



Military Bases Revitalization

SUCCESS STORY, June 2007

Castle Air Force Base

Site Facts

Site Name:

Castle Air Force Base

EnviroStor ID#:

24970001

Location:

Merced County

Site Size:

2,777 Acres

Historical Uses:

Aircraft maintenance, flight training and fire training facilities

Length of Cleanup:

15-20 years (Active Cleanup)

Contaminants of Concern:

Petroleum hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chlorinated solvents, trichloroethylene (TCE)

Deed Restriction:

Yes

Redeveloped Use:

Civilian airport, aviation & development center, residential, commercial, industrial and recreational uses

Located in Merced County, Castle Air Force Base (AFB) was established in 1941. This 2,777-acre facility operated as a training base for flight training, aircraft maintenance, and fire training until its closure in 1995. Before its closure, Castle AFB employed more than 6,000 military and civilian personnel and contributed more than \$225 million annually to the local economy.

Due to hazardous substances in the soil and groundwater from operations on the base, Castle AFB was placed on the federal National Priorities List in 1989. Contaminants generated from aircraft fueling and maintenance operations included chlorinated solvents, petroleum hydrocarbons, trichloroethylene (TCE), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Approximately 13,065 cubic yards of soil were removed and disposed of off-site. Twenty-three soil vapor extraction systems have removed 831,110 pounds of volatile contaminants from the soil. Groundwater extraction systems were installed on and off base to protect nearby municipal wells and to remove the contaminants from the groundwater. To date, 13.6 billion gallons of contaminated groundwater have been extracted and treated. All cleanups have been completed or are in place and operating properly.

In 1995, the County of Merced began to plan for redevelopment of Castle AFB. In January 2007, the Air Force transferred the last 2,128 acres of the base to the County of Merced and five other entities. Previously, 649 acres were transferred to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Current and planned reuses include business parks, a prison, an airport with premier aviation facilities with a large flight training school that opened in January 2007, two small residential housing areas, a park, and a research facility for the new University of California, Merced. Other reuse highlights include low income housing and a retirement village that includes a medical office building and pharmacy. At full build-out, it is projected that 14,000 new jobs will be created.



New UC Merced research facility



State of California



Department of Toxic Substances Control