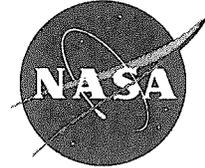


National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000



Reply to Attn of:

QE:218-1

JUN 14 2001

Ms. Andrea Muckerman
U.S. Navy, SouthWestDiv
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 94105

Dear Andrea:

This letter is in response to your request about NASA's flood control projects and plans, in regards to preventing flood waters from entering the Cargill salt ponds north of the Northern Channel.

Please be advised that upon investigation of this situation with our Plant Engineering Branch, who were on the front lines piling sand bags on the levee, and deploying auxiliary pumps during the floods in 1998, it was Cargill's pond that overflowed into the Northern Channel, not the other way around. NASA strives to keep the runoff pumped from the Northern Channel during a storm event. However, the pumps may not be able to keep up if the Cargill ponds are overflowing into the Northern Channel, and the receiving waters downstream from the Lockheed pump station are also backing up due to flooding.

NASA has taken the following steps since the floods of 1998:

Structural Controls

Since the flooding in 1998, NASA has raised the levee between the North Patrol Road Ditch and the Northern Channel, from Bldg. 191 to Marriage Road Ditch. This increases the storage capacity in the North Patrol Road Ditch, and prevents the water in the Northern Channel from flowing back into the North Patrol Road Ditch.

Operational Controls

Since the flooding in 1998, NASA has acquired additional portable pumps that would be placed adjacent to the Lockheed pumping station when the water level in the Northern Channel gets within 1 foot of the top of the levee.

NASA has also acquired a sand bag machine. We would begin making sand bags when the water level in the Northern Channel gets within 1 foot of the top of the levee. Sand bags would be placed on the levee between the Northern Channel and the North Patrol Road Ditch and between the North Patrol Road Ditch and the NASA Golf Course.

Contingency

If for some reason, the Northern Channel were to begin to overflow into the Cargill pond, NASA would place sandbags on the levee between the Northern Channel and the Cargill pond, provided that: 1) Cargill would provide full access to NASA, and 2) Cargill had maintained the levee to support a 2 axle vehicle with a 1 ton payload capacity.

If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at 650-604-3355.

Sincerely,



Sandy Olliges

Chief, Environmental Services Office