



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

**75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901**

February 6, 2004

**The Honorable Sheila James Kuehl
State Capitol, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Dear Senator Kuehl:

Thank you for your letter of December 16, 2003 concerning our involvement in the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) Workgroup. The Regional Administrator has asked me to respond to you regarding our continued participation.

As you know, EPA does not have lead authority over remedy decisions at non-NPL federal sites and, therefore, our involvement at SSFL will no longer be of the nature and level it has been in the past. However, we have agreed to continue participating in conference calls and meetings in a technical assistance role as long as the discussions are productive. EPA may be available as technical consultants if requested by other regulatory agencies. Although we are stepping down as chair of the Workgroup, we have agreed to fund the professional mediator for the near future to support the continuing operation of the Workgroup. Our continued involvement over the longer term will depend on our ability to affect cleanup decisions and our available resources.

EPA accepted the role of chair of the SSFL Workgroup over 13 years ago when the State of California was not yet fully authorized to lead hazardous waste cleanups in the State. As you know, the Department of Toxic Substances Control is now authorized for hazardous waste cleanups and is the lead for overseeing cleanup of chemical contamination at SSFL. In addition, the California Department of Health Services is the lead state agency overseeing radiologic cleanups at non-DOE facilities, including the non-DOE portions of the SSFL.

EPA shares your concern that the site be cleaned up in an expeditious and protective manner. However, mindful of the number of federal and state agencies that have authority and responsibility over this site, EPA wants to ensure that the Agency plays an appropriate role and avoids multiple, duplicative use of limited federal and state governmental resources. We believe that EPA can contribute by serving as technical advisors.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

15 Harrison Street

San Francisco, CA 94102-3001

February 10, 2004

The Honorable Sheila James Knapp
State Capitol, Room 4033
Sacramento, CA 95834

Dear Senator Knapp:

Thank you for your letter of December 16, 2003 concerning our involvement in the State
Superior Court Laboratory (SCL) Workgroup. The Regional Administrator has asked me to
respond to you regarding our continued participation.


As you know, EPA does not have lead authority over remedial decisions at non-NPL
facilities and, therefore, our involvement at SCL will no longer be of the nature and level it
has been in the past. However, we have agreed to continue participating in consensus calls and
meetings in a technical assistance role as long as the discussions are productive. EPA may be
evaluated as technical consultant if requested by other regulatory agencies. Although we are
stepping down as chair of the Workgroup, we have agreed to find the professional mediator for
the next term to support the continuing operation of the Workgroup. Our continued
involvement over the longer term will depend on our ability to affect cleanup decisions and our
available resources.

EPA accepted the role of chair of the SCL Workgroup over 13 years ago when the State
of California was not yet fully authorized to lead hazardous waste cleanups in the State. As you
know, the Department of Toxic Substances Control is now authorized for hazardous waste
cleanups and is the lead for overseeing cleanup of chemical contamination at SCL. In addition,
the California Department of Health Services is the lead state agency overseeing remedial
cleanups at non-DDE facilities, including the non-DDE portions of the SCL.

EPA shares your concern that the site be cleaned up in an expeditious and protective
manner. However, mindful of the number of federal and state agencies that have authority and
responsibility over this site, EPA wants to ensure that the Agency plays an appropriate role and
avoids multiple, duplicative use of limited federal and state governmental resources. We believe
that EPA can contribute by serving as technical advisor.

Again, thank you for your letter and your efforts to ensure a protective cleanup at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. If you have further questions, feel free to contact me, or your staff may contact Jim Vreeland in our Office of Planning and Public Affairs at 415-947-4298.

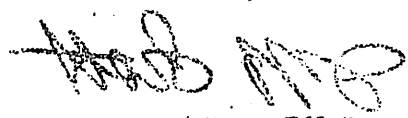
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Scott, Director
Waste Management Division

Again, thank you for your letter and your efforts to ensure a protective cleanup at the
State's Quarantine Station. If you have further questions, feel free to contact me or your
staff may contact Jim Venzel in our Office of Planning and Public Affairs at 410-247-4300.

Sincerely,



Jeff Scott, Director
Waste Management Division