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Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Dear SSFL Interagency Workgroup members:

Last month, DTSC sent an e-mail to those interested in the Santa Susana Field Lab project regarding future public participation for this project. In the e-mail we expressed a desire to continue to work with you as a group and recognize that you represent an important part of the community surrounding SSFL.

We also communicated our decision to remove ourselves from any role in the Workgroup and any other community group that may involve setting that group's agenda, leading the group's discussion, or other actions that may direct the group's activities. The decision to not continue the PPG is a reflection of our belief that community groups should be community-led. Instead, DTSC will focus its role on the technical aspects of the cleanup, making investigation and cleanup decisions and continuing to conduct public involvement activities to reach the community affected by the SSFL project. DTSC will be happy to present information and answer questions of yours and that of other advisory groups, as requested.

We are in the process of setting up meetings between a neutral contractor and the community stakeholders involved with the SSFL project. We would like the contractor to meet with you and other Workgroup members, to discuss the future public involvement process for DTSC. This allows all of us to come to a mutual understanding of the changes to our relationship and what those changes will look like. These additional discussions of how DTSC intends to participate with your group and any community group that requests participation, will help ensure clear objectives and expectations as we move forward.

I was asked to reach out to you to find out if you were interested in such a meeting with DTSC and the contractor. We are not offering to meet to revisit DTSC's decision to fulfill our obligation to form a Community Advisory Group, or to negotiate a continuance of the Workgroup and its structure and operation as was managed by EPA through last year. We are asking to meet with you to discuss how we can work together with your group. Please reply and let me know as soon as you can, so we can begin to arrange details for a meeting soon.

Regards,

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