



Superfund Remediation and Brownfield Redevelopment

Imagine a polluted site located in the middle of an already urbanized area. Now picture government regulators, the parties responsible for the contamination (or at least on the hook for the clean-up) and community representatives trying to agree on a clean-up plan. The combination is inevitably controversial, with parties frequently embroiled in heated discussions regarding clean-up standards and processes for these contaminated areas, often referred to as brownfields. Each side lines up their competing experts and data, parties battle over clean-up requirements, and affected communities worry about health impacts while struggling to navigate dense regulations and technical terms. All too often, the efforts end in acrimony and litigation.

CONCUR's approach to these types of issues is grounded in the imperative to bring affected parties together, seed the dialogue with the best available information, and build a step-wise approach to understanding the problem and mapping out an acceptable clean-up strategy. In projects ranging from military base cleanups to toxic remediation at former manufacturing sites, CONCUR has put in place processes that have enabled diverse parties to break long-standing impasses and move towards more productive discussions. CONCUR is familiar and comfortable with the regulatory framework guiding such cleanups, including U.S. EPA Brownfield and Superfund regulations, including CERCLA.

Selected Projects

Baldwin Park Operable Unit: Resolving remediation issues for the Baldwin Park Operable Unit Superfund Site involved negotiating settlements among the US EPA, the Department of Justice, the State of California Department of Toxic Substance Control, the California Regional Water Control Board, dozens of Potentially Responsible Parties, and water supply agencies in the San Gabriel Valley. Over a period of eight years, CONCUR worked in a variety of capacities, including: conducting an assessment, framing the issues, convening mediations among core parties, and "expanding the negotiating table" to include the full set of PRPs. Later in the process, CONCUR conducted a second assessment that looked at the willingness of specific parties to enter into a focused round of mediation and working with parties to address the issues related to insurance coverage to help defray the costs of site remediation.

Vandenberg Air Force Base: CONCUR mediated fast-track discussions between the U.S. Air Force and the California Department of Toxic Substance Control to break a stalemate related to cleanup of toxics at the Vandenberg Air Force Base in Santa Barbara County, California. The agreement, hammered out over two negotiating sessions, resulted in the parties reaching an agreement for resuming the Ecological Risk Assessment Process at the base. The project demonstrated CONCUR's ability to step quickly into complex and long-standing disputes. The project resulted in the parties signing a Cooperative Agreement, as well as outlining a series of next steps. CONCUR took the lead in preparing written agreements.

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Ford Ord Restoration: CONCUR conducted a yearlong, strategic planning diagnostic and convening process for the Fort Ord (Monterey, CA) Restoration Advisory Board, a citizen-agency group reviewing proposed environmental cleanup activities at the former Army base. The sprawling base, designated as a Superfund site by the U.S. EPA, sits on prime oceanfront land surrounded by both wealthy and lower-income communities. Discussions regarding cleanup approaches triggered community concerns regarding long-term health and safety impacts. The EPA specifically requested CONCUR take an in-depth look at the RAB's operations and develop process recommendations to improve its effectiveness. The EPA revamped its approach to community involvement based on CONCUR's recommendations.

Casmalia Superfund Site: CONCUR facilitated a technical forum for EPA Region IX, Potentially Responsible Parties, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board on toxic waste cleanup options at the Casmalia Superfund site. Specific issues addressed and clarified included the methodologies for calculating rates of contaminant migration, the structure of aquifers and aquitards, and procedures for risk assessment.

For a complete list of projects please visit our website at www.concurinc.com

About CONCUR, Inc.

CONCUR, Inc. provides services in agreement-focused mediation and facilitation, joint fact-finding, conflict assessment, environmental policy analysis, strategic planning, and environmental mediation training. Our staff has a unique dual expertise in both the process and substance of environmental decision-making. We are rigorously trained in the art and science of negotiation and dispute resolution, as well as in environmental planning and policy analysis. This dual expertise is the foundation of CONCUR's philosophy: to integrate different disciplines that strengthen our problem-solving capability so that we can provide clients the highest quality professional services.

For further information about our services please visit our web site at www.concurinc.com or contact us at:

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