A cooperative effort between Aerojet, the Carmichael Water District, Sacramento County Parks and state and federal regulators led to the recent construction of a groundwater extraction and treatment (GET) facility at Ancil Hoffman Park. The facility designation is GET L-A.

N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), a byproduct associated with liquid rocket engine testing, was detected in 2003 in a monitor well in the Rossmoor Bar area in Rancho Cordova. Additional sampling indicated that NDMA was also present in a monitor well just north of the American River in Carmichael.

Aerojet and the Carmichael Water District (CWD) began working together to implement a remedy to stop migration of NDMA to any of CWD’s water supply wells and remediate the groundwater. Under the regulatory guidance of the US EPA, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Aerojet and CWD developed a solution that accomplished these mutual objectives.

The GET facility is designed to remove NDMA from groundwater conveyed to the facility via a network of extraction wells. Extracted groundwater is exposed to an ultra violet (UV) light treatment technology approved by the US EPA and the California Department of Public Health for the removal of NDMA. The facility has extra space should the treatment system require expansion.

Once treated, the cleaned groundwater provides irrigation for the Ancil Hoffman golf course. The volume of groundwater is sufficient to meet approximately half of the course’s water needs from May through September, and all of the water needs from October through April. Any excess is discharged to the American River.

Aerojet designed GET L-A to blend into the local surroundings, using building materials and colors that complement the existing golf course buildings and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. The building houses the treatment system and a new irrigation pump station, replacing the previous outdoor station. The south lawn loading dock area utilizes grass pavers, providing a permeable yet reinforced vehicular surface, in keeping with park surroundings.

By permitting Aerojet to construct the GET L-A facility at Ancil Hoffman Park, Sacramento County was able to greatly reduce the volume of potable water used to irrigate the course. The County now saves $100,000 annually in water costs, while allowing for the annual conservation of 125 million gallons of potable water.

This project shows how a collaborative effort protects drinking water resources for CWD ratepayers, provides a beneficial reuse of treated water, reduces dependency on potable water and saves County taxpayers money in park irrigation costs.