

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION PER OPNAVINST 5090.1A:
FOR TRANSFER OF
NAVAL AIR STATION MOFFETT FIELD AND
NAVAL AUXILIARY LANDING FIELD CROWS LANDING
TO NATIONAL AERONAUTICAL AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
AND ONIZUKA AIR FORCE BASE**

Supporting Documentation:

**NAS Moffett Field Baseline Environmental Report
NALF Crows Landing Baseline Environmental Report**

Prepared for:

**Naval Air Station Moffett Field
Moffett Field, California 94035**

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SUMMARY

This document meets the requirements per OPNAVINST 5090.1A to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) relative to the transfer of Naval Air Station (NAS) Moffett Field and Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) Crows Landing to the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) and NAS Moffett Field military family housing units and associated facilities to Onizuka Air Force Base (AFB). The existing land use at the base will remain.

A Memorandum of Understanding between NASA and the Navy (December 22, 1992) outlines the specific details and responsibilities of each agency during and after the transfer. Under this agreement, the formal transfer is to take place in July 1994. NASA's current use will remain the same after the transfer is completed. The existing auxiliary landing field will continue to operate at its present capacity.

The Navy concludes that no significant environmental impacts will result from the transfer of NAS Moffett Field and NALF Crows Landing to NASA or to Onizuka AFB. In accordance with Navy regulation, Environmental and Natural Resources Program Manual (OPNAVINST 5090.1A) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we conclude a Categorical Exclusion under OPNAVINST 5090.1A, paragraph 5-4.2, number 19, covering interagency federal transfer of real property, is the appropriate format for documenting the lack of impacts as required by NEPA.

Supporting information for this document is compiled in the *NAS Moffett Field Baseline Environmental Report* and the *NALF Crows Landing Baseline Environmental Report*.

I.0 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CRITERIA

The purpose of this document is to demonstrate that this action meets the criteria as a categorical exclusion from NEPA as transfer of real property from the military to another federal agency where there is no substantial change in land use under OPNAVINST 5090.1A, Paragraph 5-4.2 (19) for the transfer of NAS Moffett Field and NALF Crows Landing to NASA and NAS Moffett Field military family housing units and associated facilities to Onizuka AFB. Under an agreement detailed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NASA and the Navy, NASA took over operations of NAS Moffett Field in July 1994 and operations of NALF Crows Landing in August 1993. Under this agreement formal transfer of property ownership is to take place in July 1994. The military housing and associated facilities of NAS Moffett Field will be transferred to Onizuka AFB ownership at the same time. Air Force operation of the military housing took place in October 1993.

Specifically OPNAVINST 5090.1A (19) states:

Transfer of real property from the military to another military department or to another federal agency, and the granting of leases (including leases granted pursuant to the agricultural outleasing program where soil conservation plans are incorporated) permits and easements where there is no substantial change in land use or where subsequent land use would otherwise be categorically excluded.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations provide for establishment of categorical exclusions for those actions which, after consideration by the Navy, have been found not to have a significant effect on the human environment individually or cumulatively, under normal circumstances. Categorical exclusions are applicable to those kinds of military actions that do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, do not result in any significant change from existing conditions at the site of the proposed action, and whose effect is primarily economic or social. A categorical exclusion is not used if the proposed action:

- a. Affects public health or safety;
- b. Involves an action that may affect wetlands, endangered or threatened species, historical or archeological resources, or hazardous waste;

- c. Involves effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain, involve unique or unknown risks, or that are scientifically controversial;
- d. Establishes precedents or makes decisions in principle for future actions with a significant effect; and,
- e. Violates federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

2.0 ACTION UNDER CONSIDERATION

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

As directed by congressional decision under the Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, the action under consideration is the federal interagency transfer of NAS Moffett Field and NALF Crows Landing. Both NALF Crows Landing and NAS Moffett Field are being transferred to NASA and NAS Moffett Field military housing and associated facilities are being transferred to Onizuka AFB. NASA will take responsibility for the maintenance and management of all real property assets of NALF Crows Landing and NAS Moffett Field (except military housing and associated facilities which are transferred to Onizuka AFB), per the MOU signed between NASA and the Navy on December 22, 1992. The US Navy will maintain responsibility for the remediation of contamination to the levels negotiated with appropriate regulatory agencies per the Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA).

2.2 SITE SETTING

2.2.1 *NAS Moffett Field*

NAS Moffett Field is located in an urban setting on the southwestern shoreline of San Francisco Bay, about 25 miles east of the Pacific coast. The City of Mountain View flanks the west and north boundaries of NAS Moffett Field while the south and east boundaries adjoin the City of Sunnyvale. Downtown San Jose is about seven miles southeast, and San Francisco is about 32 miles northwest. US Highway 101 passes just south of the base.

The two parallel runways at NAS Moffett Field are situated northwest-southeast between Hangar 1 and Hangars 2 and 3. With a total of 370 acres, the existing runways were constructed from tidal marshland. The first runway was built in the 1940s, while the second was completed in the early 1950s (Chuck 1994).

Hangar 1, built in 1933, is the dominant structure at NAS Moffett Field. This 385,000 square foot building was originally meant for maintenance and storage of lighter-than-air craft; today it is for instruction, administration, and aircraft maintenance.

Hangars 2 and 3, built in 1942, are 346,875 square feet and 433,738 square feet respectively. Both hangars today contain office space and are used for aircraft maintenance.

Approximately 1,500 acres of land within the boundaries of NAS Moffett Field are used for air operations, training, ordnance storage, supply, maintenance, personnel support facilities, and unaccompanied and married personnel housing. Two parallel runways that run across the midsection of the station divide operations, maintenance, supply, and training areas.

Two parcels of military family housing units are located off-base. The first parcel is approximately one mile southwest of NAS Moffett Field. This 20-acre parcel is the former location of a transmitter facility and now is the site of Navy townhouses. The second parcel, approximately five miles southeast of the base in the city of Sunnyvale, is known as NavAir Manor Wherry Housing, which is not subject to this document. The ten-acre parcel is the former site of military family dwellings that were demolished in 1991. NavAir Manor shall be excised from the Navy and shall have a separate environmental document.

NASA Ames Research Center is located along the western boundary of NAS Moffett Field where its main facilities occupy approximately 430 acres.

2.2.2 NALF Crows Landing

NALF Crows Landing covers 1,528 acres in rural Stanislaus County and is located on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. It is approximately one mile west of State Highway 33 and three miles east of Interstate Highway 5. The nearest town, Crow's Landing, is two miles southeast. Four miles north is the town of Patterson. San Francisco lies 80 miles to the northwest.

The airfield consists of two concrete runways in an "X" configuration, running northeast-southwest. The total area occupied by the runways, including taxiways, shoulders, and runway overrun areas, is approximately 355 acres.

Buildings, roads, storage areas, and associated lands compose about 33 acres. The Delta Mendota Canal occupies about 30 acres and perimeter roads about 10 acres. Approximately 1,170 acres are under agricultural outlease, and 210 acres are under restrictive easement.

There are no housing facilities at NALF Crows Landing. The barracks that were there were demolished in the 1970s.

NASA is the only major tenant at NALF Crows Landing, and their test facility will continue to operate. NASA facilities include several vans containing various electronic test equipment, shop, maintenance and office vans, an outdoor equipment area, and two radar disks.

3.0 EXISTING SETTING AND ASSESSMENT OF NO IMPACT _____

Supporting documentation for this categorical exclusion consists of the NAS Moffett Field Baseline Environmental Report and NALF Crows Landing Baseline Environmental Report. All pertinent figures are included in these reports, as are detailed descriptions of the existing conditions of each base. The following discussion is based on the respective BERs to identify, document, and demonstrate that these federal-to-federal transfers meet the criteria of no impact. All relevant and appropriate federal, state, and local regulations will continue to apply to the management of the bases after transfer.

3.1 NAS MOFFETT FIELD

3.1.1 Vegetation

Existing Setting

Most of the base is urban habitat with various landscaping. Some remnant grasslands exist in the agricultural outleases and the golf course. Marsh vegetation, including Pacific cordgrass, pickleweed, salt grass, alkali heath, and brass buttons, exist along the northern boundary of the station.

Assessment of Impact

Transfer of the Station will not change existing land use and, therefore, will not affect vegetation.

3.1.2 Wildlife

Existing Setting

Wildlife at the station includes: red fox, Norway rat, feral cat, opossum, raccoon, ground squirrels, salt water harvest mouse, burrowing owls, and numerous coastal migratory birds.

Assessment of Impact

Transfer of the station will not change existing land use and, therefore, will not affect wildlife.

3.1.3 Wildlife Habitat

Existing Setting

Sensitive habitats exist along the northern margin of the base where marshlands and seasonal ponds provide habitat for migrating waterfowl. Other habitats include agricultural fields, drainage ditches, seasonal streams, and urban land. Remnant grasslands provide habitat for the burrowing owl.

Assessment of Impact

The transfer will not change land use and, therefore, will not affect wildlife habitat. NASA and Onizuka AFB, as federal agencies, will continue to implement and comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations protecting sensitive habitats and endangered species.

3.1.4 Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive Species

Existing Setting

Threatened and endangered species were identified after completion of a biological resource inventory and site inspection at NAS Moffett Field. These species include the salt marsh harvest mouse and the California clapper rail. The California Natural Diversity Database identified two other species found in the vicinity; these species include the California least tern and the California brown pelican. Additional biological surveys have identified two candidate species at NAS Moffett Field: the western burrowing owl and the San Francisco forktail damsel fly.

Assessment of Impact

NASA and Onizuka AFB, as federal agencies, will continue to comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations protecting sensitive habitats and endangered species.

3.1.5 Wetlands

Existing Setting

There are no officially designated wetlands located on station at the present time, though a wetlands delineation is currently being conducted. Potential wetland areas on NAS Moffett Field property include stormwater retention ponds,

recreational ponds on the golf course, the eastern drainage ditch, Stevens Creek, and numerous freshwater to brackish to saline marsh habitats.

Assessment of Impact

NASA and Onizuka AFB, as federal agencies, will comply as required with all federal regulations governing wetlands. For this reason, and since the transfer will not involve changes in land use, potentially existing wetlands will not be affected.

3.1.6 Floodplains

Existing Setting

According to maps compiled by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the eastern portion of NAS Moffett Field will be inundated by 100-year tidal flooding, and a large portion would be affected by 100-year flooding along Stevens Creek.

Assessment of Impact

Continuation of existing land uses after the interagency transfer will not affect the floodplains.

3.1.7 Archeological Resources

Existing Setting

Various archeological surveys have been performed at NAS Moffett Field since the early 1970s. Ten archeological sites have been reported within the boundaries of NAS Moffett Field, including a complex, multicomponent shell mound, and the resting place of Lope Ynigo. A survey conducted by Basin Research (1991), however, resulted in a determination that the sites were so disturbed that it is unlikely any would qualify for listing on the National Register. These sites were occupied by the Costanoan people, the descendants of whom are the Ohlone Indian tribe.

Assessment of Impact

NASA and Onizuka AFB, as federal agencies, will comply as required with the National Historic Preservation Act and other federal regulations protecting archeological sites. For this reason, and since the transfer will not result in changes to land use, archeological resources will not be affected.

3.1.8 Historical Resources

Existing Setting

The central core area of the Station, including Hangars 1, 2, and 3, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as U.S. Naval Air Station Sunnyvale Historic District (24 February 1994). The historic district includes 43 contributing and 54 non-contributing buildings.

Assessment of Impact

NASA and Onizuka AFB, as federal agencies, are responsible for compliance with all federal preservation authorities. Transfer of this property to NASA or the air base will not change the protection provided by federal laws and regulations and, therefore, will not affect the historic characteristics that qualifies the district for inclusion in the National Register.

3.1.9 Paleontology

Existing Setting

No known paleontological resources exist at NAS Moffett Field.

Assessment of Impact

There are no known paleontological resources at the station.

3.1.10 Soils, Erosion, Hydrology

Existing Setting

Much of NAS Moffett Field and the surrounding area is highly urbanized. Soils at the surface or just below are clayey with moderate drainage. These soils tend to have a high shrink swell potential. Surface water resources in the vicinity of NAS Moffett Field include the San Francisco Bay, Stevens Creek, the Cargill salt evaporation ponds, and several local area recreational ponds including those located at the Navy golf course. Runoff at NAS Moffett Field is strictly controlled and exposed soils are either in agricultural production or landscaped to minimize soil erosion.

Assessment of Impact

These transfers will not change land use, geologic conditions will not affect soils, erosion, or hydrology. The potential for damage caused by seismic activity will not be affected by the transfers.

3.1.11 Seismic, Slope, Geological Concerns

Existing Setting

NAS Moffett Field is underlain by interfingering alluvial deposits from the surrounding Santa Cruz Mountains and fine-grained Bay Muds. The entire sequence is usually covered by five or more feet of artificial fill. Nearby major active faults include the San Andreas, the Hayward, and the Calaveras. Nearby potentially active faults include the Silver Creek and the Stanford Faults.

Assessment of Impact

Since these transfers will result in no change to land use, geologic conditions will not be affected. The potential for damage caused by seismic activity will not be affected by the transfers.

3.1.12 Water Quality

Existing Setting

Ground water quality is affected in shallow aquifers by saline connate water, salt-water intrusion, and generalized hydrocarbon and solvent contamination from NAS Moffett Field activities and from surrounding non-federal activities. An RI/FS is being conducted by the Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman (MEW) consortium of companies. This plume covers approximately eight square miles and has migrated onto the west side of NAS Moffett Field. A total of 291 wells have been placed to track ground water quality. The water from the shallow zone is not used as a source of drinking water, but the Regional Water Quality Control Board considers this a potential source of drinking water. The much deeper Santa Clara Formation is also a potential source of drinking water; however, all drinking water at NAS Moffett Field is supplied by the San Francisco Water Department's Hetch Hetchy aqueducts and not from ground water sources.

There are three major bodies of surface water near NAS Moffett Field: San Francisco Bay, Stevens Creek, and the Cargill salt evaporation ponds. Surface water quality is impacted by stormwater runoff from on-site and off-site activities.

Assessment of Impact

Per the Federal Facilities Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding, the Navy has retained responsibility for ensuring the ground water is remediated as directed by the regulating agencies. The transfer of NAS Moffett Field to NASA and NAS Moffett Field family housing units and associated facilities to Onizuka AFB will involve no changes to land use and will, therefore, not affect ground water resources or surface water resources.

3.1.13 Air Quality

Existing Setting

The entire San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin is designated a moderate non-attainment area for ozone. The urbanized portions of the Air Basin are also designated as a moderate non-attainment area for carbon monoxide. However, the Bay Area has two complete years, 1992 and 1993, with no excesses of the CO standard recorded at any of its air monitoring sites and the Bay Area has now begun the process of seeking attainment status for the national CO standard.

NAS Moffett Field has several facilities with permitted boilers, incinerators, paint spraying booths, and fueling equipment. The total permitted emissions in tons/year equal 2.00 for CO, 8.00 for Nox, and 46.00 for HC.

Assessment of Impact

The transfer will not affect air quality since NASA will assume the responsibility for monitoring the above emissions and renewing all appropriate permits. A federal-to-federal property transfer is exempt from the requirements of the EPA General Conformity Rule under 40 CFR Section 93.153(c)(2)(xx).

3.1.14 Hazardous Materials

Existing Setting

NAS Moffett Field has 19 established Installation Restoration Program sites grouped into four current Operable Units (OUs). Investigation of soil and ground water contamination by solvents, metals, and other contaminants is ongoing. A major solvent contaminant plume has migrated from off-site sources onto the base to commingle with known site plumes. In addition the station has 93 tanks or sumps, 128 PCB-containing transformers, 158 buildings with asbestos, and several sites with possible surface soil contamination.

Assessment of Impact

The Navy will continue to maintain responsibility for characterization and remediation of contaminated soils and ground water, as per the terms of the MOU and FFA. Asbestos and other hazardous materials also will be mitigated or remediated by the Navy to the extent agreed upon in the MOU and/or required by regulations.

3.1.15 Public Health and Safety

Existing Setting

NAS Moffett Field has mutual aid agreements with Santa Clara County for police protection and with the City of Mountain View for fire protection. In addition, the base is a regional coordination site for natural disasters, such as the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989.

Assessment of Impact

The transfer will not affect current mutual aid agreements or public health and safety. This mutual aid agreement will be assumed by NASA.

3.1.16 Dredge or Disposal Site Impacts

Existing Setting

There are no operational disposal sites or dredge spoil sites at NAS Moffett Field. Former landfills, operational in the 1940s through 1960s, are being investigated under the Navy Installation Restoration Program.

Assessment of Impact

The Navy maintains responsibility for investigations and remediation of the former landfill sites, as per the MOU and FFA.

3.1.17 Sediment Quality

Existing Setting

Sediments and soils throughout the base are locally contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons, solvents, PCBs, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, metals, and other contaminants. Characterization of these soils is continuing.

Assessment of Impact

The transfer will not affect the regulatory process, as the Navy retains responsibility per the terms of the MOU and FFA.

3.1.18 Land Use Changes

Existing Setting

Land use has remained consistent within the boundaries of the base proper and at the off-station housing. The base has facilities that have supported and operated two large landing strips for P-3 Orion submarine hunters. Surrounding land use zones, including Navy housing, have been developed with the existing consistent land uses in mind. Off-base family housing was constructed in existing residential neighborhoods.

Assessment of Impact

The transfer of the property to other federal agencies with no change in land use will have no affect.

3.1.19 Traffic, Circulation, Access

Existing Setting

Access to the base is through the north gate and the south gate via US Highway 101. The maximum peak traffic volume in 1990 was 1,166 vehicles for the peak hour between 3:30 and 4:30 PM. Historically, traffic circulation was congested at the main gate in the morning and afternoon depending on the security level in effect at the time. This traffic congestion has diminished significantly since drawdown and traffic queues at the main gate rarely exceed four or five cars. Other factors affecting traffic are identification checks, pedestrian traffic, and backups from the intersection of two major roadways with turning lanes.

Existing air traffic averages about 50 flights per day.

Assessment of Impact

The closure of NAS Moffett Field will significantly reduce Navy air traffic and vehicular traffic. Therefore, the transfer to NASA will reduce the existing volume of traffic.

3.1.20 Aesthetic, Visual

Existing Setting

The broad expanse of the station is visually broken by the unique Hangar 1 and to a lesser degree by Hangars 2 and 3. In addition, multiple examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture are located throughout the base, bounded by Hangar 1, Clark Road, and Westcoat Road.

Marshlands located between San Francisco Bay and the northeastern border of NAS Moffett Field provide a habitat for various species of plants and animals. In addition to these marshlands, wildlife feeding areas include the saltwater evaporation ponds located off-base adjacent to the bay and freshwater ponds in the Navy golf course.

The Navy golf course itself is situated on approximately 130 acres on the northeast side of the base.

Assessment of Impact

Transfer of the base to NASA and Onizuka AFB will not impact visual aesthetic resources.

3.1.21 Social Services

Existing Setting

The Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Department (MWR) at NAS Moffett Field provides recreational facilities and church services, and offers a variety of classes. Medical and dental services are offered to base personnel.

Assessment of Impact

Onizuka AFB and NASA accept responsibility for these services; therefore, there is no impact.

3.1.22 Community/Public Interest and Controversy

Existing Setting

Transferring of NAS Moffett Field to another federal agency will not generate controversy. NASA is preparing a Comprehensive Use Plan (CUP) for NAS Moffett Field and an associated environmental document for its reuse of the base. The CUP is conceptual in nature and proposes development to the year 2010.

Assessment of Impact

No controversy is expected for the transfer, therefore no impact is expected.

3.1.23 Regulatory Agencies

Existing Setting

Upon transfer to NASA and the Air Base, NAS Moffett Field will remain a federal facility and the regulatory framework will remain consistent. The US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) will be responsible for regulation of marshes. The California State Historic Preservation Office will continue to review projects for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. The USFWS, and where applicable California Fish and Game, will still be consulted regarding actions with the potential to adversely impact endangered and threatened species as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The US Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will continue to enforce CERCLA and RCRA regulations. The Santa Clara County Health Department will continue to be the local administering agency for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and underground storage tanks. The DTSC, San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) will continue to enforce the Clean Water Act. The regulatory framework for these and other existing laws will remain consistent.

Assessment of Impact

NASA and Onizuka AFB, as federal agencies, are required to comply with all state and federal laws and regulations and the Navy maintains responsibility for remediation to negotiated levels per the FFA. Thus, these transfers will not affect the regulatory process.

3.2 NALF CROWS LANDING

3.2.1 Vegetation

Existing Setting

Vegetation on the base is predominantly agricultural crops in outlease areas and landscaped grasses and ground cover in the developed areas. Vegetation in the wildlife pond, the drainage overflow area, the Little Salado Creek, and irrigation ditches include quail bush, willow, curly lock, cattail, blackberry, bull sedge, Johnson grass, rigput brome, oatgrass, vetch, and saltbush.

Assessment of Impact

The transfer will not change existing land use and, therefore, will not affect vegetation.

3.2.2 Wildlife

Existing Setting

Wildlife on the base includes jackrabbits, ground squirrels, opossums, mice, coyotes, skunks, raccoons, wrens, hawks, blackbirds, crows, and several species of reptiles and snakes. Burrowing owls have also been observed across the site. Although they are not threatened or endangered, burrowing owls are considered by the State of California as a "species of special concern."

Assessment of Impact

The transfer will not change existing land use and, therefore, will not affect wildlife.

3.2.3 Wildlife Habitat

Existing Setting

A former sewer pond was converted to a wildlife refuge (also known as the Boy Scout Use Area) in 1982. Other habitats include agricultural fields, annual streams, irrigation ditches, and developed land.

Assessment of Impact

NALF Crows Landing will remain a federal facility and the transfer will not change existing land use or affect wildlife habitat. All applicable federal and state laws and regulations protecting sensitive habitats and endangered species will continue to be implemented and complied with.

3.2.4 Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive Species

Existing Setting

There have been no documented sightings of endangered, threatened, or sensitive species at NALF Crows Landing. Recent wildlife surveys conducted by the USFWS confirmed the absence of such species as the giant garter snake and the

molestan blister beetle. The California Natural Diversity Data Base corroborates this conclusion.

Assessment of Impact

No endangered, threatened, or sensitive species have been sighted on base. If any were to be found, then their habitat would still be protected under the Endangered Species Act. All applicable federal and state laws and regulations protecting sensitive habitats and endangered species will continue to be implemented and complied with.

3.2.5 Wetlands

Existing Setting

Salado Creek, an annual creek, and the Boy Scout use area constitute possible wetland environments. A wetland delineation has not been done for NALF Crows Landing.

Assessment of Impact

NALF Crows Landing will remain a federal facility, and the transfer will not change existing land use and will not affect possible wetlands. If wetlands are defined at NALF Crows Landing, NASA, as a federal agency, complies with all required federal regulations governing wetlands.

3.2.6 Floodplains

Existing Setting

Floodplains are limited to seiche events along the Delta-Mendota Canal in response to seismic activity and to storm events along the channeled portion of Little Salado Creek.

Assessment of Impact

Transfer and reuse of the existing facilities will not substantially change land uses at the base, and, therefore, will not affect the potential for flooding.

3.2.7 Archeological Resources

Existing Setting

Generally, archeological deposits in the alluvial San Joaquin Valley are buried deeply below the ground surface. The land areas at NALF Crows Landing have been highly disturbed and much of the area is paved. It is not likely that archeological deposits would be found in these areas. An archeological survey on either side of Salado Creek was conducted and no archeological sites were found. Local residents have stated that a pioneer cemetery and schoolhouse once existed within the boundaries of NALF Crows Landing. The GLO plat maps from 1854 and 1856 do not show a cemetery within the boundaries of the station; however, the 1916 USGS map shows an unidentified structure within the boundaries.

Assessment of Impact

There are no known archeological resources at NALF Crows Landing; however, the potential for buried archeological deposits does exist. Should archaeological resources be discovered, NASA, as a federal agency, will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act and other federal regulations protecting cultural resources.

3.2.8 Historical Resources

Existing Setting

Of the 25 buildings at NALF Crows Landing, six were constructed prior to 1950. An inventory of all buildings was conducted in 1993 to determine if any might qualify for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). State inventory forms were completed and submitted to the State Historic Office of Preservation (SHPO) in July 1993. In consultation with the SHPO, it was determined that the buildings do not qualify for inclusion in the NRHP because of their altered appearance and setting.

Assessment of Impact

No historical resources are eligible for listing by the NRHP. NASA, as a federal agency, is required to comply with all federal regulations relating to historic resources.

3.2.9 Paleontology

Existing Setting

There are no known paleontological resources at NALF Crows Landing.

Assessment of Impact

There are no known paleontological resources at NALF Crows Landing. NASA, as a federal agency, will comply with any federal regulations regarding paleontological resources.

3.2.10 Soils, Erosion, Hydrology

Existing Setting

Three soil associations occur at NALF Crows Landing. The Vernalis and Zacharias Class I soils have excellent crop producing capability. The Myers soils are finer grained and have high shrink-swell capability. All soils have a high corrosivity rating and require over-irrigation to flush salts out of the root zone. Surface water resources include Salado Creek, the adjacent Delta-Mendota Canal, and potential wetland areas.

Assessment of Impact

The transfer will not change existing land use and will not affect soils, erosion potential, or hydrology.

3.2.11 Seismic, Slope, Geological Concerns

Existing Setting

NALF Crows Landing is underlain by Pleistocene nonmarine gravels, sands, silts, and clays derived from the erosion of the Diablo Ranges to the west. There are no known major active faults near the base, but some minor faults have been mapped within 20 miles of NALF Crows Landing. Ground shaking and settling may cause damage during moderate earthquakes from faults in the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Area.

Assessment of Impact

There are no significant seismic or landslide concerns at NALF Crows Landing, and existing land use will remain the same. The potential for damage caused by seismic activity will not be affected by the transfer.

3.2.12 Water Quality

Existing Setting

Water quality is degraded by elevated concentrations of naturally occurring boron, chloride, other salts, nitrates, chromium, total dissolved solids, and iron. These contaminants have been leached from the soil by crop irrigation. Agricultural pesticide use has resulted in elevated concentrations of diazinon, parathion, carbaryl, and carboturan in the San Joaquin River.

Assessment of Impact

The transfer will not change existing land use and will not further degrade water quality.

3.2.13 Air Quality

Existing Setting

The entire San Joaquin Valley Air Basin is designated a serious nonattainment area for PM₁₀ (dust) and ozone.

NALF Crows Landing had one active air permit for a fuel dispensing tank.

Assessment of Impact

The Navy has transferred the air permit to NASA. NASA will be responsible for renewing this permit and for obtaining any additional air quality permits, as needed. Therefore, the transfer will not impact air quality. A federal-to-federal property transfer is exempt from the requirements of the EPA General Conformity Rule under 40 CFR Section 93.153 (c)(2)(xx).

3.2.14 Hazardous Materials

Existing Setting

There are 16 confirmed underground storage tanks, eight of which have been removed. There are seven aboveground storage tanks, three of which have been removed, and a fourth which is scheduled for removal. There are 17 buildings with assumed asbestos, 12 transformers with PCB concentrations ranging from 50 to 500 ppm, and 13 buildings that used hazardous materials. Six installation

Restoration Program (IRP) sites have been identified on base to date and are currently under investigation.

Assessment of Impact

Land use will remain the same and the Navy will maintain responsibility for characterization and remediation of contaminated soils and ground water, as per the terms of the MOU. Thus, the transfer will not effect the regulatory clean up process.

3.2.15 Public Health and Safety

Existing Setting

The Navy maintains mutual aid agreements with the cities of Patterson, Newman, Westley, and Gustine for police and fire services.

Assessment of Impact

Upon transfer, NASA will continue to maintain mutual aid agreements; therefore, there will be no impacts to public health and safety.

3.2.16 Dredge or Disposal Site Impacts

Existing Setting

There are no dredge disposal sites on base. The cantonment area, where solid waste was disposed of from the 1960s to 1982, was characterized in 1991. Soil and water concentrations of contamination, with one exception, were attributed to normal background levels.

Assessment of Impact

There are no dredge or disposal sites. The transfer will not affect the Navy's ongoing investigation of the cantonment area.

3.2.17 Sediment Quality

Existing Setting

Sediments and soils at NALF Crows Landing are locally contaminated by fuels and solvents, and in the agricultural outlease area soils may be contaminated by

pesticides. However, soil quality is adequate for continued agricultural production except in areas defined as UST or IRP sites.

Regionally, the San Joaquin River is affected by sediment-borne contaminants. Creeks and agricultural drains convey irrigation runoff and sediment to the San Joaquin River. The primary source of sediment reaching the San Joaquin River comes from eroded soil on furrow irrigated cropland. Irrigation induced erosion occurs at the station due to the very fine textured soils. These soils may be washed into the Little Salado Creek and may contribute to this regional problem. Sedimentation does occur on the west side of the runway, where the Little Salado Creek drainage capacity is reduced resulting in short-term flooding.

Assessment of Impact

Agricultural outleasings will continue and existing land use will not change, therefore the transfer will not further degrade soil or sediment quality.

3.2.18 Land Use Changes

Existing Setting

The type of land use has been consistent since NALF Crows Landing was commissioned in 1943. The level of operations and the number of personnel has fluctuated in response to military need and some of the original structures have been demolished or renovated.

Assessment of Impact

The transfer of the property will not change existing land use and will have no effect.

3.2.19 Traffic, Circulation, Access

Existing Setting

Access to the base is via US Highway 5 and Bell Road. Navy activity at the base has steadily decreased, resulting in minimal air and ground traffic.

Assessment of Impact

The transfer will cause no change in vehicular circulation or traffic patterns and no change in air access to the runways. Therefore, there will be no effect on traffic or circulation or air access to the runways.

3.2.20 Aesthetic/Visual

Existing Setting

NALF Crows Landing is situated in an agricultural area with no historical points of interest, landmarks, or monuments within visible range.

Assessment of Impact

The transfer will not change existing land use and therefore will not affect aesthetic resources of the base or the rural agricultural appearance of the surrounding area.

3.2.21 Social Services

Existing Setting

When active the base provided minimal recreational facilities and medical/dental services to the military individuals stationed there. All Navy services ceased in 1993.

Assessment of Impact

There will be no recreational or medical/dental services on the base. NASA has no requirement for these types of services; therefore, no impact will be associated with the transfer.

3.2.22 Community/Public Interest & Controversy

Existing Setting

No public controversy is anticipated.

Assessment of Impact

NALF Crows Landing will remain a federal facility; thus the transfer will not change existing land use and is not expected to generate public controversy.

3.2.23 Regulatory Agencies

Existing Setting

Upon transfer to NASA, Nalf Crows Landing will remain a federal facility and the regulatory framework will remain consistent. The COE will continue to regulate potential wetlands and other regulatory agencies will continue to enforce applicable regulations.

Assessment of Impact

NASA, as a federal agency, complies with all federal regulations and laws and therefore the transfer will not impact the regulatory process.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Pursuant to the Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, the transfer of NAS Moffett Field and NALF Crows Landing to NASA and NAS Moffett Field military family housing units and associated facilities to Onizuka AFB will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts nor will be controversial. We therefore conclude that this transfer of real property between federal agencies is categorically excluded from NEPA under OPNAVINST 5090.1A, Paragraph 5-4.2 (19), and that additional environmental documentation is not required.