

13.0 MOFFETT FIELD

The wastewater services that are provided in the Moffett Field area are evaluated in this service review.

13.1 AREA LOCATION

Moffett Field is an area that is located within the spheres of influence (SOI) of both the Cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale. The western half of Moffett Field is within the City of Mountain View's SOI and the eastern half is within the City of Sunnyvale's SOI. It should be noted that Moffett Field is not within either City's urban service area (USA). Because Moffett Field is served by two cities and because wastewater service to this area is a specific issue related to both cities, it has been included as a separate section. Moffett Field's location in the Cities Mountain View and Sunnyvale can be found in Appendix D of this document.

13.2 LAND USE AND PROJECTED GROWTH

Moffett Field was formally used as a Naval Air Station. Following the closure of Moffett Field as a military base in 1994, NASA Ames acquired stewardship of the property. Currently, NASA Ames has developed a reuse plan to transform part of the area into a research and development center dedicated to serving the goals of the nation's space program. It should be noted that under this plan the area would remain under federal jurisdiction.

The proposed reuse plan would add new construction in four development areas. As detailed in the 2002 NASA Ames Development Plan Final EIS, this development would include a total build out of approximately 8.4 million square feet (sf). The proposed project would generate 7,222 new employees, approximately 3,000 students, and house 2,808 residents in 1,040 housing units within the area. A large majority of the development would be located within the City of Mountain View's Sphere of Influence. A small portion of the development, approximately 12,000 sf, would be located within the City of Sunnyvale's Sphere of Influence.

13.3 SERVICES

The Cities of Sunnyvale and Mountain View are currently providing and will continue to provide wastewater services from flows that are generated within the Moffett Field area. All other services are provided through federal contracts for services such as solid waste services, or under the federal jurisdiction of the area such as storm water drainage. Wastewater services are described below, as detailed within the 2002 NASA Ames Development Plan Final EIS.

Wastewater Services

The sanitary sewer infrastructure within Moffett Field includes approximately 90,900 feet of collection lines in two separate systems, which flow into two different cities. The eastern portion discharges into the City of Sunnyvale's sewer system. The western portion discharges into the City of Mountain View's sewer system, which flows to the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant.

Portions of Moffett Field Served by the City of Sunnyvale's Sanitary Sewer System. The system, which connects to the City of Sunnyvale's sanitary sewer system, pumps sewage to an off-site gravity main that continues on to the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant. The force main and gravity line that convey effluent from the pump station to the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant are reported to be in good condition.

The Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant has capacity to treat 29.5 million gallons per day (mgd) and currently receives approximately 16.5 mgd. It is anticipated by the 2002 NASA Ames Development Plan Final EIS that the existing treatment facility would have sufficient capacity to support the proposed development on Moffett Field. In addition, the 2002 NASA Ames Development Plan Final EIS states that the cumulative projects in the City of Sunnyvale are expected to generate 7.8 mgd, bringing the total load on the plant to 25.3 mgd, which is still less than the Plant's capacity.

However, the 2002 NASA Ames Development Plan Final EIS states that the sanitary sewer conveyance system between Moffett Field and the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant is experiencing capacity problems under existing conditions, and portions of the conveyance piping will require upgrading regardless of whether or not the Moffett Field development proceeds. It should be noted that system upgrades would reduce infiltration and inflow and that discharge from the proposed development on Moffett Field would not exceed the historical maximum of 1.0 mgd.

Portions of Moffett Field Served by the City of Mountain View's Sanitary Sewer System. The sanitary sewer system, which connects to the City of Mountain View system, pumps sewage to a 36-inch pipe that connects to the City of Mountain View sanitary sewer system and flows to the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant. The 2002 NASA Ames Development Plan Final EIS states that this conveyance system currently has capacity problems during wet weather and that the City of Mountain View staff has been studying the installation of a new gravity line to the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant to address the existing capacity problem and to accommodate the future expected flows from Moffett Field.

The western area within Moffett Field has an industrial waste discharge permit, which sets wastewater discharge limits. The permit is issued by the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant for Mountain View. The current allowable capacity is 299,200 gpd, 5,236,000 gallons per month, and 59,840,000 gallons per year.

The 2002 EIS states that the flow for the proposed development on Moffett Field would exceed what is specified in the wastewater treatment permit with the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant. Therefore, the agreement would need to be amended to allow for increased flows as development occurs.