

**MEMORANDUM
CITY OF LANCASTER, CA**

TO: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

FROM: Council Member Marvin Crist

DATE: September 14, 2010

SUBJECT: **Report on the Activities of the Edwards Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board**

Recommendation:

Receive a report of the proceedings and significant issues discussed at the August 19th, 2010 Edwards Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board meeting in Boron, California.

Background:

The Edwards Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) provides two-way communication between the public and those responsible for environmental clean-up at Edwards AFB. The RAB meets quarterly, and meeting locations rotate between communities bordering the base. The board consists of representatives from the public, federal and state environmental regulatory agencies, the 95th Air Base Wing Vice-Commander, and the base remedial project manager. Organized under federal "Superfund" guidelines, the RAB at Edwards originally formed in 1992 as a Technical Review Committee, and is a key component of public involvement for the installation, allowing members of the public an opportunity to bring concerns or questions to the attention of their community representatives.

The RAB convened and conducted the following environmental restoration actions at the August 19th, 2010, meeting:

- Received a Report on Technical Impracticability and Containment Zone. Under CERCLA, environmental remediation sites have Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARAR's) that establish specific environmental clean-up criteria. However, waivers can be granted based on circumstances such as Technical Impracticability (TI), Inconsistent State Standards, or Fund Balancing. Regardless, any remedy must be protective of human health and the environment. At Edwards AFB, the South Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) was recently granted a TI waiver based on hydro-geologic and contaminant constraints of environmental clean-up, and an evaluation of restoration potential and cost. Additional Edwards AFB sites being considered for TI waiver are: Arroyo Sites (36, 162 & 461), Site 25, OU 8, and the Northeast AFRL (Mars Blvd Sites).
- Received a Report on the Small Business Innovation Research Program. The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program is a DOD funded program created in 1982. Last year it had a local (Edwards AFB FY09 SBIR) budget of \$9 million. SBIR is intended to help small business compete for federal research and development awards. There are three phases to the program, which include demonstrating feasibility (Phase 1); developing a prototype (Phase 2); and military and commercial application (Phase 3). SBIR funds are not part of Air Force Environmental Management funds, however Edwards AFB is utilizing SBIR funds to research and develop new technologies that will address recognized technological gaps created by current or pending regulatory requirements.

The other items discussed and approved by the RAB were routine. The next regularly scheduled meeting is planned for November 18th, 2010 in North Edwards.