**LA CANADA VALLEY SUN**
**November 24, 2005**

# Water Cleanup Plan Discussed

BY CHARLES COOPER

NASA will begin drafting plans soon for a $1 million water cleanup project adjacent to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the project director said Friday.

Steve Slaten said the agency will issue an official record of decision (ROD) on the project in about six months, with the work to begin after that.

About 20 people attended a meeting last week in Altadena to discuss the new cleanup effort. Slaten said no new issues were raised at the Nov. 16 meeting.

The space agency is planning to spend about $1 million to drill two additional wells to deal with perchlorate in groundwater near the lab in La Cañada.

Perchlorate is connected to solid rocket propellant, and was a part of JPL's work in the 1940s and 1950s. The chemical has been associated with thyroid damage.

Cleanup efforts have been underway near JPL since 1992, first for volatile organic chemicals and now for perchlorate. Two wells have been drilled near the lab and a treatment plant built, to pump out contaminated water and return processed water. The new project will double that effort.

NASA has also worked on cleanup efforts for Lincoln Avenue Water, in Altadena, and will soon begin developing a plan to deal with issues raised by the city of Pasadena. At one time, Pasadena had as many as nine wells closed because of concerns over perchlorate.

The water flows to wells serving Altadena and Pasadena, but is not part of any wells serving La Cañada.