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# LOCAL & STATE

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## Full-scale Moffett cleanup set

### Navy, firms to pay \$130 million more

BY DAVID BANK  
Mercury News Staff Writer

Ten years and \$100 million after efforts began to clean up toxic soil and groundwater at Moffett Field and nearby industrial sites, the task will require \$130 million more and up to 300 years, a panel of experts told an audience of 200 people in Mountain View on Thursday night.

"The good news is that the bulk of this contamination can be removed not in centuries but in decades," said Julie Anderson, chief of the federal Environmental Protection Agency's technical program branch. "The bad news is that residual low levels of contamination will remain."

Anderson joined representatives of the Navy and companies responsible for the contamination in the Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman area south of Highway 101 at a forum sponsored by the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, a non-profit group that is monitoring the cleanup. Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Atherton, moderated the panel.

The toxins have merged into a

single plume that is moving through the groundwater, creating what is considered the most complicated cleanup problem in Silicon Valley.

New studies have shown that the plume has migrated slowly in the past five years, easing fears that it would become a major contaminant of San Francisco Bay, said James McClure, an engineer who represented Raytheon Co., Intel Corp. and the now-defunct Fairchild Semiconductor Corp. McClure said the nearest drinking water well, Mountain View's Well No. 18, is a half-mile upstream of the plume and is not in danger of contamination.

The parties expect to begin full-scale cleanup efforts next year, after receiving approval from the EPA, he said.

Bob Bostic, a representative of Fairchild, said his company already has spent up to \$35 million on cleanup efforts — including about \$3 million in legal fees.

Altogether, the Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman companies have spent about \$60 million so far and expect to spend another \$60 million, said William Strawn, a spokesman for Fairchild.

The Navy has spent \$40 million

and expects to spend \$70 million more, said Steve Chao, the Navy's project manager for the Moffett cleanup. Chao said the Navy will remain responsible for cleanup work even after it turns over ownership of the base to NASA next year.

Two longtime critics of the cleanup effort said they were satisfied that the parties were finally working together.

"The reason we're at this point today with the cleanup taking place is because people have put pressure on the Navy and the private companies," said Lenny Siegel of the Pacific Studies Center in Mountain View.

Ted Smith, executive director of the toxics coalition, announced that the organization had received a \$100,000 grant from the EPA to help it monitor the cleanup efforts.

### Market's owner slain

MERCED (AP) — Donald Hughes, 69, owner of the Punkin Center Market, a Merced-area gun shop and convenience store, was shot to death during an apparent robbery at the store.