



Naval Station San Diego Environmental Cleanup Program

Removal Action Fact Sheet

February 2002

Installation Restoration Program Sub-Site 2A Progress Report

This fact sheet is number 6 in a series of removal action fact sheets prepared to inform the public about the removal of contaminated materials at Naval Station San Diego. This action is undertaken as part of the Navy's Installation Restoration (IR) Program, designed to investigate and clean up hazardous waste sites in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations.

In August 1999, the public received information about the proposed removal of contaminated soil at IR Program Sub-Site 2A, the Mole Pier Disposal Area. Alternatives for site cleanup were evaluated and presented to the public for review and comment. A public meeting was held on August 25, 1999, to hear comments and concerns about the preferred alternative for cleaning up Sub-Site 2A as put forth in the Action Memorandum/Remedial Action Plan. The public agreed with the Navy's decision to excavate the contaminated soil and move it off-site because the action was protective of human health and the environment, cost effective, technically feasible, and allowed for unrestricted land use upon completion of cleanup.

The removal action began in January 2000 and is ongoing. This fact sheet discusses the progress of the Sub-Site 2A removal action and the additional amounts of contaminated soil that have been encountered within the Sub-Site 2A boundaries.

IR Sub-Site 2A: Mole Pier Disposal Area

IR Program Site 2, Mole Pier, is a 23-acre, triangular-shaped area that was created in 1942 from hydraulic fill material dredged from San Diego Bay. From approximately 1945 to 1972, the western portion of the site, called IR Sub-Site 2A, was used for waste disposal and open burning of debris and hazardous materials (for example, fuels, oils, solvents, and paint sludges). By 1972 the site was covered with soil and later was paved over.

Sub-Site 2A has been the subject of several environmental investigations and studies. These studies were conducted with appropriate oversight by state and local regulatory agencies such as the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and California Regional Water Quality Control Board. The studies included sampling of soil and groundwater for various contaminants resulting from past activities at the site. The results of the investigations indicated that

Did You Know...?

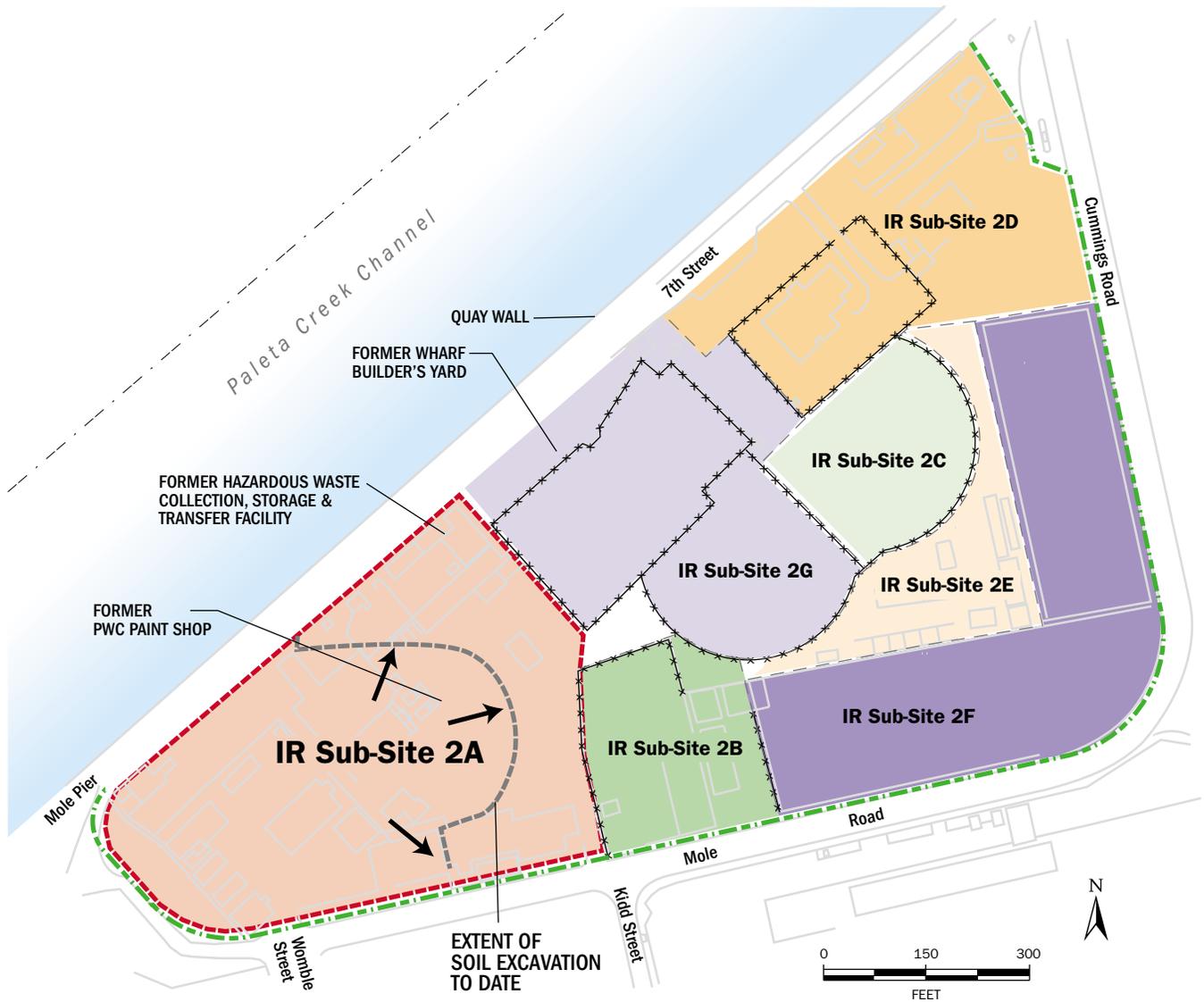
You can read more about the Navy's environmental program at Naval Station San Diego on the internet! The Navy's Southwest Division Environmental Web Page address is:
<http://www.efds.w.navy.mil/environmental/envhome.htm>

Documents pertaining to the Naval Station San Diego Installation Restoration Program are available for public viewing at the Naval Station Information Repository, located at the National City Public Library, 200 E. 12th Street, National City. Library hours are:

Monday: Noon – 8 PM

Tuesday: Noon – 6 PM

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10 AM – 6 PM



LEGEND		
---	OTHER SITE BOUNDARIES	
---	IR Sub-Site 2A BOUNDARY	IR Sub-Site 2A
---	IR SITE 2 MOLE PIER AREA BOUNDARY	IR Sub-Site 2B
		IR Sub-Site 2C
		IR Sub-Site 2D
		IR Sub-Site 2E
		IR Sub-Site 2F
		IR Sub-Site 2G
		CHAIN LINK FENCE

Sub-Site 2A and Areas of Past and Future Soil Removal

soil contamination needed to be addressed at IR Sub-Site 2A. Chemicals of concern at Sub-Site 2A include arsenic, lead, chromium, various polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (a group of chemicals that form during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas, garbage, or other organic substances), dioxins, and fuel oils (kerosene and diesel). Levels of these chemicals of concern are currently unacceptable for unrestricted use.

Removal Action 2000 to 2001

In 1999, the Navy proposed to excavate an estimated 28,100 cubic yards of soil over a period of about two months during a 12-month period (September 1999-September 2000). It should be noted that soil removal estimates are done primarily for cost and schedule purposes; however, field activities and confirmation sampling frequently exceed original soil volume re-



IR Sub-Site 2A
Building demolition during the removal action



IR Sub-Site 2A
Pipeline Support during excavation



IR Sub-Site 2A
Early in the removal action



IR Sub-Site 2A
Today



Area of (future) expanded
Sub-Site 2A excavation

removal estimates to ensure cleanup is thorough and complete. Following public review and comment, the removal action began at Sub-Site 2A in January 2000. Health and safety precautions are being taken during the excavation. The site is fenced and warning signs are posted. Dust control measures are being taken. A licensed waste hauler is transporting the soil off the base to a certified disposal facility. The soil is not flammable and there is no risk of explosion.

Several documents were prepared, reviewed, and approved prior to the start of the removal action. These include a Site Safety and Health Plan to protect the health and safety of the community, the surrounding environment, and the workers on-site, and a Removal Action Implementation Plan to guide the fieldwork. Following soil removal, verification sampling of the remaining on-site soil was conducted, as described in the approved work plans, to assure that the contamination was reduced to acceptable regulatory standards. If the results were higher than allowable standards, further excavation was performed, as described in the approved work plans, until the sampling results reached acceptable levels. In the process of removing contaminated soil it became clear that a larger area needed to be excavated in order to remove the contamination.

To date, approximately 64,000 cubic yards of soil have been removed. Building 3224 was demolished and removed and the soil underneath excavated. As of September 2001, the removal action covered about 60 percent of Sub-Site 2A. The west-central portion of Sub-Site 2A has been backfilled with clean soil and the area paved over for parking. In accordance with Naval Station policy, a "greenbelt" buffer area was landscaped around the edge of the backfilled area to help prevent stormwater runoff into the adjacent San Diego Bay.

The northeast corner of Sub-Site 2A, the former collection, storage, and transfer (CST) facility, was sampled in January 2001 for possible contaminants. In addition to the chemicals of concern listed on page 1, PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) were detected in two isolated areas of the CST. Therefore, future excavation will occur in this area. An additional 5,000 cubic yards of soil may need to be removed from the former CST facility area. The figure on the left shows the area where the soil removal has occurred and the area proposed for further soil removal within Sub-Site 2A.

How Does This Affect You?

According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), actions such as the Naval Station soil removal must be evaluated for possible environmental impacts. In 1999, California DTSC prepared a CEQA Initial Study, which concluded that any potential impacts from dust, air emissions, erosion, truck traffic, and noise were already being mitigated (reduced) to less-than-significant levels by activities recommended in the Site Safety and Health Plan and the Removal Action Implementation Plan.

Based on the need for additional soil excavation and removal, DTSC and the Navy discussed the potential for increased impacts to the environment. Because the approved planning documents discussed the potential for additional soil removal, the possibility of additional truck trips and a longer removal action time frame were anticipated. Further review of the volume and extent of soil removal led to the conclusion that there is no fundamental change to the removal action and therefore no significant environmental impacts. The effect on the community as a result of the increased soil removal has been, and is expected to be, limited to additional truck trips to haul the soil off-site and bring in clean fill dirt. The truck trips are anticipated to continue throughout 2002.

For More Information...

If you have questions about the removal action, or about the Installation Restoration Program at Naval Station San Diego, please contact:

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INSIDE:

Update on the Removal Action Sub-Site 2A, Naval Station San Diego

Si Ud. prefiere este informe en español, por favor llame a Ms. Theresa Morley a (619) 524-6399.

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