

ROCKETDYNE

and the

L.A. River

ACHELA.ORG

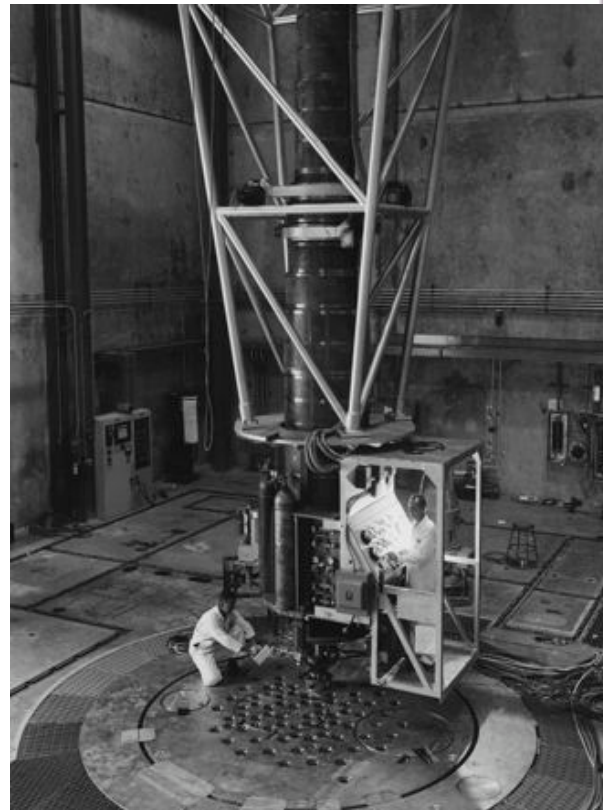
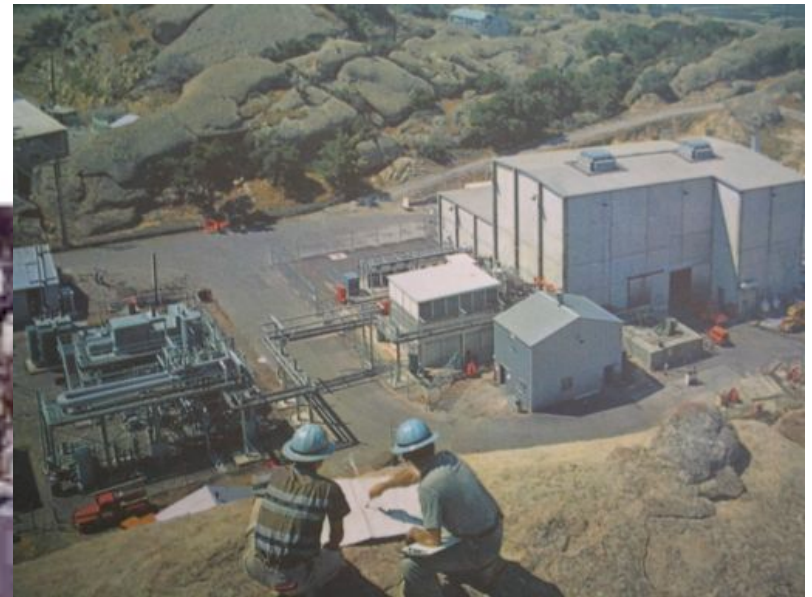
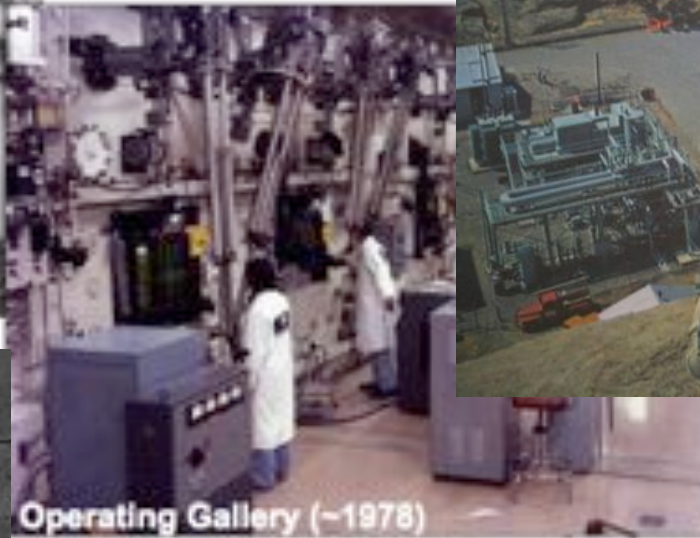
[cleanuprocketdyne.org](http://cleanuprocketdyne.org)





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.

## What was done at building 020?



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.

**RADIATION**  
**CAUTION**  
  
**RADIATION**

**Historical Site Assessment of Area IV  
Santa Susana Field Laboratory  
Ventura County, California**

**Volume 1 – Methodology**



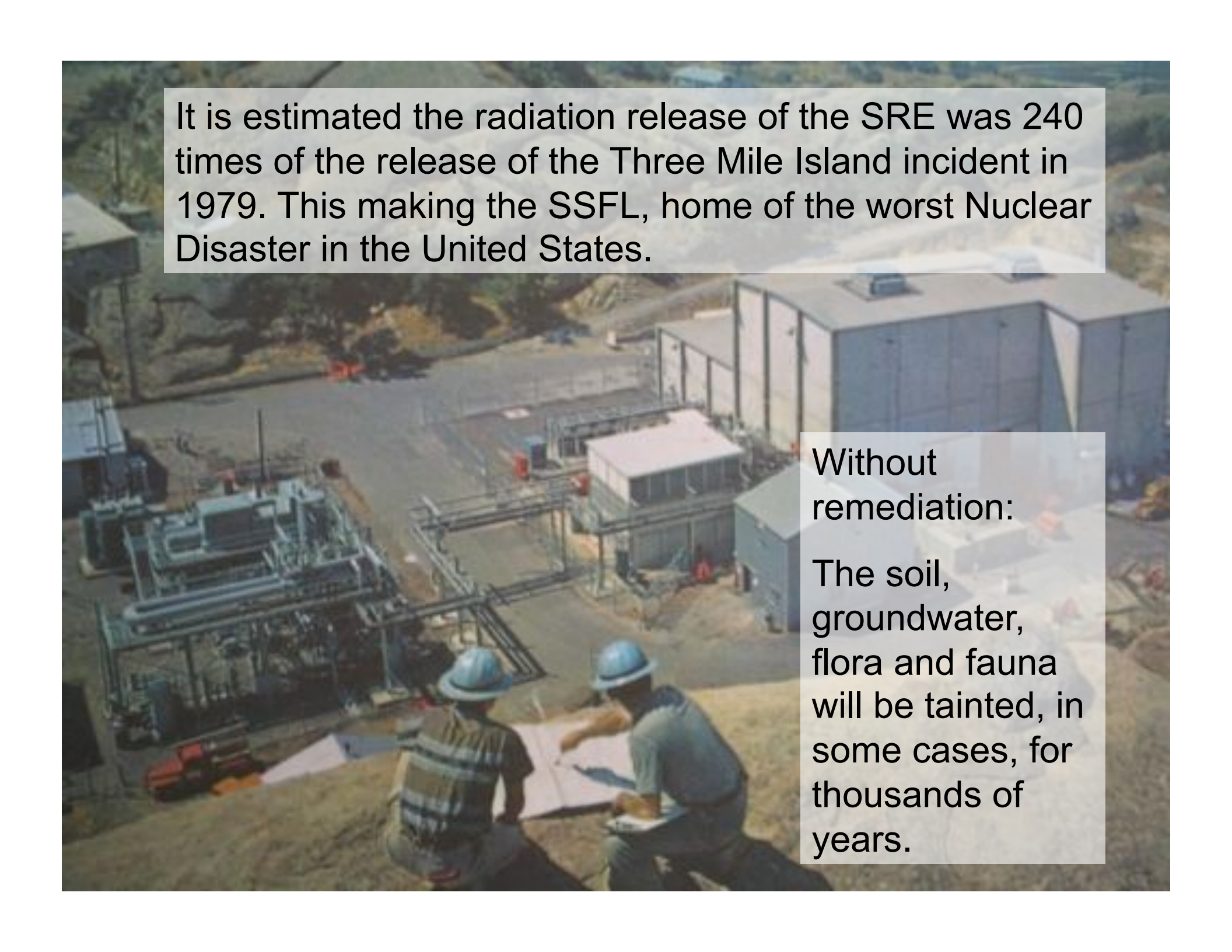
*Prepared by Sapere Consulting, Inc. and  
The Boeing Company for the Department of Energy  
Under Contract DE-AC03-99SF21530*

**May 2005**

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.

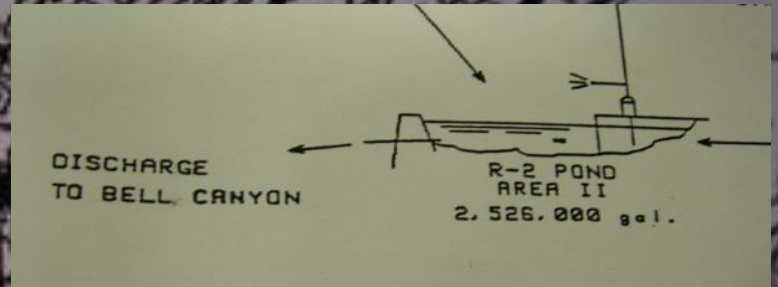


An aerial photograph of a nuclear power plant site. In the foreground, two workers wearing blue hard hats and safety vests are looking at a large set of plans or documents on the ground. The middle ground shows various industrial structures, including a large blue building, a white building, and a complex network of pipes and metal frameworks. The background shows a hilly, somewhat barren landscape under a clear sky.

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.

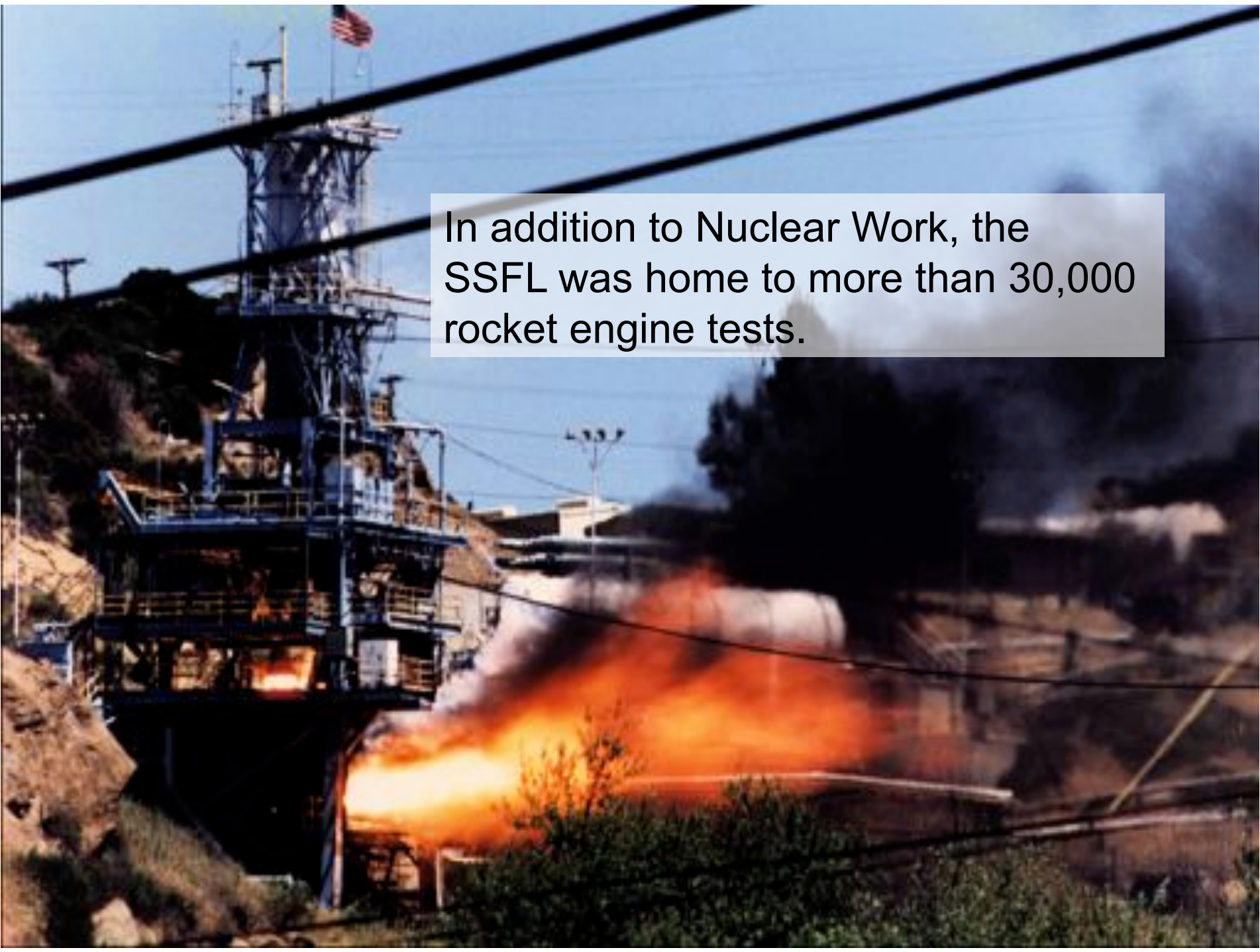


*Santa Susana Field Laboratory PA/SI Report*

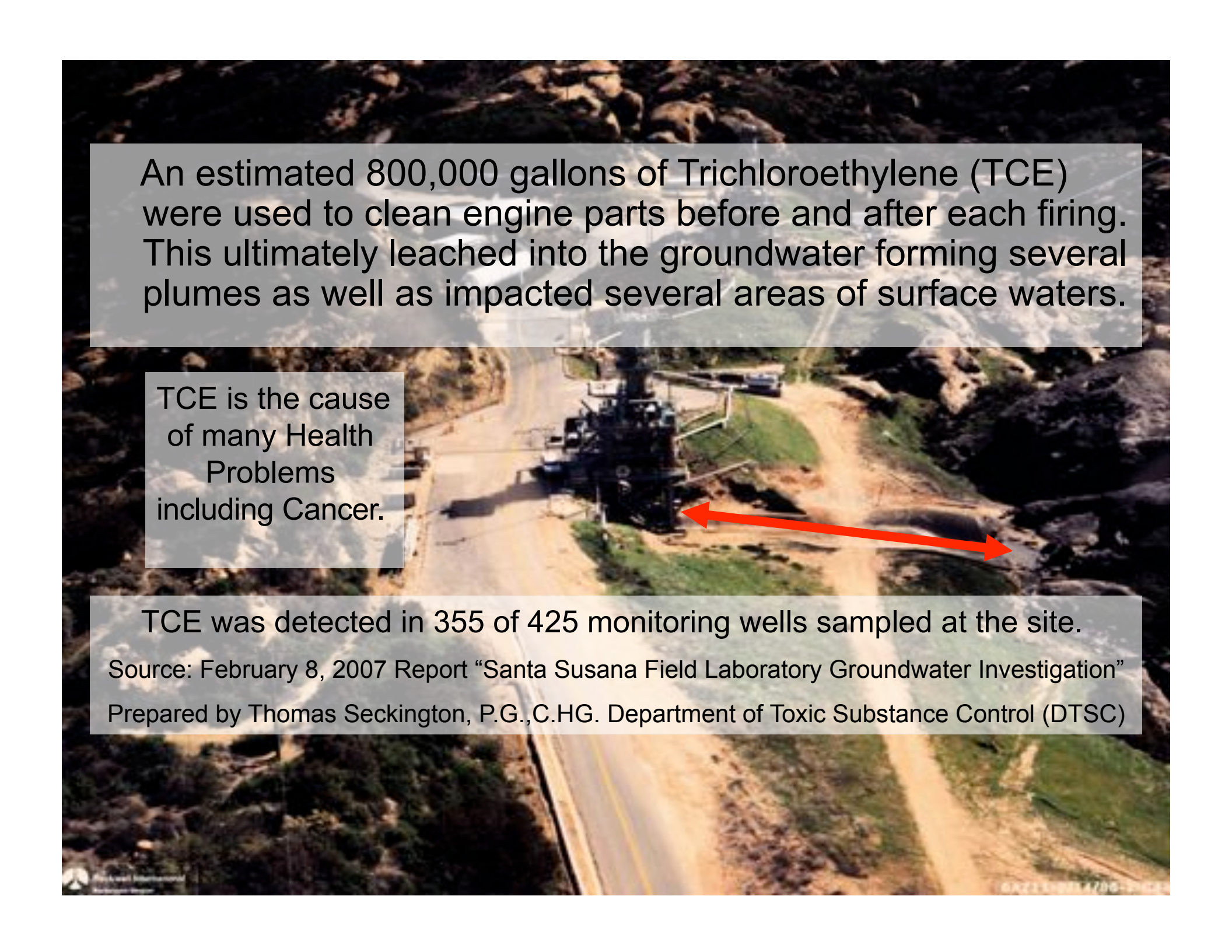
#### 4.3.1 Hydrologic Setting

A majority of the surface water runoff from the SSFL site drains to the southeast through Bell Canyon Creek. Bell Canyon Creek flows into the Los Angeles River approximately 5 miles from the site. The Los Angeles River empties into the Pacific Ocean in Long Beach, CA. The

The Storm Drain System, Sewage Drainage System and Natural Runoff from the Nuclear AREA IV of the SSFL drain into the L.A. River via Bell Canyon Creek.



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

An aerial photograph of an industrial site, likely a laboratory, situated in a rocky, hilly area. A large, dark, cylindrical structure is the central focus. A red arrow points from this structure towards a nearby area, possibly indicating a plume or impact zone. The surrounding terrain is rugged and rocky, with some sparse vegetation. A road or path is visible in the foreground.

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.

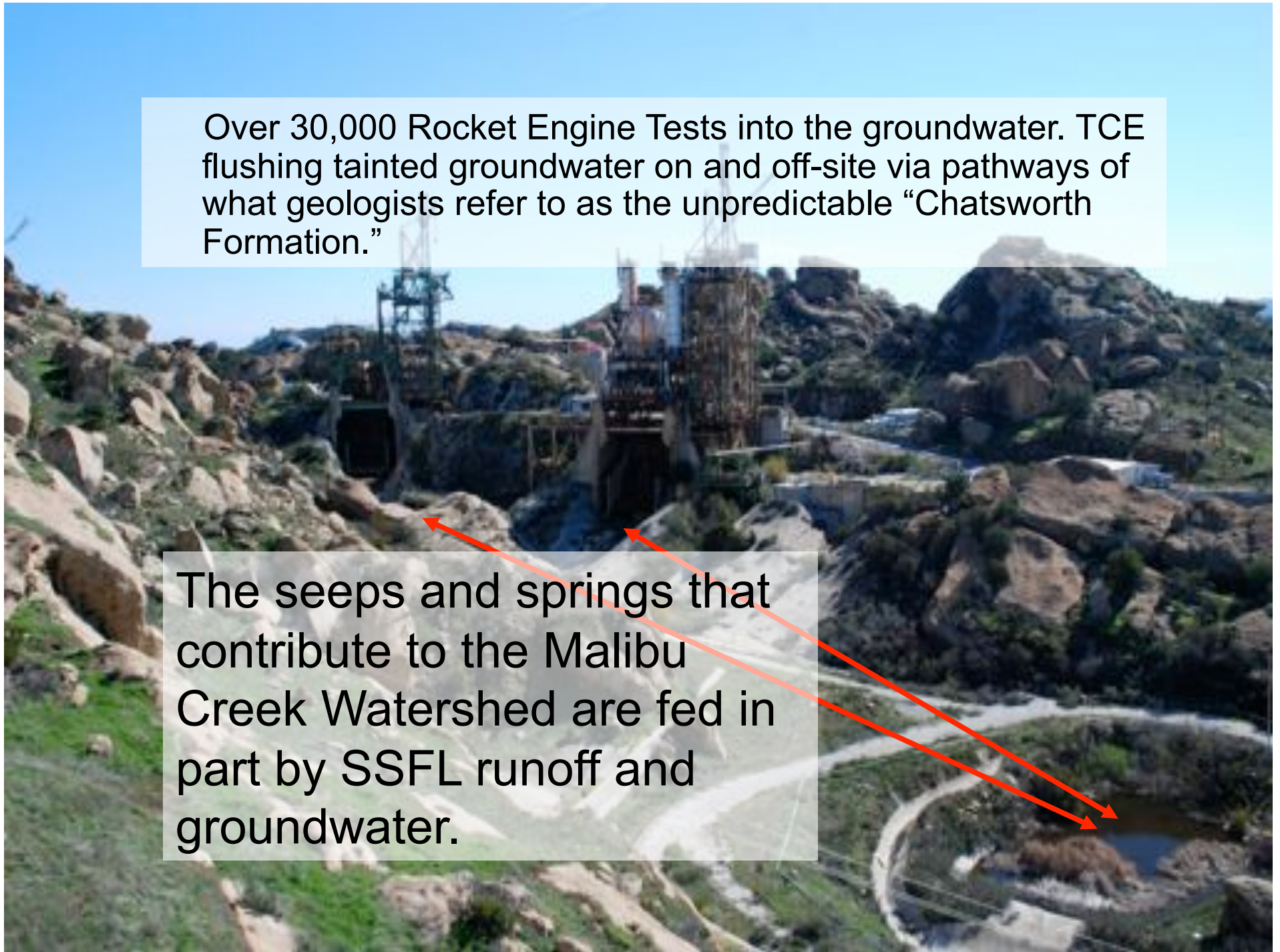
TCE is the cause of many Health Problems including Cancer.

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

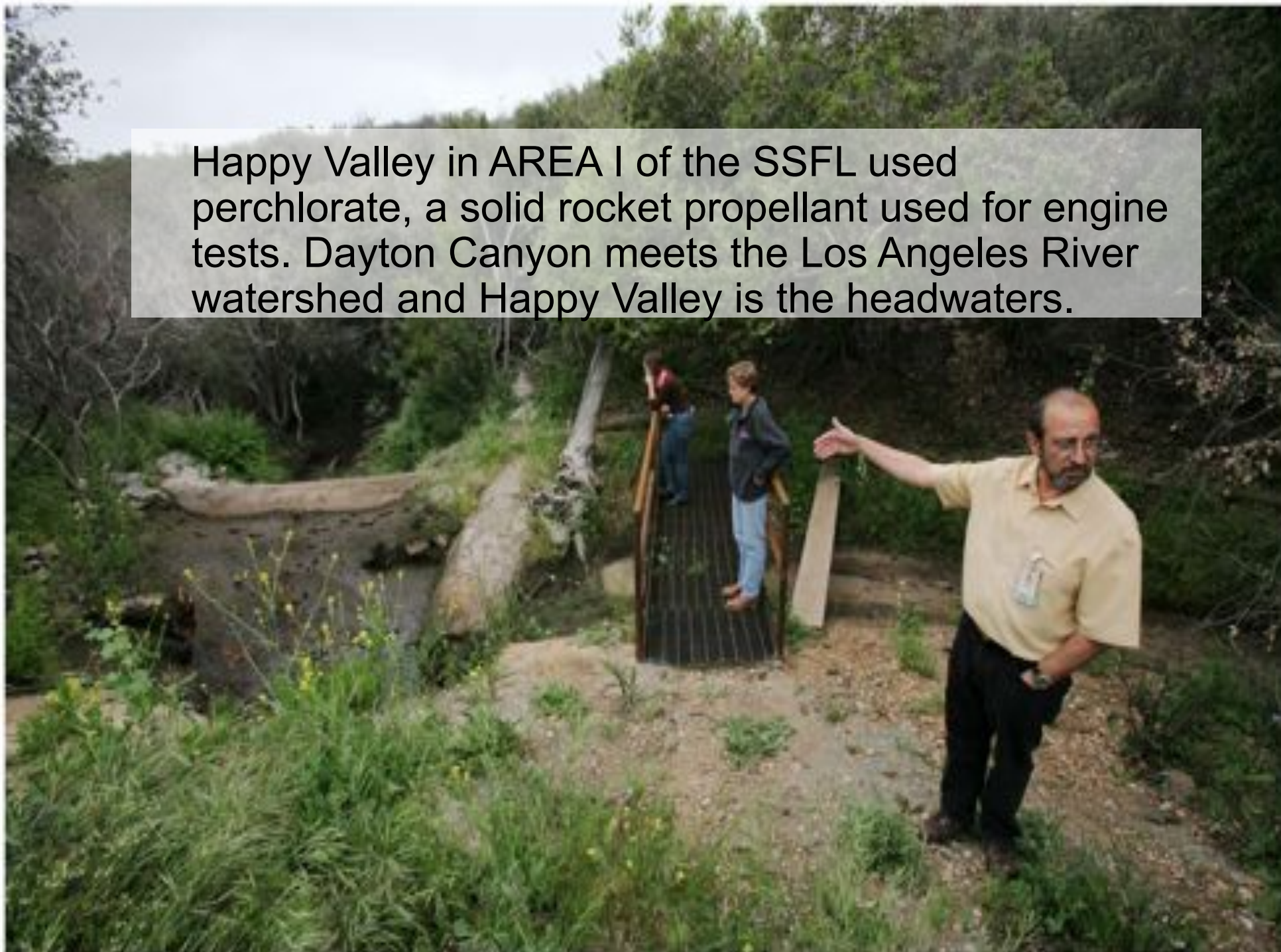
Source: February 8, 2007 Report "Santa Susana Field Laboratory Groundwater Investigation" Prepared by Thomas Seckington, P.G., C.H.G. Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC)

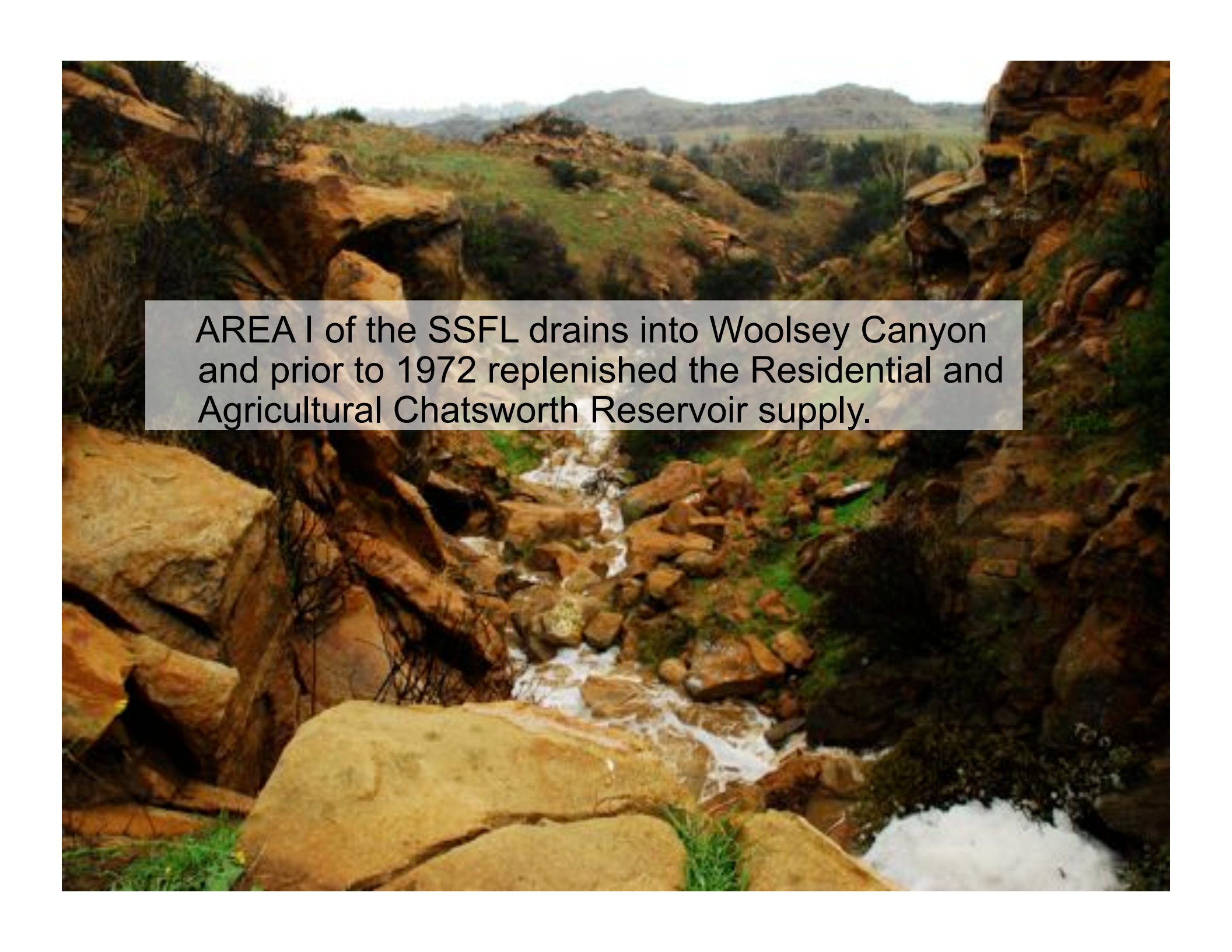
Over 30,000 Rocket Engine Tests into the groundwater. TCE flushing tainted groundwater on and off-site via pathways of what geologists refer to as the unpredictable “Chatsworth Formation.”

The seeps and springs that contribute to the Malibu Creek Watershed are fed in part by SSFL runoff and groundwater.

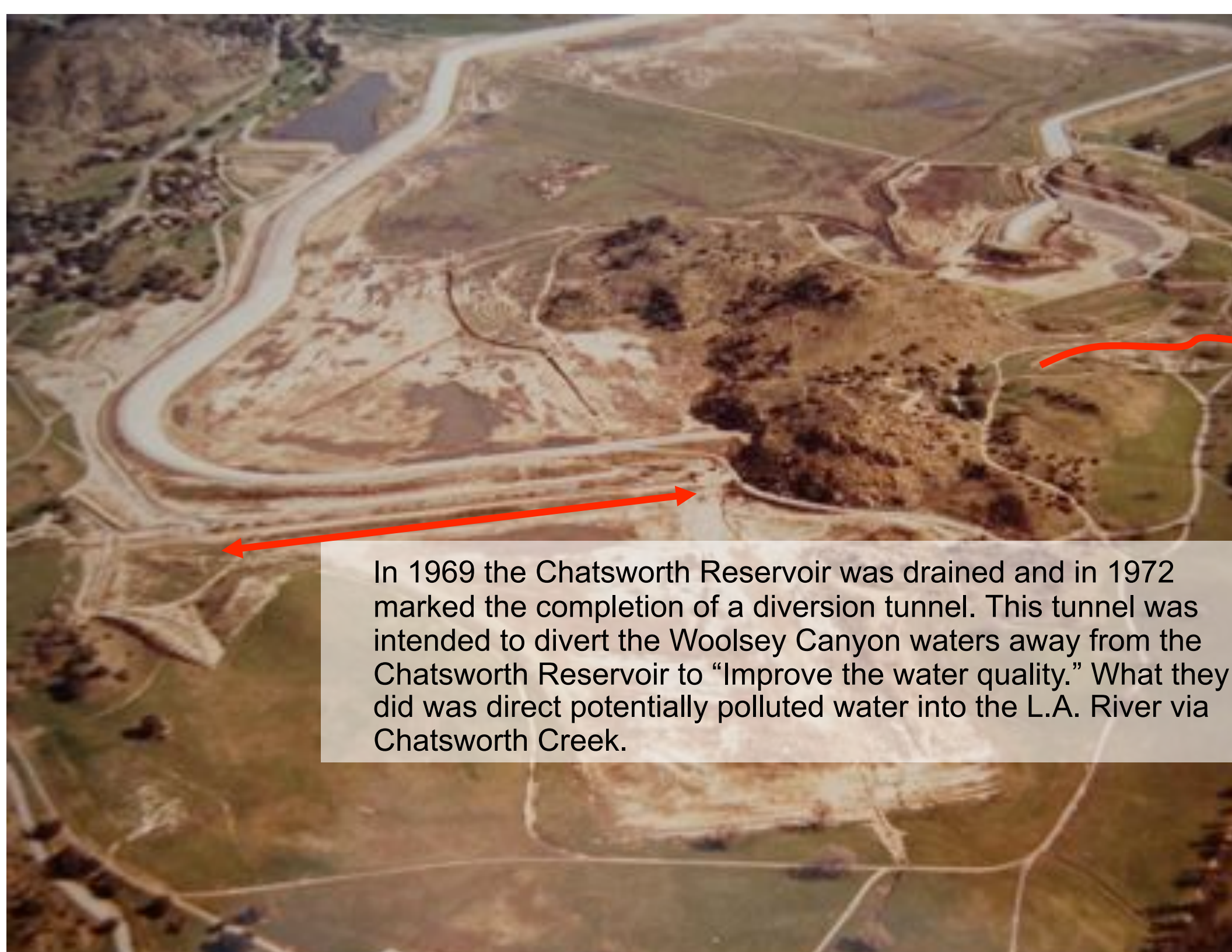


Happy Valley in AREA I of the SSFL used perchlorate, a solid rocket propellant used for engine tests. Dayton Canyon meets the Los Angeles River watershed and Happy Valley is the headwaters.

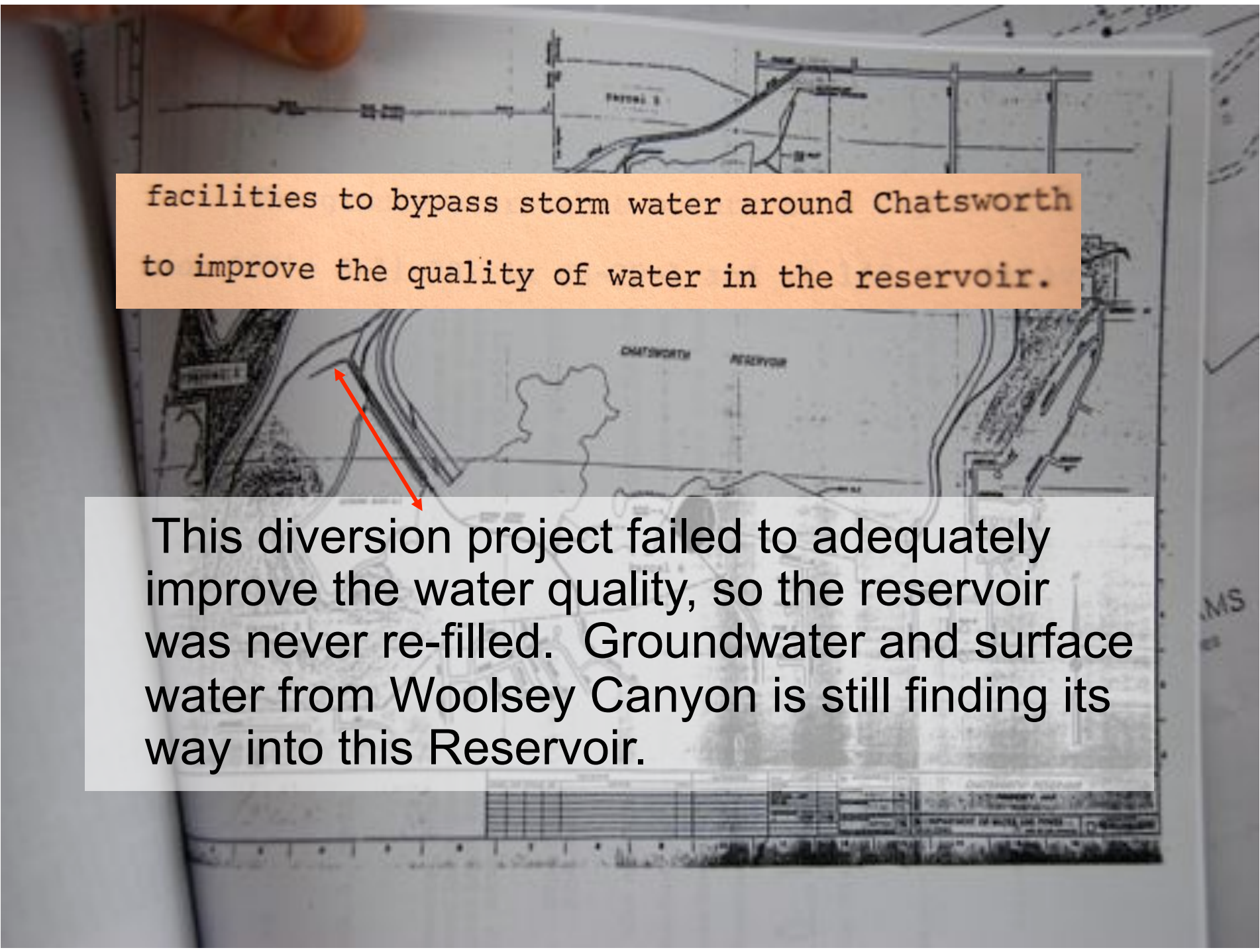




AREA I of the SSFL drains into Woolsey Canyon and prior to 1972 replenished the Residential and Agricultural Chatsworth Reservoir supply.

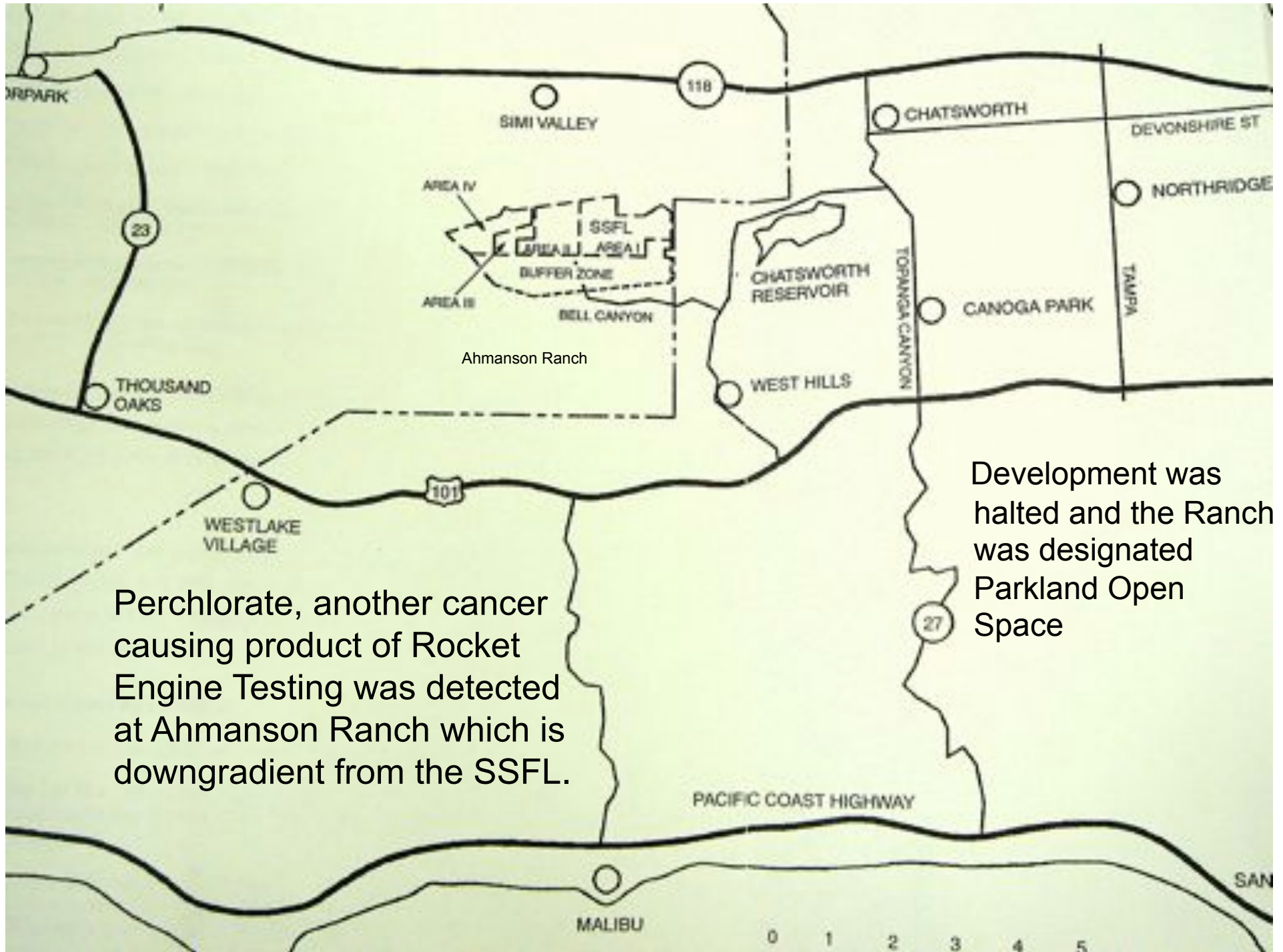


In 1969 the Chatsworth Reservoir was drained and in 1972 marked the completion of a diversion tunnel. This tunnel was intended to divert the Woolsey Canyon waters away from the Chatsworth Reservoir to “Improve the water quality.” What they did was direct potentially polluted water into the L.A. River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

The image shows a technical drawing, likely a plan view of a reservoir and its surrounding infrastructure. A red arrow points to a specific diversion structure on the left side of the reservoir. The reservoir is labeled 'CHATSWORTH RESERVOIR'. The drawing includes various lines representing channels, roads, and structures. A title block is visible at the bottom right of the drawing.

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.



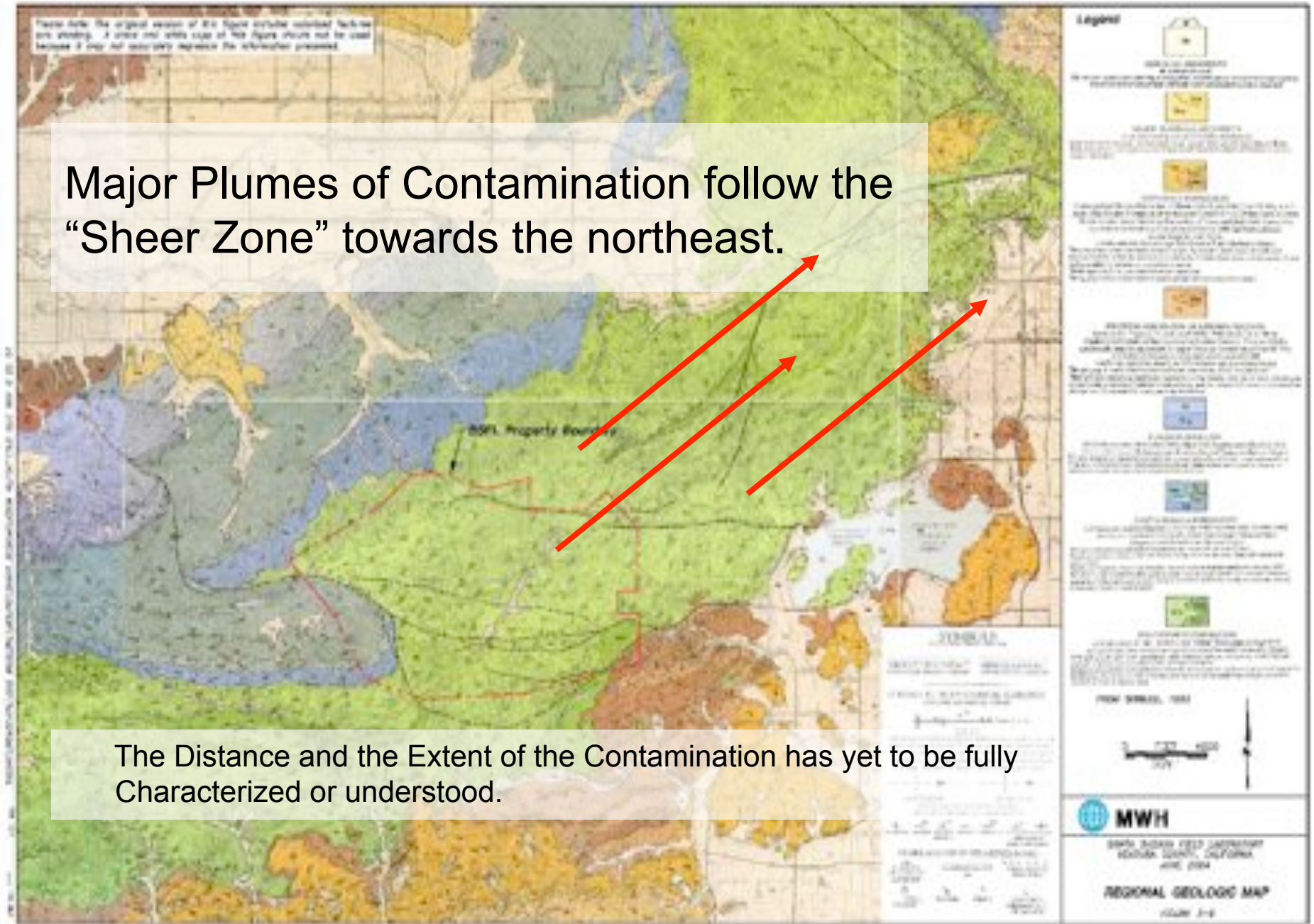
Perchlorate, another cancer causing product of Rocket Engine Testing was detected at Ahmanson Ranch which is downgradient from the SSFL.

Development was halted and the Ranch was designated Parkland Open Space



Major Plumes of Contamination follow the "Sheer Zone" towards the northeast.

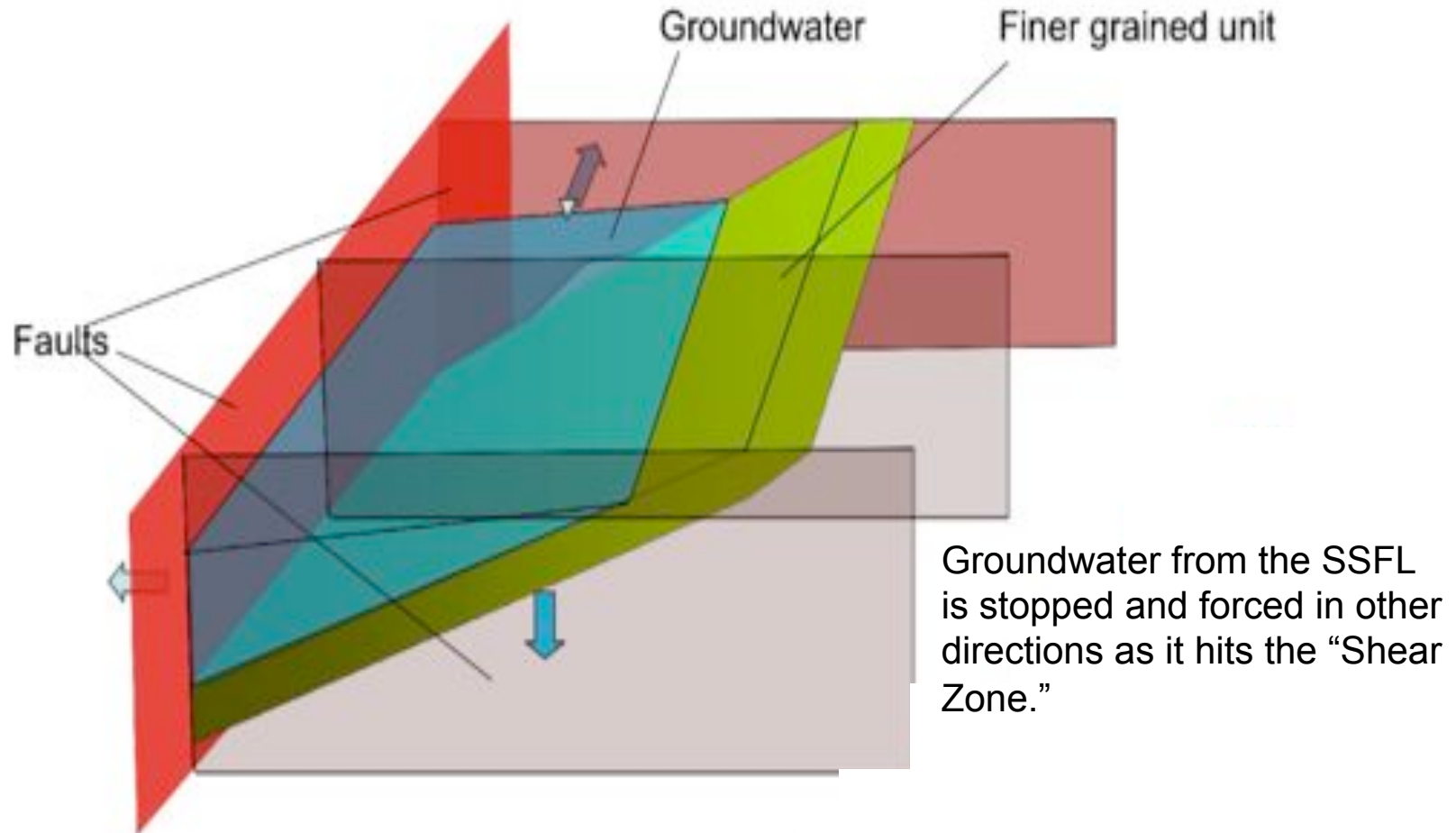
The Distance and the Extent of the Contamination has yet to be fully Characterized or understood.



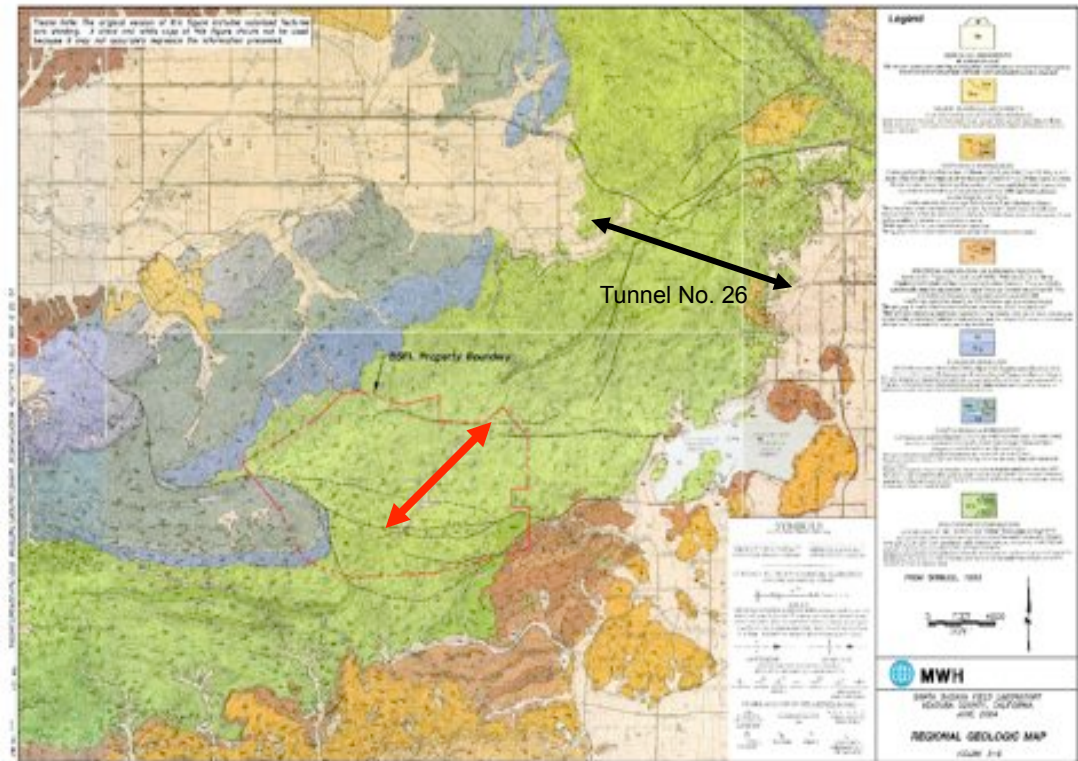
This Figure is from Page 19 of the February 8, 2007 Report “Santa Susana Field Laboratory Groundwater Investigation.”

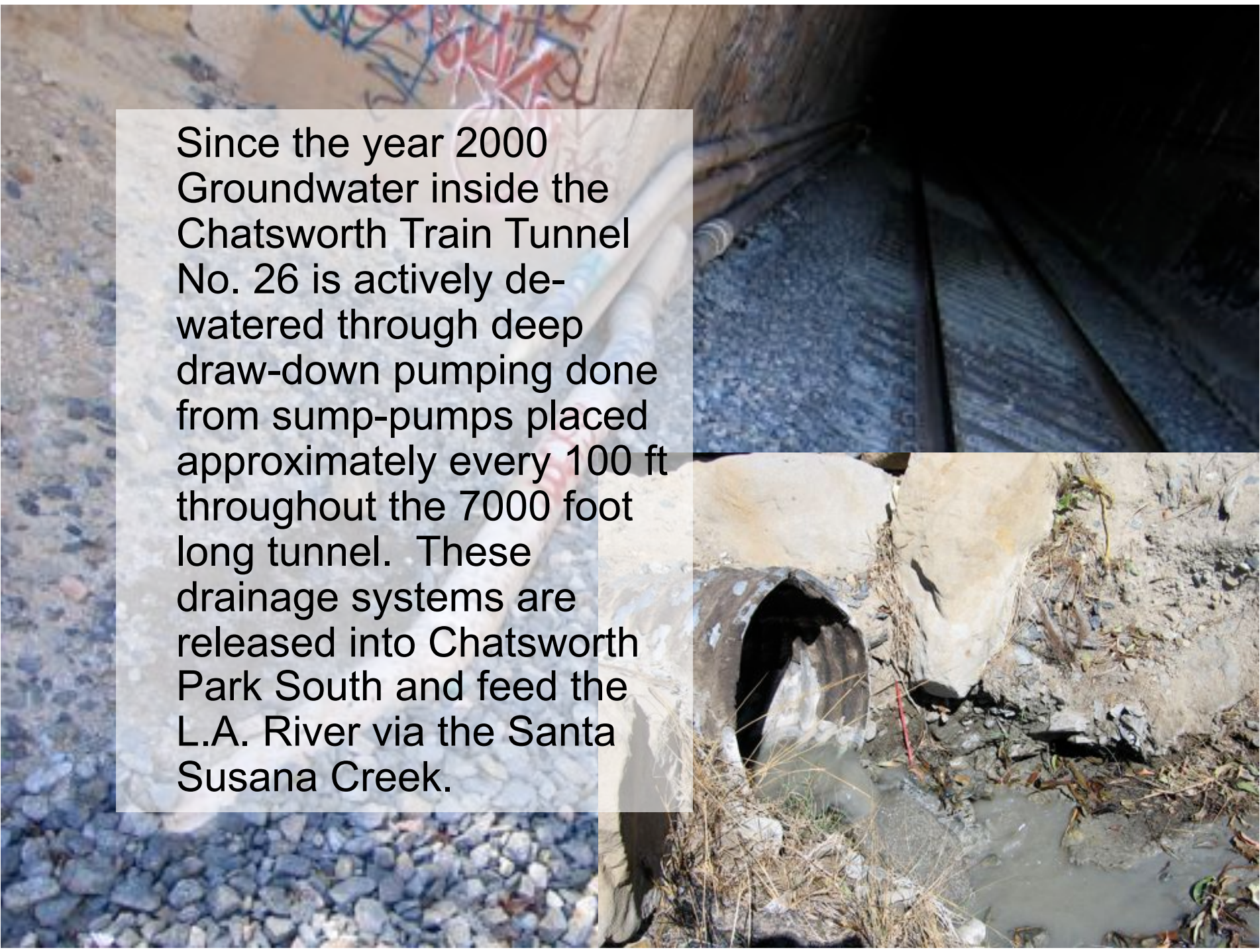
Prepared by Thomas Seckington, P.G.,C.H.G. Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC)

An example of Faults and how the groundwater is directed by these faults.




The “Shear Zone” follows the North American Cut-off Motorway towards the northeast and eventually hits Chatsworth Train Tunnel No. 26.



The image is a composite of two photographs. The top half shows the interior of a tunnel with graffiti on the walls and a drainage pipe. The bottom half shows a drainage pipe outlet on the ground, surrounded by rocks and debris.

Since the year 2000 Groundwater inside the Chatsworth Train Tunnel No. 26 is actively de-watered through deep draw-down pumping done from sump-pumps placed approximately every 100 ft throughout the 7000 foot long tunnel. These drainage systems are released into Chatsworth Park South and feed the L.A. River via the Santa Susana Creek.

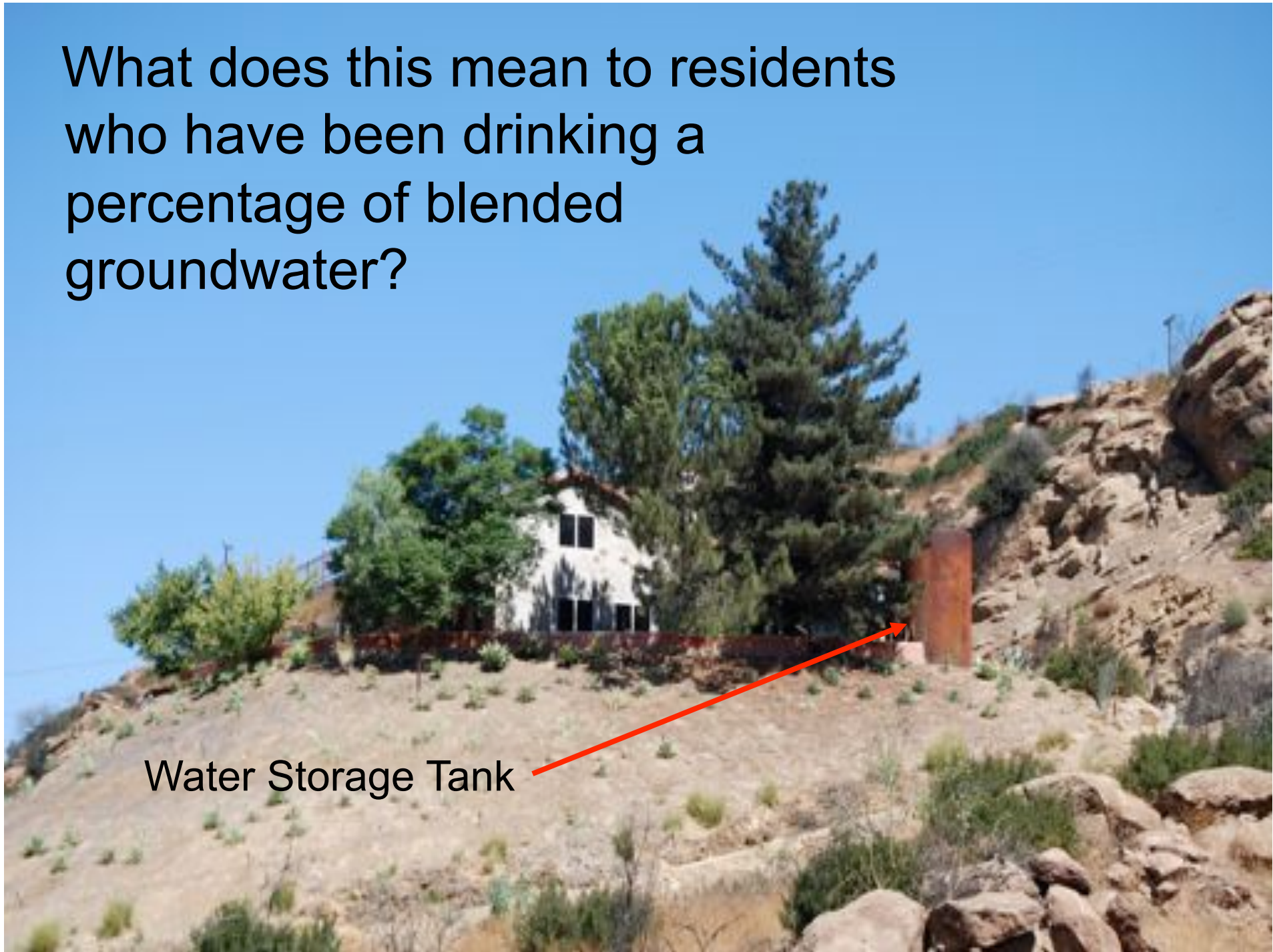


The year 2000  
is the same  
year NASA and  
the Boeing  
Company  
turned off their  
Groundwater  
“Pump and Treat”  
Systems.

With the NASA and Boeing Systems offline, wells and waterpumps from residential and commercial offsite operations could potentially draw the contamination in their direction.



What does this mean to residents who have been drinking a percentage of blended groundwater?



Water Storage Tank



L.A. River

Westfield Topanga Shopping Center

Former Nuclear Reactor and Research Site

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

NRC-10-01 WED 10-47    NRC R IV    FILE NO. 0000188    P. 02  
 UNITED STATES  
 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
 REGION IV  
 811 RYAN PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 400  
 ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76010-3808  
 January 29, 1996

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

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

**SUBJECT:** ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL SITE VISIT

As you are aware, Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) recently reviewed 89 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 80-30, 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 1953-1958 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 15-18, 1995. In summary, the whereabouts of the reactor were not identified although disposition information was located for some of the reactor fuel

ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL  
 A Division of North American Aviation, Inc.

**DATE:** May 19, 1967  
**TO:** THOSE LISTED  
**FROM:** T. W. P. MURPHY  
**ADDRESS:** D/752, Cano #003  
**PHONE:** 2555

**SUBJECT:** COMMENDATION RE URANIUM FIRE,  
 CANOGA 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. Peroutti  
 M. E. Weddle

**Assistance:** T. R. Brennan/D-752  
 E. 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  
 T. W. P. Murphy  
 Chief, Protective Services

**APPROVED:** J. E. Stewart, Jr.  
 Director, Industrial

**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. Burgott, D/752, C/003  
 R. Peroutti, D/752, C/003  
 M. E. Weddle, D/752, C/003  
 T. R. Brennan, D/752, C/003  
 E. W. Getman, D/779, C/001  
 K. Johns, D/766, C/102  
 L. F. Wolte, Jr., D/766, C/102 ✓

H-31-14  
 H-45-26

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 K. Johns/D/766  
 L. F. Wolte, Jr./D/766

Yet they claim  
Radioactivity in  
Groundwater is a  
“Naturally  
Occurring  
Phenomena

GROUNDWATER RESOURCES CONSULTANTS, INC.

CONSULTING HYDROGEOLOGISTS • ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS

2201 EAST 14TH STREET  
SUITE 400  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85711  
PHONE (702) 330-0888

March 27, 1990

CHUCK W. DICKENS, P.G.  
DAVID S. BOWEN, P.G.  
SHARON D. CLARK  
KURT J. BLUST, P.G.  
ALAN S. CROFT, P.G.

Ms. Jennifer Crone  
Facilities and Plant Operations  
Rocketdyne Division  
ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION  
6633 Canoga Avenue  
Dept. 543, Mail Stop 28-16  
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 phenomenon 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

COPY

Kurt J. Blust  
Associate Hydrogeologist

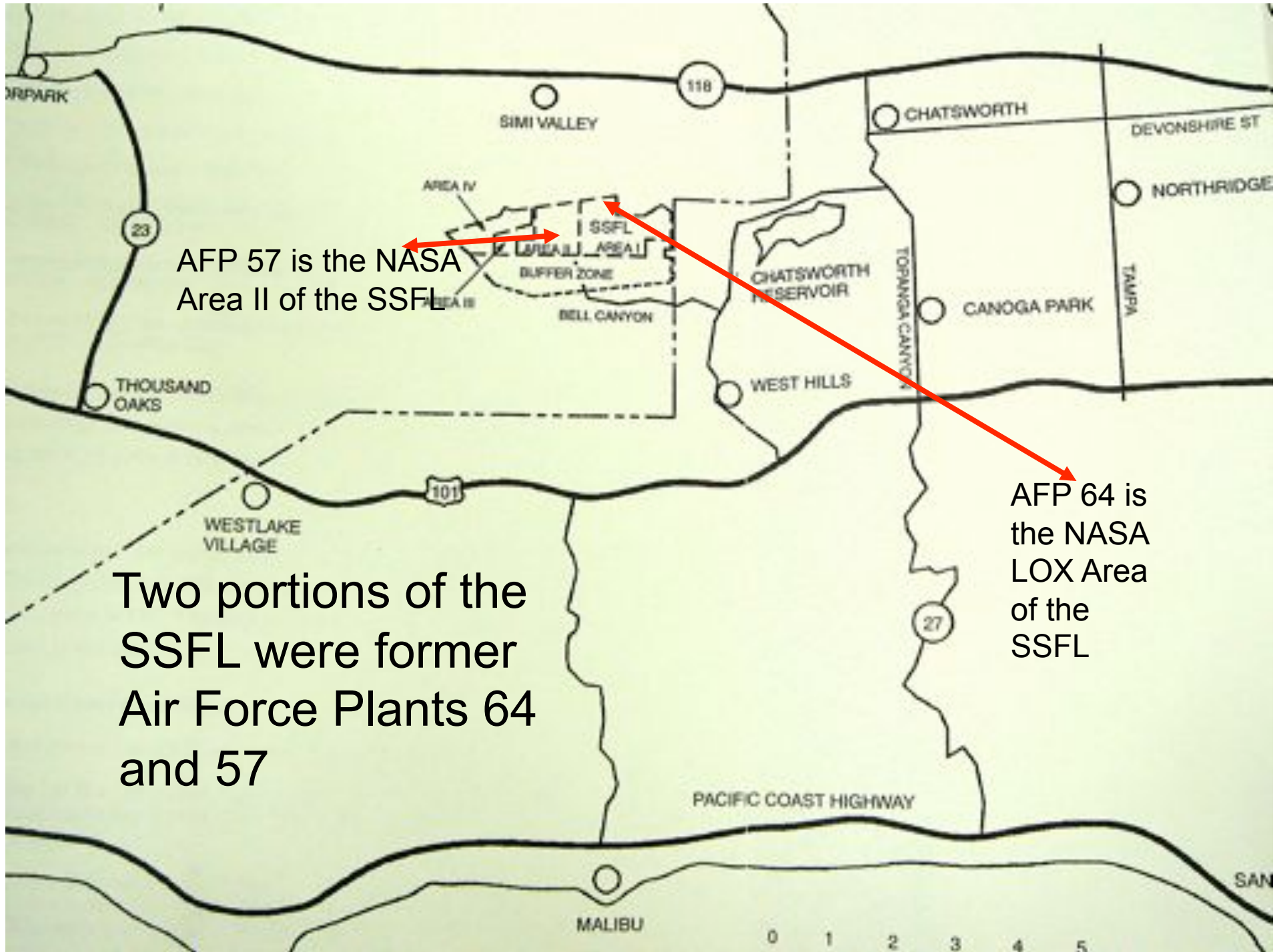


Photo of 55 Gallon Drums Taken from Westfield Topanga Parking Garage.

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

Under the Former Utilized Defense Site (FUDS) Act, the United States Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for cleanup of former Air Force Plants

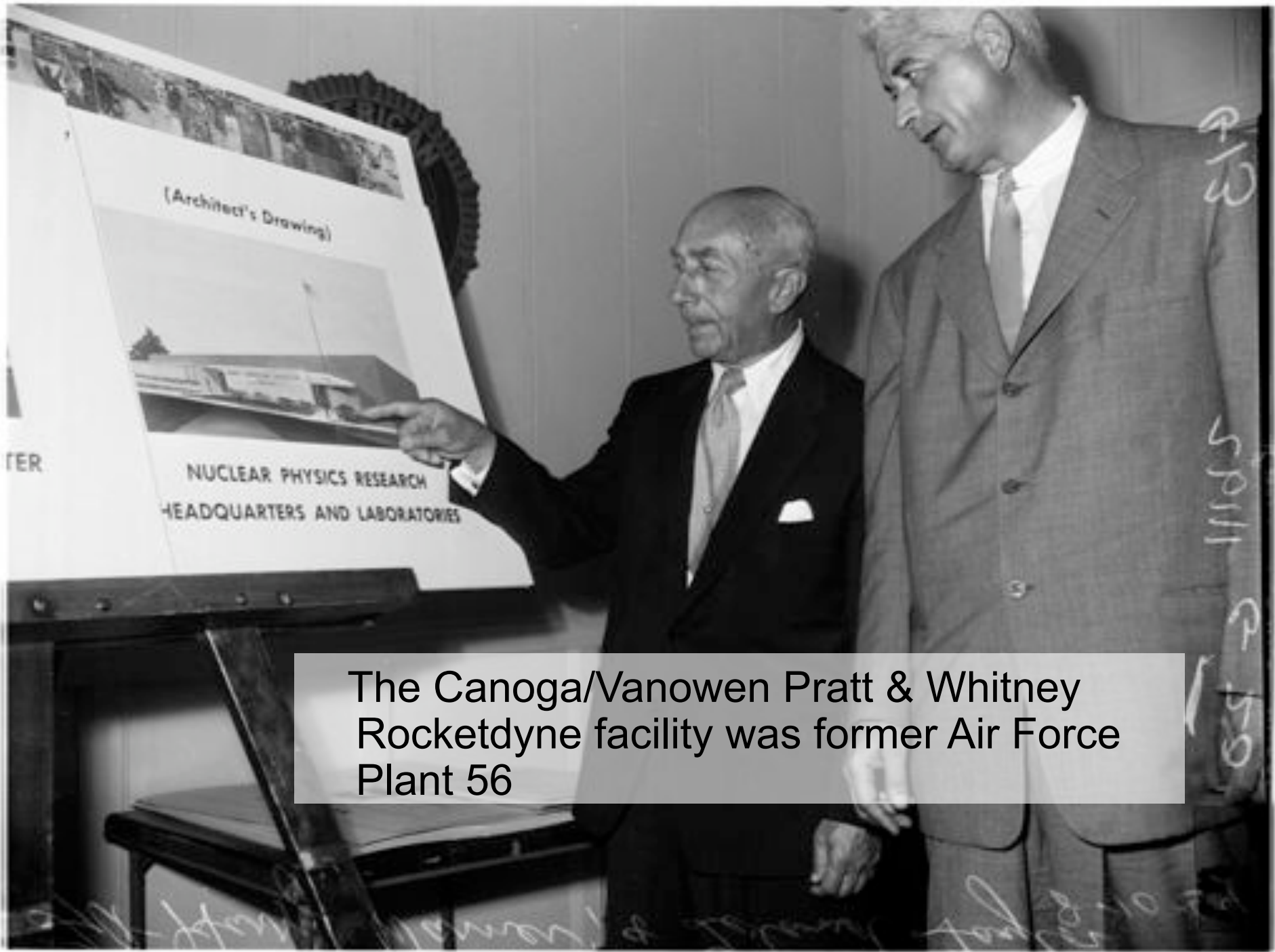




AFP 57 is the NASA  
Area II of the SSFL

AFP 64 is  
the NASA  
LOX Area  
of the  
SSFL

Two portions of the  
SSFL were former  
Air Force Plants 64  
and 57



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.

DOMESTIC WATER  
SUPPLY  
KEEP OUT





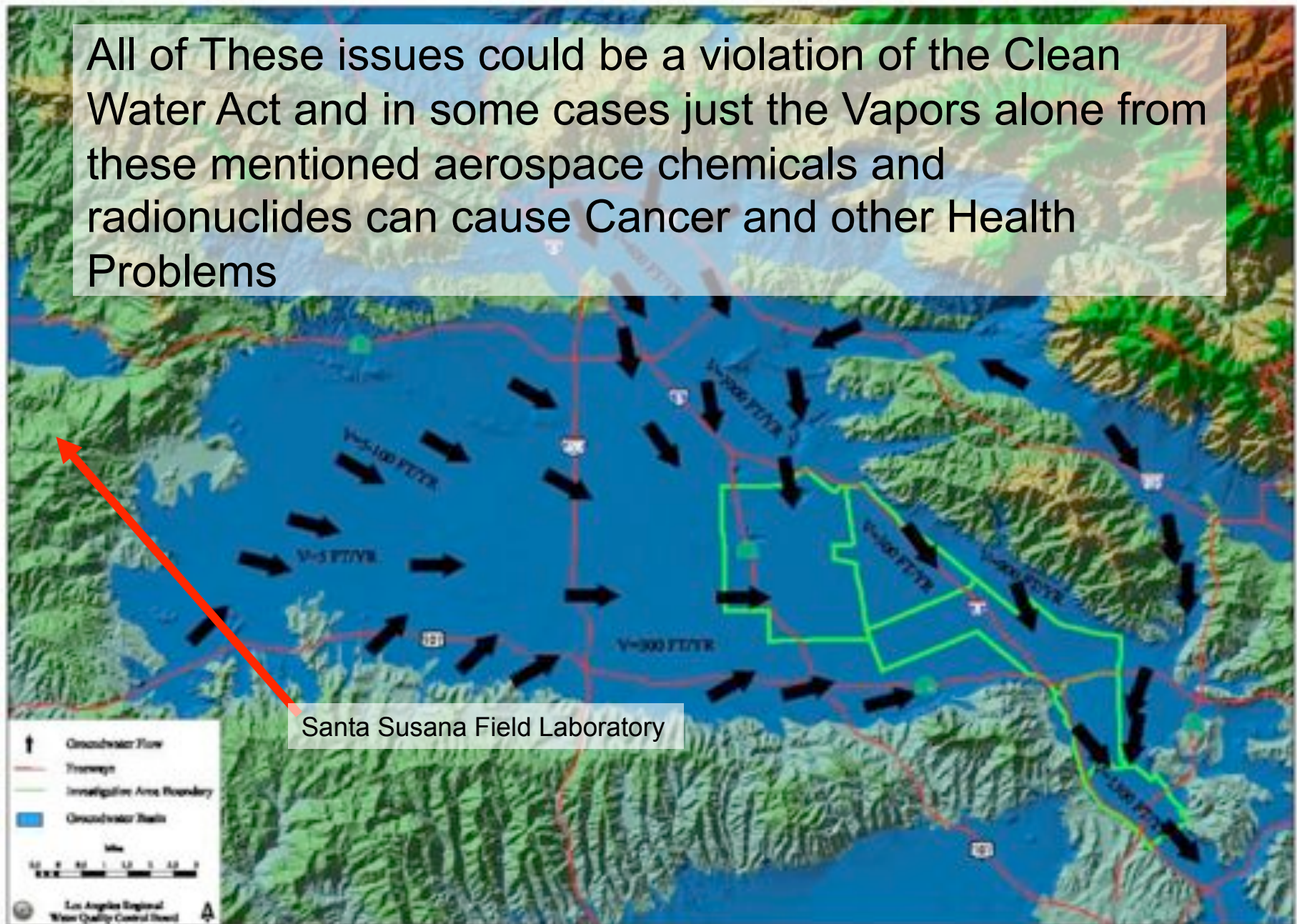
The United States Army Corps of Engineers have recently shown an interest in attempts to downgrade the LA River to a non TNW.



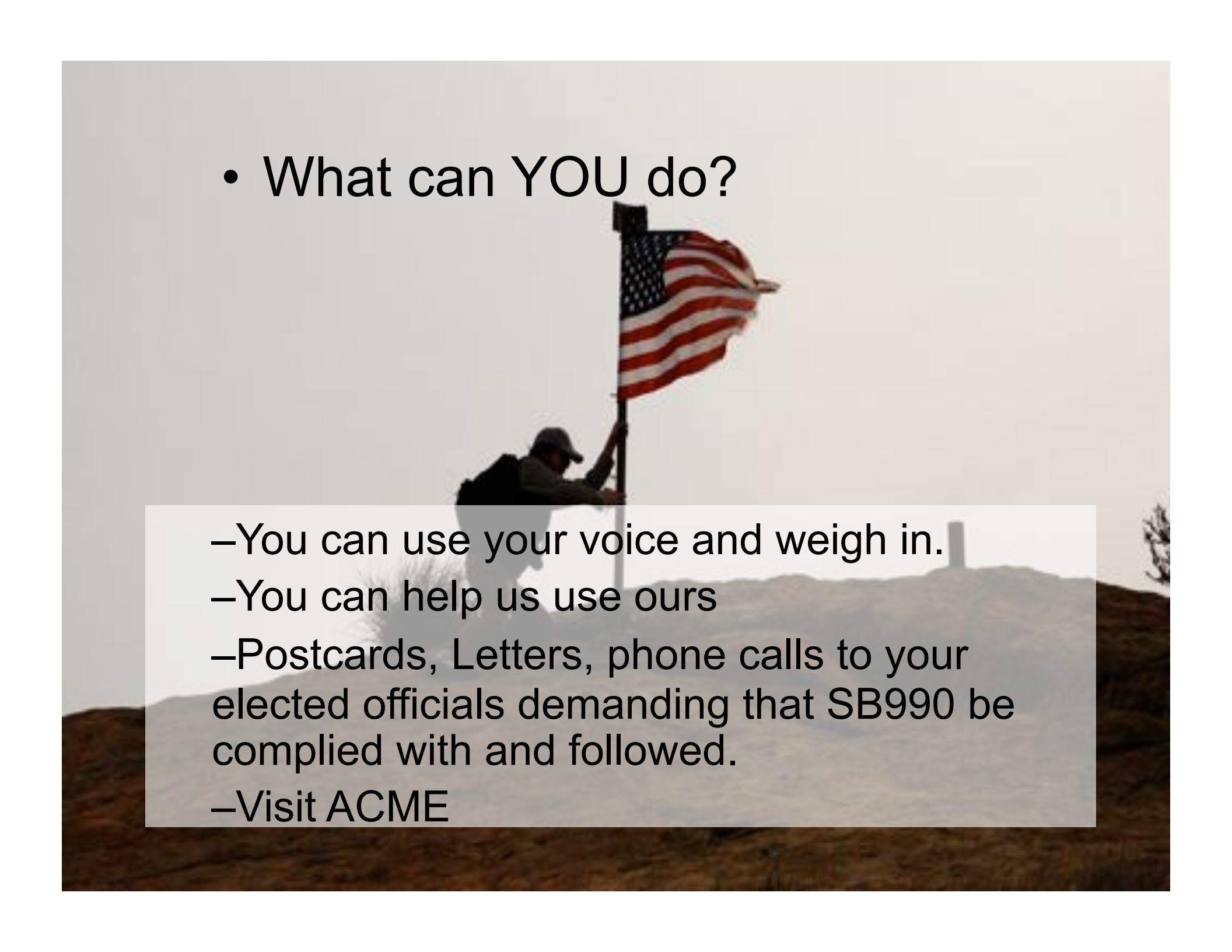
We also have to take into consideration that the largest fines ever imposed in California's history at the time, was to this facility for stormwater discharge water quality violations, shortly followed by the Army Corps interest in TNW status.

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY: GROUNDWATER FLOW DIRECTIONS

All of These issues could be a violation of the Clean Water Act and in some cases just the Vapors alone from these mentioned aerospace chemicals and radionuclides can cause Cancer and other Health Problems

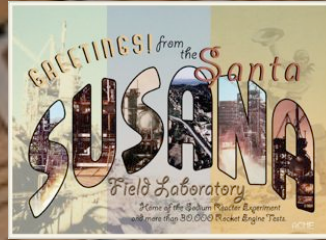


Santa Susana Field Laboratory

A person in silhouette is planting an American flag on a hill. The flag is waving in the wind. The background shows a hazy landscape with hills and a clear sky.

- 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](http://cleanuprocketdyne.org)

William Preston Bowling - Founder/Director  
Aerospace Cancer Museum of Education  
[ACMELA.org](http://ACMELA.org)