



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

NEWS RELEASE

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Maureen F. Gorsen, Director

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**STATE TRANSFERS FORMER MILITARY PROPERTIES
IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOR REDEVELOPMENT**
*Former Tustin Marine Corps Air Station and March Air Force Base
are the Latest Early Transfers*

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced the Governor’s approval of agreements allowing the early transfer of approximately 300 acres at the former Tustin Marine Corps Air Station and March Air Force Base for clean-up and redevelopment.

These property transfers will facilitate redevelopment, spur job creation, and contribute to increased land value and property tax revenues years earlier than the standard procedure would allow.

“Early transfers allow environmental cleanup to continue after the transfer rather than waiting years during which the property lies economically fallow,” said DTSC Director Maureen F. Gorsen. “DTSC scientists oversaw all testing and cleanups, and scrutinized transfer agreements and cleanup plans to ensure that appropriate actions would be taken to protect residents and the environment from harm,” Gorsen added.

At the former Tustin Air Station, Marble Mountain Partners plan to construct 86 new homes, 17 of which will be reserved for low and middle-income families. The new homes will provide additional annual property tax revenues of \$420,000, paving the way for new schools and increased city services. Cleanup at the 4.8-acre site included removal of 4,500 tons of soil contaminated with solvents and other toxic substances. The U.S. Navy will continue to be responsible for the cleaning up of solvent-contaminated groundwater at the site.

At the former March Air Base, the March Joint Powers Authority and Moreno Valley Community Services District will redevelop 289 acres for aviation, commercial and recreational uses. The U.S. Air Force will be responsible for conducting a \$12.6 million cleanup of toxic contamination found at a former landfill. While cleanup continues, the

property recipients will be able to put extensive redevelopment plans into action, and create a tax base where none existed before.

These transfers build on last month's agreement reached for the early transfer of 62 acres at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento to McClellan Business Park for a commercial development that will create 1,200 jobs, and bring \$600,000 in property taxes to the county. Since military land transfers started in 1994, DTSC has approved 15 early transfers, and has facilitated more than 100,000 acres of military property to move to civilian hands.

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.