



Construction of landfill underway.

Military Bases Revitalization

SUCCESS STORY, February 2007

Former Norton Air Force Base

Site Facts

Site Name:

Former Norton Air Force Base

Location:

San Bernardino County

Site Size:

Approximately 2,221 Acres

Historical Uses:

Aircraft maintenance and logistical support

Length of Cleanup:

17 years

Contaminants of Concern:

Petroleum, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), dioxins, Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), trichloroethylene (TCE), metals.

Deed Restriction:

Yes

Redeveloped Use:

Civilian airport, commercial, industrial.

The former Norton Air Force Base is located in the City of San Bernardino. This 2,221-acre base had an air field, hangars, runways, and ancillary facilities. The base opened in 1942 to support C-141 airlift operations and provide aircraft maintenance and repair support. In 1989, the base was designated for closure and formally closed in 1994.

Norton Air Force Base was placed on the Federal Superfund National Priorities List in July 1987 due to groundwater contamination. The cleanup of hazardous substance releases and groundwater contamination is covered under a Federal Facilities Agreement signed in 1989 by the Air Force, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the State of California as represented by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

The base's operations resulted in two groundwater plumes and numerous hazardous substances releases into the soil. Among the contaminants found were metals, paints, refrigerants, chromium, waste oils, fuel, spent solvents, metals, and radium 226 (paint). The Air Force constructed, and successfully implemented, two major groundwater treatment systems. The central base area treatment system treated 1,247 million gallons of groundwater and removed 396 pounds of trichloroethylene (TCE) from the groundwater. It also pumped 180 million cubic meters of soil vapor, and extracted approximately 7,500 pounds of TCE from the vapors. The base boundary treatment system treated 5.65 billion gallons of groundwater and removed 293 pounds of TCE.

Other site cleanup actions included: the removal of 2,000 cubic yards of soil and concrete contaminated with TCE and chromium at a former electroplating shop; stabilization, solidification, and consolidation of 11,000 cubic yards of metal contaminated soil at Landfill Site 2; and bioremediation of 10,000 cubic yards of fuel contaminated soil at 29 underground storage tank locations.

After the base's closure, the Inland Valley Development Agency and the San Bernardino International Airport Authority became the local reuse authorities responsible for redeveloping the base into commercial and industrial uses and as a civilian airport. Approximately 2,152 acres have been cleaned to unrestricted use and transferred to new ownership. The remaining 69 acres have been cleaned to industrial reuse standards and are awaiting transfer. The airport is now an air cargo facility and other portions of the former base are occupied by major distribution warehouse centers for Mattel, Stater Brothers, Pep Boys, and Kohls.



Restored land.



State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control

