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NEWS RELEASE

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 20, 2008

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GOVERNOR APPROVES EARLY TRANSFER OF PROPERTY AT THE DAVIS GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS SITE TO YOLO COUNTY

SACRAMENTO - The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board announced today that Governor Schwarzenegger has approved the early transfer of property at the former Davis Global Communications Site in Yolo County. The approval and impending transfer to Yolo County follow negotiations between the Regional Water Board, Yolo County, and the U.S. Air Force.

"This early transfer will enable Yolo County to transition a former military installation into an area that will be used for recreational, educational and habitat conservation activities," announced Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer for the Regional Water Board. "Our agreement ensures that public health and the environment will be protected and the site can be turned over for public use sooner than previously expected."

The Davis Global Communications Site is located approximately four miles southeast of the City of Davis and is part of the former McClellan Air Force Base. The site had been used for communications, and resulting pollution affected the soil and groundwater. Contaminants of concern at the site include solvents and petroleum compounds.

Three hundred fourteen acres are planned for transfer to Yolo County. Expansion of the existing Grasslands Regional Park will create the largest contiguous, protected grasslands habitat in Yolo County. Grasslands Park is a 320-acre park that contains significant natural resources and habitat for wildlife species and serves a variety of active recreation uses.

Approximately 55 acres of the transferred property require environmental cleanup, and are subject to "Early Transfer" pursuant to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This law allows the federal government to transfer real property before all environmental cleanup has been completed, provided that certain conditions have been met. This process allows the Governor to defer the CERCLA covenant, which requires that all cleanup actions necessary to protect human health and the environment have been taken care of before the property transfer.

The U.S. Air Force will complete any remaining cleanup of contaminants with oversight by the Regional Water Board. Yolo County will preserve the property as a habitat conservation area, home to native vernal pools, grasslands, and several special status species.

The early transfer will make expedited reuse possible, meaning that development for recreational, educational and habitat conservation activities can proceed. The early transfer and the associated agreements also provide assurances for secured federal funding, continued cleanup at the property by the U.S. Air Force, land use restrictions, and long-term operation and maintenance of the treatment

system(s). Under the transfer agreement, the Regional Water Board will continue to provide environmental regulatory oversight. The U.S. Air Force will continue to conduct and pay for hazardous waste cleanup activities. The early transfer of the property will not delay the completion of cleanup at the site.

A community celebration of the transfer is expected to be scheduled at a later date.

The (Central Valley) Regional Water Board is one of nine regional boards. The mission of the Regional Water Boards is to protect human health and the environment by developing and enforcing water quality objectives and implementation plans that will best protect the State's waters, recognizing local differences in climate, topography, geology and hydrology.