



DTSC helps Mather fly high

The final piece of the former Mather Air Force Base was turned over to Sacramento County authorities this week – the last step in a process that has taken two decades and included DTSC'S assistance in getting the property cleaned up.

In a Wednesday [ceremony](#) that marked the milestone, the county accepted 727 acres that likely will be converted to a mixture of uses, including commercial buildings and soccer fields. Up to 1,000 jobs could be created, said Clark Whitten, program manager in the county's economic development department. Construction could start in 2015.

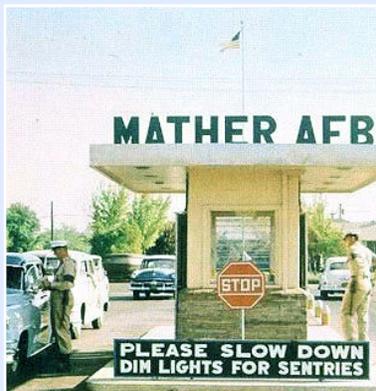
"Cleaning up California's former military bases is not only good for public health and the environment; it is good for the state's economy. As many as 1,000 jobs can be created on this property – the final piece of a massive cleanup effort that began more than 20 years ago and has put more than 5,700 acres back into productivity," said Stewart Black, the Department of Toxic Substances Control's Deputy Director of Cleanups. "The refurbished base, which is now called Mather Airport, already is home to 60 businesses and 6,100 jobs, none of which would have been possible without cleanup."

Mather closed in 1993, and the Air Force leased a large portion to the county. Redevelopment started almost immediately, with the first property transfer in 1994 to the Cordova Parks District.

Since then, the former base has been transformed into Mather Commerce Center, home to a wide range of businesses and agencies, including a Veteran's Affairs medical center, a sports complex, a 600-acre corporate campus, a cargo airport, a transitional housing program for homeless, a residential neighborhood and wetlands and open space.



Troy Givins of Sacramento County addresses the crowd.



The base's main gate in the 1950's.



The entrance to Mather Commerce Park today.