

Hamilton Army Airfield Landfill 26 & North Antenna Field

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Defense Environmental Restoration Program, Formerly Used Defense Sites

Department of Defense and the History of Hamilton Army Airfield

In 1932, Marin County sold approximately 2,000 acres to the federal government. The Department of Defense established the site, to be known as Hamilton Army Airfield (AAF), and began operations in December 1932. The property was used as a base for fighter, bomber and transportation aircraft.

In the early 1940s, Hamilton AAF designated Landfill 26 as the base landfill. Methods of disposal within Landfill 26 were not documented, and detailed records were not maintained of the exact types and amounts of waste disposed of at the landfill. Some types of waste disposed of at the landfill that have been determined consist of scrap metal, construction debris, airplane parts, and buried culverts. Petroleum-contaminated soil excavated during fuel spill cleanups was also disposed of there; however, no unexploded ordnance items were discovered during an Army investigation of the landfill.

The area currently known as North Antenna Field was initially established in 1946, when the government purchased 49 acres for the construction of a rifle range and pistol and night firing range north of the airfield and west of San Pablo Bay. An additional 218 acres were acquired for the construction and operation of communication antennas at the North Antenna Field in 1959. Electronic equipment for the antennas and an auxiliary power generator along with electrical switch gearboxes, transformers, above ground storage tanks and a septic system made up the support facilities located at North Antenna Field. Aside from communication activities, the Air Force also used the area for a rifle range, waste disposal

burning of rifle and pistol ammunition, and fire fighter training.

Between March 30, 1961 and October 1, 1983, the Air Force transferred areas of Hamilton to various other government agencies. After 1974 Landfill 26 was no longer utilized and in 1982, the federal government quitclaimed the North Antenna Field property to the California State Lands Commission.



Landfill 26 Update

In September 1999, the Army Corps initiated an investigation at Landfill 26 to determine the source of methane gas that was detected in the southern portion of the landfill. Immediately after the gas was detected, the Army Corps began monthly monitoring and created a trench along the southern and southeastern margin of Landfill 26 to control migration of the gas.



In a September 2004 investigation, it was determined that the trench is in fact succeeding to prevent the gas from escaping the landfill. The final report for this investigation recommended no further investigative work in the southern landfill or Hamilton Meadows area. It also recommended the Army Corps continue methane gas monitoring on a quarterly basis.

North Antenna Field Restoration

In 1997, after an Inventory Project Report was established for the site, the Army Corps removed the communication antennas from the North Antenna Field area. In 1999, the Army Corps also removed several burn pits located in the area as well. An investigation is currently underway to determine the nature and extent of potential contaminants of concern throughout the antenna field.

In 1996 federal and state agencies held discussions to restore tidal wetlands on Hamilton AAF. The discussions of this group eventually lead to a decision to incorporate the Antenna Field into the overall wetland restoration project. The current schedule for the wetland restoration project will require that the Antenna Field clean up be completed within the next five years.



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