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# *Report to* **STAKEHOLDERS**

Volume 28 No.3



**A snapshot of environmental  
restoration successes from fall 2022 to  
spring 2023** page 2



Report to Stakeholders is a publication of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Installation Support Section at Edwards AFB (AFCEC/CZOW). 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.

Contents of the Report to Stakeholders are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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Any comments or questions about the contents of the Report to Stakeholders may be directed to: Gary Hatch, 412 TW/PA, 305 E. Popson Ave., Edwards AFB, CA 93524, (661) 277-8707.

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#### WHAT'S ON THE COVER?

A contractor can be seen here tending to one of the poplar trees used in the Site 25 treatability study. The phytoremediation study uses poplar trees to take up and break down contaminated water, which renders the absorbed contaminants harmless. During spring, an additional 60 poplar trees were planted alongside those that survived the summer in 2022.

# Edwards AFB continues to brief public on significant environmental restoration activities and milestones

The Edwards Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board meeting held May 18 featured news of the completion of a multi-site five-year-review report, an update on an upcoming record of decision as well as progress made on a phytoremediation study and a community involvement plan.

During the meeting, Paul Schiff, Edwards' remedial project manager, briefed board members on environmental restoration activities that have taken place during the past six months. Several projects have reached completion or made significant progress since the November 2022 RAB meeting.

The Second Multisite Five-Year-Review Report has been placed on the Administrative Record website at <https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil>. The Second Multisite FYRR contains 19 post-ROD sites with evaluation of the remedy protectiveness of each site addressed in a single report. Schiff said that this Second Multisite FYRR established a baseline with the possibility of more post-ROD sites being included in a future report.

Notices of completion ran in local newspapers in March 2023 that announced that the Air Force determined that the existing cleanup remedies implemented at the 19 sites are functioning as intended and remain protective of human health and the environment. The evaluated cleanup remedies were published in the Second Multisite FYRR and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA agreed with remedy protectiveness in the short-term for 18 of the 19 sites, with the cleanup remedy for Site 29, a former South Base landfill, expected to be protective upon completion. The Air Force will address FYRR recommendations to ensure protectiveness in the long-term.

During the November 2022 RAB meeting, Schiff informed board members that the AFRL Arroyos revised draft final ROD received responses from regulatory agencies on Nov. 1, 2022.

Meetings held with agencies in spring of 2023 allowed for the resolution of most items of disagreement, with an additional meeting pending. Once a draft final of the AFRL Arroyos ROD is accepted by all involved, the Air Force will prepare and publish a new AFRL Arroyos Proposed Plan. A public comment period and meeting will be completed for the Proposed Plan, and public comments will be incorporated into the final AFRL Arroyos ROD.

A phytoremediation treatability study is still underway within the NASA Armstrong complex where, in lieu of contaminated groundwater being treated with a man-made treatment system, extracted groundwater is being treated via the use of poplar trees. These poplar trees take up and break down contamination, rendering it harmless. Due to a malfunctioning irrigation system, many of the poplar trees initially planted died in late summer 2022. The system was repaired and



**Photo:** (Top) California Department of Toxic Substances Control remedial project manager, Kevin Depies; Edwards AFB RPM, Paul Schiff; Air Force Co-chair, Col. Matthew Caspers; Public Co-chair and Mojave public representative, Victor Yaw participate in a RAB meeting May 17. (Bottom) A phytoremediation treatability study is underway near the NASA area. Pictured are poplar trees in trenches used to treat contaminated groundwater.

additional trees were replanted in September of 2022. During March of 2023, another 60 poplar trees were planted, and the groundwater extraction pump continues to operate using solar power.

The goal of the phytoremediation treatability study is to reduce the impact from the contaminated groundwater to the surrounding ecosystem. "The Air Force is monitoring the phytoremediation study to see if this a viable technology that can be used at other sites," Schiff said. He added that the study has been tested and proven effective elsewhere, but has never been done on Edwards. Some of the poplar

trees have shown new growth and monitoring of the phytoremediation treatability study is ongoing.

A preview final of the Community Involvement Plan was placed on the Edwards public website, and the public comment period ended May 30. The final CIP is expected to be completed during the fall of 2023 and will be announced.

The next RAB meeting is expected to be held Nov. 16 in Boron, California. The venue will be advertised in local newspapers and posted on the RAB's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RAB.Edwards](https://www.facebook.com/RAB.Edwards). The public is welcome to attend.



# 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.afcec-cloud.af.mil>. The Information Repositories are located at:

## Edwards AFB Main Library

5 W. Yeager Blvd.  
Edwards AFB, California  
(661) 275-2665  
[www.edwardsfss.com/library](http://www.edwardsfss.com/library)

## Kern County Public Library

**Wanda Kirk Branch**  
3611 Rosamond Blvd.  
Rosamond, California  
(661) 256-3236  
[www.kerncountylibrary.org/find-hours-locations](http://www.kerncountylibrary.org/find-hours-locations)

## Los Angeles County Public Library

601 W. Lancaster Blvd.  
Lancaster, California  
(661) 948-5029  
[www.lacountylibrary.org/lancaster-library](http://www.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](mailto:412tw.pae@us.af.mil).

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

[www.edwards.af.mil/About/Environment](http://www.edwards.af.mil/About/Environment)  
[www.facebook.com/EdwardsEnvMgt](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: [www.facebook.com/RAB.Edwards](http://www.facebook.com/RAB.Edwards). "Like" us on Facebook today!

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

5:30 p.m. Nov. 16  
Boron, California

Note: Meeting location will be publicized after it has been determined.

## RAB Members

### OFF-BASE COMMUNITIES

#### Boron

Vacant — If you live or work in Boron, you may apply to be a public representative.

#### California City

Alexia Svejda (760) 373-8676  
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#### Lancaster

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#### Mojave

Victor Yaw (661) 754-1641  
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#### North Edwards

Vacant — If you live or work in North Edwards, you may apply to be a public representative.

#### Rosamond

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### ON-BASE COMMUNITIES

#### Housing

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#### Main Base Test Wing

Vacant — If you work at Main Base Test Wing, you may apply to be a public representative.

#### NASA Armstrong

Vacant — If you work at NASA Armstrong, you may apply to be a public representative.

#### North Base

Vacant — If you work at North Base, you may apply to be a public representative.

#### South Base

Vacant — If you work at South Base, you may apply to be a public representative.

#### Air Force Research Laboratory

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## Remedial Project Managers

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Bruce Lewis (916) 255-6576  
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### California Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

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### Edwards AFB

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