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MOFFETT FIELD
SSIC NO. 5090.3.A.

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March 31, 2003

The Honorable Hansford T. Johnson
Assistant Secretary of the Navy
Installations and the Environment
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Assistant Secretary Johnson,

We support the Navy's recently released draft Record of Decision at Moffett Field "Site 25" which confines remediation activity in the near-term to the Eastern Diked Marsh. However, we oppose any "interim cleanup" of the remaining portion of the site – the Stormwater Retention Ponds – if such action depends on implementing institutional controls and a promise by NASA to fund future cleanup.

The proposed "interim cleanup" of the Stormwater Retention Ponds would not allow future restoration of the ponds and is essentially the same proposal that the community has been opposing for several years. Since there is no imminent or substantial threat that would necessitate an immediate cleanup, it is far more important that the cleanup be done properly and thoroughly.

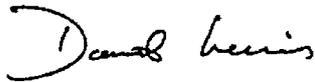
The Navy should not relegate to NASA its responsibility to clean up Site 25. It is the past actions of the Navy, not NASA, that contributed to contamination of the site. We recognize that NASA may be responsible for a portion of the cleanup bill. However, the Navy is the recipient of BRAC funds specifically earmarked for such cleanup. NASA has no funding and no mandate for cleanup of Site 25.

The Site 25 Draft Record of Decision (ROD) recently released by the Navy on February 21, 2003 notes "...the overwhelming public desire for tidal marsh restoration" at this site. Without a complete cleanup of the Stormwater Retention Ponds no such restoration will be possible. Not only has the community made clear its desire for tidal restoration of the former wetlands at Moffett Field, Senator Barbara Boxer and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo communicated to you their support of the public's wish for a complete cleanup and restoration of the Site 25 wetlands in their letter of December 9, 2002.

SAVE THE BAY

The Navy is responsible for a full and complete cleanup of toxic sediments that accrued at the site during the Navy's tenure at Moffett Field. In addition to the immediate cleanup of the Eastern Diked Marsh, as proposed in the Draft Record of Decision, we request that the Navy commit in writing to cleanup of the Site 25 Stormwater Retention Ponds to a level that would be safe for the great blue heron and thus for future tidal restoration of these former wetlands.

Sincerely,



David Lewis, Director
Save The Bay



Lenny Siegel, Director
Center for Public Environmental Oversight



David Smernoff
Acterra



Craig Breon, Director
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Doug DeLong, Director
Alliance for a New Moffett Field