

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
Mission Support Directorate



**NASA Management Office**

4800 Oak Grove Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91109-8099

September 10, 2012

Ms. Judy C. Huang, P.E.  
Remedial Project Manager  
Superfund Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX  
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-8-3)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Phone: (415) 972-3681  
E-mail: [Huang.Judy@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Huang.Judy@epamail.epa.gov)

Ms. Huang,

**NASA MANAGEMENT OFFICE, JET PROPULSION LABORATORY (JPL)  
TECHNICAL RESPONSE AND COMMENTS TO PASADENA WATER AND POWER'S  
MAY AND AUGUST 2012 TECHNICAL MEMORANDA ON PERCHLORATE  
CONTAMINATION IN THE SUNSET RESERVOIR WELLS**

Enclosed please find the following:

- NASA Technical Response, documenting NASA's review of Pasadena Water and Power's (PWP's) May 14, 2012 "Technical Memorandum on the Perchlorate Contamination of the Sunset Reservoir Wells." This includes, as an attachment, comments from Dr. Neil Sturchio (recognized expert in the field of perchlorate isotopes and geochemistry).
- NASA comments on PWP's August 17, 2012 "Technical Memorandum on the Monk Hill Treatment System after One Year of Operation" and "Technical Memorandum on Stable Isotope Analysis of Industrial Sources of Perchlorate, Raymond Basin Well Samples, and Biodegradation." Again, this includes comments from Dr. Sturchio as an attachment.

NASA has welcomed a technical discussion of both our 2007 Additional Investigation and subsequent Responses to Comments (2008). We feel it important to address here what we believe is an inaccurate representation of the significant work we have done to complete our investigation and determine the extent of NASA's perchlorate contamination originating from JPL.

Overall, the findings presented in the May and August 2012 technical memoranda from PWP misrepresent NASA's statements, present unsubstantiated opinions, and do not consider all available data in an integrated manner. Further, there was no new information presented by PWP that would alter our original findings. NASA's original findings were the perchlorate in the Sunset Reservoir Wells had not originated from JPL;

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rather, it was a mixture of one or more non-JPL, synthetic source(s) along with a substantial amount of naturally occurring perchlorate.

We look forward to continued conversations and a face-to-face meeting, as a way to proceed collaboratively. If you have any questions or comments regarding the enclosed document, please contact me at (818) 393-6683.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Slaten".

Steven Slaten  
NASA Remedial Project Manager  
JPL CERCLA Program

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Michel Iskarous and Ms. Juli Osborne (Department of Toxic Substances Control)  
Mr. Mohammad Zaidi (Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region)  
Ms. Phyllis Currie (Pasadena Water and Power)  
Mr. Jeff O'Keefe (California Department of Public Health)  
Mr. Tony Zampiello (Raymond Basin Management Board)