



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Deborah O. Raphael, Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

September 21, 2012

Dear Public Participation Group Member:

In 2010, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) established the Public Participation Group (PPG) in response to feedback from the community. Many of you expressed a desire for more regular and direct engagement between DTSC and the stakeholders and communities that surround the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). DTSC asked for volunteers to serve on the PPG, and you and others in your community generously offered to serve your neighbors. Since then, the PPG for the Santa Susana Field Lab has been an important vehicle for public participation. Its members, like you, have demonstrated the power of community service.

On September 12, 2012, DTSC received a petition that meets California's statutory requirements for a Community Advisory Group (CAG). Based on our legal responsibilities, DTSC will assist in the formation of a CAG. Because the roles and goals of a CAG and the PPG are very similar and because DTSC's resources are limited, DTSC has decided to dissolve the PPG and conclude its work. We encourage you and other members of the PPG to apply for a position on the CAG. We see the CAG as an important component of focusing community interest as we approach significant milestones in the investigation and cleanup of SSFL.

Why is DTSC taking this step? Apart from the legal requirement to begin the formation of a CAG, DTSC sees this as an opportunity for the community to tailor its informational needs on its own, rather than having those needs translated by DTSC's cleanup team. As you know, the PPG was operated by DTSC and its facilitator. The CAG process gives the community the opportunity to set the agenda for dialogue, while allowing DTSC and other regulatory agencies the opportunity to focus on addressing community questions and considering feedback to our decisions.

A more detailed communication regarding these very important issues will be sent shortly to the SSFL e-mail list. It will provide more detail on the CAG formation process. It also will outline various activities - apart from the CAG - that we will use to continue providing the community with site and project information as well as access to our staff and our decision-making process.

Public Participation Group Member
September 21, 2012
Page 2

I want to thank you, on behalf of all who work on this project, for your commitment to public involvement and your service on the Public Participation Group. Your participation has given us valuable information, and your dedication to a full cleanup of this site is a gift to future generations who will live and work in the community.

Sincerely,



Deborah O. Raphael
Director