



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA**
625 WEST HILLCREST DRIVE, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360

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LINDA PARKS
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
(805) 214-2510
FAX: (805) 480-0585
E-mail: Linda.Parks@ventura.org

November 13, 2012

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: U.S. General Services Administration Disposition of the NASA Property at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Site Prior to Completion of Required Clean-Up

Recommendation:

1. It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors send a letter to the U.S. General Services Administration requesting they delay any transfer of the NASA property at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory site until required clean-up is completed.
2. Direct the County Executive Office Legislative Analyst to instruct the County's Washington, D.C. advocates to work with the Ventura County Congressional delegation on this issue.

Fiscal Impact:

No fiscal impact.

Discussion:

NASA property at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) site consists of two parcels totaling approximately 452 acres. It is surrounded almost entirely by property owned by the Boeing Company. Soil and groundwater contamination exists at most areas of the NASA site where liquid-fueled rocket engines were test-fired. Trichloroethylene (TCE) is the most significant contamination in the site's groundwater which has five distinct TCE plumes. Some TCE has migrated off the SSFL property. PCBs, PAHs, dioxins, and metals are the primary soil contaminants.

NASA and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control have a consent agreement for NASA to clean up its land to background levels.

Even though clean-up operations have not been completed, NASA declared its land as excess federal property. This declaration of excess land was the first step towards disposition to a new owner. In June of 2009, our Board of Supervisors unanimously opposed NASA's move to declare the land excess prior to completion of clean-up. This Board, along with state and federal legislators sent letters to NASA and to Congress expressing concern and opposition to this premature disposition. Despite this opposition, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) issued a Notice of Availability of Excess Real Property for NASA's 452 acres of land at SSFL in February of 2010.

On September 7, 2012, the Bureau of Indian Affairs informed the GSA that the federally recognized Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians is interested in acquiring NASA's SSFL land, under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (see Attachment).

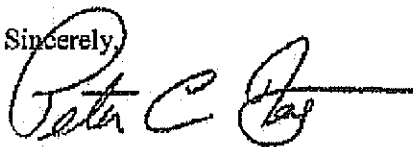
Consistent with the Board's previous opposition to declaring the property excess, we are asking the Board of Supervisors to send a letter of opposition to GSA regarding any transfer of the NASA land until clean-up is complete. Additionally we recommend that the Board instruct the County's Washington, D.C. advocates to work with the Ventura County Congressional delegation on this issue

It is important to note that some government agencies are precluded from acquiring land that is contaminated. GSA's attempt to transfer the land prior to clean-up precludes these other agencies from acquiring it. In addition, we would be particularly concerned if the land were transferred to entities that may not be subject to state regulatory clean-up requirements, as would be the case with transfer to a sovereign nation.

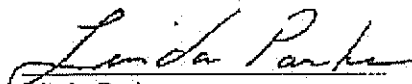
If you have any questions, please contact Supervisor Foy at (805) 955-2300 or Supervisor Parks at (805) 214-2510.

This letter has been reviewed by the Clerk of the Board, County Counsel, and the County Executive Office.

Sincerely,



Peter Foy
Supervisor, District 4



Linda Parks
Supervisor, District 2



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

Home of The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

March 4, 2013

Ms. Debbie Raphael, Director
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Raphael:

On behalf of the residents of Simi Valley, the Simi Valley City Council wishes to reaffirm its position with respect to the cleanup of radiological and chemical contamination at the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL). The City Council has long been on record that the public health and welfare is best served by remediation of the site to no less than background levels.

The City's main concern regarding the SSFL has been, and continues to be, that the site, and surrounding areas that may have been contaminated by SSFL activities, be remediated to a level that would ensure the health and safety of our current and future residents. Cleanup of the site should be achieved to a level that would accommodate the possibility of public use in the future. The City of Simi Valley respectfully requests that the DTSC continue to assure that remediation of SSFL proceed in a manner that will effectively protect the environment and the health and safety of the adjacent communities into the foreseeable future.

The Simi Valley City Council supported the passage of Senate Bill 990 in 2007, and members of our City Council met with members of Congress to push for an independent, transparent, and expeditious cleanup to a level that would ensure the health and safety of our current and future residents.

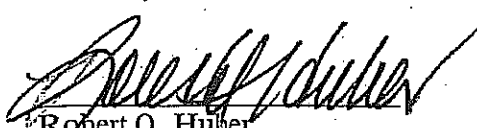
Recent events, including the lack of a contract extension for certain EPA activities related to site clean-up assessments, the NASA Office of Inspector General audit questioning the level of cleanup to which the agency has committed in its Administrative Order of Consent, and the pending legal challenge to SB 990, present risks to assuring the SSFL site is remediated to standards most protective of public health. Further NASA has declared its land as excess Federal property, setting in motion the first steps toward its disposition to new ownership.

For these reasons, the Simi Valley City Council is again going on record to state its support of the cleanup standards envisioned in SB 990 and agreed upon in the AOC's on record with your agency. Additionally, by copy of the letter, the City Council calls on the U.S. General

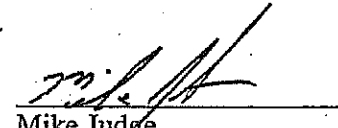
Ms. Debbie Raphael
March 4, 2013
Page 2

Services Administration to delay any transfer of the NASA property until the site has been cleaned to these standards. We appreciate DTSC's long standing commitment to the site's cleanup and for the lead role your agency has and continues to play in this vitally important community health matter.

Sincerely,



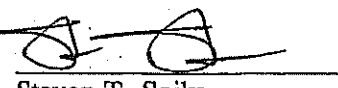
Robert O. Huber
Mayor



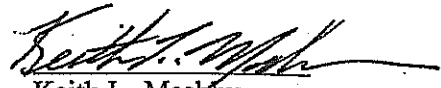
Mike Judge
Mayor Pro Tem



Glen T. Becerra
Council Member



Steven T. Sojka
Council Member



Keith L. Maskburn
Council Member

cc: The Honorable Daniel M. Tangherlini, U.S. General Services Administration
Ventura County Board of Supervisors
City Council
City Manager
Interim Assistant City Manager, Government Affairs
NASA
Boeing
Department of Energy
Ruth Cox, Regional Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Charles Bolden
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20546-0002

Dear Administrator Bolden:

We write to comment on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the clean-up of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL).

As you know, the SSFL is located along the Los Angeles/Ventura County border. Initially far from population centers, SSFL was the site of rocket engine testing and nuclear experimentation. It is undisputed that toxic chemicals were used, spilled, and negligently dumped at SSFL. Additionally, in the early 1950s, an uncontained sodium reactor at the SSFL experienced a partial nuclear meltdown.

For 20 years, this partial nuclear meltdown was kept secret and finally discovered only by a group of UCLA students and their professor. Since then, cancer clusters have been reported in the vicinity of SSFL, including high incidents of thyroid cancers among former SSFL workers.

Clean-up of the SSFL is of critical importance to both of us, as well as to the residents of California. It is imperative that we get this right so that we eliminate the potential significant health and safety risks for people who will continue to live nearby, and those who will be using the site in future years. Any clean-up less than to background levels will leave both radioactive and chemical contamination in place regardless of the end use of the property.

Furthermore, we believe that it is important for NASA, and the other responsible parties, to adhere to the Administrative Orders on Consent (AOCs) that were entered into with the State of California in 2008 and 2010. To that end, we are

strongly encouraged that NASA has increased funding in the FY2013 and FY2014 budget requests for clean-up of the SSFL pursuant to the AOCs. Additionally, we appreciate the clear clean-up commitments made during recent Congressional hearings by you, Inspector General Paul Martin, and Associate Deputy Administrator Richard Keegan.

As NASA reviews public comments on the DEIS, we urge you to ensure the clean-up moves forward in an expeditious manner and to ensure the AOC agreements are fully upheld. Thank you in advance for your attention to our request and for your strong commitment to cleaning-up this site.

Sincerely,



JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress



BARBARA BOXER
U.S. Senator