

Location: City of Riverbank Local Redevelopment Authority

Issue: Land Use / Planning

Methodology: Facilitated Meetings

Davenport Institute: 2011 Public Engagement Grant Recipient

In 2005 the Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant (RAAP) closed after 70 years of operation. With the Federal Government pulling out, it made sense to transition the property back to local control. In 2010 the army turned base oversight over to the City of Riverbank Local Redevelopment Agency (RLRA) in preparation for a final transition from federal to local control.

The RLRA was a specialized agency established for the purpose of this transition. It was not a regular redevelopment agency and so was unaffected by AB 26 which dissolved local redevelopment agencies around the state of California. The RLRA was responsible for operations, maintenance, and remediation of the closed base.

With the closing of a military site – especially an ammunition plant – come unique and potentially controversial issues. The RLRA wanted to ensure that residents were well informed of the environmental condition of the facility and that they had a significant voice in how the land would be used including the development of an “environmental remediation plan” scheduled to be in place by June 2012.

The RLRA set forth three primary goals:

1. Redevelopment of the site must be a community-led effort that allowed citizens an opportunity to have a say in every major decision along the way
2. Public input was needed to create a fitting memorial to acknowledge and commemorate the history and past contributions of the facility and the many generations of workers who supported the local economy and the men and women in harm’s way.
3. Public input was needed regarding the redevelopment itself – what should the facility look like when complete in terms of business, design, and environment?

Phases

Outcomes