 will transport community participants to the HPS entrance where Ms. Jones or a member of her organization will be waiting to escort community members to the meeting. The security guard will also be aware that the Navy is conducting a public meeting. In addition, community members who leave mailing or email addresses on the signup sheet at the meeting would receive directions and meeting information in advance of the next meeting.

Action Items

The following action items were identified:

1. The Navy will continue to post public notices in local newspapers for upcoming meetings or events and will determine whether publishing notices in additional papers is possible.
2. The Navy will consider creating an abbreviated cleanup schedules for the community.
3. The Navy will review the possibility of establishing a telephone hot line where community members can listen to recorded messages about the cleanup in their native language and also to leave messages for the Navy.