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(Via U.S. Mail and E-mail)

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cc: Thomas D. Gallacher BOEING, Allen Elliot NASA, Merrilee Fellows NASA, Norm Riley DTSC, Shelly Backlar FoLAR, David Beckman NRDC, Dan Hirsch CBG, Christina Walsh CLEANUPROCKETDYNE dot org, Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks, Assembly Member Julia Brownley, Senator Fran Pavley.

ACME (Aerospace Cancer Museum of Education) is writing you to express concerns related to Assembly Bill No.102 (AB102) that you recently introduced regarding the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL).

Yesterday your office sent an e-mail blast to over 2000 recipients and the same letter was recently seen in the Ventura County Star newspaper and in their online version. Although, well intended, you list four major educational and preservation campaigns: Save the Caves, Heal the Soil, Lunar Landing, and Wildlife Corridors. In regards to your Lunar Landing Campaign, you state... If we allow these stands to be destroyed because we lack vision, we will be missing a great educational opportunity to highlight California's key involvement in landing on the moon.

On February 10, 2009 ACME and several other groups wrote letters to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors (VCBOS) that reminded you of Section 4 of your own Bill.

[http://acmela.org/images/ACME Letter to Ventura County Board of Supervisors February 10 of 2009.pdf](http://acmela.org/images/ACME%20Letter%20to%20Ventura%20County%20Board%20of%20Supervisors%20February%2010%20of%202009.pdf)

Section 4 requires that no park go forward until the site is completely cleaned up to Senate Bill 990 (SB990) standards. How can this happen if the test stands remain without remediation of the soils underneath? This goes against your Heal the Soil campaign. During the February 10, 2009 VCBOS meeting, they failed to support AB102 in its current form.

According to data prepared by MWH for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Boeing Co., almost 90% of the drainage from the SSFL enters Bell Canyon Creek, the headwaters to the Los Angeles River. With the Multi-Billion Dollar plans for the revitalization of the L.A. River, Source removal has been the proven method for making this an area of lesser health impacts. From reading the hundreds of news articles over the past years and the 2006 U.C.L.A. study, there have been more cases of Cancers in a 5-mile radius surrounding the SSFL than any other place in Los Angeles or Ventura Counties.

Our organization is not against discussions about what to do with the site once it is completely clean and given clearance by the California Environmental Protection Agency yet we also need to make sure that leaving assets behind does not risk the health of the surrounding communities.

Your statement, "if done correctly, we can turn what has become a source of community contention into a resource of local, state and even national pride" we can all agree to that and your slogans of Heal the soil and make way for a Wildlife Corridor will be supported by ACME and other like organizations. I am also proud to have had a grandfather who was employed by North American Aviation, which created Rocketdyne and Atomics International who gave us the SSFL and helped us win the "Race to Space."

A major concern aside from Radiological, is Trichloroethylene (TCE). In past reports we have read there lay apx. 800,000 gallons in the groundwater aquifer of spent TCE. This number was based on 8000 Rocket-engine tests, yet we have discovered through a document prepared by TechLaw Inc. in 1990 for the Army Corps of Engineers (Final Report SSFL AIR FORCE PLANT No. 57 Site Operations/Ownership History) that they boast over 150,000 rocket-engine tests. This would equal a different number of TCE that would remain. Let me remind you that TCE, a Volatile Organic Compound is Cancerous, with Vapor that could impact health as well.

For your information the Boeing Co. is currently demolishing the test stands at the Advanced Propulsion Test Facility (APTF) in AREA I of the SSFL and last month they removed all the test stands at CTL IV in AREA III. The Canyon Transition Reliability Equipment (TRE) Test Stands in AREA I have already been removed. The Test Stand in the Bowl of AREA I made famous by Wernher von Braun have already been dismantled and only the 8000 cubic yards of concrete in the base structure remain.

The demolition of the Rocket Engine Test Stands and source removal cleanup and restoration is needed as the TCE underneath continue to release cancerous vapors. This is the only way we can secure a healthy future for the San Fernando and Simi Valley's. Click on the link below to see the TCE Fact Sheet prepared by NASA in regards to the SSFL...

http://acmela.org/images/NASA_TCE_use_SSFL.pdf

My partner, Christina Walsh, founder of cleanuprocketdyne.org created a museum about a mile below the SSFL in Chatsworth Lake Manor. A place where Community Members can learn about this historic cleanup that is going on at the SSFL. More importantly, we teach what they can do to protect themselves and use their voice so legislators such as yourself take into consideration the issues we feel are important to the Health and Safety of our Communities.

We recently had Lenny Siegel from the Center for Public Environmental Oversight (CPEO) speak at our Quarterly Lecture Series, on TCE and Vapor intrusion. This was well attended, as the community want answers. With the immune system damage and lymphoma risk that can occur from TCE exposure it is crucial that we remove all the remaining test stands and the source contamination that lies beneath. In some cases the test stand concrete extends dozens of feet into the subsurface, removal is the only option in remediation. With the source of contamination still in place it will continue to impact the surrounding neighborhoods every time we have heavy rains.

ACME would like to invite you and your staff to learn more about the Santa Susana Field Laboratory and the historic clean-up initiatives to take place as recently directed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger brought forth by Senator Sheila Kuehl and Assemblymember Julia Brownley, by simply making an appointment to visit our Museum or attend many of our weekly public functions.

ACME is currently involved with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the Background Radiation Study of the SSFL. During the past 6 months of studies ACME has gained a newfound knowledge regarding geology. As we are searching for "Clean" soil within the boundaries of the same geological formation of the SSFL. Many of the remaining test stands sit upon what is called the Chatsworth Formation, a complex series of fractured sandstone that has an unpredictable turbidity and directional dispersion. According to the NASA TCE fact sheet it states "TCE had been used in large quantities by the USAF and NASA to clean liquid-fueled rocket engines both before and after each test. NASA takes full responsibility for the cleanup of its two areas."

Let me remind you that NASA owns the AREA II portion of the SSFL, where the last remaining Test Stands reside. NASA has not, and cannot commit their property to Parkland as the protocol they have to endure is out of their say. NASA, as a federal agency must advertise the site with other government agencies, such as the Air Force or the Army Corps of Engineers to see if they have uses for their portions of the SSFL. If no other government agency has a use for AREA II of the SSFL or even the NASA LOX area

(Located adjacent to the current Northern Drainage cleanup) then Parkland could be an option. The Boeing Company on the other hand has to adhere to the land transfer as per Senate Bill 900.

This leads you to another dilemma, SAVE THE CAVES. The caves are on NASA Property. After seeing them first hand escorted by NASA, I too, agree that these caves are some of the most remarkable and well preserved indigenous cave paintings in California, and quite possibly, the United States. Well preserved Caves thanks to this area being secure, classified and on government property. At our museum as we have the NASA literature created in 2008 regarding their cultural resources (Caves) at the SSFL as well as photographs of these magnificent cave paintings. Archaeologist David Whitley has stated that his reviews of these caves suggest that the site dates minimally from about 1200 AD to 1800 AD. Yes these caves are important, you mention Chumash, yet, let us not forget the Fernandeno/Tataviam also inhabited these hills. There is still not enough known as what or if all tribes used these caves. As written by Christina Walsh in a book about the SSFL that I co-authored, we were "Not the first to dream about the wonders of our universe."

ACME would support a Historical Monument at the SSFL as a tribute to our "Race to Space" yet a Cancer Survivors Monument at the site would be of equal stature. Before your offices release additional "Building a Legacy" brochures or open letters to local papers, ask the many groups that have been fighting (in some cases, involved from 30 years ago) for a proper cleanup of this site, their opinions. We can all work together on this and come to a conclusion that works for everyone.

In closing we would like to thank you for your public support of Senate Bill 990 and your help in making this Bill, LAW.

William Preston Bowling

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