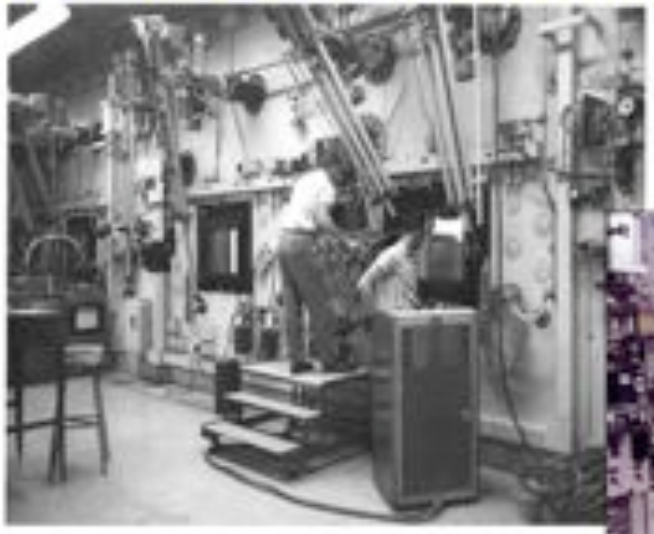
Granada Hills Rotary Club

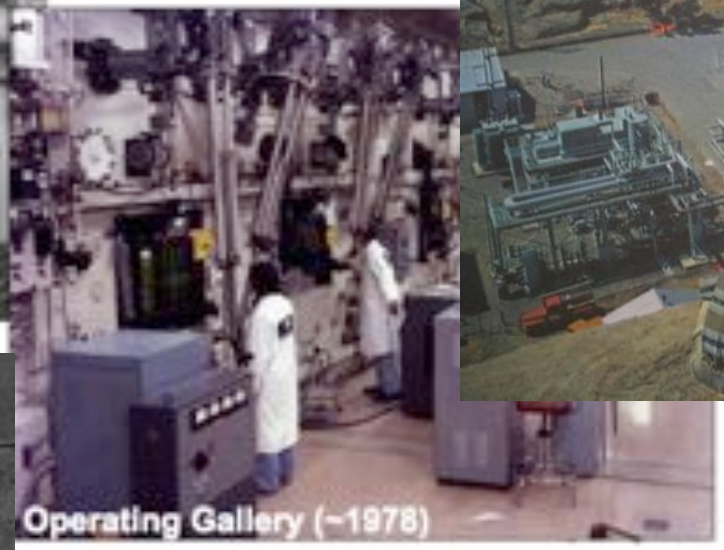
April 16, 2009

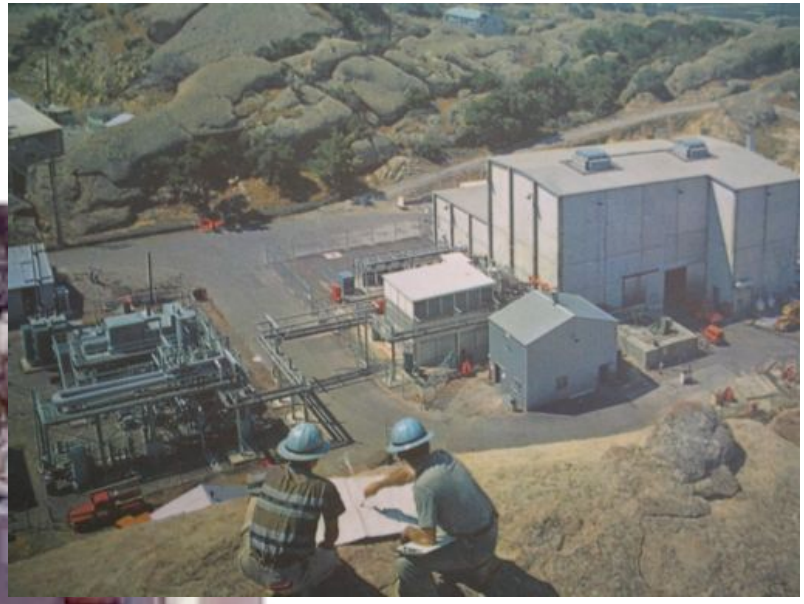
ACMELA.ORG

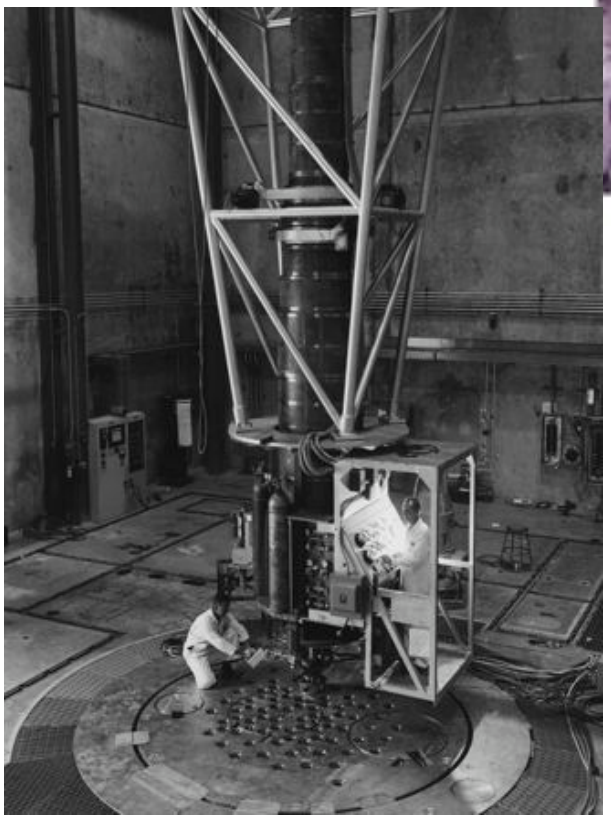
cleanuprocketdyne.org

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory, sitting at 1694 to 2120 feet above Sea Level is the Headwaters to Many Watersheds…Including the Los Angeles River.

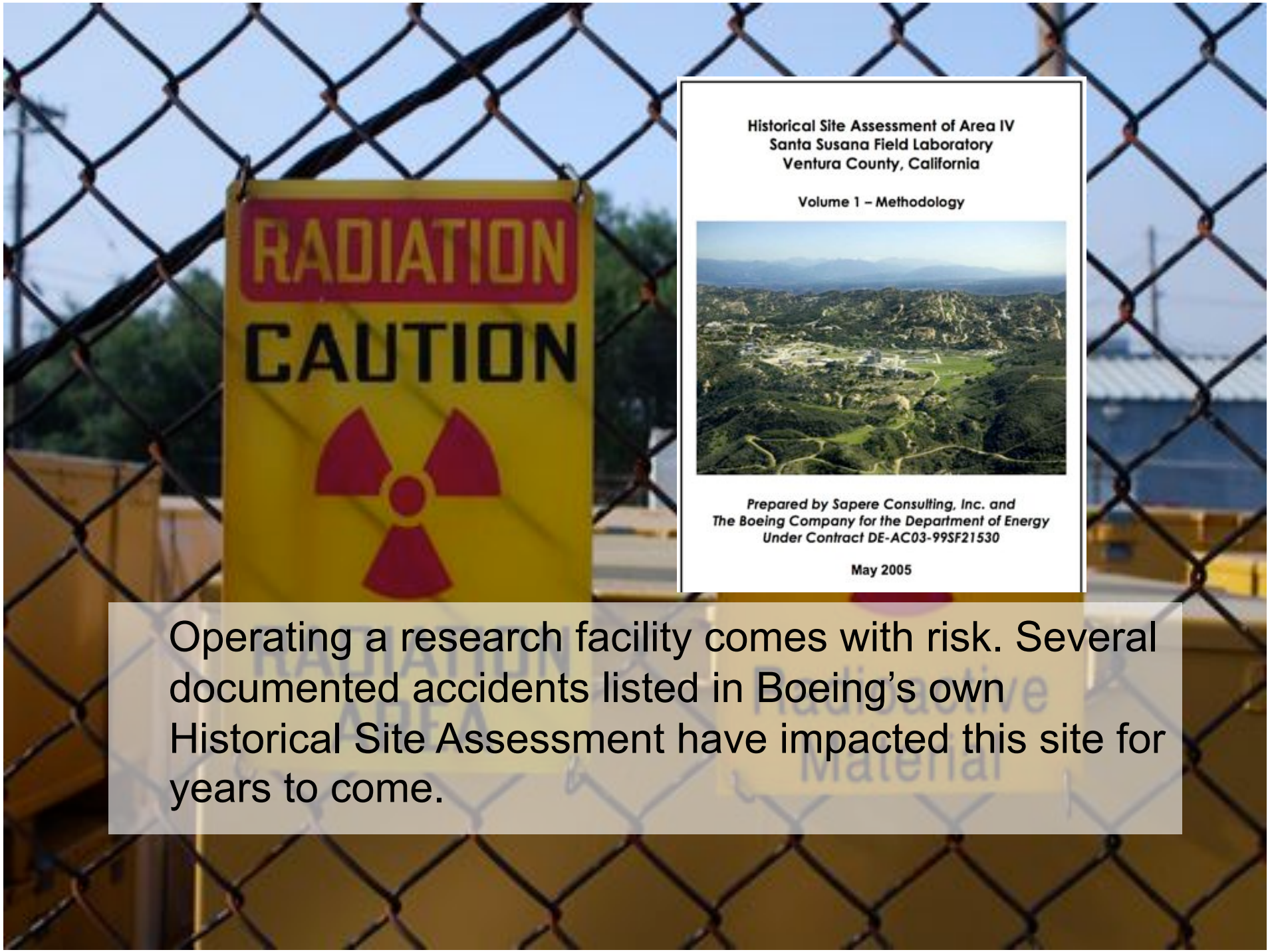






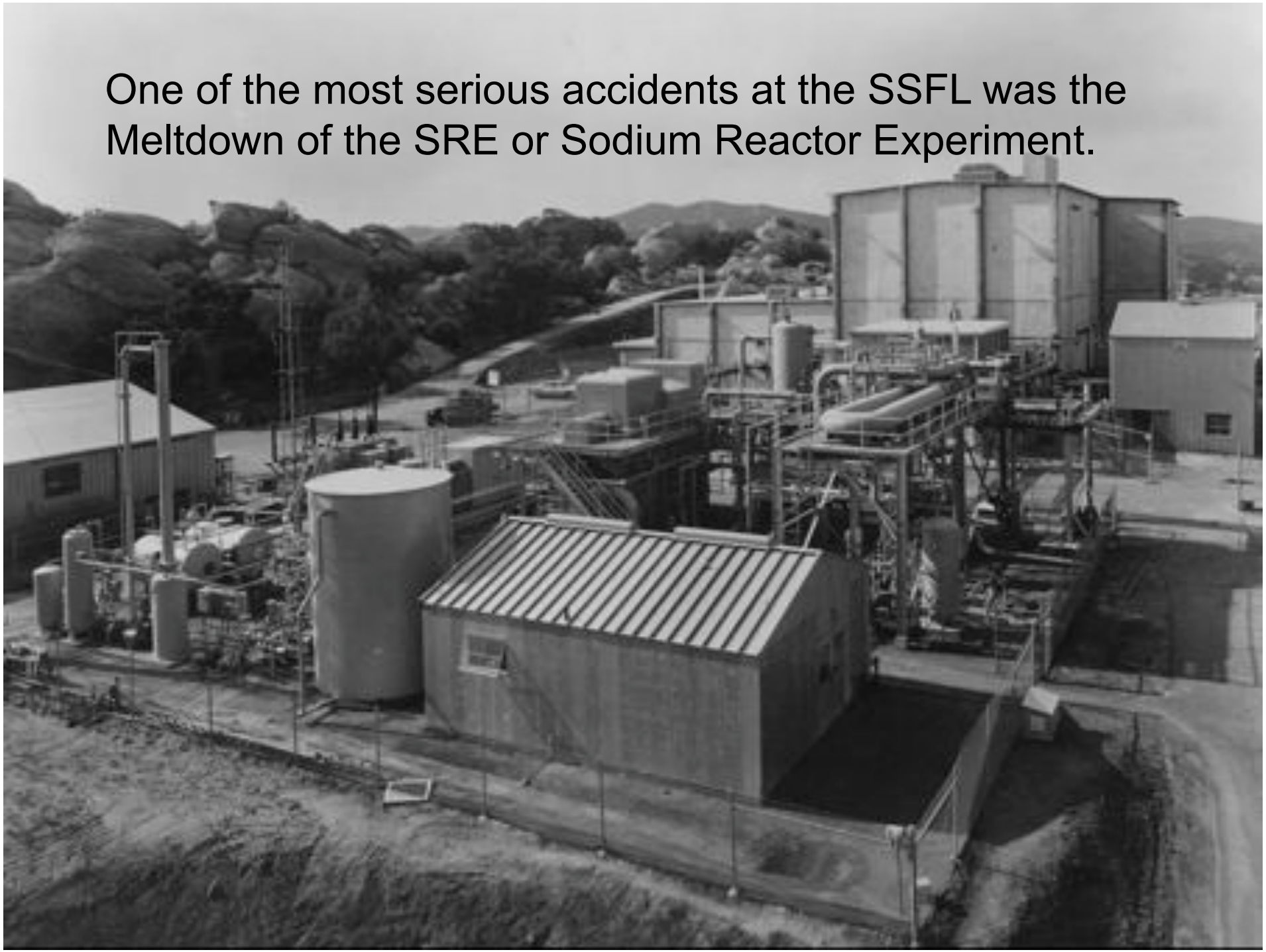


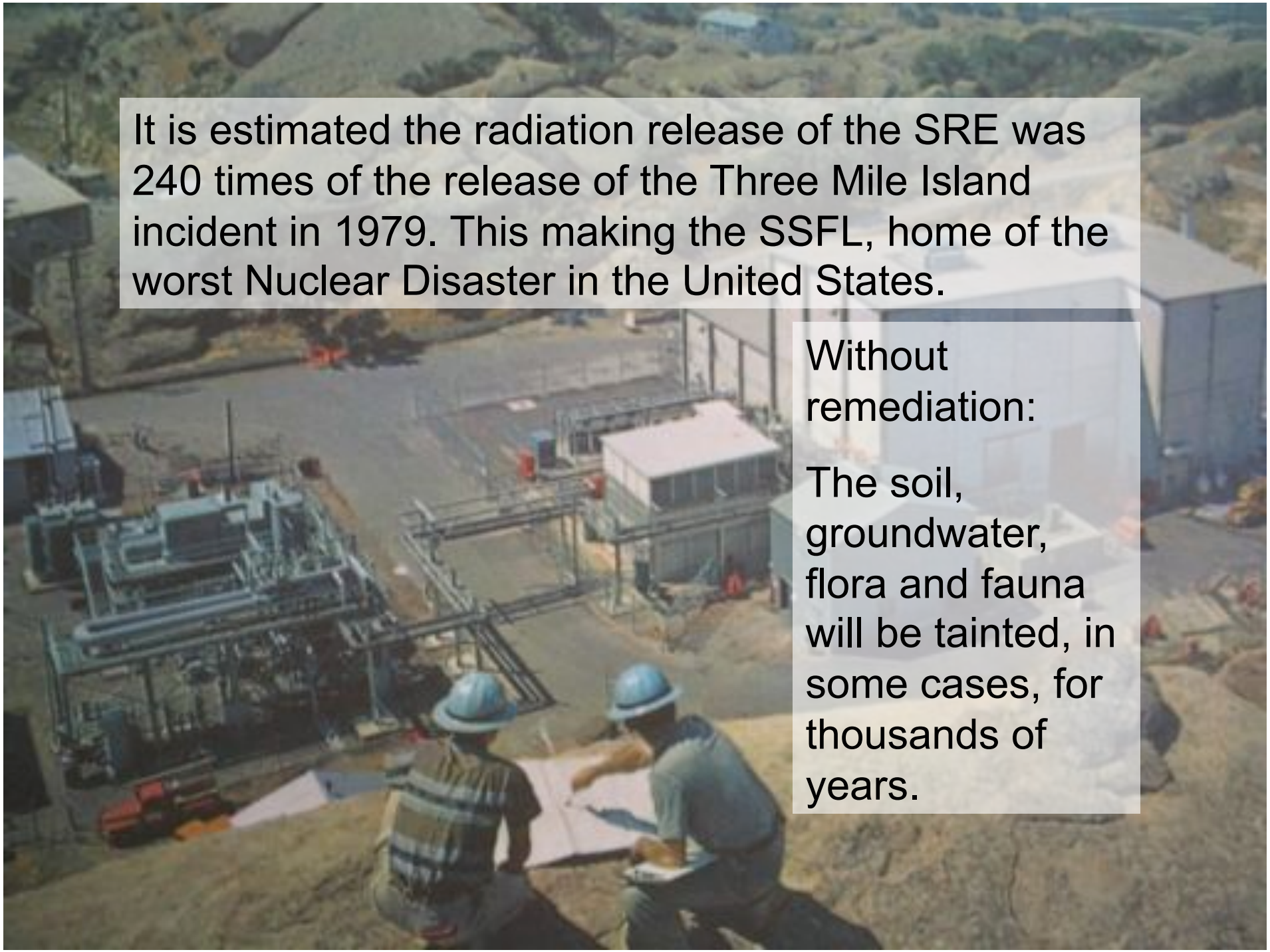
Currently owned by the Boeing Company and NASA, the Santa Susana Field Laboratory or SSFL was home to 27 Nuclear Research Facilities within the AREA IV portion of the property (Currently, AREA IV is Leased to the Department of Energy). This also included several Nuclear Reactors used in Aerospace and Commercial operations.



Operating a research facility comes with risk. Several documented accidents listed in Boeing's own Historical Site Assessment have impacted this site for years to come.

One of the most serious accidents at the SSFL was the Meltdown of the SRE or Sodium Reactor Experiment.



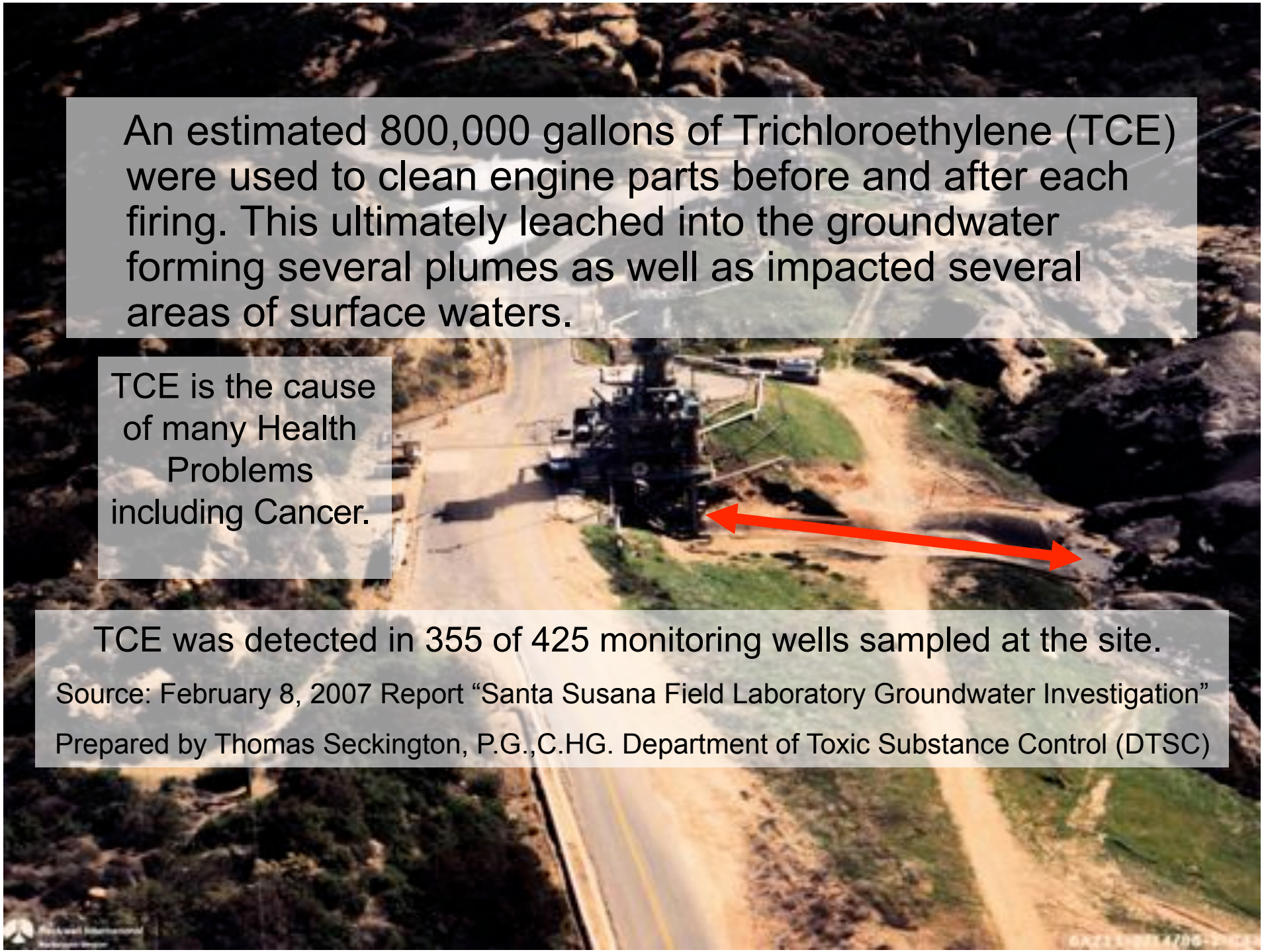


It is estimated the radiation release of the SRE was 240 times of the release of the Three Mile Island incident in 1979. This making the SSFL, home of the worst Nuclear Disaster in the United States.

Without remediation:

The soil, groundwater, flora and fauna will be tainted, in some cases, for thousands of years.


In addition to Nuclear Work, the SSFL was home to more than 30,000 rocket engine tests.



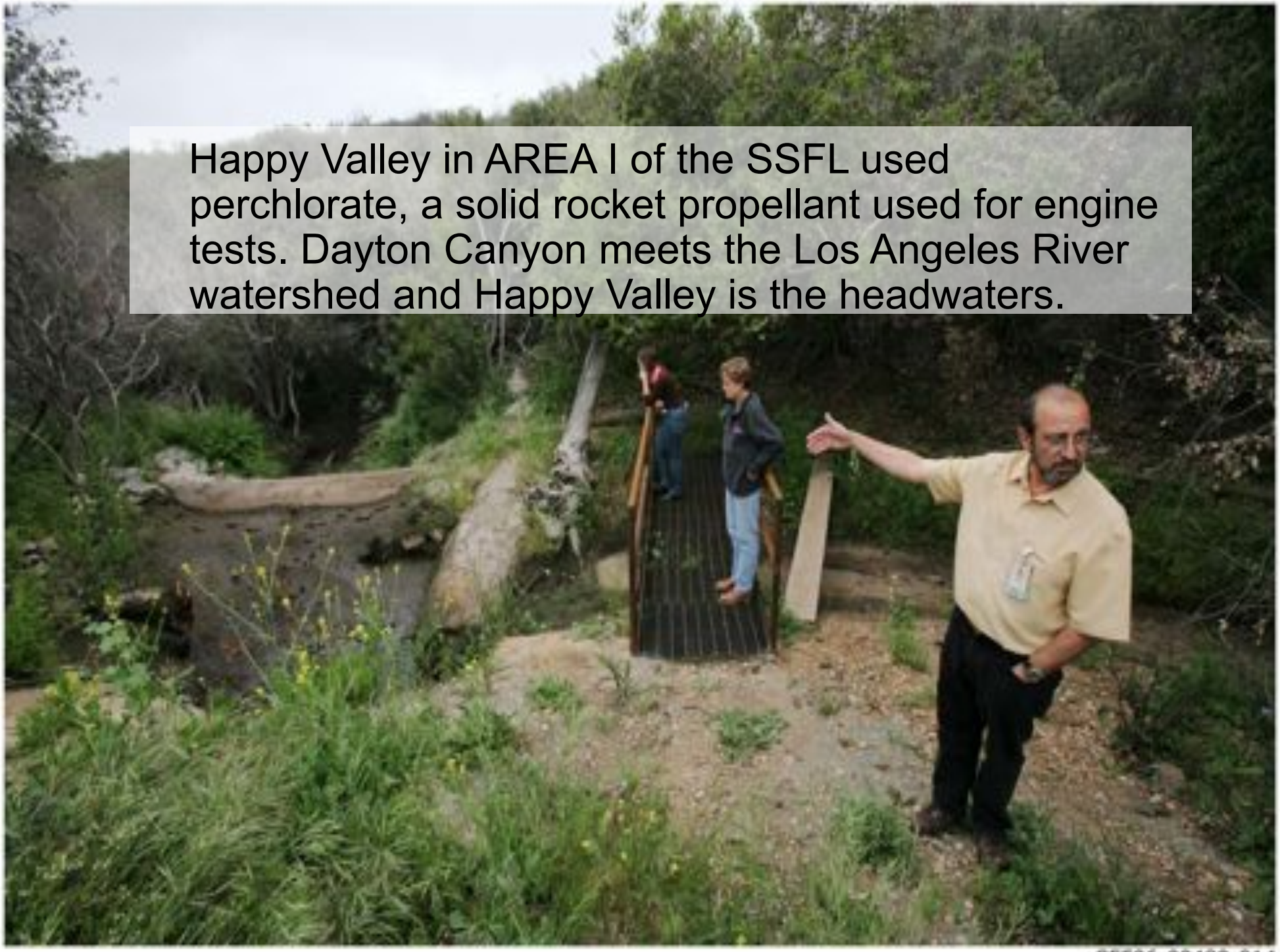
An estimated 800,000 gallons of Trichloroethylene (TCE) were used to clean engine parts before and after each firing. This ultimately leached into the groundwater forming several plumes as well as impacted several areas of surface waters.

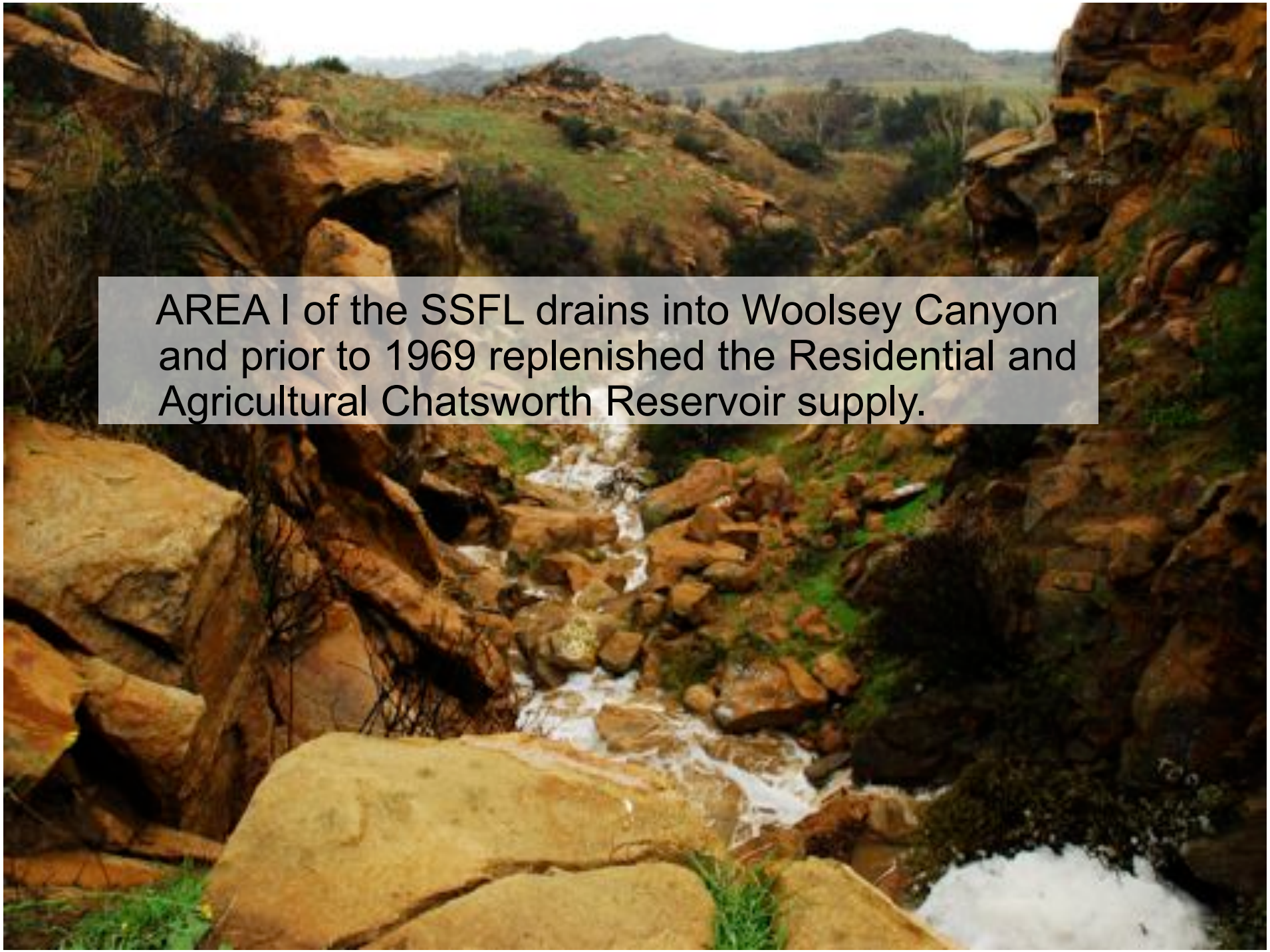
TCE is the cause of many Health Problems including Cancer.

TCE was detected in 355 of 425 monitoring wells sampled at the site.

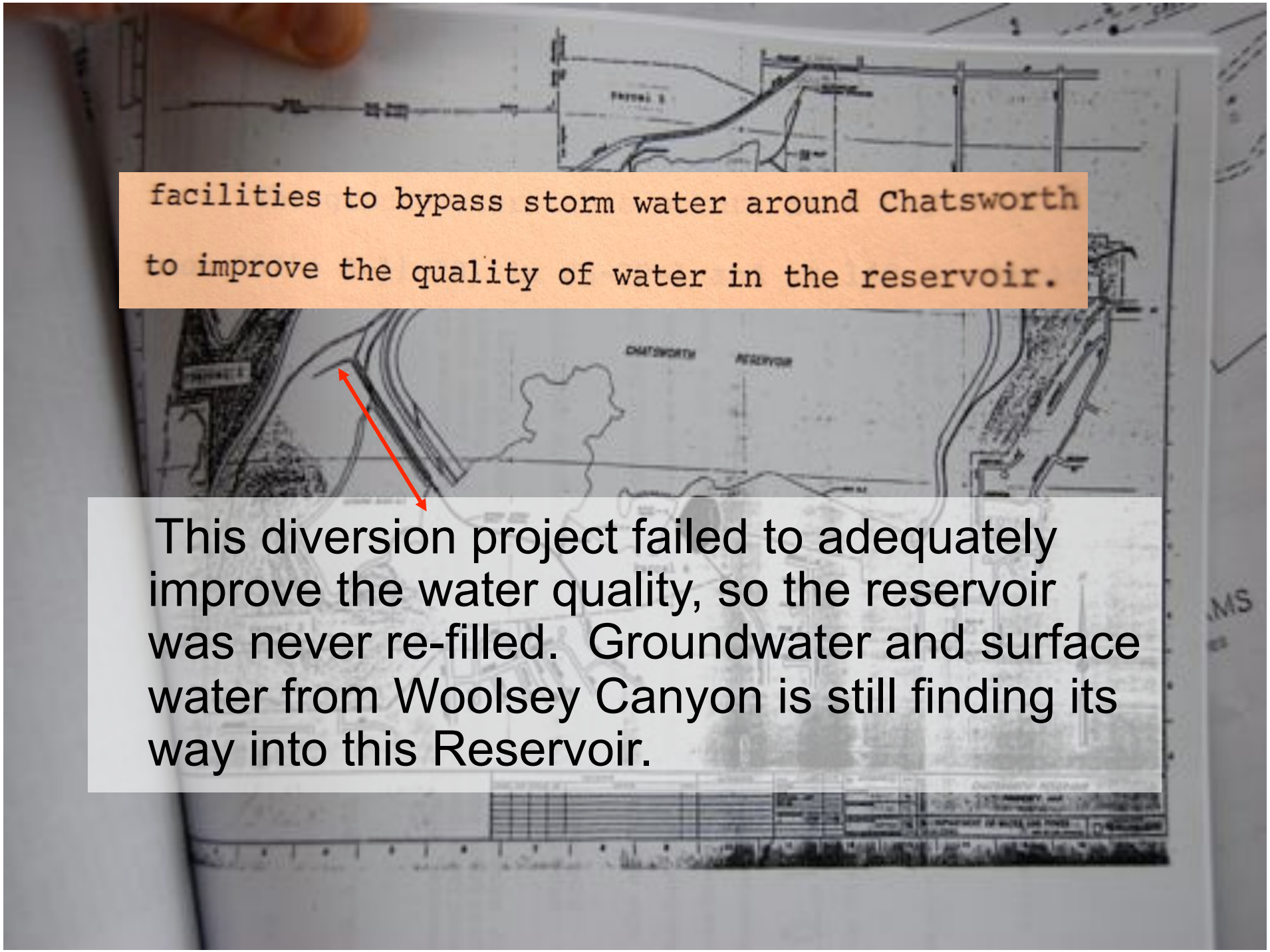
Source: February 8, 2007 Report “Santa Susana Field Laboratory Groundwater Investigation”

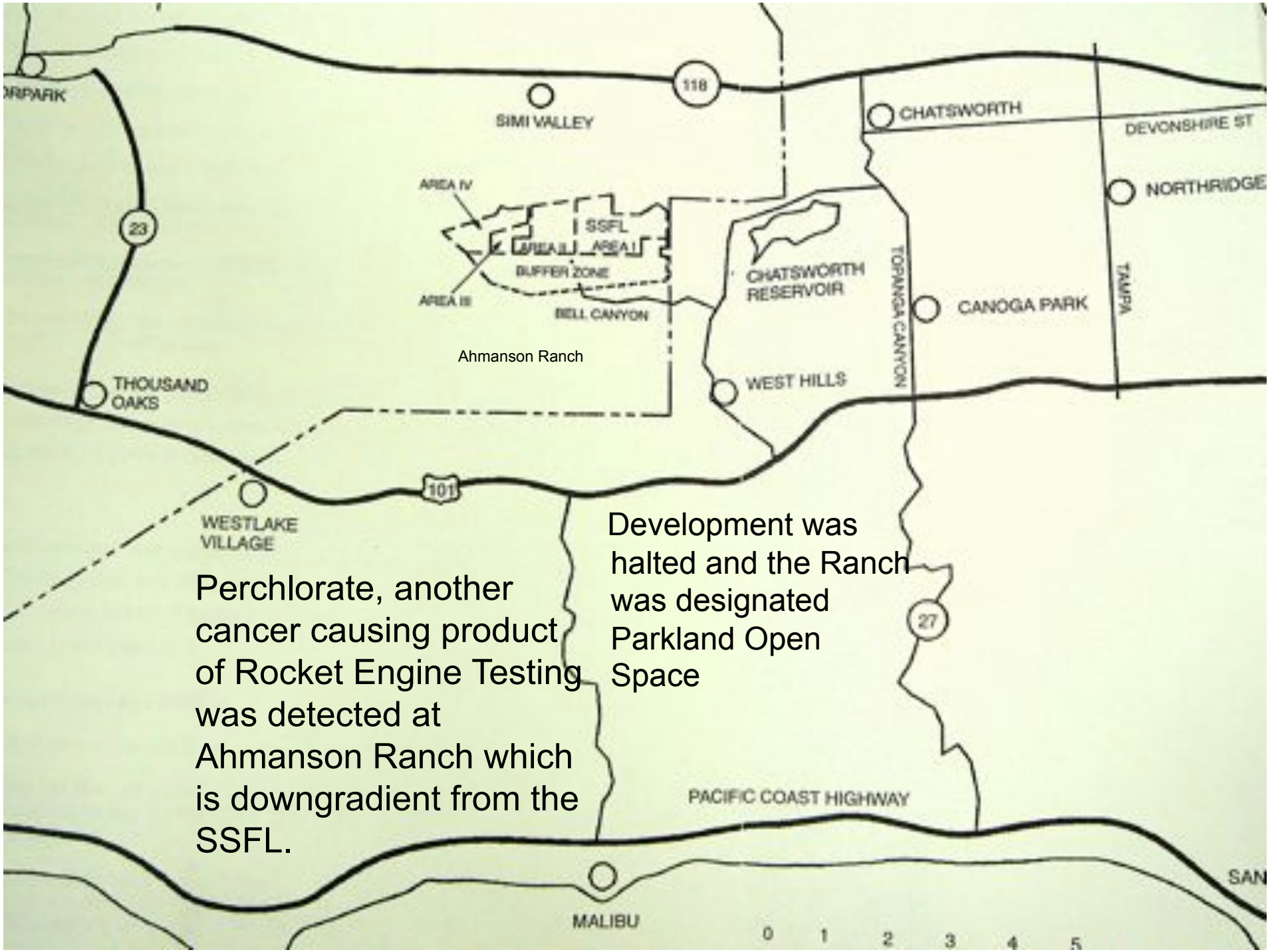
Prepared by Thomas Seckington, P.G.,C.HG. Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC)


Happy Valley in AREA I of the SSFL used perchlorate, a solid rocket propellant used for engine tests. Dayton Canyon meets the Los Angeles River watershed and Happy Valley is the headwaters.
SEF06-00480-014


AREA I of the SSFL drains into Woolsey Canyon and prior to 1969 replenished the Residential and Agricultural Chatsworth Reservoir supply.


In 1969 the Chatsworth Reservoir was drained and in 1972 marked the completion of a diversion tunnel. This tunnel was intended to divert the Woolsey Canyon waters away from the Chatsworth Reservoir to “Improve the water quality.” What they did was direct potentially polluted water into the L.A. River via Chatsworth Creek.


facilities to bypass storm water around Chatsworth
to improve the quality of water in the reservoir.
This diversion project failed to adequately improve the water quality, so the reservoir was never re-filled. Groundwater and surface water from Woolsey Canyon is still finding its way into this Reservoir.

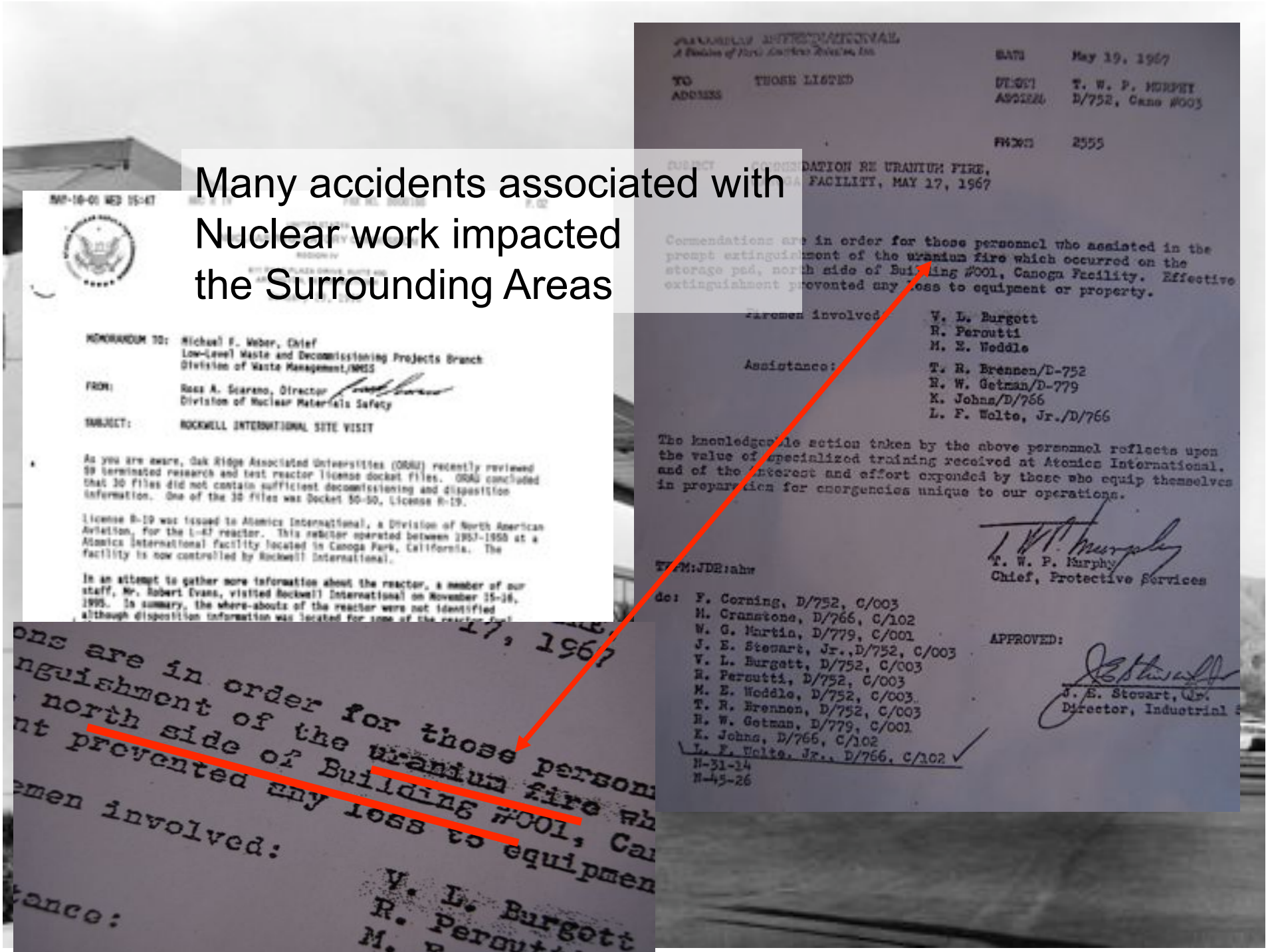


Perchlorate, another cancer causing product of Rocket Engine Testing was detected at Ahmanson Ranch which is downgradient from the SSFL.

Development was halted and the Ranch was designated Parkland Open Space

We have also seen groundwater contaminated with Trichloroethylene (TCE) and Radioactivity at the Rocketdyne Canoga Facility. Monitoring wells have documented releases into the L.A. River.

Currently owned by Pratt & Whitney, a United Technologies Company, formerly Boeing, Rocketdyne, Rockwell International and in the 1950's & 60's it was the Atomics International Nuclear Research Facility.



Many accidents associated with Nuclear work impacted the Surrounding Areas

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael F. Weber, Chief
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management/NMSS

FROM: Ross A. Scarano, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

SUBJECT: ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL SITE VISIT

As you are aware, Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) recently reviewed 59 terminated research and test reactor license docket files. ORAU concluded that 30 files did not contain sufficient decommissioning and disposition information. One of the 30 files was Docket 50-50, License R-19.

License R-19 was issued to Atomics International, a Division of North American Aviation, for the L-47 reactor. This reactor operated between 1957-1958 at a Atomics International facility located in Canoga Park, California. The facility is now controlled by Rockwell International.

In an attempt to gather more information about the reactor, a member of our staff, Mr. Robert Evans, visited Rockwell International on November 15-16, 1995. In summary, the where-abouts of the reactor were not identified although disposition information was located for some of the reactor fuel

ATOMICS INTERNATIONAL
A Division of North American Aviation, Inc.

DATE May 19, 1967

TO THOSE LISTED

FROM T. W. P. MURPHY
D/752, Canoga #003

PHONE 2555

SUBJECT COMMENDATION RE URANIUM FIRE,
FACILITY, MAY 17, 1967

Commendations are in order for those personnel who assisted in the prompt extinguishment of the uranium fire which occurred on the storage pad, north side of Building #001, Canoga Facility. Effective extinguishment prevented any loss to equipment or property.

Firemen involved: V. L. Burgott
R. Percutti
M. E. Weddle

Assistance: T. R. Brennen/D-752
H. W. Getman/D-779
K. Johns/D/766
L. F. Wolte, Jr./D/766

The knowledgeable action taken by the above personnel reflects upon the value of specialized training received at Atomics International, and of the interest and effort expended by those who equip themselves in preparation for emergencies unique to our operations.

T. W. P. Murphy
Chief, Protective Services

TWPM:JDB:ahw

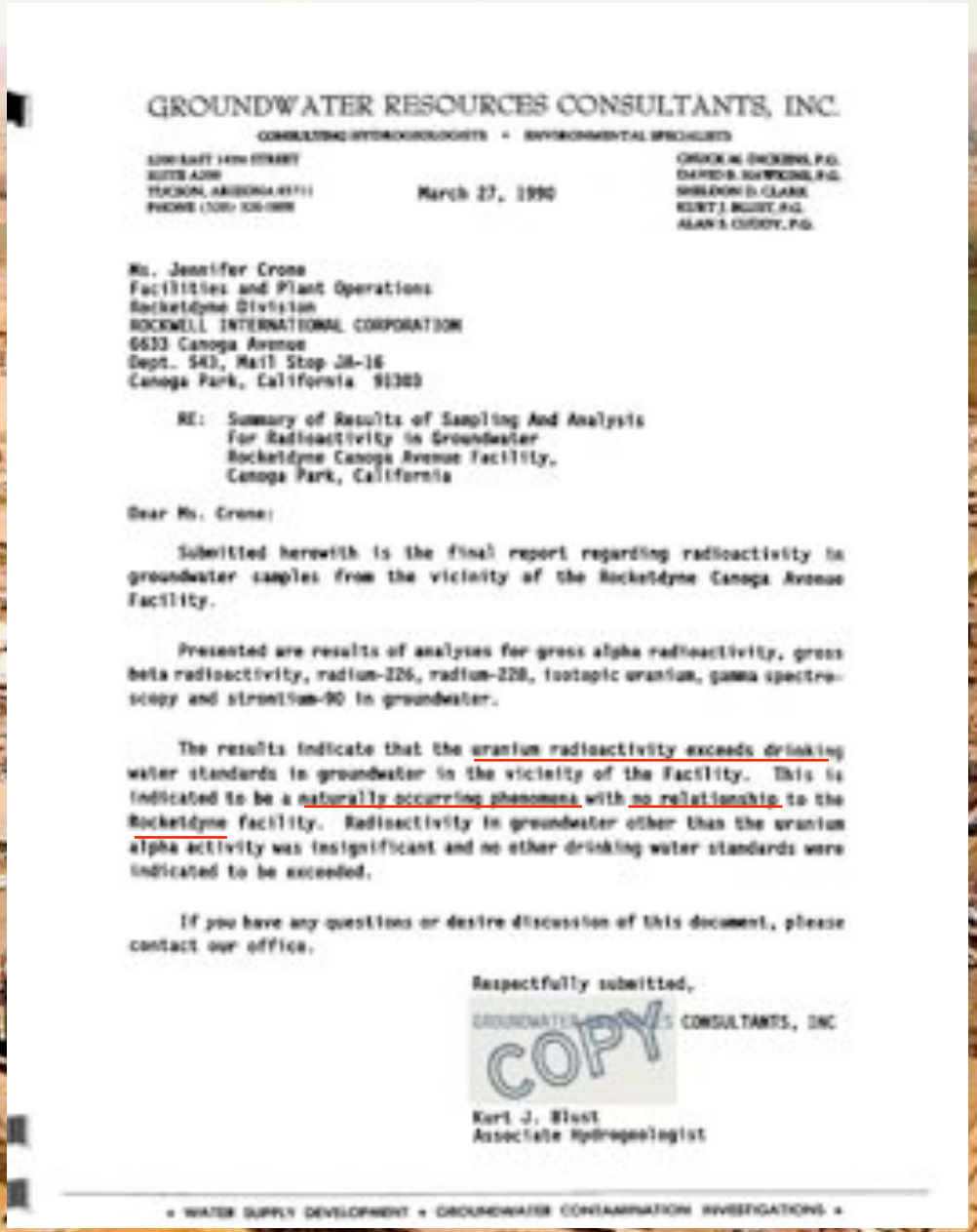
cc: F. Corning, D/752, C/003
M. Cranstone, D/766, C/102
W. G. Martin, D/779, C/001
J. E. Stewart, Jr., D/752, C/003
V. L. Burgett, D/752, C/003
R. Percutti, D/752, C/003
M. E. Weddle, D/752, C/003
T. R. Brennen, D/752, C/003
H. W. Getman, D/779, C/001
K. Johns, D/766, C/102
L. F. Wolte, Jr., D/766, C/102 ✓
N-31-14
N-45-26

APPROVED:

J. E. Stewart, Jr.
Director, Industrial

ons are in order for those person
nguishment of the uranium fire Rb
north side of Building #001, Ca
nt prevented any loss to equipmen
emen involved:
tance:
V. L. Burgett
R. Percutti
M. E.

Contractors for this facility claim Radioactivity in Groundwater is a "Naturally Occurring Phenomena



GROUNDWATER RESOURCES CONSULTANTS, INC.

CONSULTING HYDROGEOLOGISTS • ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS

6200 EAST 14th STREET
SUITE A200
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85711
PHONE (520) 326-0699

CHUCK W. DICKENS, P.G.
DAVID B. [illegible], P.G.
SHELDON D. CLARK
KURT J. BLUST, P.G.
ALAN S. CUDDY, P.G.

March 27, 1990

Ms. Jennifer Crone
Facilities and Plant Operations
Rocketdyne Division
ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
6633 Canoga Avenue
Dept. 543, Mail Stop JB-16
Canoga Park, California 91303

RE: Summary of Results of Sampling And Analysis
For Radioactivity in Groundwater
Rocketdyne Canoga Avenue Facility,
Canoga Park, California

Dear Ms. Crone:

Submitted herewith is the final report regarding radioactivity in groundwater samples from the vicinity of the Rocketdyne Canoga Avenue Facility.

Presented are results of analyses for gross alpha radioactivity, gross beta radioactivity, radium-226, radium-228, isotopic uranium, gamma spectroscopy and strontium-90 in groundwater.

The results indicate that the uranium radioactivity exceeds drinking water standards in groundwater in the vicinity of the Facility. This is indicated to be a naturally occurring phenomena with no relationship to the Rocketdyne facility. Radioactivity in groundwater other than the uranium alpha activity was insignificant and no other drinking water standards were indicated to be exceeded.

If you have any questions or desire discussion of this document, please contact our office.

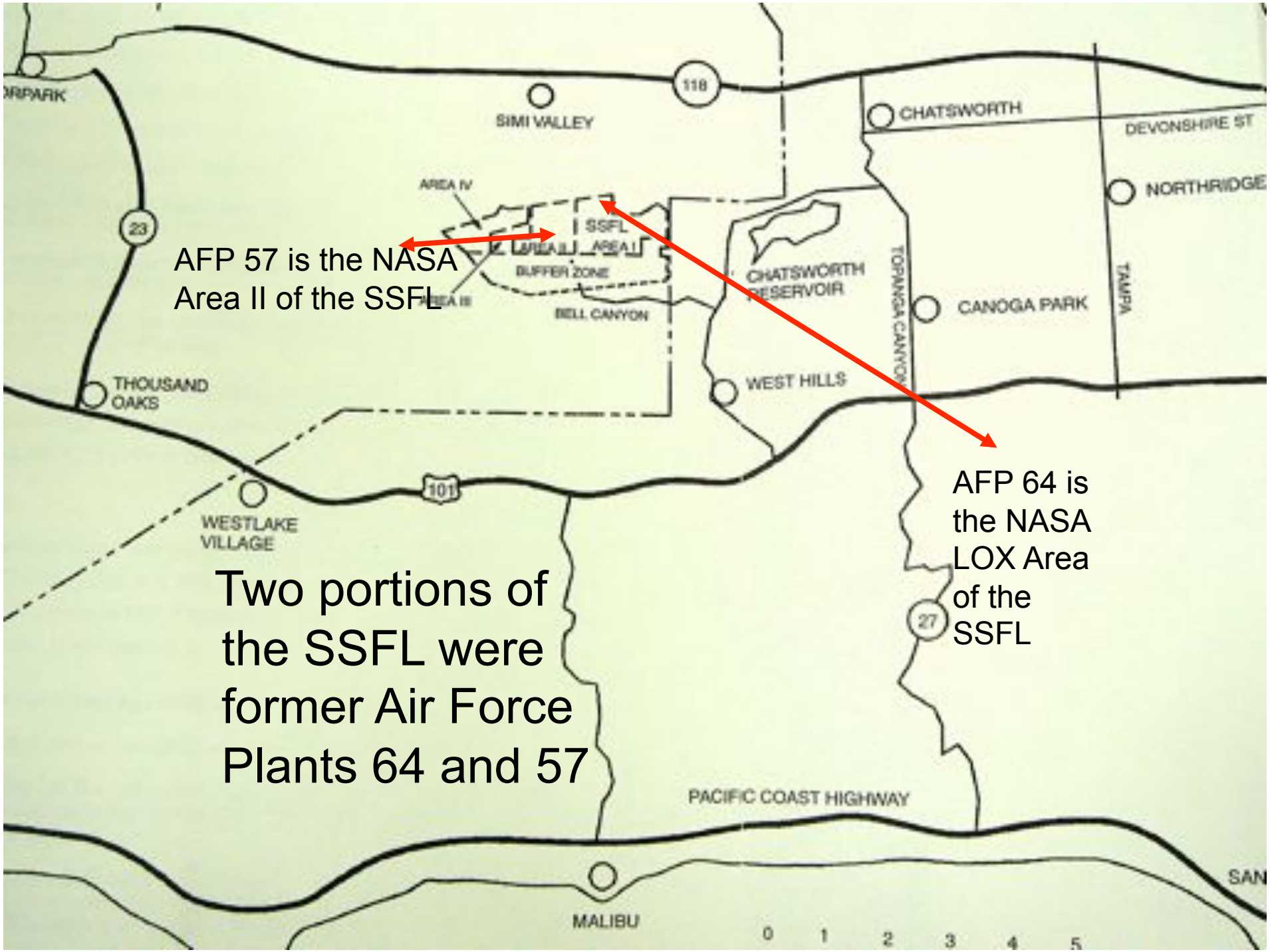
Respectfully submitted,

GROUNDWATER RESOURCES CONSULTANTS, INC

Kurt J. Blust
Associate Hydrogeologist

• WATER SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT • GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION INVESTIGATIONS •

Today the Facility is Operational with unknown Hazards to the L.A. River watershed.


SIMI VALLEY
118
CHATSWORTH
DEVONSHIRE ST
NORTHRIDGE
AREA IV
SSFL
AREA II
AREA I
BUFFER ZONE
AREA III
BELL CANYON
CHATSWORTH RESERVOIR
TOPANGA CANYON
TAMPA
CANOGA PARK
23
THOUSAND OAKS
WEST HILLS
101
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
27
PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY
MALIBU
0 1 2 3 4 5
AFP 57 is the NASA Area II of the SSFL
AFP 64 is the NASA LOX Area of the SSFL
Two portions of the SSFL were former Air Force Plants 64 and 57

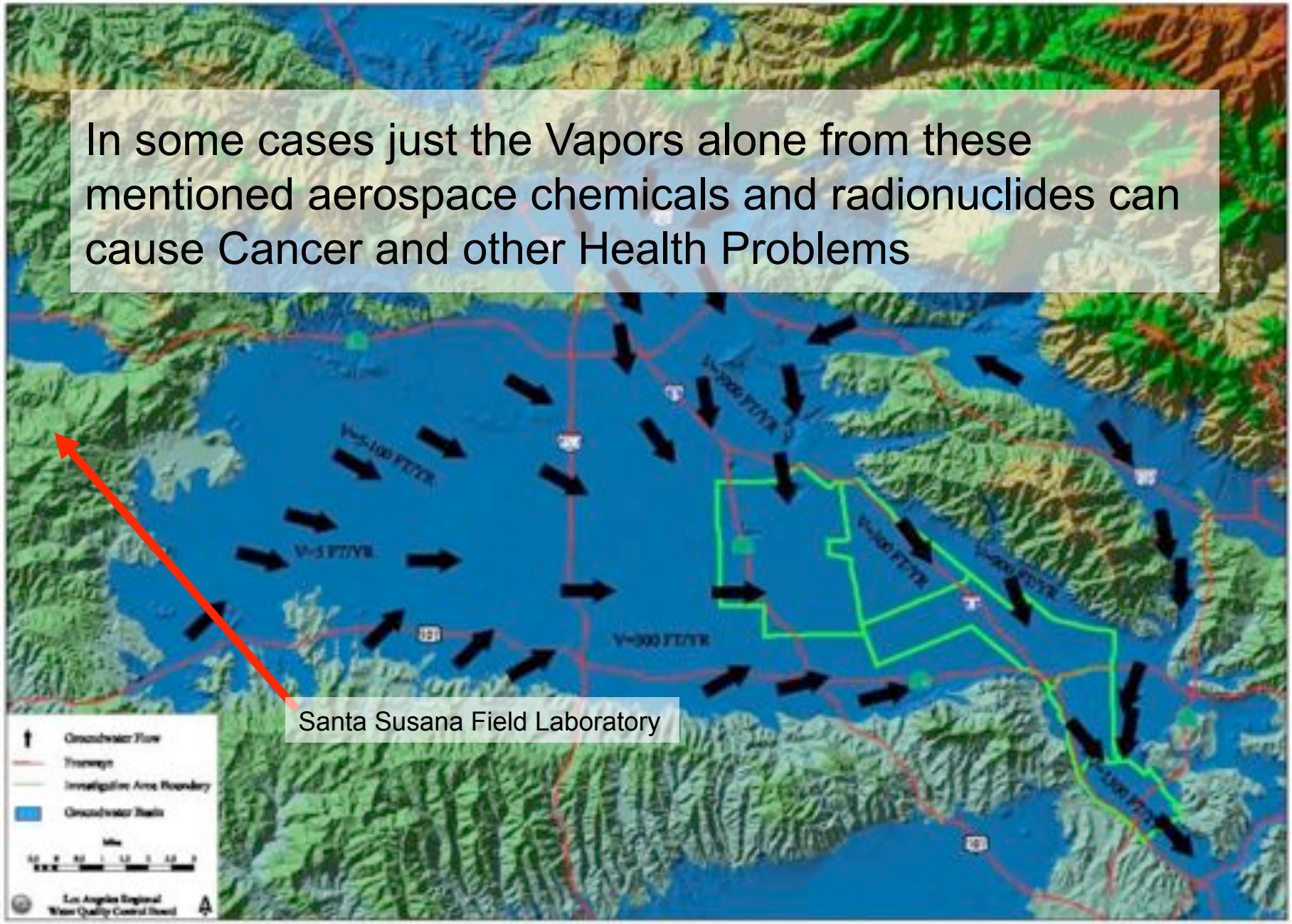
Under the Former Utilized Defense Site Act (FUDS) The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for Groundwater Cleanup at

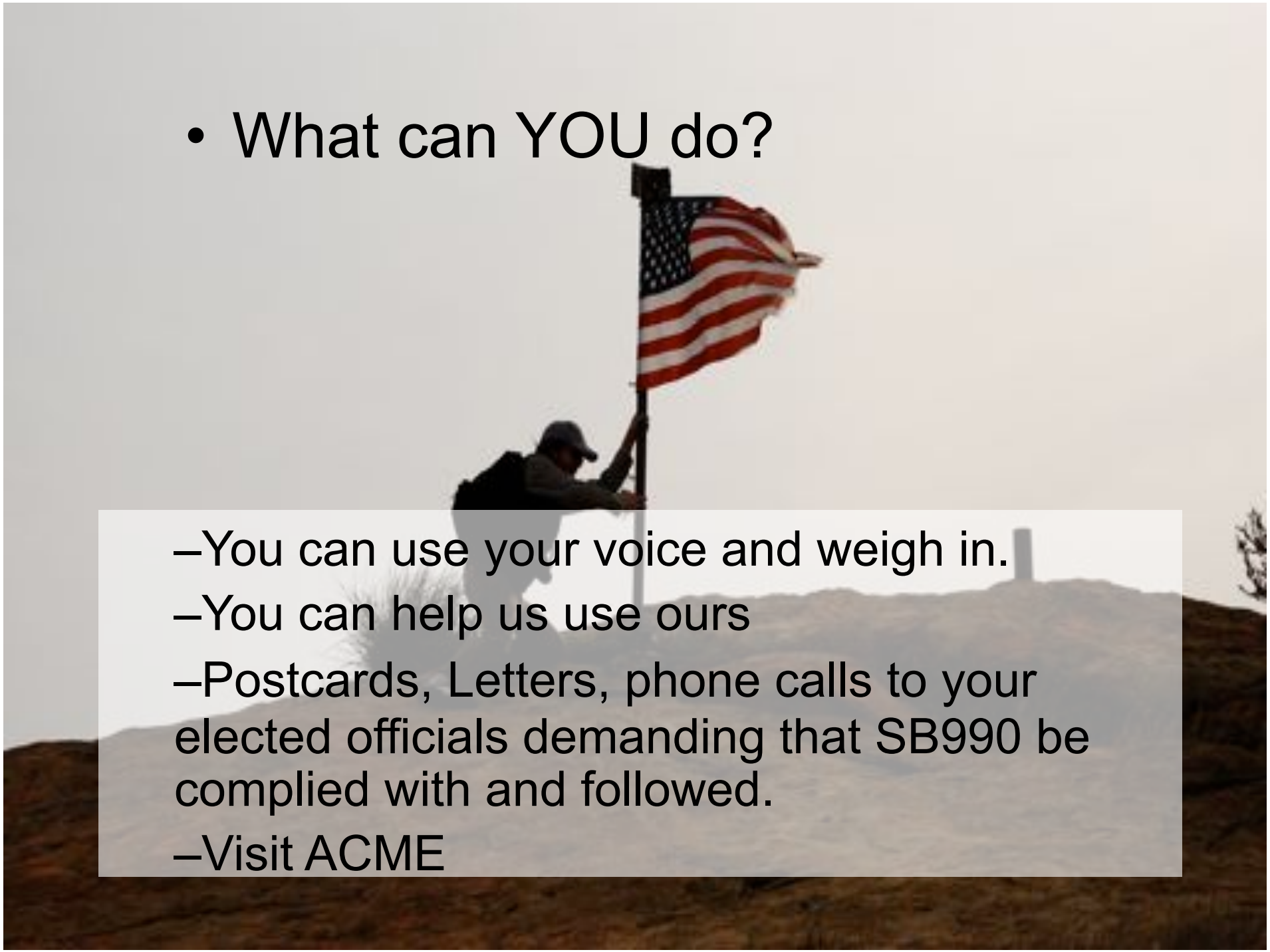
former Air Force Plants

The Canoga/Vanowen Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne facility was former Air Force Plant 56

The recently passed Senate Bill 990 states, The Boeing Company will donate it's Santa Susana Field Lab land after clean up.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY: GROUNDWATER FLOW DIRECTIONS





- What can YOU do?

–You can use your voice and weigh in.

–You can help us use ours

–Postcards, Letters, phone calls to your elected officials demanding that SB990 be complied with and followed.

–Visit ACME

Christina Walsh - Founder/Director
cleanuprocketdyne.org

William Preston Bowling - Founder/Director

Aerospace Cancer Museum of Education

ACMELA.org