

Merrilee Fellows  
NASA Management Office, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena  
(Phone: 818/393-0754)

RELEASE: 05-001W

### **NASA STEPS UP GROUNDWATER CLEANUP EFFORTS**

Sept. 8, 2005 - NASA today announced that it is moving ahead on its groundwater cleanup efforts targeting the Monk Hill sub-basin, part of the Raymond Basin area, that is directly adjacent to JPL near the Arroyo.

“NASA is committed to fulfilling its pledge to clean up the groundwater on- and off-site,” said Steve Slaten, NASA’s Groundwater Cleanup Project Manager.

According to Slaten, NASA will propose to California and federal regulatory agencies that NASA construct a treatment plant inside the Jet Propulsion Laboratory fence line that NASA will own and operate. This location is on the west side of the Arroyo, about 1,500 feet away from Pasadena drinking water wells.

NASA’s decision to proceed follows several years of efforts to try to reach an agreement with Pasadena Water and Power in which NASA would pick up all the costs for removing the chemicals in the groundwater connected to past practices at JPL and provide technical support to the City in its permitting process for siting the treatment plant at their wells.

Slaten noted, “I believe everyone worked in good faith, but we just were not able to reach an agreement. While I am disappointed, we still need to move forward with our cleanup and this action is a major step in our comprehensive cleanup plan.”

The proposed new system will be in addition to NASA’s existing on-site treatment plant and the NASA-funded plant at Lincoln Avenue Water Company. Together these plants will remove groundwater chemicals both on and off-site and prevent further spread of these chemicals.

NASA’s cleanup efforts are conducted as part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), to remove chemicals associated with past waste disposal activities that ceased decades ago at the site.

- end -