



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

## NASA'S GROUNDWATER CLEANUP PROGRAM JET PROPULSION LABORATORY

NASA is publishing this 2014 Addendum to the [Community Involvement Plan \(CIP 2006\)](#) for the NASA Groundwater Cleanup Program at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). This Addendum describes how NASA communicates with the public currently and as we continue to move towards meeting our cleanup goal.

### 2014 Addendum to the Community Involvement Plan

NASA is conducting environmental investigation and cleanup activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to remove unwanted chemicals at and in the vicinity of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Under CERCLA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and two State regulatory agencies oversee NASA – the lead agency – and its cleanup program in a thorough and lengthy process to fully investigate and determine the best methods for cleanup. EPA identifies two-way communication as integral to the success of the CERCLA process requiring specific outreach such as Public Meetings to occur.

NASA recognizes the importance of communicating with the public about its Groundwater Cleanup Program at JPL and has demonstrated that commitment from the start. A Community Relations Plan was developed in 1994, a short while after the JPL facility had been included on the National Priorities List. That document was finalized in 2003 when JPL site cleanup was in its early stages. At that time, NASA hired Remediation Project Manager (RPM) Steve Slaten and Community Involvement Manager Merrilee Fellows who are the NASA Groundwater Cleanup Program staff members. In 2004 and 2005, NASA conducted extensive public outreach in support of efforts to move forward with an interim remedy for migrating groundwater.

At that time, NASA identified stakeholders to interview from communities adjacent to JPL, and JPL employees. A series of individual and group interviews were conducted to understand:

- 1) people's awareness of NASA's Groundwater Cleanup Program,
- 2) their information needs and preferences and
- 3) the channels through which they choose to receive information.

This effort culminated in a Community Involvement Plan Update (2006) including community descriptions, lists of officials, organizations, and media outlets, and the communications methods and materials planned for upcoming cleanup activities. While continuing to meet CERCLA communications objectives, NASA also developed a project website, produced newsletters and fact sheets, hosted a variety of small group meetings, and visited other groups to continue conversations about the cleanup efforts.

NASA  
recognizes  
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communicating  
with the  
public about its  
Groundwater  
Cleanup Program  
at JPL.

The CIP (2006) and copies of communications materials are available on NASA's Groundwater Cleanup Program website at <http://jplwater.nasa.gov>. Today, NASA continues to make progress with JPL cleanup and this 2014 Addendum to the CIP outlines the public outreach and communications activities planned to support activities during the remainder of the cleanup process. ■

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## The Cleanup Program Today

NASA has implemented several cleanup initiatives to accelerate the cleanup of groundwater and soil while the Final Remedy for the JPL site is being decided. NASA conducted soil cleanup activity from 2002, meeting its on-facility soil cleanup objectives in 2005, and completing the on-site soil remedy in 2007. Three NASA-funded groundwater extraction and above-ground treatment plants were built between 2004 and 2010. One treatment plant is on JPL property at what is considered the “source area” for the chemicals, another plant is at the outer edge of the area affected by the chemicals, near two Lincoln Avenue Water Company (LAWC) supply wells, and a third plant called the Monk Hill Treatment System (MHTS) is located roughly at the center of the affected areas, next to the City of Pasadena’s Windsor Reservoir.

NASA's number one goal is to complete cleanup of the chemicals that originated from JPL through long-discontinued waste disposal practices. Operating the groundwater treatment plants has eliminated hundreds of pounds of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and perchlorate to date. NASA completed a Five Year Review (required in the CERCLA process) of the three treatment systems for the years 2007 to 2012. The review determined that the three systems are performing as designed and continue to be protective of human health and the environment. [A fact sheet summary of the review is available online at <http://jplwater.nasa.gov/factsheet-FiveYr.pdf>.] In a 2014 draft Focused Feasibility Study submitted to regulatory agencies overseeing the cleanup process, NASA recommended that the existing three systems should be used as the Final Remedy for groundwater. While these systems may be an effective Final Remedy, NASA is taking steps to make improvements (referred to as Well Optimization) at LAWC and MHTS treatment plants to enhance system performance, provide additional reliability, and reduce the time until cleanup goals are achieved. Community involvement activities outlined below are planned in support of two major objectives: **1)** moving towards the Final Remedy in the CERCLA process; and **2)** enhancing system performance through Well Optimization. ■

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## The Community Today

The 2006 CIP contained community profiles of Pasadena, Altadena, and La Cañada Flintridge – the three communities surrounding JPL. Based primarily on Census data available at the time (2000), communities were described in terms of demographics (population, race, income). Having an understanding of the general makeup of the communities in which cleanup activities were occurring enabled NASA to address the information needs of people living within those communities.

Like many communities in the U.S. today, Pasadena, Altadena, and La Cañada Flintridge are experiencing change – shifts in population, education and income levels, languages spoken, and technologies that people now use to communicate, to name just a few. It is important that NASA keep pace with the change. The most recent Census [2010] data indicate that household incomes

and house prices have significantly increased. The overall population has increased in all three communities, with slight variations in numbers of races within the communities. Non-English speaking residents increased to 31.5% in La Cañada Flintridge and to 33.2% in Altadena, and remained similar (to 2000 Census) in Pasadena at 45%. These and other Census data regarding schools, hospitals, and public transportation help frame a picture of these communities and assist NASA in understanding audiences who will be receiving its communications materials.

NASA conducted interviews in 2004 and 2005. Results from those interviews formed the basis of community involvement activities outlined in the CIP. In 2014, NASA will conduct a number of interviews to better understand information needs of the communities today and their preferred channels for receiving news about cleanup progress. Interview questions and results will be on the webpage when the interviews are complete.

NASA has developed a mail list of stakeholders for the Groundwater Cleanup Program. As more people adopt social media communications NASA uses email distribution more frequently. Requests to be added to the mail list can be made by phone, by mail, or by clicking the email list sign-up button on the website homepage at <http://jplwater.nasa.gov>. The entire list or a subset of the list is used, depending on the need, to distribute communications materials. The CIP contains a list of community contacts including local officials, community organizations, and media outlets in the area. NASA has delivered cleanup news through some of the contacts' existing newsletters, websites, and social media. The list was updated in 2014 and the contacts will be provided in an Appendix. ■

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## Methods to Inform the Public

NASA has been committed to community involvement throughout the Groundwater Cleanup Program at JPL. With a proven communication record NASA intends to keep practicing some outreach strategies that have been successful to date. NASA recognizes that people get their information in a variety of ways and that at least some audiences are relying more on the use of technology and social media for communicating and receiving information. This Addendum to the CIP describes a number of activities NASA will be implementing in 2014 and during the remainder of the cleanup program. Planned communications strategies are described below.

### Newsletters

NASA has created a number of visually engaging materials designed for the layperson to more easily understand technical information associated with cleanup technologies and operations. A Groundwater Cleanup newsletter, produced with Spanish language inserts, has been periodically disseminated since 2004. Historically, it was distributed to people on the Cleanup Program mail list and it was posted online. NASA will continue to periodically produce brief newsletters, with targeted mailings to update the public about cleanup progress and upcoming meetings and events. NASA will look for channels that exist within community organizations (their websites, newsletters) to post news and disseminate timely information about cleanup.

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### **Fact sheets**

Fact sheets allow for more in-depth explanation of topics of interest. NASA has produced a series of fact sheets since 2004 on a variety of subjects. Fact sheets are good handouts to leave with people and organizations. They are also posted online. NASA will produce additional fact sheets on the Proposed Plan for a Final Remedy and to describe the Well Optimization installation, construction and operation. These fact sheets will be distributed locally and posted online.

### **Press Releases**

Press releases can be a useful means for disseminating information to local, regional, and national news outlets. NASA will use press releases, as appropriate, to announce program milestones.

### **Year in Review**

NASA began producing the “Year in Review” in 2006 to summarize accomplishments during that year in terms of both cleanup and community outreach efforts.

(Note: in 2012 a Mid-Year JPL Cleanup Update was also published). They have been well received and NASA plans to continue producing the summary annually in limited hard copy for distribution and will post them online.

### **Information Repository Database**

The Information Repository contains hundreds of documents including community outreach materials, newspaper articles, reports, meeting transcripts, and other cleanup program-related information. This repository can be found on the website at computer terminals at the Altadena Public Library, the La Cañada Flintridge Public Library, the Pasadena Central Library, and the JPL Employee Library. NASA will continue to add documents to the repository.

### **Website**

The Groundwater Cleanup Website highlights current news and announcements. It archives all communications materials distributed by NASA and it serves as the entry to the EPA-required CERCLA Information Repository connecting to all technical and regulatory documentation related to cleanup at JPL. It provides contact information, a media room, frequently asked question (FAQs), a glossary, acronyms and abbreviations, an email list signup, a page for Spanish language speakers, a photo gallery, and links to other agencies. This is a valuable means of providing communication and receiving feedback. The website will remain online and updates will be posted to it as cleanup progress continues.

### **Public Notices**

NASA will post a notice to announce the availability of the Proposed Plan for the Final Remedy. We also will post supporting documents and note the public comment period. The notices will run in area newspapers.

### **Use of Social Media**

NASA recognizes that people increasingly rely on social media as a source for information and it is important to keep up with the fast-pace of electronics used today for access to information. NASA's Community Involvement Manager uses Twitter @NASAenvcomm and first posted a Tweet about the Groundwater Cleanup Program at JPL in January 2012 announcing the publication of the "2012 Year in Review", and in January 2013 announcing the "2013 Year in Review." NASA will continue to use Twitter and explore other social media outlets as they emerge. NASA will also consider using video to record some of the Well Optimization construction activity where public access may not be possible for safety or other reasons. Other possibilities include the use of webcams (either hand-held or fixed-in-place) or time-lapse cameras to provide views of cleanup work in process providing people with virtual access to the site from their computers. ■

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## **Methods to Engage the Public**

### **Personnel**

NASA made a strong commitment to the cleanup project back in 2003 when a Community Involvement Manager was hired to support the Remediation Project Manager. In interviews conducted in 2004 and 2005, people responded favorably to having a person in that capacity and felt that communications had improved as a result. Since that time, the Community Involvement Manager has been directly involved in one-on-one meetings, small group meetings and larger public meetings. She has developed a mail list, conducted interviews, and with the RPM has made presentations to several local organizations. The Groundwater Program staff has fulfilled requests for information through in-person visits, emails, phone calls, and social media. These efforts have created opportunities for dialogue and NASA will continue to have a team that is committed to communications and this program.

### **Public Comment Period**

NASA will provide the public with an opportunity for written and oral comments on the Proposed Plan for the Final Remedy. The 30-day comment period will be announced in the Public Notice section of area newspapers. NASA also will inform the community about the public comment period via the website and other means as appropriate.

### **Public Meetings and Community Information Sessions**

NASA as the lead agency in the CERCLA process will hold a Public Meeting regarding the Proposed Plan for the Final Remedy. Any Public Meeting will be held at a location with convenient public access. (A Public Meeting was held at the Altadena Community Center in 2006, for example.) During the meeting there will be opportunity for the public to make oral comments and submit written comments. A court reporter will be present, and NASA will subsequently prepare a meeting transcript that is made available to the public. Additionally, NASA will host a Community Information Session (CIS) similar to those held in 2005 and 2007 (descriptions are available on the website Archive). The CIS will feature informational displays, presentations, and handout materials. It will provide an opportunity for community members to learn about cleanup plans and have open and informal discussions with NASA and cleanup program staff as part of preparation for the Final Remedy.

### **Small Group Meetings and Presentations upon Request**

NASA's Community Involvement Manager and the Remediation Project Manager continue making connections with organizations in one-on-one conversations and interviews, and by attending community meetings and presentations. NASA's first Well Optimization activity is occurring on Lincoln Avenue Water Company (LAWC) property within the Harriett Street neighborhood. NASA will look to provide information and respond to requests by coordinating with neighborhood groups, local residents, and with LAWC. For example, NASA will look to disseminate updates and meeting invitations, possibly through inserts to water bills that are mailed to more than 3,000 LAWC customers each month.

### **Science Connections**

As a science-based agency, NASA is positioned to participate in educational opportunities through existing affiliations that JPL has in the community. At the school near LAWC where Well Optimization activity will take place, NASA will look for opportunities to engage with teachers and students regarding the work that is being done. ■

**NASA recognizes the importance of involving the community in the Groundwater Cleanup Program at JPL. NASA has compiled this 2014 Addendum to the CIP to better understand the communities today and to plan for how NASA will communicate and engage with them as the project moves towards completion and the cleanup goals are met.**

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For more information  
on the CIP & the  
Cleanup Program  
at JPL, contact:

#### **Merrilee Fellows**

NASA Manager for Community Involvement  
NASA Management Office/JPL  
4800 Oak Grove Drive  
Pasadena, California 91109  
**Phone** (818) 393-0754  
**Email** [mfellows@nasa.gov](mailto:mfellows@nasa.gov)  
**Website** <http://jplwater.nasa.gov>

Para más información en español, llame a

#### **Gabriel Romero**

NASA JPL  
**Teléfono** (818) 354-8709

**ADDENDUM APPENDIX A**

**LIST OF KEY CONTACTS AND  
INTERESTED PARTIES  
(June 2014)**

## **Appendix A-1 Agency and Regulatory Contacts**

### **NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory**

NASA Management Office – Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
M/S 180-801  
4800 Oak Grove Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91109

Steve Slaten  
Remedial Project Manager  
Phone: (818) 393-6683  
Fax: (818) 393-5103  
Email: [sslaten@nasa.gov](mailto:sslaten@nasa.gov)

Merrilee Fellows  
Manager, Community Involvement  
Phone: (818) 393-0754  
Fax: (818) 393-5103  
Email: [mfellows@nasa.gov](mailto:mfellows@nasa.gov)

Website: <http://jplwater.nasa.gov>

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
Southern California Field Office  
600 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1460  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Yarissa Martinez, P.E.  
Remedial Project Manager  
Phone: (213) 244-1806  
Email: [martinez.yarissa@epa.gov](mailto:martinez.yarissa@epa.gov)

Website: <http://www.epa.gov>

## **California Department of Toxic Substances Control**

Dept. of Toxic Substances Control, Chatsworth Office  
9211 Oakdale Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

William Jeffers, P.E.  
Remedial Project Manager  
Phone: (818) 717-6586  
Email: [wjeffers@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:wjeffers@dtsc.ca.gov)

Website: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov>

## **Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Jeff Brooks  
Remedial Project Manager  
Phone: (213) 620-6070  
Email: [jeff.brooks@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jeff.brooks@waterboards.ca.gov)

Website: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4>

## **Pasadena Water and Power**

Pasadena Water and Power  
150 S. Los Robles  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
Phone: (626) 744-4005

Website: <http://cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower>

## **Lincoln Avenue Water Company**

Lincoln Avenue Water Co.  
564 West Harriet Street  
Altadena, CA 91001  
Phone: (626) 798-9101

Website: <http://www.lawc.org>

## **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

75 Hawthorne Street, Room 100

Mail Code HHS-1

San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: (415) 947-4316

Website: [http:// www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)

## Appendix A-2 Government Officials

### LOCAL OFFICIALS

#### Pasadena

Pasadena City Council  
100 N. Garfield Ave, S228  
Pasadena, CA 91109  
Phone: (626) 744-4311  
Website: <http://www.ci.pasadena.ca.us>

Bill Bogaard, Mayor, City of Pasadena  
Pasadena City Council Members  
1st District: Jacque Robinson  
2nd District: Margaret McAustin (Vice Mayor)  
3rd District: John J. Kennedy  
4th District: Gene Masuda  
5th District: Victor M. Gordo  
6th District: Steve Madison  
7th District: Terry Tornek

Pasadena Public Health Department  
Assistant City Manager Steve Mermell  
Interim Director of Public Health  
1845 North Fair Oaks Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91103  
Phone: (626) 744-6005

#### Altadena

Altadena Town Council  
600 East Mariposa Street  
Altadena, CA 91101  
Phone: (818) 798-3616  
Website: <http://www.altadenatowncouncil.org>

Altadena Town Council  
Chair: Diane Marcussen  
Vice Chair: Okorie Ezieme

#### La Cañada Flintridge

La Cañada Flintridge City Council  
1327 Foothill Blvd.  
La Canada, CA 91011  
Phone: (818) 790-8880  
Website: <http://www.lacanadaflintridge.com>

La Cañada Flintridge City Council Members  
Mayor: Michael T. Davitt  
Mayor Pro-Tem: Donald R. Voss  
Councilmember: Jonathan Curtis  
Councilmember: Laura Olhasso  
Councilmember: David Spence

## **COUNTY OFFICIALS**

Mayor Michael D. Antonovich,  
County of Los Angeles Supervisor, Fifth District  
869 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 974-5555  
District Office  
215 N. Marengo Ave., Suite 120  
Pasadena, CA 91101-1505  
Phone: (626) 356-5407

<http://www.bos.co.la.ca.us>

## **STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 445-2841

State Senator Carol Liu  
21<sup>st</sup> Senate District  
501 N. Central Ave.  
Glendale, CA 91203  
Phone: (818) 409-0400

State Assemblymember Jeff Gorell  
44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
2301 East Daily Drive, Suite #200  
Camarillo, CA 93010  
Phone: (805) 482-1904

State Assemblymember Chris Holden  
41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District  
600 N. Rosemead Avenue, Suite 117  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
Phone: (626) 351-1917

State Assemblymember Mike Gatto  
43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
300 E. Magnolia Blvd., Suite 504  
Burbank, CA 91502  
Phone: (818) 558-3042

### **FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**

U.S. Representative Adam Schiff  
28<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Washington D.C. Office  
2411 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-4176  
District Office:  
87 N. Raymond Avenue, #800  
Pasadena, CA 91103  
Phone: (626) 304-2727

U.S. Representative Judy Chu  
27<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Washington, D.C. Office:  
1520 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-5464  
District Office:  
527 S. Lake Ave, Suite 106  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
Phone: (626) 304- 0110

Senator Barbara Boxer

Washington D.C. Office:

112 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510-0505

Phone: (202) 224-3553

District Office:

312 N. Spring Street, Suite 1748

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 894-5000

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Washington D.C. Office:

331 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510-0504

Phone: (202) 224-3841

District Office:

11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 915

Los Angeles, CA 90025

Phone: (310) 914-7300

## **Appendix A-3 A Sample of Local Environmental Groups**

### **Arroyo Seco Foundation**

P.O. Box 91622  
Pasadena, CA 91109-1622  
Phone: (323) 405-7326  
Website: <http://www.arroyoseco.org>

### **California Native Plants Society, San Gabriel Mountains Chapter**

1750 North Altadena Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91107-1046  
Website: <http://www.cnps-sgm.org>

### **Pasadena Audubon Society**

1750 North Altadena Drive  
Phone: (626) 355-9412  
Pasadena CA 91107  
Website: <http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org>

### **Sierra Club, Pasadena Group of the Los Angeles Chapter**

3435 Wilshire Blvd., #660  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1904  
Phone: (213) 387-4287  
Website: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/pasadena/index.htm>

### **CASO, the Council of Arroyo Seco Organizations**

P.O. Box 91622  
Pasadena, CA 91109-1622  
Phone: (626) 584-9902  
Website: <http://www.arroyoseco.org/caso.htm>

### **Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates**

1750 North Altadena Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
Phone: (626) 398-5420  
Website: <http://www.ecnca.org>

### **North East Trees**

570 W Avenue 26 , Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90065-1011  
Phone: (323) 441-8635, ext. 30  
Website: <http://www.northeasttrees.org>

## Appendix A-4 Media Contacts

### **Newspapers**

#### *Pasadena Star-News*

911 E. Colorado Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91106  
Phone: (626) 578-6300  
Website: <http://www.pasadenastarnews.com>

#### *Los Angeles Times*

202 West First Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 237-7298  
Website: <http://www.latimes.com>

#### *La Opinión*

700 S. Flower St., Suite 3000  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Phone: (213) 622-8332  
Website: <http://www.laopinion.com>

#### *Pasadena Weekly*

50 S. DeLacey Ave., Suite 200  
Pasadena, CA 91105  
Phone: (626) 584-1500  
Website: <http://www.pasadenaweekly.com>

#### *Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Journal*

1541 N. Lake Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91105  
Phone: (626) 798-3972  
Website: <http://www.pasadenajournal.com>

#### *La Cañada Valley Sun*

727 Foothill Blvd.  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91101  
Phone: (818) 790-8774  
Website: <http://www.lacanadaonline.com>

#### *Outlook Newspapers (Pasadena, La Canada)*

800 Foothill Blvd.  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91101  
Phone: (626) 398-7800, (818) 790-7500  
Website: <http://www.outlooknewspapers.com>

*Pasadena Independent*

125 E. Chestnut Ave.

Monrovia, CA 91016

Phone: (626) 301-1010

Website: <http://www.pasadenaindependent.com>

*Glendale News-Press/Foothill Leader*

202 W. First Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Website: <http://www.glendalenewspress.com>

*Pasadena Now*

Phone: (626) 737-8486

Website: <http://www.pasadenanow.com>

Homeown Pasadena

Phone: (323) 428-9921

Website: <http://hometown-pasadena.com>

Altadena Point (blog)

PO Box 6596

Altadena, CA 91003

Phone: (626) 201-1023

Website: <http://www.altadenapoint.com>

**TV/Radio Stations**

Pasadena Community Access Channel

The Arroyo Channel, Chan. 32

150 S. Los Robles Ave., Suite 450

Pasadena, CA 91101

Phone: (626) 794-8585

KPCC Radio

Southern California Public Radio, 89.3 FM

474 S. Raymond Ave

Pasadena, CA 91105

Phone: (626) 583-5100