

CITY OF PASADENA PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
NEWS FOR RELEASE: March 13, 2009

TREATMENT PLANT GROUNDBREAKING SET FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 17

A groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday, March 17, at 10 a.m. will mark the beginning of construction of the Monk Hill treatment plant near the city of Pasadena's Windsor Reservoir at 2696 Windsor Ave. near the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

When construction is completed late next year, the plant will remove perchlorate and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from groundwater near four closed Pasadena Water and Power production wells, allowing PWP to apply to reopen the wells and deliver clean, safe water to customers. Perchlorate is a salt used as an oxidizer in rocket propellants; VOCs were used decades ago as industrial cleaning solvents.

Speakers at the event will include Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard; Pasadena City Councilwoman Jacque Robinson, who represents District 1 where the wells are located; Phyllis Currie, general manager of Pasadena Water and Power; Dr. James Wright, deputy assistant administrator for the NASA Office of Infrastructure; and Steve Slaten, NASA project manager for groundwater cleanup.

The groundbreaking festivities will also include a tree-planting, refreshments and informative displays about the project.

NASA and the city of Pasadena have worked closely together on site selection and design of the facility with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and California Department of Public Health.

NASA is funding construction and operating costs; the city of Pasadena will own and operate the plant. A contract for construction has been awarded and completion is anticipated in late 2010.

"Thanks to this remarkable example of cooperation among federal, state and city agencies, Pasadena will once again have access to an important local water source at a time when water supply challenges have become critical," said Currie. "We are proud of the fact that throughout the planning process, NASA and the city encouraged extensive involvement from neighbors whose suggestions have been incorporated into the plant's landscaping and design features."

With the new Pasadena facility soon underway, NASA's three-plant treatment strategy to remove chemicals from groundwater beneath the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and adjacent areas is nearing completion. Two existing NASA-funded treatment plants have been removing groundwater chemicals from the source area at JPL and from the farthest reaches of the area affected by the chemicals. The new Pasadena plant will provide groundwater cleanup in the center of the affected area.

For more information about the groundwater cleanup project visit www.jplwater.nasa.gov
or call (818) 393-0754.

###

Ann Erdman
Public Information Officer
City of Pasadena
Public Affairs Office
100 N. Garfield Ave., Room S228
Pasadena CA 91109
(626) 744-4755
Cell: (626) 375-2742
www.cityofpasadena.net/publicaffairs/citynews.asp
www.pasadenapio.blogspot.com