



Report to **STAKEHOLDERS**

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Report to Stakeholders is a publication of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Installation Support Section at Edwards AFB. Its purpose is to inform and educate the public, base workers and residents about continuing Environmental Restoration Program efforts on base. It currently has a circulation of 4,000, including about 1,100 subscribers.

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Any comments or questions about the contents of the Report to Stakeholders may be directed to:

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WHAT'S ON THE COVER?

Edwards Air Force Base remedial project manager Paul Schiff, left, and Restoration Advisory Board public co-chair and Mojave public representative Victor Yaw review a groundwater plume map during the May 2025 RAB meeting break.

May 2025 RAB meeting highlights cleanup progress

The Edwards Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board met in California City on May 15, 2025 to provide key updates on the base's ongoing environmental cleanup efforts.

Paul Schiff, base remedial project manager, led the briefing, outlining program updates and cleanup progress in the last six months. He discussed the basewide perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances program and the basewide remedial investigation efforts underway for aqueous film-forming foam areas. Schiff said Field Event No. 4 is scheduled to take place from March through September 2025. Activities will include the installation of additional monitoring wells, the collection of surface and subsurface soil samples, and groundwater sampling at both new and existing monitoring wells. A final report covering the previous three field events is anticipated by early 2026.

Schiff also briefed the board members and attendees on developments at key operable units:

- **OU1/8 Main Base:** Technical working group meetings are being held quarterly to resolve key issues necessary for advancing the feasibility study addendum. The semiannual indoor air sampling conducted in November 2024 at Building 1807 confirmed that trichloroethene levels remain below all action levels.
- **OU2 South Base:** The groundwater extraction and treatment system and biosparging system continues to operate at Sites 5/14. Sampling for PFAS will continue at the Site 14 GETS to monitor treatment effectiveness. The biosparging system at Site 86 remains operational.
- **OU4/9 Air Force Research Laboratory:** The annual groundwater monitoring event occurred in all four groundwater areas. Field activities for AFRL Arroyos, Northeast AFRL and Mars Boulevard treatability studies began in January 2025.
- **OU5/10 North Base:** The Site 285 interim groundwater treatment system continues to operate. Since 2003, the interim system has removed a total of 234 pounds of perchlorate. To optimize the system, the original GETS programmable logic controller was replaced in March 2025.
- **OU6 NASA Armstrong:** The Fourth Five-Year Review is funded by NASA and expected to be completed by September 2026. The start and results of the review will be announced in local newspaper notices. NASA also funds and manages its PFAS effort separately from the Air Force. In August 2024, NASA PFAS Field Event No. 1 was completed, including the sampling of 78 monitoring wells and two soil borings.
- **OU7 Chemical Warfare Materiel Site 442:** The Air Force is waiting on results of the vegetation survey completed in April 2025. A follow-on Revegetation Work Plan is in preparation and expected to include supplemental watering and five years of monitoring.

The public is encouraged to attend the next RAB meeting scheduled for November 20, 2025, in North Edwards.



PROTECTING WILDLIFE ON BASE—A desert tortoise nicknamed Tank visits the Air Force Research Laboratory Arroyos' study site in February 2025. The field crew temporarily halted work to ensure the animal's safety and later installed desert tortoise fencing around the area to prevent future incursions.

Air Force completes landfill cover at Site 3

The Air Force completed construction and repairs to the cover system at Site 3, the Main Base Inactive Landfill at Edwards Air Force Base in 2024, which marks an environmental milestone focused on long-term protection of human health and the environment.

Site 3 is located within Operable Unit 7 Basewide Miscellaneous Sites, encompasses about 123 acres and contains no structures. About 67 acres were used as a waste disposal area while the landfill operated from the mid-1960s to 1976. The Site 3 landfill was utilized by the entire base, except the Air Force Research Laboratory, for disposal of various types of waste. Although the total quantity and types of waste received are unknown, it was estimated that 526,000 cubic yards of waste were deposited including residential waste, construction debris and industrial materials that could have included some fuels and solvents. Early remedial investigations at Site 3 found no evidence of munitions or military-specific waste.

The cleanup remedy for Site 3 was formalized in the 2012 Record of Decision, which identified several remedial action objectives. These included protecting humans and animals from physical and chemical hazards, reducing stormwater infiltration into landfill waste, preventing groundwater contamination and minimizing risk from landfill gases. The selected remedy also included land use controls and long-term monitoring.

Phase I construction finished in 2017 and included waste consolidation, stormwater controls, site access controls and construction of the landfill's evapotranspiration cover. Project lead Doug Stephenson explained that the cover design is part of the landfill's protection system and can naturally manage stormwater. "The ET cover system uses native plants to uptake moisture in the cover, reducing the chance of water reaching the buried

waste," he said.

The 2022 Five-Year Review determined that while the initial landfill cover provided short-term protection, additional work was needed to maintain long-term effectiveness. Recommendations included delineating waste boundaries, completing cover construction, repairing stormwater retention basins and enhancing site controls.

Phase II construction began in 2023 to address these concerns. It included reconstructing remaining cover sections, enhancing stormwater channels and reinforcing erosion controls. Between January and March 2024, hydroseeding – spraying a mix of seeds, mulch, water and fertilizer – was applied to promote vegetation and improve ET. To protect wildlife, the Air Force replaced roughly 1,000 linear feet of fencing, including tortoise fencing.

The cover faced challenges in early 2024 due to heavy rainfall causing damage to portions of the cap, prompting repair work from August through October 2024. The project team repaired 3,500 linear feet of cap slope, 250 linear feet of top deck, and 200 linear feet of stormwater channels.

The Air Force and regulatory agencies conducted a final inspection in September 2024, confirming the cover repairs met all set requirements and objectives. The Air Force formally concluded the construction portion of the remedy, but Site 3 remains under ongoing monitoring and maintenance. Groundwater and landfill gas sampling are conducted semiannually, along with regular inspections of the landfill cover and land use controls.

"The project team and I are proud of the collaborative work with the federal and state regulators," said Stephenson. "The cover completion represents years of coordination, engineering and fieldwork to ensure Site 3 will remain safe and stable, protecting the surrounding community and environment long-term."



RESTORING NATURE'S BLANKET—Left: An excavator recontours part of Site 3, ensuring stability and proper drainage of the landfill cover. Right: Members of the project team spray a mixture of seed, mulch and nutrients across the landfill cover during a hydroseeding effort to restore vegetation.

Where to find more INFORMATION



Published data and documents related to the Environmental Restoration Program at Edwards are available for public review at three Information Repositories and online at <https://ar.cce.af.mil>. The Information Repositories are located at:

Edwards AFB Main Library
5 W. Yeager Blvd.
Edwards AFB, California
661-275-2665
<https://edwardsfss.com/library/>

Kern County Public Library Wanda Kirk Branch
3611 Rosamond Blvd.
Rosamond, California
661-256-3236
<https://kerncountylibrary.org/find-hours-locations/>

Los Angeles County Public Library
601 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, California
661-948-5029
<https://lacountylibrary.org/lancaster-library/>

For questions about documents in the repositories, you may contact Gary Hatch, 412th Test Wing Public Affairs, at 661-277-8707 or by e-mail at 412tw.pae@us.af.mil.

General information about the environmental program at Edwards can be found at the following websites:

<https://www.edwards.af.mil/About/Environment>
<https://www.facebook.com/EdwardsEnvMgt>

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Restoration Advisory Board Information

The RAB is made up of appointed representatives from communities on and around Edwards AFB, regulators from federal and state agencies and base officials. The board's purpose is to provide a forum for two-way communication between the public and those responsible for environmental cleanup at the base.

The board meets semiannually, rotating meeting locations among communities surrounding the base. The public is welcome to attend. Those who have questions or concerns about cleanup activities at Edwards may contact any RAB member or Gary Hatch, 412th Test Wing Public Affairs, at 661-277-8707.

The RAB also has its own Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/RAB.Edwards/>. "Like" us on Facebook today!

NEXT BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2025
5:30 p.m.
Muroc Joint Unified
School District
North Edwards, California

RAB Members

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