



May 2012

# Report to **STAKEHOLDERS**

Volume 17 No. 3

## **Back to Edwards**

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Jocelyn Swain  
Lancaster Representative

# Swain returns to Edwards as Lancaster's representative

**A**s many military and base employees can attest, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., has an anecdotal history as a “boomerang” station. It’s not unusual for people who transfer or relocate to return to Edwards years later in some form or fashion. Such was the case with Jocelyn Swain, Lancaster’s newly appointed primary public representative on the base’s Restoration Advisory Board (RAB).

Swain, who currently works for the City of Lancaster as an environmental planner, kicked off her working career in the Antelope Valley as a base archaeologist in 1995. Her previous experience at Edwards, combined with a childhood growing up as a “Navy brat,” has made Swain more aware of the cleanup issues caused by historical military activities.

“It’s something that needs to be done,” Swain said in reference to the environmental cleanup at Edwards. “And the public deserves to have a way to provide input and be informed. That’s what the RAB does.”

The RAB provides an open forum for the exchange of information among members of the public, base restoration officials, and state and federal regulators. People from on- and off-base communities represent their respective community on the board, which meets biannually to discuss the progress of the base’s past hazardous waste cleanup program.

Representing Lancaster on the RAB since mid-2011, Swain has yet to receive feedback from her community regarding base cleanup activities. “I think that’s because we’re not situated right next to any contamination from the base,” said Swain. “We’re one of the surrounding communities, but none of our residents live near any areas of concern. Not in the same sense as Rosamond or Boron; they’re closer to the areas that might be of interest to the public.”

Understanding what is of interest to the Lancaster community is a skill Swain has developed during her six years as the

city’s environmental planner. In fact, Swain said that the most rewarding and interesting part of her job is the interaction and feedback she receives from the community.

“I want to help community members understand the [environmental impact] reports we generate and how a new development could benefit the community,” Swain said. “When they first contact me, people are generally angry or frustrated. So I walk them through the report and explain the different ways they can contribute to the public comment period.”

Swain is responsible for ensuring that developments, either proposed by the city or a private organization, comply with existing environmental laws under the California Environmental Quality Act or CEQA. The CEQA requires state and local agencies within California to follow a protocol of analysis and public disclosure of environmental impacts for proposed projects and to adopt all feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate those impacts.

Swain first learned about environmental impacts while working at Edwards in the late 1990s, after her burgeoning career as a base archaeologist lost its appeal. “My vision of archaeology was Indiana Jones,” said Swain, who spent a year excavating in the field. “I thought I’d dig and find fascinating things. But it wasn’t as glamorous as I pictured.”

The experience motivated Swain to transition from archaeology into the base’s environmental impact analysis program. There, Swain spent five years learning the protocol for analyzing and disclosing environmental impacts for federal projects. Today, that experience has proved invaluable, not only in her current job but also as Lancaster’s RAB representative. “I’m familiar with the base, the RAB and I’m comfortable translating technical information to the public,” Swain said.

The Lancaster community can contact Swain with any questions or concerns about the Edwards cleanup program. Her contact information is located on the last page of this newsletter.



**RAB REPS** — Jocelyn Swain, far left, takes a group photo with the RAB co-chairs and other public representatives.

# Report to STAKEHOLDERS

*Report to Stakeholders* is a publication of Edwards Air Force Base, 95th Air Base Wing, Civil Engineer Division, Environmental Management. Its purpose is to inform and educate the public, base workers and residents about continuing environmental and safety efforts on base. It currently has a circulation of 6,000, including about 2,000 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, 95 ABW/PAI, 305 E. Popson Ave., Edwards AFB, CA 93524, (661) 277-8707.

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## WHAT'S ON THE COVER?



Lancaster RAB representative Jocelyn Swain listens intently at a recent public meeting.



**CONVERSATION** — Col. Amy Arwood (Edwards co-chair), left, speaks with Robert Newman (March public co-chair), right, while Bill Gaddis (Rosamond representative) and Charles Bauer (Kern County Environmental Health Services Department), center, listen during a restoration site tour at Edwards.

# Restoration Advisory Board Event Highlights

In February, Edwards Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members attended a working-group session to learn how to protect their privacy on Facebook and toured Edwards restoration sites with counterparts from March Air Reserve Base. Facebook privacy has been a concern for many RAB members who want to interact with the Edwards RAB Facebook site, while protecting personal information available through their Facebook profile. The working-group session provided Edwards RAB members with step-by-step instructions for setting up a public profile that restricts access to personal information.

Edwards RAB public representatives, along with their March counterparts and state and county regulators, also visited several sites that showcased the variety and complexity of the cleanup issues handled by Edwards' restoration program managers. Site 18 was of particular interest to March RAB members because of a treatability study that involved the micro-organism *Dehalococcoides* and its ability to biologically break down contaminants in the groundwater. A similar study is currently underway at March, according to Eric Lehto, restoration program manager and RAB co-chair from March.

RAB members from both bases also discussed the budgetary challenges of current and future cleanup projects. "We now have to make calculated decisions because of the limited resources available to us," said Col. Amy Arwood, installation vice commander and Air Force RAB co-chair for Edwards. "This means making choices between the cleanup of one site versus another, and communicating clearly the reasons behind those choices to the public."

While resources may be limited, "restoration funds are fenced so that other government groups can't touch them," said Edwards' restoration program manager Paul Schiff. "So money allocated for restoration is spent solely on restoration projects."

For more information about the Edwards RAB, please visit [www.facebook.com/RAB.Edwards](http://www.facebook.com/RAB.Edwards).

# Where to find more INFORMATION



Published data and documents relating to Environmental Management are available for public review at three information repositories. They are updated when new documents are released. Here is a list of our current information repositories:

## Edwards Air Force Base Library

5 W. Yeager Blvd.  
Edwards AFB, Calif.  
(661) 275-2665  
Hours of operation: Mon-Thu 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Fri 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Sat-Sun 10:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

## Kern County Public Library

### Wanda Kirk Branch

3611 Rosamond Blvd.  
Rosamond, Calif.  
(661) 256-3236  
Hours of operation: Wed 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Fri-Sat 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Los Angeles County Public Library

601 W. Lancaster Blvd.  
Lancaster, Calif.  
(661) 948-5029  
Hours of operation: Mon-Wed 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Thu-Fri 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sat 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For questions about information in the repositories, you may contact Gary Hatch, Public Affairs chief of Current Operations, at (661) 277-4127 or by e-mail at [95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil](mailto:95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil).

For general information about Edwards or other documents of public interest, you may visit the following link:  
[www.edwards.af.mil/library/environment](http://www.edwards.af.mil/library/environment).

# Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Information

The RAB is made up of appointed representatives from communities in and around Edwards Air Force Base, regulators from federal and state agencies and base officials. The board's purpose is to provide a forum for two-way communication among base restoration officials, regulators and the community representatives regarding the cleanup of contamination from past military activities.

The board meets quarterly, rotating meeting locations in 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, Public Affairs chief of Current Operations, at (661) 277-8707.

## NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING

Date: Nov. 15, 2012

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Boron

Venue to be determined

## RAB Members

### OFF-BASE COMMUNITIES

#### Boron

Julie English (760) 762-6208 Home  
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#### California City

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[mcrist@cityoflancasterca.org](mailto:mcrist@cityoflancasterca.org)

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#### North Edwards

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#### Rosamond

William Gaddis (661) 382-8570 Home  
[wr.gaddis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wr.gaddis@sbcglobal.net) (661) 277-3387 Work  
ALTERNATE: Leslie Uhazy (661) 256-8209 Home  
[luhazy@avc.edu](mailto:luhazy@avc.edu) (661) 722-6417 Work

### ON-BASE COMMUNITIES

#### Housing

#### Main Base Air Base Wing

#### Main Base Test Wing

Richard Salazar (661) 275-3275 Work  
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#### NASA Dryden

Vacant

#### North Base

Vacant

#### South Base

Brenda Weems-Hunter (661) 275-0456 Work  
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#### AF Research Laboratory and Propulsion

#### Directorate

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## Remedial Project Managers

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### Edwards AFB

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### Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

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### Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (continued)

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### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Joseph Healy (415) 972-3269 Work  
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