



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
SOUTHWEST DIVISION  
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND  
1220 PACIFIC HIGHWAY  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92132-5190

5090  
Ser 06CM.MP10087  
January 19, 2001

Mr. Richard Jantz  
Deputy Executive Officer  
Stanislaus County  
1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 6800  
PO Box 3404  
Modesto, CA 95353-3404

Dear Mr. Jantz:

I am writing in response to your letter of October 9, 2000, concerning the environmental remediation that the Department of the Navy is undertaking at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Crows Landing Flight Facility (formerly Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF), Crows Landing and the expected title transfer of property from NASA to Stanislaus County. We are providing historical and legislative information pertaining to the facility in this response that we hope will be helpful in understanding the process towards transfer from NASA and the Navy's role in the cleanup effort.

We understand that the County would like to complete the property conveyance process as soon as possible. We are in the process of completing the Feasibility Studies, Proposed Plans, and Records of Decision for Site 11 (Former Disposal Pits), Site 17 (Demolished Hangar Area), and the sewage treatment systems. The documentation, including the regulatory review of the documentation, is required before we may select and implement the final remedy for each site.

The Navy is committed to the development of remediation strategies, with opportunities for public review and comment, that will provide for the safe, effective, timely, and cost efficient environmental restoration and productive reuse of this former Department of Defense (DoD) facility. Status reports on the environmental restoration program are routinely provided and will continue to be provided to the RWQCB, DTSC, NASA and Stanislaus County.

The former NALF Crows Landing was commissioned in May 1943 and was retained as a Federal facility for use by NASA in July 1994. The facility was renamed the NASA Crows Landing Flight Facility following the conveyance from the Navy to NASA. Refuse disposal, aircraft and vehicle maintenance, and fuel storage activities have resulted in environmental contamination of the property. Part of Crows Landing is in the Installation Restoration Program prescribed by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). The Navy is in the process of conducting CERCLA response actions at the contaminated sites with regulatory oversight by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Central Valley Region and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Our responsibilities for environmental restoration at the facility are described in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Navy and NASA of December 22, 1992.

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The Department of Defense has the authority to undertake Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) response actions under 42 U.S.C. Section 9604, 10 U.S.C. Section 2705, and Federal Executive Order 12580. The Navy is the lead Federal agency for the CERCLA response actions.

The special legislation, Public Law 106-82 (Enclosure 1) that was enacted on October 27, 1999, authorizes the conveyance of the property from NASA to Stanislaus County. Section 3 (b)(1) of Public Law 106-82 states the following: "The conveyance required by section 1 shall not relieve any Federal agency of any responsibility under law, policy, or Federal interagency agreement for any environmental remediation of soil, groundwater, or surface water."

We hope this clarifies the steps the Navy must follow in the cleanup process at Crows Landing. We look forward to discussing the environmental restoration program projects with you during our future meetings and we assure you that the Navy is committed to assisting with the transfer of the Crows Landing property from NASA ownership to Stanislaus County as soon as possible, while working within the Federal and State guidelines prescribed by law.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (619) 532-0941, if you have questions pertaining to this correspondence.

Sincerely,



MARIANNA POTACKA  
BRAC Environmental Coordinator  
By direction of the Commander

Encl: (1) Public Law 106-82

Copy to:

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ENCLOSURE

PUBLIC LAW 106-82

THIS ENCLOSURE WAS NOT RECEIVED IN THE  
RESTORATION RECORD FILE.

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## TRANSMITTAL

Date: 22 Jan 2001

From: Lynn Marie Hornecker *LMH*

To: Diane Silva  
Code 01LS.DS

**Subj: CERCLA Administrative Record Materials**  
NALF Crows Landing

*Installation:* Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, Crows Landing

*UIC Number:* N60211

*Document Title (or subject):* Environmental remediation

*Author:* Marianna Potacka, SWDIV BEC

*Recipient:* Richard Jantz, Stanislaus County

*Record Date:* 19 Jan 2001

*Approximate Number of Pages:* 3

*EPA Category:* 01.1

*Sites:* Sites 11 + 17, UST Cluster 1, Sewer system

*Key Words:* remediation, CERCLA process

*Contract:* N/A

*CTO Number:* N/A