

**MEMORANDUM
CITY OF LANCASTER, CA**

TO: Mayor Parris and City Council Members
FROM: Council Member Ed Sileo
DATE: January 13, 2009
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 November 20, 2008, Edwards Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board meeting in Boron.

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.

At the November 20, 2008, meeting, the RAB members were presented the following environmental presentation:

- Federal Register Recommended Updates to the RAB Charter and By-Laws. U.S. Air Force JAG (legal office) review has recommended revisions to the EAFB RAB Charter and By-Laws to bring them into alignment with the over-arching Air Force RAB program. The Base will propose new language to be voted on at the next RAB meeting. These changes will take a similar form to Lancaster City Council public comment protocols.
- Hydrology in vicinity of Operable Unit 1 Main Base Flightline. An overview of base hydrology, including regional aquifer and sub-basin groundwater levels detailed an approximate 150 ft drop in groundwater between 1915 and 1991 in the Antelope Valley, particularly in the shared Lancaster sub-basin that underlies Edwards AFB. Shrinking groundwater levels and subsidence has slowed (not stopped) as a result of reduced groundwater pumping regionally, in part because of the supply of state water project water to the base and Antelope Valley. However with projected state water allocations for next year slashed, renewed potable water pumping combined with existing remedial groundwater pumping may result in a resumption of falling groundwater levels in shared sub-basins (Lancaster) and land subsidence regionally.

The other items approved by the RAB were routine and adopted as consent items.