



# Meeting Summary

## Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Community Meeting

August 22, 2012

MEETING TIME/DATE: Wednesday, August 22, 2012, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION:: Bayview Opera House  
4705 Third Street  
San Francisco, CA 94124

MEETING TOPIC: Shipyard Field Work Update: Utility Corridor and Radiological  
Cleanup Activities

## I. Welcome/Introductions

Matt Robinson/Circlepoint (Community Involvement Manager) introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS) community meeting. Mr. Robinson introduced Keith Forman/U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) (Base Realignment and Closure [BRAC] Environmental Coordinator), Melanie Kito/Navy (Lead Remedial Project Manager), and Chris Yantos/Navy (Remedial Project Manager). Regulatory agency team members in attendance included Craig Cooper/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) (Program Manager), Jackie Lane/USEPA (Community Outreach Specialist), Ryan Miya/California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Project Manager), and Tina Low/San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) (Project Manager).

## II. Meeting Format and Ground Rules

Mr. Robinson described the meeting format and ground rules. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to provide an update of recent field work that has taken place on the former shipyard including field work in the Utility Corridors, known as Parcels UC-1 and UC-2, and basewide radiological cleanup activities. Additionally, Mr. Cooper from USEPA would have the opportunity to present an update on Parcel E-2 Sampling and Yosemite Slough.

Participants were asked to refrain from asking questions during the presentation. Mr. Robinson noted that an opportunity to ask questions would be provided at the end of the presentation. Following questions on the presentation, participants would have an opportunity to visit with members of the Navy and regulatory agencies at the Open House tables. After the Open House, Mr. Robinson stated the teams would report back to the group on the questions participants asked. He added that there would be time at the end of the meeting to answer any additional questions.

Mr. Robinson added that the Navy's general presentation will take approximately 30 minutes and will be followed by Mr. Cooper's presentation that will also be about.

Mr. Robinson noted that handout materials were available at the sign-in table to provide more detailed information, including the HPNS 2012 Calendar of Events and a handout advertising the upcoming bus tour scheduled for September.

### **III. Shipyard Field Work Update: Utility Corridors Field Work and Basewide Radiological Cleanup Activities**

Ms. Kito provided an overview of utility corridors (UC)-1 and UC-2 which are located along Spear Avenue, Fisher Avenue and Robinson Street on HPNS. Previous environmental investigations in the area of the utility corridors have included a parcel-wide radiological investigation of the sanitary sewers and storm drain lines. The Navy has received a free-release letter from the State of California for the radiological cleanup work and it is considered complete. The final element of the cleanup in the utility corridors included placing a long-lasting cover over the site. The Navy placed clean soil and planted native flowers and grasses on the hillsides along the corridors, repaired and/or replaced pavement on roads and in parking areas, and repaired building foundations along the corridor.

The utility corridor hillsides were covered with clean imported soil and the soil was secured using mats to deter erosion. Native plants planted on the hillside included strawberry plants and wildflowers. For the repair of the pavement along the three main roads, the Navy first inspected the condition of the existing pavement to identify areas in need of repair and followed it up with removal of the damaged areas and restoration of the base materials. The Navy is currently replacing pavement in areas where it was too damaged to be repaired, and this work is expected to be completed in August 2012.

Mr. Yantos presented the field work update on the radiological cleanup activities at HPNS. The radiologically impacted areas on HPNS were identified in the Historical Radiological Assessment (HRA) report and the Navy is further investigating and cleaning up those areas identified on a parcel-by-parcel basis. Radiologically impacted areas identified in the HRA include buildings, sewer lines, storm drains, open space sites, and ship berths.

Radiological sites are investigated by first conducting a scan of the building or soil to see if there are radiological detections, and then soil samples are collected for laboratory analysis. The scans cover every inch of a trench, excavation, or building. When cleanup is complete, the Navy receives a free-release letter from the State of California. Free release is when a site is determined to be free from radiological contamination and the land can be used for any future reuse. Free release is achieved by surveying and sampling the site in the field, followed by the Navy issuing a report to the regulatory agencies. The USEPA and the State of California review the results of the report and do an onsite inspection before issuing a free-release letter to the Navy. To date, 65 percent of the sites identified in the HRA have been investigated and cleanup is complete. The Navy has obtained free release on 5 parcels, 160 trenches, and 27 buildings at HPNS.

The next steps for the Navy include Phase II of the radiological work in Parcel D-1, which will largely be made up of the Gun Mole Pier. In addition, the Navy will begin Phase II work on Parcel C which will include the sewers, storm drains, and ship berths in that parcel. Once the

Phase II work at Parcel C is complete, the radiological investigations for the parcel will be complete. In 2013, the Navy will begin Phase III of the radiological work by focusing on Buildings 253 and 211 and the sanitary sewers and storm drains in Parcel E.

## Audience Questions and Responses

*Question (Sudeep Rao): Do you have a map showing all the areas that have been free released?*

Mr. Yantos: Yes we do and it was included in the presentation (proceeded to show the slide with a map of the free-released areas). Parcels UC-1, UC-2, G and D-2 have all been free released as well as a few buildings on Parcel C and E.

*Question (Marie Harrison): How deep are the sanitary sewer pipes in the utility corridors and how deep is groundwater?*

John Sourial (ERRG a Navy Contractor): The sanitary sewer pipes are at a maximum of 22 feet below ground surface (bgs) with most of the pipes at 5 to 8 feet bgs. The Navy scanned below the sanitary sewer lines after they were removed, no matter how deep they were.

*Question (Sudeep Rao): In the areas where the City of San Francisco is proposing to construct buildings, will they need to screen for radiological contamination before installing the building foundations?*

Amy Brownell (City of San Francisco): The City of San Francisco trusts that the Navy in cooperation with the agencies is removing all radiological contamination in order to facilitate transfer of the property. If needed, the Navy can put a land use restriction on an area and prevent anyone from disturbing the ground in that area. Mr. Miya added that the Navy investigates areas based on areas identified in the HRA as being potentially impacted by radiological activities. If the Navy finds contamination during their investigation, they continue to remove it until it is all removed.

*Question (J.V. McCarthy): If a Navy excavation and the related radiological survey only go down 10 feet, what happens when someone wants to build a pier or foundation that is deeper than that?*

Mr. Miya: The amount of investigation required by the Navy is determined by the potentially radiologically impacted areas identified in the HRA. If there are no historical documents that indicate an area may have potentially been impacted by radiological activities then the Navy will not investigate those areas. The HRA was very conservative about where the Navy might expect to find radiological contamination, and to date very little has actually been found on HPNS even in the areas where they thought there might have been a release based on the site history. If the State of California issues a free-release letter to the Navy then there is no need for a land use covenant to restrict the land because of radiological contamination.

*Comment (J.V. McCarthy): I am still concerned with the fill areas and what happens if they build residential in the area.*

Mr. Miya: In the fill areas there may still be land use covenants restricting the land use but they may be restricted because of other contamination rather than radiological.

*Question (Marie Harrison): How do they survey the walls of the piers?*

Ms. Kito: Since the piers held ships that may have been exposed to radiological contamination, the piers are an area that is suspected of also being radiologically impacted. The Navy scans the walls and surfaces of the piers as well as the original surface of the piers which may have been covered by concrete or asphalt after the ships were docked there.

*Question (Marie Harrison): I know for a fact that they sandblasted the ships on the piers and that sandblast grit went everywhere. What is the Navy going to do about the sandblast grit that may have settled in the San Francisco Bay sediments?*

Ms. Kito: The Navy is going to take sediment cores in the areas around the berths to determine the surface layer of sediments from the 1940s and 1950s in order to collect representative samples of that sediment for testing. The Navy has already completed Phase I of that investigation and will be completing Phase II where they will sample additional areas where they have not already gathered data.

*Question (Linda Richardson): How will they determine where to clean up the sediment after sampling?*

Ms. Kito: The sediment investigation will begin next year and after they analyze the data, the Navy will determine where they need to clean up.

The open house tables were not held because the time was spent answering the public's comments following the presentation.

## **IV. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Sampling at Parcel E-2**

Mr. Cooper introduced himself and his fellow regulators at the community meeting. He noted that the San Francisco Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) are also regulators that he works with on HPNS. The CDPH works on the radiological program and the BAAQMD enforces air quality guidelines. The regulatory agencies must approve the Navy's work plans before they can be implemented; the agencies review and comment on the Navy's work plans prior to final approval to ensure that they are protective of human health and the environment. The agencies periodically go onto HPNS to watch the implementation of the approved work plans in the field. They want to ensure that the Navy is following the work plans and occasionally the regulators will collect their own samples for independent analysis at the same time the Navy is conducting their fieldwork. In 2012, the USEPA has decided to collect landfill gas for independent testing. In 2013 at HPNS, the Water Board will also conduct independent groundwater testing and DTSC is planning to conduct independent soil sampling. More information will be given to the community before these sampling events occur.

The goals of the USEPA independent soil gas sampling are to verify the type of chemicals present in the landfill gas, evaluate the extent of landfill gas, determine if landfill gas constituents exceed regulatory standards, check to ensure that the Navy data are complete and accurate, and gather information to assist with selection of a future landfill gas treatment technology. The primary chemicals of concern in the landfill are methane, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), petroleum hydrocarbons, and hydrogen sulfide.

Meeting Summary  
Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Community Meeting,  
August 22, 2012

The USEPA is going to collect samples from nine existing landfill gas wells along the western and northern sides of the landfill area. The Navy will simultaneously be collecting landfill gas samples from the same nine wells. The western and northern sides are the areas closest to the off-base property. The landfill gas samples will be collected by an USEPA contractor with assistance from the Navy. The landfill gas will be managed by the contractor and supervised by USEPA staff. The schedule for collecting the samples is mid-September 2012; the final data report will be out in mid-December and findings will be presented to the community in early 2013. The sampling plan will be posted to the USEPA website by September 7, 2012.

### Audience Questions and Responses

*Question (Marie Harrison): Why is the USEPA only collecting samples from nine locations and why are none of the locations in the middle of the landfill?*

Mr. Cooper: The USEPA is sampling most of the wells along the western and northern edges of the landfill. The work plan gives an explanation for why each well was chosen. Some of these wells are technically inside the outer edge of the landfill boundary. There are no landfill gas wells that go through the original landfill cap.

*Question (Marie Harrison): What about landfill gas that is migrating towards the south or east over the San Francisco Bay?*

Ms Kito: The Navy originally had landfill gas wells on the southern and eastern side of the landfill but they were removed in 2004. For areas that have a high water table, which include the southern and eastern portions of the landfill near the San Francisco Bay, the methane generated in the landfill would be trapped beneath the water table and would not escape into the atmosphere. The Navy is trying to protect the public adjacent to the Navy property and that is why most of the landfill gas wells are installed on the northern and western sides of the landfill closer to the residential areas.

*Comment (J.V. McCarthy): I would like a copy of the USEPA's presentation.*

Mr. Cooper: I will post the presentation to the USEPA website and email you a copy.

*Question (Sudeep Rao): Is the Navy thinking about the positioning of the final gas monitoring locations? If they are then I think they should be placed in the middle of the landfill to find the most landfill gas generation.*

Mr. Cooper: In my opinion, a landfill gas well on the interior of the landfill will collect the same amount of landfill gas as one on the outer edge of the landfill.

*Comment (Linda Richardson): All of my neighbors got information about this meeting and I appreciate the additional Navy outreach information the Navy is providing. I went on the August bus tour and found it very informative and I recommend it to other community members.*

## V. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Update on Yosemite Slough Cleanup Project

Yosemite Slough is located adjacent to Parcels E-2 and F on HPNS, an area of wetlands under the jurisdiction of the California State Parks, and residential areas of Bayview Hunters Point. Yosemite Slough is not a Navy cleanup site. It is a nearby site and USEPA is the lead agency overseeing the cleanup. USEPA is writing a cleanup plan and plans on getting the responsible parties to pay and perform the cleanup action. The primary contaminants are polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals such as lead. They have samples that show contamination as deep as five feet below the sediment surface.

Human health risks from Yosemite Slough include consumption of fish and shellfish containing site contaminants along with direct contact with the Slough mud. Ecological risks include accumulation of contaminants in fish, shellfish and birds that live in or visit the Slough. The USEPA is currently preparing an engineering evaluation/cost analysis report which will provide alternatives and details on the proposed cleanup.

The USEPA has been working on the project for awhile and has completed three technical studies at the site, developed preliminary cleanup goals, issued a community involvement plan, conducted periodic outreach meetings, and begun writing up a draft cleanup plan. The USEPA will continue to search for responsible parties at Yosemite Slough.

Some of the technologies used to clean up similar sediment sites include monitored natural recovery (MNR) via natural deposition of clean sediments over contaminated sediments, the use of land use controls to limit site uses, in-situ treatment such as activated carbon, removal and backfill with clean sand, capping with clean sand, and the use of multiple technologies combined in the remedy. Mr. Cooper presented several photographs showing each of the different types of remediation technologies under consideration. The remedy options being evaluated by the USEPA include full removal (down to 5 feet below the surface) of the impacted sediment, partial removal (down to 2 feet below the surface) of the impacted sediment and installation of a sand cap, and partial removal (down to 2 feet below the surface) of the impacted sediment, installation of a sand cap, and MNR via sedimentation.

The key components of any selected cleanup remedy at the site will need to include improvements along the Slough edges to prevent erosion into the Slough, control of sources (e.g. sanitary sewers, sheet flow across adjacent property, etc.) that could re-contaminate the Slough in the future, coordination with the State Parks wetland project, coordination with the Navy on future remedies at Parcel F, compliance with all applicable regulations, minimization of odor and noise during the implementation of the remedy, and monitoring to ensure that the remedy is effective on a long-term basis. The potential project staging area and sediment dewatering zones would be a location south and southeast of the Slough on the parking areas used for football games. Mr. Cooper showed a map of how the sediment would be transported from the site to the landfill and how the trucks would go around Candlestick Park instead of through the Hunters Point neighborhood.

Meeting Summary  
Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Community Meeting,  
August 22, 2012

The best case schedule for upcoming activities at Yosemite Slough includes the submittal of a proposed cleanup plan for public comment, negotiation of a legal agreement with the responsible parties, and the beginning of the remedy design in 2013. It is anticipated that the Yosemite Slough cleanup activities will commence in 2014 or possibly 2015.

Key challenges that the USEPA faces at the site include selecting the best remedy for the site, reaching a legal agreement with the responsible parties, conducting the actual cleanup work with minimal impacts to residents and site ecology, preventing recontamination of the Slough after the cleanup work is complete, and staying on schedule. Mr. Cooper added that the information repository for the site can be visited at the ArcEcology offices at 1331 Evans Avenue and the public can contact him or Jackie Lane with questions.

## Audience Questions and Responses

*Question (J.V. McCarthy): Has the USEPA looked into Triple A being a potential responsible party?*

Mr. Cooper: The USEPA has not found any evidence that Triple A was a responsible party at the site, but welcomes any information that the public can provide.

*Question (J.V. McCarthy): Due to the proximity to Parcel E, will the USEPA be testing for radiological contamination in the Slough?*

Mr. Cooper: The Navy is starting to conduct sampling in Parcel F for radiological contamination and the USEPA will review those results to see if there might be an impact to Yosemite Slough. Currently, we have no evidence that the Slough is impacted by radiological materials.

*Question (Community Member): How is the USEPA preventing recontamination of the wetlands already created by the Park Service from the sediments in Yosemite Slough and how do you ensure that contamination in the south basin doesn't move into the Slough?*

Mr. Cooper: Based on the USEPA models for the Slough, we are not expecting to see significant sedimentation into the Slough from the South Basin; rather, the sediment generally travels out of the Slough and into the San Francisco Bay. The USEPA is hoping that the Navy begins cleanup of Parcel F within the upcoming year.

*Question (Whitney Smith): What kind of sea level rise was used in your modeling and what is the timeline on your sediment transport model?*

Mr. Cooper: The model does take into account sea level rise and I can forward you the model timeline. The original timeline was for the State Parks wetland project.

*Question (Lonnie Mason): How is the Navy getting the community more involved, because without the community at the meetings they are not able to help the Navy make decisions for the sites?*

Mr. Robinson: The Navy holds regular public meetings, they send out monthly emails to the community, distribute notices of the upcoming meetings in the community, and hold bus tours to give the community an opportunity to see the cleanup work firsthand.

*Question (Sudeep Rao): How will the Navy incorporate the comments provided by the specialists hired under the technical assistance grant (TAG) into the draft Record of Decision (ROD) for Parcel E-2?*

Meeting Summary  
Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Community Meeting,  
August 22, 2012

Mr. Cooper: The findings were submitted to the Navy who are currently reviewing those recommendations and are coming up with written responses and making the appropriate changes to the ROD.

Mr. Robinson noted that the Navy is holding another bus tour on September 22, 2012 and there is a flyer and signup sheet available if anyone is interested in attending. The next meeting will be on October 24, 2012 at the Bayview YMCA.

## **VI. Meeting Adjournment and Review of Action Items**

No action items were noted at the conclusion of the meeting.