

# Agenda Report

September 24, 2001

**TO:** City Council  
**THROUGH:** Municipal Services Committee  
**FROM:** City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Authorize the General Manager of Pasadena Water and Power to Enter into a License Agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for Accessing City Properties

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the General Manager of Pasadena Water and Power to enter into a license agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for accessing City properties for groundwater monitoring.

## BACKGROUND

In October 1992, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) was declared a Superfund site. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was assigned the role to oversee the cleanup process. As a result of contaminants in the groundwater in the Arroyo Seco, groundwater monitoring is required for the cleanup process.

In June 1997, Perchlorate, a chemical used in rocket propellant, was discovered in both the soil and groundwater in the Arroyo Seco. Also, in June 1997, waters pumped from the Arroyo Well contained concentrated levels of Perchlorate exceeding the recommended action levels established by the State of California Department of Health Services. As a result of high levels of Perchlorate, Arroyo Well was taken out of service. A new site is required to replace the Arroyo Well. Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) staff has proposed three potential sites to construct the replacement well. Each of the three sites is owned by PWP.

The license agreement will permit NASA personnel to enter two of the three proposed sites and Arroyo Well for gathering groundwater samples; to establish the terms and conditions of use of Water Division facilities; and to delineate liability issues. Each of the sites is secured from public access and requires a PWP access key for entry.

MEETING OF 9/24/2001

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.B.1.

NASA would like to conduct groundwater monitoring at two of the three proposed sites, and at Arroyo Well for the following reasons:

1. When the cleanup operation begins, it will require continuous groundwater monitoring and testing for quality assurance. The proposed sites are ideal candidates for gathering groundwater samples.
2. Prior to constructing the replacement well, the quality of groundwater will be tested for contaminants. This requires extracting groundwater for monitoring and testing.

NASA's work plan for the groundwater monitoring indicates no physical alteration to PWP's properties. The license agreement will be for an eight-year term. NASA will assume the entire cost to conduct the groundwater monitoring and testing, including the cost to properly dispose of water samples collected.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

There is no cost to the City for granting the license agreement. Any nominal cost to PWP for administrating the license agreement will be provided for in the Water Division's Fiscal Year Operating Budget, Account 8005-402-881000-01-0741-06717.

Respectfully submitted,

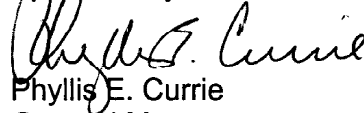
  
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