

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Indian Island - Polrep/Sitrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IX

**Subject:** SITREP #2  
Progress  
Indian Island  
TBD  
Eureka, CA  
Latitude: 40.8156281 Longitude: -124.1578674

**To:**  
**Thru:**  
**From:** Christopher Weden, Federal OnScene Coordinator  
**Date:** 8/6/2013  
**Reporting Period:** 8/3/2013 - 8/10/2013

**Executive Summary**

This is a 1.5 acre portion of a six acre shell mound (midden) located on the northeastern portion of Indian Island in Humboldt Bay, Eureka, CA. The midden is the historic location of the Tuluwat Village and the Center of Wiyot Universe. The midden is where the Wiyot Tribe held their Annual World Renewal Ceremony.

In 1860, a tragic massacre occurred on the Site. Local settlers from the surrounding Eureka-Arcata area killed many members of the Wiyot Tribe and other area tribes under cover of night during the sacred gathering. Immediately following the massacre, the midden and surrounding area was used as a boat repair and maintenance facility. This operation continued through the 1970s under various owners. Ships were pulled ashore on steel way-runner rails and a variety of chemical wood preservatives and paints were applied.

The Wiyot Tribe purchased the Site in 2000 and has been working towards restoring it to its original condition and resuming the historical use of the land as a sacred site in order to complete the World Renewal Ceremony. The Wiyot Tribe has exhausted all avenues of funding to renew their sacred ground on Indian Island. All that remains is the installation of an permeable cap atop the shell mound to prevent direct contact with the COPCs. Capping is the only viable alternative that would achieve renewal of this sacred ground and preserve the historical and culturally sensitive setting.

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

<b>Site Number:</b>	A943	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-S9-12-01
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	1201-9033	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	7/11/2013
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	7/29/2013	<b>Start Date:</b>	7/29/2013
<b>Demob Date:</b>	8/30/2013	<b>Completion Date:</b>	10/15/2013
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	CAN000909548	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	CA

**1.1.1 Incident Category:** Time-critical

**1.1.2 Site Description:** See Polrep 1

**1.1.2.1 Location:** See Polrep 1

**1.1.2.2 Description of Threat:** Direct contact to chemical wood preservatives.

**1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results:** See Polrep 1

**1.2 Incident Objectives**

Cap the effected area to prevent direct contact with the contaminants.

**1.3 Critical Resource Needs**

ERRS RM has requested OSC for a second ceiling increase (\$48K remainder of approved contingency). OSC Weden will confer with Regional Managers 13 August.

## 1.4 Strategic Considerations

None identified

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

**2.1.1 Narrative:** ERRS Contractor, along with Tug and Barge Subcontractor, continue to transport fill material to Indian Island. ERRS continues to cap 1.5 acre contaminated soil on historic midden.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date:

02 August - Day Operations; ERRS placed geo-grid material over shallow areas to mark native-soil/fill interface and continued to prepare site for placement of geo-fabric liner. Night operations; high tide at approximately 2145 hours, two barge loads of fill delivered to Island.

03 August - Day Operations; ERRS continued site prep and placement of fill material, one barge load of material delivered at mid-day high tide (~1145 hours) and barge re-loaded for delivery at night. Night Operations; high tide at approximately 2230 hours, three loads of fill delivered.

04 August - Short day, 2 loads of material delivered at mid-day high tide (~1215 hours).

05 August - Asbestos Abatement sub-contractor begins removal of ACM from dilapidated shed. One barge load of material delivered and one barge load readied for delivery. Wiyot Tribe, Tribal Chairman, neighboring Tribal members, and USCG-PST Operations Officer and Industrial Hygienist visited site.

06 August - Asbestos Abatement sub-contractor completes removal of ACM from dilapidated shed. Sixty bags (~3 CY) of ACM transported via barge for disposal. One barge load of material delivered and one barge load readied for delivery. Four crane mats delivered to site via tug. Crane mats will be used to extend bulkhead by 30 feet and extend barge delivery of fill material windows of time.

07 August - Dilapidated shed razed. THPO and cultural Monitor carefully examined ground below this shed. Two bones that appear to be human were found but there were no other cultural artifacts. Further analysis of these bones is underway. One 20 CY roll-off box of non-hazardous debris loaded to barge for disposal. One barge load of fill delivered. To date, approximately 700 T of fill material and 90T of river rock have been delivered. Draft TO submitted to Contracting Officer to increase ceiling \$50K.

08 August – Two additional crane mats delivered to site to raise the height of the extension. One more 20 CY roll-off box of non-hazardous debris loaded to barge for disposal and one load of fill material were delivered.

09&10 August – Crane mat dock extension is working well. Four loads of fill material delivered each day.

#### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

### 2.2 Planning Section

#### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Steve Calanog will be OSC for the completion of this removal action beginning 12 August. THPO and Cultural Monitor continue to observe site activities.

##### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Continue transfer of fill material during high tides.

##### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

##### 2.2.2 Issues

### 2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

### 2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

### 2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

## 3. Participating Entities

No information available at this time.

## 4. Personnel On Site

1 - OSC

3 - PST

5 - ERRS

**5. Definition of Terms**

Leverite - term used by Cultural Monitor when one finds a possible artifact. 'Leave it right' where it is.

**6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.