



Before

Site Facts

Site Name:

Former March Air Force Base

Location:

Riverside & Moreno Valley,
Riverside County

Site Size:

Approximately 6,600 Acres

Historical Uses:

Major air force command head
quarters, air refueling and pilot
training facility.

Length of Cleanup:

14 years (Active Remedy)

Contaminants of Concern:

Petroleum, PCBs, volatile
organic compounds, dioxin,
PAHs.

Deed Restriction:

Yes

Redeveloped Use:

Civilian Airport, commercial,
residential, recreational and
industrial uses.

Military Bases Revitalization

SUCCESS STORY, September 2006

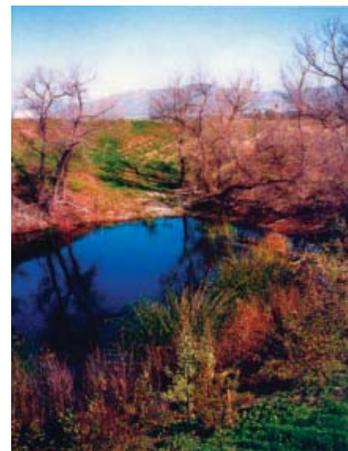
Former March Air Force Base

The Former March Air Force Base straddles the Riverside County cities of Moreno Valley and Riverside on approximately 6,600 acres. The base opened in 1918 as a pilot training facility and operations evolved over the following decades to meet changing mission requirements. Before its realignment in 1996, the base was an air refueling facility and major Air Force command headquarters. It employed over 10,000 military and civilian personnel and contributed an estimated \$500 million annually to the local economy. Upon realignment, approximately 4,500 acres were designated as surplus for property transfer and the remaining property became March Air Reserve Base, a major reserve facility used by all of the military service branches.

March Air Force Base was placed on the federal National Priorities List in 1989 due to the presence of hazardous substances in soil and groundwater. The contaminants included: volatile organic compounds; petroleum hydrocarbons; polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons; PCB; heavy metals; dioxin from landfills, aircraft fueling and maintenance facilities, and other base operations. The two landfills on the transferring portion of the base were capped and closed, according to State requirements. A groundwater extraction system on the eastern base boundary was installed to prevent contaminant migration off of the base and an extraction system in the runway area removed 72,400 gallons of jet fuel that was floating on the water table.

Following the base's realignment, the cities of Riverside, Moreno Valley, and Perris, and the County of Riverside formed the March Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to plan and implement redevelopment activities on former base property. To date, the Air Force has transferred approximately 3,900 acres to March JPA, Riverside County, and the United States Army and plans to transfer the remaining property by Fall of 2007. The current use and planned reuse includes business parks, a golf course, a wastewater treatment plant, offices, industrial facilities, an air cargo facility, and mixed uses.

The reuse highlights include March Air Field, which was established in 1997 as a joint use airport by the Air Force and March JPA. This airport is a civilian facility with premier aviation facilities that can accommodate the largest air cargo planes and operations. A foreign trade zone was established in 2001 to create incentives for businesses. The City of Moreno Valley rehabilitated softball fields for adult league play and the base's golf course was opened to the public. The Ben Clark Public Safety Center was opened to train public safety and law enforcement officers. A 225,000 square foot redistribution warehouse was constructed for ancillary development of the airfield. The planned Meridian Business Park is expected to create up to 15,000 jobs and have rail and light-rail transit, a 51-acre park to showcase the military's contributions, police and fire stations, and a recreational sports complex.



Restored wetland



State of
California



Department of Toxic
Substances Control

