California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013
Phone (213) 576-6600 FAX (213) 576-6640 - Internet Address: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles

Linda S. Adams
Cal/EPA Secretary

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

October 17, 2008

Mr. William Preston Bowling
Aerospace Cancer Museum of Education
23350 Lake Manor Drive
Chatsworth CA 91311

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS REGARDING DRAINAGE FROM SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY TOWARD CHATSWORTH PARK SOUTH AND TRAIN TUNNEL NO. 26– BOEING SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY, UNINCORPORATED VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (SCP NO. 1111, SITE ID. NO. 2040109)

Dear Mr. Bowling:

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) staff has reviewed your September 29, 2008, email and letter to the Regional Board regarding groundwater impacts at the Boeing Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), and possible flow of groundwater from the SSFL to Chatsworth Park South via surface flow or underground flow. Your request relates to the SSFL. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the lead agency with responsibility for regulatory oversight at SSFL except for the regulation of surface water discharges under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Permit issued by the Regional Board. Please contact the DTSC for further information regarding assessment, monitoring, and remediation activities at and in the vicinity of the SSFL.

The Regional Board can provide the following information regarding the vicinity of Chatsworth Park South and tunnel No. 26. Chatsworth Park South is northeast of the SSFL. There is a natural geographic divide between the SSFL and Chatsworth Park South that prohibits surface water flow from SSFL to the park. Therefore, there are no NPDES Program compliance points for drainages from SSFL that flow towards Chatsworth Park South. Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) single-track tunnel No. 26 is 7,369 feet long and connects the Simi Valley with the Chatsworth area. The park and tunnel are several thousand feet from SSFL.

The tunnel is reported to have been in operation since 1904. However, sump pumps to improve drainage and control seepage-related ballast pumping and related track instability were installed in 1980 and 1998. Prior to pump installation seepage drained naturally from the portals. There are currently 75 pumps, set in 4 foot deep sumps, adjacent to the track within the tunnel. Discharge has been estimated as approximately 5 gallons per minute (gpm) from the western portal and 3 gpm from the eastern portal.

On March 14, 2003, staff of the Regional Board sampled groundwater discharging from the western portal of tunnel No. 26, and had the samples analyzed for perchlorate. Perchlorate was not detected. As a result no further sampling was conducted by Regional Board staff. The laboratory report is attached for your use and reference.

Regional Board staff has recently contacted representatives from SCRRA and are planning to conduct an inspection of the tunnel and the associated discharges to determine if SCRRA requires an NPDES permit for the discharges. The decision to inspect the facility however does not indicate that Regional Board staff believes there is a direct connection between flows from the shallow groundwater in the tunnel and groundwater contamination plume(s) at SSFL. In fact, the topography of the area between the SSFL

property and the tunnel exit near Chatsworth Park South provides a natural divide limiting hydrologic connections between the shallow groundwater in the two areas.

If you have additional questions for the Regional Board please telephone Mr. David Bacharowski at (213) 576-6607 or email him at *dbacharowski@waterboards.ca.gov.*

Sincerely,

David A. Bacharowski, AEO
for Tracy J. Egoscue
Executive Officer

Attachments: Laboratory report for perchlorate, dated April 16, 2003
Sample location table

cc: Tom Seckington, DTSC
Susan Callery, DTSC
Paul J. Davis, City of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation
Shelly Becklar, Friends of the Los Angeles River
David Beckman, NRDC
Christina Walsh, Cleanuprocketdyne.org

California Department of Toxic Substances Control
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS LABORATORY
2151 Berkeley Way, CA 94704, Ph.: (510) 540-3003

HML No.: 020822
To: 020826
Auth. No.: HMS5030

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Laboratory Analysis Report
For Perchlorate

Collector's Name: Peter Balley
Collector's Address: 8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Site or Location: Chatsworth, RWQCB
Site Address: Chatsworth Reservoir & vicinity

Date Collected: 3/14/2003
Date Received: 3/17/2003
Date Extracted:
Date Analyzed: 4/16/2003

Analytical Procedure: EPA Method 314.0.
Solids samples are extracted with DIwater (1:10 ratio) using a mechanical shaker for one hour. Extracts are centrifuged and then filtered through a 0.45 micron filter. Liquid or aquous samples are filtered through 0.45 micron filter. Prior to analysis, solid sample extracts and liquid samples are passed through a pretreatment cartridges in the following order : Ba, Ag & H. Analysis of the sample is by ion chromatography with an AG16 guard column and an AS16 analytical column using suppressed conductivity detector.

HML Number:	Collector's Sample No.:	Sample Matrix:	Perchlorate µg/L	MDL µg/L
020822	4	Water	ND	3.00
020823	5	Water	ND	3.00
020824	3	Water	ND	3.00
020825	2	Water	ND	3.00
020826	6	Water	ND	3.00

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To Peter Raftary	From Kashyap Thakore
Co.	Co.
Dept.	Phone # 510-540-3608
Fax # 213-576-6717	Fax #

Comments: ND = Not Detected
MDL = Method Detection Limit

Kashyap Thakore
Public Health Chemist II
(Rev.) 4/17/03

4/17/03
Date

Jarnail Garcha
Supervisor

4/17/03
Date

California Department of Toxic Substances Control
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS LABORATORY
2151 Berkeley Way, CA 94704, Ph.: (510) 540-3003

HML No.: 020822
To: 020826
Auth. No.: HMS5030

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of: 2

Laboratory Quality Control Report
For Perchlorate

Collector's Name: Peter Bailey
Collector's Address: 8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Site or Location: Chatsworth, RWQCB
Site Address: Chatsworth Reservoir & Vicinity

Date Collected: 3/14/2003
Date Received: 3/17/2003
Date Extracted:
Date Analyzed: 4/16/2003

Elements			Perchlorate ug/L
Initial Calibration Verification	Reference Standard	Known	10.0
		Found	10.7
		% Recovery	107
		Reagent Blank	ND
Continuing Calibration Verification	Check Standard	Known	30.0
		Found	28.7
		% Recovery	95.5
		Method Blank	ND
Matrix Spike Duplicate Result	Spike performed on: HML #: 020826 Matrix: Water	Spike Added	20.0
		Unspiked Result	ND
		Spike Result A	19.7
		Spike Result B	20.3
		% Recovery A	98.7
		% Recovery B	102
		RPD	2.80

Comments:

Kashyap Thakore
Public Health Chemist II

4/17/03
Date

Jarnail Garcha
Supervisor

4/17/03
Date

Regional Board Soil Wash and Water Samples of March 14, 2003

Date Sampled	HML Authorization No.	RB Sample ID	HML Sample ID	Time Sampled	Sample Location and Description
14 March, 2003	HMS5030	#2	20825	10:30	In Chatsworth Reservoir
14 March, 2003	HMS5030	#3	20824	11:00	In Chatsworth Reservoir
14 March, 2003	HMS5030	#4	20822	11:30	West Portal of UPRR tunnel
14 March, 2003	HMS5030	#5	20823	12:30	Dayton Creek at Valley Circle
14 March, 2003	HMS5030	#6	20826	12:30	D.I. Water, Trip Blank

Note: There was no sample #1