
23350 Lake Manor Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 8, 2008

WHAT: The Aerospace Cancer Museum of Education, Los Angeles and CleanUpRocketdyne.org collaborate in its joint museum/gallery opening of environmental advocacy for the clean-up of Boeing's Santa Susana Field Laboratory and other Southern California aerospace and military legacy sites.

WHEN: Friday, May 9th, 2008 - 7pm to 10pm at 23350 Lake Manor Drive in Chatsworth, 91311.

Situated just a mile below the site of America's worst nuclear meltdown at the former Rocketdyne Santa Susana Field Lab, the Aerospace Cancer Museum of Education, Los Angeles, will open May 9th as a center where community members can come and learn about SSFL and the historic clean-up initiatives to take place there as recently directed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. This unique and unprecedented collaboration by founders William Preston Bowling and Christina Walsh will organize and activate a public hungry for accurate information about this astronomically polluted site. Bowling and Walsh aim to create a paradigm shift where community activists, government officials and aerospace industry experts can come together to solve some of the greatest environmental challenges facing Southern California.

City of Los Angeles Council Member Grieg Smith, along with former Assembly Members Hannah-Beth Jackson and Fran Pavley, will be attending the event as well as staff from State Senator Shiela Kuehl and Assembly Member Julia Brownley's offices. Over one hundred community members, many impacted by the health-consequences of living near SSFL, including Los Angeles Laker Derek Fisher, former Cincinnati Red Glenn Braggs and his wife, En Vogue lead singer Cindy Heron-Braggs, are expected to attend. Officials from Boeing, NASA, and the Department of Energy, which are charged with cleaning up the former Rocketdyne facility, have also indicated that they will attend.

ACMELA has created a welcoming space where people can come to look, read, touch and listen to the details about the challenges we face in cleaning up Cold War Era facilities in the region. The goal of this center is to protect the surrounding populations and environment through raising public awareness. Bowling and Walsh bring years of environmental activism to this endeavor, yet the challenges are many:

- The Field Lab is heavily polluted by radiation due to several partial nuclear meltdowns, illegal and sloppy disposal practices, and numerous accidents.
- Chemical contamination, the result of over 30,000 rocket tests, continues to plague the lab and may have polluted both the San Fernando and Simi valleys where impending housing development looms.
- Groundwater contamination includes the toxic rocket-fuel oxidizer perchlorate and the deadly rocket-engine solvent trichloroethylene, which at the present rate of clean-up will take thousands of years to remove before the water is no longer dangerous.
- Several studies have shown increased cancer rates around the lab including the rare childhood cancer retinoblastoma, which was the subject of a recent *Los Angeles Times* article on Laker Derek Fisher's daughter.

The Aerospace Cancer Museum of Education-Los Angeles is dedicated to addressing the critical environmental catastrophes caused by pollution at and emanating from the former Rocketdyne lab and other regional Cold War Era aerospace and military-related facilities. This unprecedented collaboration of environmental activists with industry and government officials partnering with affected communities is a unique opportunity to prevent what we cannot cure. Now that the cleanup of SSFL is beginning in earnest, Southern California now has a home for people to gather and collaborate on this most important endeavor.

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www.annenbergfoundation.org