DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM
FOR FORMERLY USED SITES
FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY
NAVY CAMP, UPPER LAKE, CA
PROJECT NO. J09CA003300

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The site is located in the Mendocino National Forest, Upper Lake, CA and is currently under the control of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Services. Developments on the site include a 25-foot-tall wooden water tower with two 500-gallon metal water tanks and concrete foundations, one of which supported a generator building. There are two 300-gallon aluminum diesel tanks lying in the shrubbery on the site.

2. Personnel from USDA Forest Services advise that the land on which the proposed restoration facilities stand has always been USDA Forest Services land since it was set aside by President Theodore Roosevelt for national forest use in 1907. They further advise that the U.S. Department of the Navy was granted a memorandum of understanding by USDA Forest Services sometime during or immediately after World War II to use the site and other sites within the Mendocino National Forest for training purposes. Neither USDA Forest Services, the Sacramento District Real Estate Division, nor the Navy Real Estate Division at San Bruno could find a copy of or verify the use of the memorandum of understanding, or of any other documentation on the real estate interests involved.

3. USDA Forest Services advise that the facilities in question were constructed in the mid-1950's as part of a survival training camp. The construction time is substantiated by a 17 May 1955 date left in the concrete foundation of the water tank by one of the tank's construction personnel. The USDA Forest Services advise that the Navy used the site for only 3 or 4 years before abandoning the facilities. As indicated in the previous paragraph, no documentation could be located to substantiate DOD involvement. Therefore, it could not be determined whether the property was under any other control than by the Department of Defense (DOD) during the period of DOD interest.

4. As stated in paragraph 2, the site has been in continuous fee ownership of USDA Forest Services since 1907, with USDA Forest Services advising that DOD interest in the site was via a memorandum of understanding (special use permit). Since copies of the document could not be located, it cannot be determined what, if any, site restoration conditions were contained therein, or when and under what circumstances the memorandum was terminated, if indeed it ever was.

5. USDA Forest Services personnel also advise us that they may have used the facilities for a short time after abandonment by the Navy. This would seem to be the case, based on site evidence of a USDA Forest Service-installed buried gas tank adjacent to the generator house foundation, and a general storage of USDA Forest Services road construction materials (culverts) throughout the site. The use of the facilities by USDA Forest Services, if it occurred, would have been for their convenience.

DETERMINATION

Based on the foregoing findings of fact, the site has been determined to have been formerly used by DOD. However, it is determined that an environmental restoration project is not an appropriate undertaking within the purview of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, established under Public Law 98-473, Continuing Appropriation, 1985 [Conference Report (HR 98-1159)], for the reasons stated above.

9 Dec 85
Date

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