

# POINT MOLATE FOCUS



NEWS OF THE NFD POINT MOLATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAMS

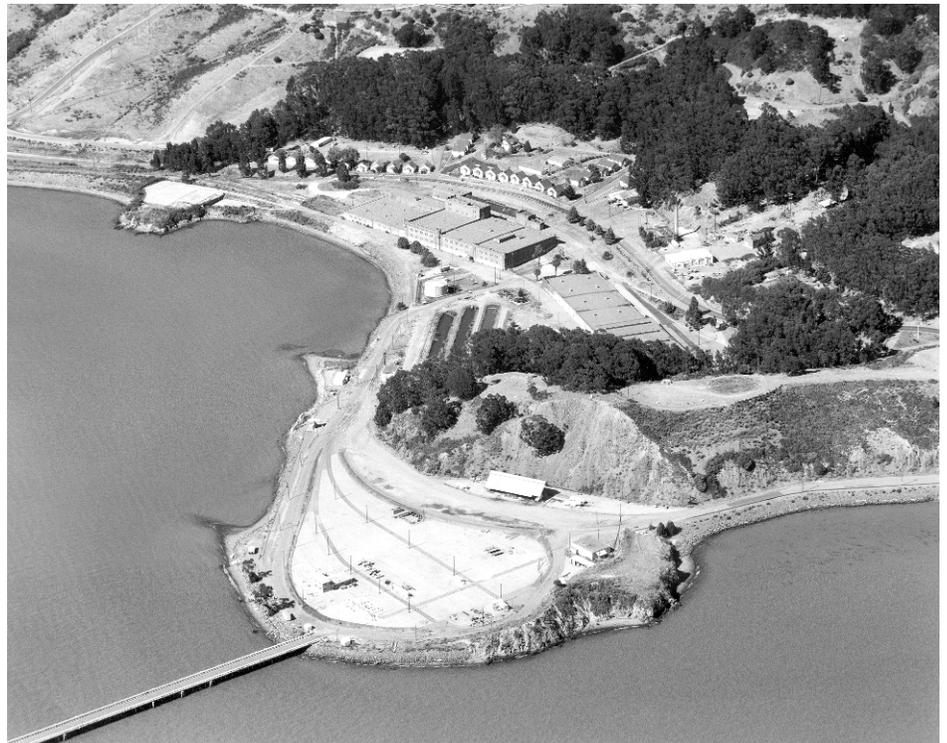
ISSUE 13, FALL 2001

## POINT MOLATE'S RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD:

### A Key Player in the Navy's Environmental Cleanup Process

**T**his issue of the Point Molate Focus is devoted to the community members who volunteer their time and efforts working with representatives of the Navy and regulatory agencies to assure that Point Molate will be cleaned up and ready for transfer. These 21 folks, from a variety of backgrounds, have dedicated themselves to attending meetings, listening to presentations, reviewing technical documents, and providing input to the process of investigating and cleaning up areas of the former naval fuel depot. These are areas where past handling and disposal practices, although acceptable at the time, contributed to environmental problems today, with fuels, oils, and other substances finding their way into the soil and groundwater.

In the past, each issue of the Focus has profiled a member of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), the Navy, the regulatory agencies, or the contractors performing the studies, to introduce these individuals to the community. In this issue, we celebrate all the RAB members and their collaboration with the Navy, agencies, and contractors. So, to all those individuals, we dedicate these pages to you!



*All photos this issue by Don Gosney*

*Former Naval Fuel Depot (NFD) Point Molate seen from the air. The base was commissioned as a naval fueling depot in April 1943 and was closed in 1995 under the Base Realignment and Closure Act.*

#### DID YOU KNOW?

You can read more about the Navy's environmental program on the internet!

The Navy's Southwest Division

Environmental Web Page address is

<http://www.efds.w.navy.mil/environmental/envhome.htm>



## 2001 RAB MEMBERS



Arnie Kasendorf



Bruce Beyaert



Sarah Eeles



Elinor Strauss



Henry Clark



Eileen Whitty



Gaye Eisenlord



Richard Frisbie

Don Gosney  
Community Co-chair

## Community Involvement and the “RAB”

In 1993, President Clinton announced a “Fast-Track Cleanup Program” to help speed the economic recovery of communities affected by the Department of Defense (DoD) base realignment and closure (BRAC) program. Previously, DoD closed military bases in an effort to save money, sometimes without enough attention to effects on the surrounding communities. In a sharp departure from the past, the President’s initiative aimed to give top priority to early reuse of the valuable assets of closing bases by host communities.



*In September 2000, Congressman George Miller chose former Naval Fuel Depot Point Molate as the location of his annual Environmental Town Hall Meeting. About 70 community members attended this event. In addition to a booth prepared and presented by RAB Community Co-chair Don Gosney, a brief presentation on the RAB, visits to some of the base cleanup sites, the Pier and the Winehaven Building were held. Navy personnel were on hand to answer the community’s questions.*

The DoD, of which the Navy is a branch, began implementing the Fast-Track base closure strategy in 1993 with three overriding principles:

- Protect human health and the environment
- Make property available for transfer and reuse
- Provide effective community involvement

This third principle was achieved through the policy of establishing a Restoration Advisory Board, or RAB, at every closing/transferring base. The RAB provides a forum for interested community members to provide input on cleanup at a base. It is important to seek meaningful participation by affected public and community stakeholders. Through successful experience with the Fast-Track Program, the RAB concept has been expanded to the entire DoD cleanup program.

The RAB at former Naval Fuel Depot Point Molate began in August 1996 when the Navy solicited participation from the community to form an advisory board. Nine of the current 21 RAB members had also participated in the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee to develop a reuse plan for the closing base, so their experience was valuable. Operating rules were initially developed by RAB members in 1996, and subsequently

amended in 1997 and 1998, to guide the functioning of the advisory board.

The Point Molate RAB is composed of members from the community, and representatives from the the Department of the Navy and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. The meetings are chaired by a Navy and a Community Co-chair. The Community Co-chair is elected once a year by a majority of RAB members, while the Navy Co-chair is the individual who is selected by the Installation Commanding Officer and holds the position of the BRAC Environmental Coordinator for Point Molate. In addition, subcommittees have been established to handle such tasks as membership (to fill vacancies on the RAB when they occur), community outreach (to keep the community informed through the quarterly newsletter, public presentations, and community bulletin boards), and review of technical documents (to digest the volumes of information prepared by the Navy and its contractors on site investigation and cleanup).

RAB meetings are open to the public and are held bi-monthly, starting October 2001, on the first Wednesday of the month at the Richmond City Hall Complex. Everyone is welcome to participate.



Lucretia Edwards



Sharon Fuller



Steve Linsley



Nagaraja Rao



Sharon Maves

2001  
RAB  
MEMBERS



Jean Siri



Jill Kiernan



Kent Kitchingman



Don Delcollo

2001 RAB members not shown:  
Bunny Ford, Elizabeth Dunn

## Out and About



*In addition to regular meetings, the RAB and other community members have participated in periodic tours of sites undergoing study and cleanup at Point Molate.*

*On August 1, 2001, folks were able to visit Building 87 where soil was removed to address pesticide contamination, and Site 3, Treatment Ponds Area, where excavations were conducted to study wastes disposed of at a part of the site called the Fuel Reclamation Area. The grand finale was a tour to the former Winemaster's Cottage, a charming example of early 1900's style with a commanding view of San Francisco Bay and Marin County.*

*After the winery closed and the facility became Navy property, the base commanding officer occupied the house. Near the Winemaster's Cottage are smaller houses formerly occupied by winery workers and, later, Navy personnel.*

## TECHNICAL DOCUMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

### What DO Those Folks Do?

One of the busiest subcommittees on the RAB is the Technical Document Review Committee, or TDRC. To these individuals fall the task of reviewing reports and binders full of data, drawings, laboratory results, and other technical information. It is estimated that the TDRC has reviewed and provided comments to the Navy on 10 documents since January 2000. Most recently the TDRC has reviewed a design-basis report for structural closure of underground storage tanks, a fieldwork

plan for Site 3 (Treatment Ponds Area), a soil cover design report for Site 1 (Waste Disposal Area), and a fuel product action level development report. Sound scary? A lot of folks wouldn't think they are up to the task and that one has to be a chemist, geologist, or engineer to read these documents. But, as TDRC member Don Gosney says, "The diverse abilities of the TDRC members complement each other and ensure that each document is thoroughly reviewed and commented on."



Viewing a display of Native American artifacts after a RAB presentation

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POINT MOLATE

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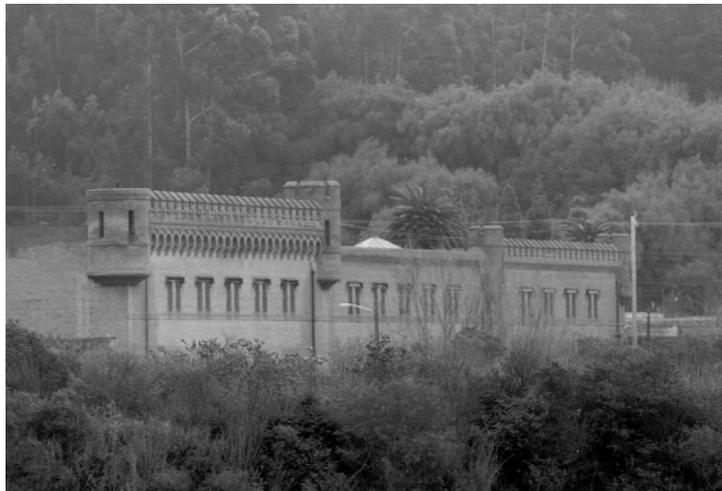
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dongosney@home.com

Information Repositories

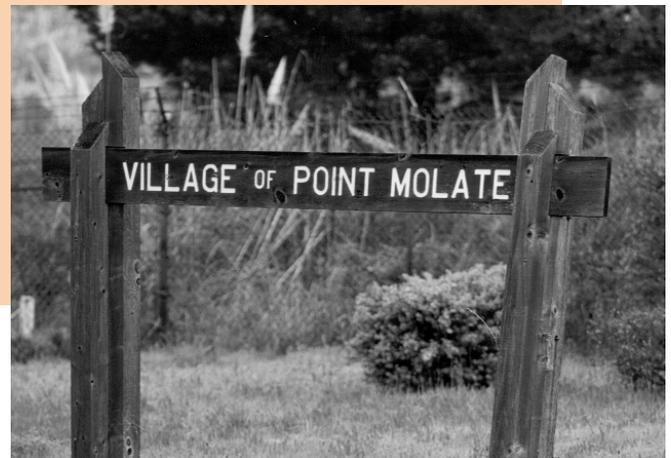
Environmental cleanup site-related documents are available for public review at:

**Richmond Redevelopment Agency**  
(510) 307-8157  
330 25th Street  
Richmond, CA 94804  
Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Richmond Public Library**  
(510) 620-6561  
325 Civic Center Plaza  
Richmond, CA 94804  
Hours: M-Th 10 a.m.-8 p.m.  
F & Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Su 1-5 p.m.



Winehaven was built at Point Molate in 1908 by the California Wine Association. Winehaven operated successfully until the winery was closed shortly after Prohibition took effect in 1920.



Point Molate Focus

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