



Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Grisanti and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

Approved by: Steve McClary, Interim City Manager

Date prepared: September 15, 2021 Meeting date: September 27, 2021

Subject: Cleanup of Santa Susana Field Laboratories (Mayor Grisanti)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: At the request of Mayor Grisanti, authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Secretary Blumenfeld prepared by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, joining other area elected officials in requesting that the EPA hasten the cleanup of Santa Susana Field Laboratories (SSFL), in Simi Hills, and authorizing the use of the City logo for promotion of the request, if needed.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact for this recommended action. Depending on what direction Council provides on the resumption of in-person meetings, additional funding may be necessary to fund staff overtime costs needed to facilitate public meetings in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 that was not previously included in the Adopted Budget.

WORK PLAN: This item was not included in the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

DISCUSSION: The Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) is a 2,850-acre site in Simi Hills where the Boeing Company conducted rocket engine testing and nuclear research. Since it was declared an EPA cleanup site, the EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is directing and overseeing the site investigation and cleanup being conducted by Boeing, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

According to the DTSC website (https://dtsc.ca.gov/santa_susana_field_lab/), field sampling is complete, investigation reports for soil and groundwater are in the review and approval process with DTSC project staff, and groundwater sampling and monitoring are ongoing. In September 2017, DTSC issued the draft Program Environmental Impact

Report (PEIR) to evaluate impacts to the environment from SSFL cleanup activities and identified measures to address those impacts. DTSC is preparing responses to the comments on the draft report and the final PEIR. The DTSC website indicates the ongoing cleanup project that will take years to complete.

The SSFL is known to be the ignition point for the Woolsey Fire. The Ventura County Board of Supervisors is soliciting support from area elected officials to join together in signing a letter to EPA Secretary Jared Blumenfeld requesting that he hasten the cleanup of SSFL. A draft of the letter is attached with signatories listed who are being solicited for support. Los Angeles City Councilmember John Lee, Thousand Oaks Mayor Bill de la Peña, and Calabasas Mayor James Bozajian have committed to signing the letter.

Mayor Grisanti is requesting Council authorization for him to sign the letter on behalf of the City of Malibu. The Council is also requested to authorize the organizers to use the City's logo for promotion of the issue, if requested.

ATTACHMENTS: Draft letter to EPA Secretary Jared Blumenfeld

Dear Secretary Blumenfeld:

As elected local government representatives of the communities surrounding the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), we are writing to express our strong concerns about ongoing delays in the clean-up of this highly contaminated toxic waste site, and to urge you to compel its prompt clean-up per the established State agreements and schedule.

Knowing your detailed familiarity with the site, its contamination, and your agency's responsibility for these matters, we will not re-address those issues in this letter. Instead, we ask that you consider the families of children with childhood cancer in our communities, the parents and residents who must worry that they might be next, and those who worry about the safety of their own backyards and the dust that comes in their windows or the rainwater running by their homes and schools, or carcinogens in the smoke and ash when the site catches fire. State clean-up action has been far too little and far too late, and extensive toxic contamination remains on site.

It is now four years after the clean-up was supposed to have been completed per adopted agreements, and as yet the promised soil clean-up has not begun. We are opposed to any action that would significantly delay or weaken site clean-up. We are specifically concerned with the following activities of your agency:

- No State effort to enforce the 2007 Consent Order and 2010 Administrative Orders on Consent.

- Confidential negotiations between DTSC and Boeing that could delay or weaken clean-up by Boeing as required by the Consent Order and Administrative Order on Consent (CO & AOC).

- Proposed further delays in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report while having not addressed shortcomings in the EIR that the City of LA, the County of Ventura, and others identified over three years ago.

- Possible changes to the Standardized Risk Assessment Methodology (SRAM2 Update) that would allow Boeing to delay and weaken clean-up.

As you are aware, SSFL is a highly contaminated, toxic site surrounded by many hundreds of thousands of residents. We and our constituents seek your assurance that the long-overdue clean-up of SSFL will not be further delayed or weakened and that full clean-up per the 2007 Consent Order and 2010 Administrative Orders on Consent will be given the priority and immediacy it necessitates.

Sincerely,

VC Supervisor Parks
VC Supervisor Huber
Thousand Oaks Mayor Bill de la Pena
Simi Valley Mayor Mashburn
LA Councilmember Lee
LA Supervisor Barger
LA Supervisor Kuehl
LA Mayor Garcetti
Malibu Mayor Grisanti
Agoura Hills Mayor Weber
Calabasas Mayor Bozajian

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom