

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000

N00296.000778
MOFFETT FIELD
SSIC NO. 5090.3.A.



Reply to Attn of:

QE:218-1

30 JUN 2003

Ms. Lida Tan
US Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
75 Hawthorne St., SFD-73
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Tan:

As you requested during the recent Base Closure Team meeting for Moffett Field, NASA is providing you this information on the current and future use of the Stormwater Retention Pond (SWRP) at Ames Research Center (ARC). The SWRP is also known as Site 25 under the Navy's Installation Restoration Program.

NASA is currently using the SWRP for the control of stormwater for ARC. The SWRP is a necessary part of the overall system to prevent flooding of the base and the airfield. NASA will continue to use the pond for stormwater control in the future.

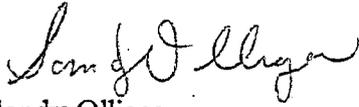
As stated in earlier meetings, NASA will conduct an engineering study to determine the feasibility or desirability of allowing the SWRP to be restored to tidal marsh wetlands. NASA is working closely with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies and parties to coordinate the SWRP in the overall restoration of tidal marsh habitat in the south bay. The engineering study will not be done for at least five years. Any restoration of the SWRP will still have to allow NASA to discharge stormwater to the area so as to prevent flooding. Should NASA agree to allow the SWRP to become tidal marsh, NASA will take care of any additional remediation that will be required to meet cleanup standards for tidal marsh habitat.

It is important to note that the SWRP in its current state also provides important ecological benefits. The pond, by storing stormwater, decreases the amount of fresh water that is discharged to the bay. It also provides important habitat to migrating birds and for nesting.

To summarize, NASA plans to maintain the current status of SWRP for the foreseeable future. NASA will be conducting an engineering study on the feasibility of allowing the SWRP to be restored to tidal marsh and still allow NASA to maintain its current flood control use.

If you have any questions you may call me at 650-604-3355.

Sincerely,



Sandy Olliges
Chief, Environmental Services Office

cc: Alana Lee, US EPA
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