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### **NASA Releases Study that Defines the Extent of Chemicals from JPL**

Pasadena, CA -- NASA on January 31<sup>st</sup> released a report describing a comprehensive two-year series of scientific investigations of groundwater beneath and near the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). The report states that the groundwater chemicals originating from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) site as a result of long-discontinued waste disposal practices are confined to the local Monk Hill Subarea of the underground aquifer. The report also concludes that perchlorate detected in groundwater at the City of Pasadena's Sunset area wells further south is of a different origin than the perchlorate used at, and originating from, JPL.

"The studies – combining four separate analytical tools - indicate that the chemicals from the JPL facility are found only within about a mile southeast of JPL," said Steve Slaten, NASA's Groundwater Cleanup Project Manager.

Over the years, NASA had conducted a number of investigations to determine the type and movement of chemicals associated with waste disposal practices conducted in the 1940s and 1950s at the JPL facility. In 2003, NASA began a series of additional studies to determine the extent of the chemicals' movement in groundwater from the source area at JPL including whether those chemicals could have migrated all the way to the wells in the area of the Sunset Reservoir, where perchlorate has been detected.

The new study used four sophisticated analytic tools: groundwater modeling, groundwater chemistry, groundwater chemical data determined by groundwater monitoring, and isotopic analysis of chemicals associated with the groundwater.

"NASA used the best scientific tools," Slaten said. "This technical memorandum, outlining the results of our studies, is based on those techniques and good science."

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Slaten stressed NASA's commitment to its ongoing cleanup effort: "Over the years, NASA has made significant progress with cleanup efforts at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and we will continue to clean up the chemicals that originated from the site."

Slaten noted that in 2006 NASA completed soil cleanup activities on JPL at the source area, and early this year NASA will double the capacity of a source area groundwater treatment facility it has operated since January 2005. In addition, NASA continues to fund a groundwater treatment system near two Lincoln Avenue Water Company production wells located southeast of JPL. NASA also is working with the City of Pasadena to fund construction and operation of a new groundwater treatment facility in Northwest Pasadena.

For information about NASA's groundwater cleanup efforts and media room on the Web, visit:

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

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