

**MEMORANDUM
CITY OF LANCASTER, CA**

TO: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

FROM: Council Member Marvin Crist

DATE: March 8, 2011

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 February 17th, 2011 Edwards Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board meeting in Mojave, 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 February 17th, 2011, meeting:

- Report on the Changing Face of RAB Meetings. EAFB Environmental Management (EM) presented the RAB with proposed changes to the RAB forum. These changes are a result of cuts in Air Force and EM funding this fiscal year (FY). EM's proposed changes include reducing the number of times per year the RAB meets from quarterly to biennially and replacing the Report To Stakeholders (RTS) monthly publication with social media such as Facebook for the exchange of RAB information. Various RAB representatives and regulatory agencies commented on EM's suggested cost saving measures and provided a high level of feedback and participation by sharing their views/insight on the related issues of regional demographics, economy, access to information, access to the EAFB, modernization of the RAB, as well as the future of the EAFB RAB. The general consensus from the Board was that biennial meetings were acceptable, however a year from now is too long - EM will consider moving the next RAB meeting to October, once the Air Force begins its new FY; EM will consider centralizing location and reducing cost by hosting RAB meetings on Base; EM will proceed with developing social media conduit, however the RTS should be maintained because it is both a successful source of RAB information and EAFB public outreach. In order to further reduce costs associated with the RTS, RAB representatives suggested publishing it less frequently (i.e. quarterly) and/or with less glossy production, such as a newsletter format.

Other items discussed and approved by the RAB were routine. The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2012 in Lancaster; however anticipate changes to both this date and location based on discussion and direction from the RAB at the February 17th meeting.