

GROUNDWATER MONITORING REPORT JULY 2002

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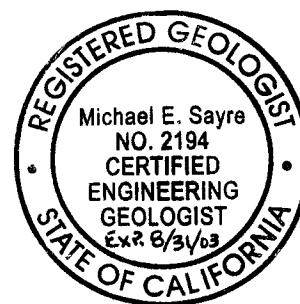
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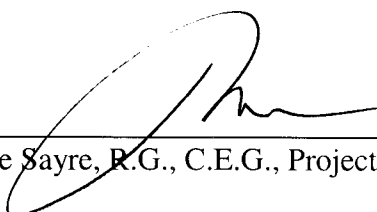
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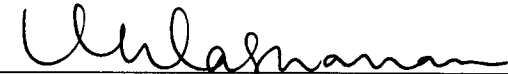


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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

1,1-DCA	1,1-Dichloroethane
1,2-DCA	1,2-Dichloroethane
1,1-DCE	1,1-Dichloroethene
AL	Drinking Water Action Level
APCL	Applied Physics and Chemistry Laboratory
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
CCl ₄	Carbon Tetrachloride
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
ClO ₄ ⁻	Perchlorate
Cr	Chromium
Cr (VI)	Hexavalent Chromium
DLR	Detection Limit for the Purposes of Reporting
DQOs	Data Quality Objectives
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substance Control
EPA	(United States) Environmental Protection Agency
gpm	Gallons per Minute
JPL	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
LDC	Laboratory Data Consultants, Inc.
MCLs	Maximum Contaminant Levels
µg/L	Micrograms per Liter
mg/L	Milligrams per Liter
mL	Milliliter
MS	Matrix Spikes
MSD	Matrix Spike Duplicates
MW	Monitoring Well
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
OU	Operable Unit
PCE	Tetrachloroethene
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
RWQCB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board
SOTA	SOTA Environmental Technology, Inc.
TCE	Trichloroethene
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds
Westbay	Westbay Instruments, Inc.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of the July 2002 groundwater sampling event completed as part of the groundwater monitoring program at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), performed under contract with Naval Facilities Engineering Command. During this sampling event, conducted from July 1 through July 26, 2002, groundwater samples were collected from 20 JPL monitoring wells, and analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), perchlorate, and metals (total chromium and hexavalent chromium).

All data collected were subject to data verification and all laboratory analytical data were validated pursuant to the Navy's Level IV quality assurance requirements. Some of the analytical data were qualified (i.e., flagged) based on data validation reviews, in accordance with applicable EPA guidelines. No data were rejected for non-compliance with method requirements during the course of validation and no data were qualified as unusable.

During the July 2002 event, three volatile organic compounds (carbon tetrachloride, trichloroethene, and tetrachloroethene) were reported at concentrations above State Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for drinking water in samples from one or more monitoring wells. Detection concentrations of these compounds above the MCLs have been, and continue to be, generally limited to the JPL facility in Aquifer Layer 1. The carbon tetrachloride plume has migrated southeast of JPL in Aquifer Layers 2 and 3, with concentrations at two off-facility wells and municipal production wells exceeding the MCL. No samples collected from Aquifer Layer 3 contained trichloroethene concentrations exceeding the MCL and only one on-facility well sample exceeded the MCL in Aquifer Layer 2. Tetrachloroethene concentrations exceeding the MCL were only reported in Aquifer Layer 1 at one on-facility well, were not reported in any samples collected from Aquifer Layer 2, and have been consistently reported in Aquifer Layer 3 only at one off-facility well located cross gradient of JPL.

Perchlorate was reported in July 2002 samples at concentrations exceeding the Detection Limit for the Purposes of Reporting (DLR) and State Action Level in six on-facility wells and two off-facility wells located south and east of JPL. Perchlorate concentrations exceeding the DLR appear generally limited to the JPL facility in Aquifer Layer 1, but appear to have migrated off-facility in Aquifer Layers 2 and 3. Perchlorate concentrations reported in samples from the up gradient wells have generally increased over the last two years, although they decreased for the first time since April 2001 at the farthest up gradient wells (MW-7 and MW-16). In this event, perchlorate was not detected in Aquifer Layer 3 at the farthest down gradient well where it had been reported at a concentration above the DLR in April 2002. However, drinking water data reported in July 2002 indicated that six municipal production wells located down gradient of JPL contained perchlorate concentrations exceeding the DLR.

The total and hexavalent chromium results were generally consistent with the previous groundwater monitoring results. Total chromium was detected in all eighteen wells sampled, but did not exceed the State MCL at any well. Hexavalent chromium, was only detected at one well (MW-13) and that was at a concentration below the State MCL. No Federal MCL has been established for hexavalent chromium.

During the July 2002 event, water levels dropped in all of wells, from roughly 3 feet to over 7 feet, compared to the April/May 2002 measurements. The measured water level decreases, which are typical during the summer, are likely due to limited recharge during the dry season along with continued groundwater pumpage at nearby municipal production wells. Groundwater gradient maps prepared using the July 2002 water level measurements indicated groundwater gradients and flow directions which were generally consistent with previous observations (i.e., flow directed primarily to the south-southwest through the eastern portion of JPL and to the east-southeast in the southwest portion of JPL, Arroyo, and plain).

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results from the July 2002 groundwater sampling event completed as part of the Groundwater Monitoring Program currently being conducted at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). This work is being performed by SOTA Environmental Technology, Inc. (SOTA) under contract with Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Contract No. N68711-98-D-5537 D.O. No. 0012-10. The JPL Monitoring Program was initiated in 1996 in response to a request from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The program began during the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Remedial Investigation of on-facility and off-facility groundwater at JPL.

The July 2002 groundwater monitoring event was conducted in accordance with the sampling program that was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), and California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The purpose of the program is to monitor the elevation, flow direction, and quality of the groundwater beneath and adjacent to the JPL site.

Twenty-four wells have been installed for use in the JPL groundwater monitoring program. Nineteen of the JPL monitoring wells (MW-1 through MW-16 and MW-22 through MW-24) are on-facility wells and five are off-facility wells (MW-17 through MW-21). The JPL monitoring well locations are shown in Figure 1-1.

Thirteen of the JPL monitoring wells (MW-3, MW-4, MW-11, MW-12, MW-14, and MW-17 through MW-24) are deep wells, each equipped with a Westbay Instruments, Inc. (Westbay) multi-port casing system containing five screened intervals. Eleven of the monitoring wells are relatively shallow standpipe wells, each containing a single screened interval located just below the water table (MW-1, MW-2, MW-5 through MW-10, MW-13, MW-15, and MW-16). A summary of well construction details for the JPL groundwater monitoring wells is provided in Table 1-1.

During the July 2002 event, SOTA personnel collected samples from all JPL monitoring wells except on-facility wells MW-1, MW-2, MW-9, and MW-15. Shallow well MW-2 has not been sampled since it was replaced with deep multi-port well MW-14 as a JPL sampling point. Wells MW-1, MW-9, and MW-15 were not sampled during this event in accordance with the sampling program that was previously approved by the EPA, DTSC, and RWQCB.

Water levels were measured each of the JPL groundwater monitoring wells, except MW-7, prior to sampling (July 1, 2002) and after sampling (July 26, 2002) to evaluate groundwater flow directions and gradients. Water levels were not measured at MW-7 before or after sampling activities due to wellhead access restrictions associated with the pilot test being conducted by others.

JPL groundwater monitoring wells MW-3 through MW-8, MW-10 through MW-14, and MW-16 through MW-24 were sampled from July 2 through July 25, 2002. All of the JPL groundwater samples were shipped to Applied Physics and Chemistry Laboratory (APCL) in Chino,

California, for chemical analysis. APCL is certified by the California Department of Health Services and approved for use by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) program. Sample collection procedures and sample analysis were conducted by SOTA in accordance with the Work Plan for Performing a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (Ebasco, 1993a), which was approved by the regulatory agencies.

In addition to groundwater samples, field quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) samples, including trip blanks, equipment blanks, duplicate samples, and a field blank were collected for laboratory analyses. Sampling records for each shallow well and field data sheets for deep multi-port wells are included in Appendix A. Laboratory analytical reports and associated chain-of-custody forms are included in Appendix B, and data validation reports are provided in Appendix C. Piezometric pressure profiling records for each deep multi-port well are included in Appendix D.

2.0 FIELD SAMPLING PROCEDURES

Field sampling activities were performed in general accordance with the OU-1 Field Sampling and Analysis Plan (Ebasco, 1993b). Two different procedures were used to collect of groundwater samples at JPL, one designed for the shallow wells and the other for the deep multi-port wells. These procedures are outlined below.

2.1 Shallow Monitoring Wells

The sampling procedure described below was applied to all the shallow JPL monitoring wells, including MW-5, MW-6, MW-8, MW-10, MW-13, and MW-16.

The primary equipment used to sample the shallow wells included dedicated 2-inch diameter Grundfos Redi-Flo2[®] pumps, a pump controller, and a 220-volt generator. All of the dedicated Grundfos Redi-Flo2[®] pump systems were previously decontaminated prior to their permanent installation, as outlined in the OU-1 Field Sampling and Analysis Plan (Ebasco, 193b).

Prior to sample collection, the water in each shallow well casing was purged (by pumping at about 2.5 gpm) to remove groundwater that may have been exposed to the atmosphere and thus may not be representative of undisturbed aquifer conditions. This purged groundwater was discharged into 500 or 1,000-gallon polyethylene storage tanks for subsequent disposal by SOTA in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations.

The temperature, pH, electrical conductivity, and turbidity of the water removed from each well were monitored during purging for stabilization. Calibration, or standardization of the field instruments used to measure temperature, pH, electrical conductivity, and turbidity, was performed according to the manufacturer's specifications at the beginning of each sampling day. When two successive measurements made approximately 5 minutes apart were within 10 percent of each other, groundwater samples were collected using the dedicated pump.

During sampling for VOCs, the pumping rate was reduced to minimize sample agitation and volatilization. All sample bottles were filled completely without overflowing, capped, labeled, and immediately placed in a cooler with ice. Samples collected for VOCs had zero headspace. All information concerning sampling was noted on the Well Development/Well Sampling Log forms included in Appendix A.

A groundwater sample was collected from shallow well MW-7 on May 1, 2002. The sampling procedure for this well was generally the same as for the other shallow wells, with the following exceptions:

- 1) A 3-1/2" diameter submersible pump was installed at well MW-7 for use with pilot testing that was/is being conducted by others. This dedicated pump was used for purging and sampling at MW-7.

- 2) Due to the pilot system installation, the wellhead at MW-7 was not accessible for water level measurements. Based on previous measurements, the water level in the well was estimated to calculate the appropriate volume of water that needed to be purged prior to sampling.

2.2 Deep Multi-Port Monitoring Wells

Sampling of the deep multi-port monitoring wells at JPL required specialized sampling equipment manufactured by Westbay. This equipment included a pressure profiling/sampling probe with a surface control unit. To ensure proper use, field personnel using this equipment were trained by Westbay personnel. Copies of the detailed operations manuals for the Westbay pressure profiling/sampling probe are included in the OU-1 and OU-3 Field Sampling and Analysis Plans (Ebasco, 1993b; 1994).

The Westbay sampling probe and sample-collection bottles were decontaminated prior to sampling each screened interval in the deep multi-port wells according to the following procedures:

- Each 250-mL stainless-steel sample-collection bottle was washed in a solution of non-phosphate detergent (Liquinox[®]) and distilled water, followed by a solution of an acidic detergent (Citranox[®]) and distilled water.
- Each bottle was rinsed with distilled water.
- The interior surfaces of the Westbay sampling probe, and the hoses and valves associated with the Westbay sample bottles were decontaminated by forcing several volumes of a solution of Liquinox[®] and distilled water through them, followed by forcing several volumes of a solution of Citranox[®] and distilled water. A final rinse with distilled water was carried out. Each of these decontamination procedures was completed using clean plastic spray bottles used only for this purpose.

Purging before sampling was not required in the deep multi-port monitoring wells because the groundwater sample was collected directly from the aquifer, thus ensuring that the groundwater sample was not exposed to the atmosphere. However, at each screened interval, an initial sample was collected in order to check temperature, pH, electrical conductivity, and turbidity in the field. Samples for laboratory analysis were then collected and transferred to sample containers as described in Section 2.1. Results of the field analyses were recorded on groundwater sampling field data sheets, which are included in Appendix A. Calibration of field instruments was carried out according to procedures described previously.

2.3 Field Quality Assurance/Quality Control Samples

Field QA/QC samples were collected to verify the quality of sampling procedures. The field QA/QC program included the collection of duplicate samples, equipment blanks, trip blanks, and source blanks. Laboratory QA/QC samples were used by the laboratory according to analytical method requirements.

Duplicate samples for VOCs, metals, and perchlorate analyses were collected from one shallow monitoring well (MW-13) and five deep multi-port monitoring wells: MW-3 (Screen 4), MW-12 (Screen 3), MW-14 (Screen 4), MW-20 (Screen 4), and MW-22 (Screen 3).

Matrix-Spike (MS) and Matrix-Spike Duplicate (MSD) samples were collected for 10% of samples that were analyzed for VOCs, perchlorate, and metals. These samples were used for laboratory QA/QC requirements.

One equipment blank was collected during each day of sampling the deep multi-port wells to identify potential cross-contamination due to inadequate sampling equipment decontamination. Because only dedicated sampling equipment was used, equipment blanks were not collected during sampling of the shallow wells. The equipment blanks consisted of distilled water that was passed through a stainless-steel Westbay sample collection bottle after decontamination. The equipment blanks were analyzed for the same constituents as the groundwater samples.

A trip blank, consisting of ASTM Type II water placed in two 40-mL glass vials by the laboratory, was transported with the empty sample bottles to the field and back to the laboratory with the groundwater samples. One trip blank was submitted for VOC analysis with each shipment of groundwater samples to the laboratory. Trip blanks were used to identify potential cross-contamination of groundwater samples during transport.

During this sampling event, one source blank was collected to evaluate whether the source water or sample containers may have affected the analytical results. The source blank, consisting of sample bottles filled with distilled water, was analyzed for VOCs.

3.0 ANALYTICAL RESULTS

The groundwater samples collected during this sampling event were analyzed for the following:

- Volatile Organic Compounds by EPA Method 524.2
- Total Chromium (Cr) by EPA Method 200.8
- Hexavalent Chromium [Cr(VI)] by EPA Method 7196
- Perchlorate (ClO_4^-) by CADHS/EPA Method 314.0

A summary of the samples collected and the analyses performed on each sample is presented in Table 3-1. Analytical laboratory reports and associated chain-of-custody forms are included in Appendix B.

The aquifer beneath JPL was divided into four aquifer layers based primarily on correlations interpreted from lithologic cross sections (Foster Wheeler, 2000). Table 3-2 provides a list of the JPL Westbay monitoring well screens and their corresponding aquifer layers. These divisions were used to prepare contour maps for carbon tetrachloride (CCl_4), trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), and perchlorate (ClO_4^-) concentrations reported during this event in each aquifer layer, which are presented in Figures 3-1 through 3-12.

3.1 Volatile Organic Compounds

Groundwater samples collected during the July 2002 sampling event were analyzed for over 60 different VOCs in accordance with EPA Method 524.2. Results of the analyses for VOCs in the July 2002 samples are summarized in Table 3-3 along with the State and Federal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for drinking water as listed in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations and in the EPA Health Advisory Guidelines. The VOC results compiled from the long-term sampling events that have been completed to date are summarized in Table 3-4.

Nine chemicals have been most commonly reported with concentrations above the laboratory detection limits [CCl_4 , TCE, PCE, 1,1-dichloroethane (1,1-DCA), 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA), 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE), Freon 113, chloroform, and ClO_4^-]. The concentrations of these compounds versus time were plotted, if at any time they exceeded their respective MCL in the period from August/September 1996 through July 2002. The plots are presented in Figures 3-13 through 3-63.

A small number of compounds were detected in the JPL samples collected during the July 2002 event, and three VOCs [carbon tetrachloride, TCE, and PCE] were found in one or more wells at concentrations that exceeded State and/or Federal MCLs. The concentrations of carbon tetrachloride, TCE, and PCE detected in each aquifer layer were contoured on site maps to show the spatial distribution of each constituent (Figures 3-1 through 3-9). The analytical results for compounds that exceeded MCLs are discussed below.

- Concentrations of carbon tetrachloride equal to or exceeding the State MCL (0.5 µg/L) were reported in samples from six of the 15 on-facility wells sampled (MW-7, MW-8, MW-12 Screens 3, 4, and 5, MW-13, MW-16, and MW-24 Screens 1 and 2) and two of the five off-facility wells (MW-17 Screen 3 and MW-18 Screen 4). The highest concentrations of carbon tetrachloride were reported in well MW-7 (70.7 µg/l) and well MW-24 Screen 1 (21.6 µg/l).
- Tetrachloroethene was detected in eight of the 15 on-facility wells sampled (MW-4, MW-6, MW-7, MW-10, MW-14, MW-22, MW-23 and MW-24), and in four of the five off-facility wells (all except MW-20). The State and Federal MCL (5.0 µg/L) was exceeded only in on-facility well MW-7 (7.6 µ/L), and off-facility well MW-21 (6.2 µg/L in Screen 4 and 15.1 µg/l in Screen 5).
- Trichloroethene was detected in 12 of the 15 on-facility wells sampled (all except MW-6, MW-8, and MW-11), and four of the five off-facility wells (all except MW-20). Reported TCE concentrations exceeded the State and Federal MCL (5.0 µg/L) in four on-facility wells (MW-7, MW-10, MW-14 Screen 2, and MW-24 Screens 1 and 2) and one off-facility well (MW-21 Screen 1). The highest concentrations of TCE were reported in samples from on-facility well MW-10 (8.4 µg/L) and off-facility well MW-21 Screen 1 (12.0 µg/L).

Additional data regarding VOC concentrations in samples collected from the municipal production wells near JPL were obtained from the California Department of Health Services Drinking Water Program. The most recently available analytical results were compiled for samples collected from 15 municipal and private drinking water wells owned and operated by the City of Pasadena, La Canada Irrigation District, Lincoln Ave. Water Company, Valley Water Company, Rubio Canon Land & Water Company, and Las Flores Water Company. The most recent production well data, summarized in Table 3-5 and utilized in the preparation of the concentration contour maps for CCl₄, PCE, and TCE in Figures 3-1 through 3-9, indicate the following:

- CCl₄ concentrations were reported above the MCL at the City of Pasadena Well #52 in July 2002. Though not recently sampled, CCl₄ concentrations have previously been reported in above the MCL at the City of Pasadena Arroyo Well (February 1998).
- PCE concentrations were reported above the MCL at the Las Flores Water Company Well #2 in July 2002. Though not recently sampled, PCE concentrations have previously been reported above the MCL at Valley Water Company Wells #1, #2, and #4 (October 2001).
- Though not recently sampled, TCE concentrations were reported above the MCL at Lincoln Avenue Water Company Well #3 (September 2001).

3.2 Perchlorate

Perchlorate (ClO₄⁻) is among the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring (Title 22, California Code of Regulations §64450). It is "unregulated" because it has no MCL. For

contaminants found in drinking water that lack MCLs, the California Department of Health Services (DHS) uses advisory action levels (ALs) to protect consumers from their adverse health effects. On January 18, 2002, DHS reduced the perchlorate AL (from the previous Interim Action Level of 18 µg/L) to 4 µg/L, which corresponds to the current detection limit for purposes of reporting (DLR) and the level at which DHS is confident about the quantitation of the contaminant in drinking water.

Perchlorate analyses were conducted on groundwater samples from the July 2002 event using ion chromatography (EPA 314.0 modified) and the results are summarized in Table 3-3. Perchlorate was detected at concentrations exceeding the AL in seven on-facility wells (MW-5, MW-7, MW-8, MW-10, MW-13, MW-16, and MW-24 Screens 1 and 2) and two off-facility wells (MW-18 Screen 4 and MW-21 Screen 1). The highest levels of perchlorate were reported in samples from MW-7 (2590 µg/l), MW-16 (1510 µg/l), and MW-24 (1230 µg/l in Screen 1). The July 2002 perchlorate concentrations, contoured for each of the three aquifer layers, are presented in Figures 3-10, 3-11, and 3-12.

Additional data regarding perchlorate concentrations in samples collected from the fifteen municipal production wells near JPL were obtained from the California Department of Health Services Drinking Water Program. The most recently available analytical results were compiled for samples collected from municipal and private drinking water wells owned and operated by the City of Pasadena, La Canada Irrigation District, Lincoln Ave. Water Company, Valley Water Company, Rubio Canon Land & Water Company, and Las Flores Water Company. The most recent database contained new results (July 2002) for perchlorate at three City of Pasadena Wells (Well #52, Ventura Well, and Windsor Well) and Las Flores Water Company Well #2, all of which exceeded the DLR/AL (4 µg/L). Previously, perchlorate was reported above the DLR/AL at Lincoln Avenue Water Company Well #5 in December 2001, and Valley Water Company Wells #1 through #4 in October 2001. The most recent drinking water data are summarized in Table 3-5 and presented in the concentration contour maps in Figures 3-10 through 3-12.

3.3 Metals

Groundwater samples collected during the July 2002 event were analyzed for total chromium and hexavalent chromium. The results of the metals analyses are presented in Table 3-6. Table 3-7 presents a summary of metals data from all quarterly sampling events completed to date during the long-term monitoring program. The July 2002 metals results are summarized below.

- Total chromium was detected in all eighteen wells sampled, but did not exceed the State MCL (0.05 mg/L) at any well. The total chromium concentrations reported ranged from 0.001 to 0.027 mg/l with the highest concentrations reported at on-facility wells MW-8 and MW-13.
- Hexavalent chromium was detected only in on-facility well MW-13 and off-facility well mw-18 Screen 3, at a concentration of 0.010 mg/L. No Federal MCL has been established for hexavalent chromium. Hexavalent chromium is currently regulated by the State under the MCL for total chromium (0.05 mg/L).

3.4 Quality Assurance/Quality Control

Review of the QA/QC data provided with the laboratory analytical results indicates that all of the analytical results obtained from July 2002 samples are acceptable for their intended use of characterizing aquifer quality. Surrogate compound, matrix and blank spike, and method blank results were used by the laboratory to determine the accuracy and precision of the analytical techniques with respect to the JPL groundwater matrix, and to identify anomalous results due to laboratory contamination or instrument malfunction. In addition to laboratory QA/QC samples, SOTA personnel collected QA/QC samples in the field in general accordance with Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (Ebasco, 1993c). The field QA/QC samples included duplicate samples, equipment rinsate blanks, trip blanks, and a source blank.

Duplicate samples were used to evaluate the precision of the laboratory analyses. Duplicate samples for VOCs, metals, and perchlorate analyses were collected from one shallow monitoring well (MW-13) and five deep multi-port monitoring wells; MW-3 (Screen 4), MW-12 (Screen 3), MW-14 (Screen 4), MW-20 (Screen 4), and MW-22 (Screen 3). All of the analytical results for the duplicate samples, presented in Table 3-3 and Table 3-6, were comparable to the results of the original groundwater samples.

Equipment rinsate blanks were collected each day non-dedicated sampling equipment was used. The equipment rinsate blanks, consisting of distilled water run through the sampling equipment after decontamination, were analyzed for all contaminants of concern to monitor possible cross-contamination of samples due to inadequate decontamination. No contaminants were detected in any of the equipment rinsate blanks.

Trip blanks were used to help identify cross-contamination of groundwater samples during transport and/or deficiencies in the laboratory bottle cleaning and sample handling procedures. A laboratory-prepared trip blank, consisting of reagent-grade water placed in VOA vials and transported with the sample bottles to the field, was submitted to the laboratory with each daily shipment of groundwater samples for VOC analysis. No VOCs were detected in any trip blanks except that, trace methylene chloride was detected in trip blanks TB-3, TB-12, TB-15, TB-16 with detentions below laboratory reporting limit in three of them (i.e., TB-3, TB-12, and TB-15).

One source blank and one field blank were collected during this sampling event, consisting of sample bottles filled with the distilled water used for decontamination and equipment rinsate blanks. The source blank and field blank were analyzed for VOCs and used to evaluate the influence of ambient conditions or sample containers on the analytical results. No VOCs were detected in the source blank or the field blank.

4.0 DATA VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION

The purpose of data verification and validation is to assure that the data collected meet the data quality objectives (DQOs) outlined in the Quality Assurance Project Plan of the Groundwater Monitoring Plan (Ebasco, 1993c). The process is intended to ensure that the data are of sufficient quality for use in meeting the objectives outlined in the Groundwater Monitoring Plan.

4.1 Data Verification

All data collected were subjected to data verification. In general, verification identifies non-technical errors in the data package that can be corrected (e.g., typographical errors). Data verification included proofreading and editing hard-copy data reports to assure that data correctly represent the analytical measurement. Data verification also included verifying that the sample identifiers on laboratory reports (hard copy) matched those on the chain-of-custody record.

4.2 Data Validation

Data validation was performed by an independent subcontractor, Laboratory Data Consultants, Inc., Carlsbad, CA (LDC). One hundred percent of all data analyzed by a fixed-base analytical laboratory (APCL) were validated. One hundred percent of the data were subjected to Level IV quality assurance requirements of the Navy (Navy, 1996 and Navy, 1999). The data were further evaluated to help ensure suitability and usability for the purpose of the groundwater monitoring report.

Data validation is a systematic process that is used to interpret, define, and document analytical data quality and determine whether the data quality is sufficient to support the intended use(s) of the data. Validation of a data package includes reconstruction of sample preparation, analysis of the raw data, reconciliation of the raw data with the reduced results, identification of data anomalies, and qualification of data to identify data usability limitations.

4.3 Data Validation Qualifiers

Analytical data were qualified based on data validation reviews. For chemical data, qualifiers were assigned in accordance with the applicable USEPA National Functional Guidelines for Data Validation (EPA, 1994a and 1994b). Individual laboratory data flags can be found in Appendix C. No data were rejected for non-compliance with method requirements during the course of validation.

5.0 WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENTS

Water level measurements were recorded before the sampling event on July 1, 2002, and after the sampling event on July 26, 2002, to evaluate groundwater flow directions and gradients beneath and adjacent to JPL. Water levels in the shallow wells were measured using a Solinst® water level meter. In the deep multi-port wells, the hydraulic head at each sampling port was measured with a Westbay pressure-transducer probe. Water table elevation measurements taken before sampling are provided in Table 5-1 and have been contoured in Figure 5-1. Water table elevation measurements taken after sampling are provided in Table 5-2 and have been contoured in Figure 5-2.

The estimated groundwater flow direction both before and after sampling, depicted in Figures 5-1 and 5-2, was generally consistent with previous observations. Groundwater in Aquifer Layer 1 was estimated to flow south-southwest through the eastern portion of JPL and east-southeast through the southwest portion of JPL, the Arroyo, and plain. The estimated groundwater gradients calculated for both the beginning and end of the event ranged from about 0.2 feet per foot near MW-9, at the northern end of the Arroyo, to 0.005 feet per foot across the Arroyo and plain.

During the July 2002 event, water levels dropped roughly 3 feet in all of the shallow wells. Similar decreases were measured in the deep multi-port wells screened in Aquifer Layer 1, which fell an average of about 3.8 feet, with the greatest decreases measured at wells in the Arroyo and plain southeast of JPL. Hydraulic head elevations in all deep multi-port wells (Screens 2 through 5) fell from roughly 3 feet to over 7 feet during the event. The hydraulic heads measured before and after sampling at each deep multi-port well screen are presented graphically in Figure 5-3. The pressure-profile records for the deep wells are included in Appendix D.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following conclusions are based upon interpretation of analytical data and field measurements collected during the July 2002 event and previous events of the JPL Monitoring Program:

- The chemical plumes beneath JPL are adequately defined and generally stable. The concentration contour maps prepared during this event, in comparison with the previous groundwater monitoring events generally indicate relatively lower contaminant concentrations than the previous event, with concentrations similar to those reported during the July 2001 event.
- The July 2002 analytical results revealed three VOCs (carbon tetrachloride, trichloroethene, and tetrachloroethene) reported at concentrations above State Maximum Contaminant Levels for drinking water (MCLs) in one or more JPL monitoring wells.

Carbon tetrachloride concentrations above the MCL generally appear limited to the JPL facility in Aquifer Layer 1, but have migrated south and east of JPL in Aquifer Layers 2 and 3 and have impacted the City of Pasadena Arroyo Well and Well 52, located southeast and down gradient of JPL.

Trichloroethene concentrations above the MCL in Aquifer Layer 1 were reported in three on-facility wells (MW-7, MW-10, and MW-24) and one off-facility well (MW-21) south of JPL. Only one well (MW-14 Screen 2) was reported to contain a trichloroethene concentration above the MCL in Aquifer Layer 2 and no well screens in Aquifer Layer 3 exceeded the MCL. The only production well that appears to have been impacted by trichloroethene concentrations exceeding the MCL is Lincoln Avenue Water Company Well #3, located southeast and down gradient of JPL.

Tetrachloroethene concentrations above the MCLs are generally limited to the JPL facility in Aquifer Layer 1, although tetrachloroethene has been consistently reported above the MCL in Aquifer Layer 3 at off-facility well MW-21. The only production wells that appear to have been impacted by tetrachloroethene concentrations exceeding the MCL are Valley Water Company Wells #1, #2, and #4, located west and generally up gradient of JPL.

- Perchlorate was reported at concentrations exceeding the DLR/AL (4 µg/l) in seven on-facility wells in the central and southern portion of JPL (MW-5, MW-7, MW-8, MW-10, MW-13, MW-16, and MW-24), and one off-facility wells east of JPL (MW-18 Screen 4). Perchlorate concentrations exceeding the DLR/AL generally appear limited to the JPL facility in Aquifer Layer 1, but appear to have migrated off-facility in Aquifer Layers 2 and 3 and impacted five municipal production wells (Lincoln Avenue Water Company Well #5 and the City of Pasadena's Arroyo Well, Well 52, Ventura Well, and Windsor Well). Although generally increasing over the last two years, perchlorate concentrations reported in July 2002 samples from the farthest up gradient wells generally decreased in comparison with the previous event. Perchlorate was not detected in the farthest down gradient well (MW-20) during this event, as it had been during the previous event (April/May 2002). However, perchlorate was reported above the DLR/AL in July 2002 samples at two municipal

production wells at the southeast end of the study area located down gradient of well MW-20. In light of this data, one or more additional monitoring wells may be warranted in the future to further define the down gradient extent of the perchlorate plume.

- Total chromium was detected in all eighteen wells sampled but did not exceed the State MCL (0.05 mg/L) at any. The total chromium concentrations reported ranged from 0.001 to 0.027 mg/l with the highest concentrations reported at on-facility wells MW-8 and MW-13. Hexavalent chromium, currently regulated by the State under the MCL for total chromium, was only detected at well MW-13 (0.010 mg/l). No Federal MCL has been established for hexavalent chromium.
- Groundwater gradient maps prepared using the July 2002 water level measurements indicated groundwater gradients and flow directions generally consistent with previous observations, (i.e., flow directed primarily to the south-southwest through the eastern portion of JPL and to the east-southeast in the southwest portion of JPL, Arroyo, and plain). During the July 2002 event, water levels dropped roughly 3 feet in all of the shallow wells and deep wells screened in Aquifer Layer 1. Hydraulic head elevations measured in Aquifer Layers 2 and 3 fell from about 3 feet to over 7 feet during the event. The measured water level decreases are likely due to limited recharge occurring during the dry season and continued groundwater pumpage at nearby municipal production wells.

At the direction of NASA JPL and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, a reevaluation of the JPL Groundwater Monitoring Program is currently being conducted. It is recommended that the results of the July 2002 monitoring event be incorporated into this evaluation to help develop a new work plan for groundwater monitoring activities at JPL.

7.0 REFERENCES

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