



**Susana Knolls Homeowners Association
1409 Kuehner Dr. #5
Simi Valley, CA 93063**

Mr. Allen Elliott
SSFL Program Director
NASA MSFC AS01, Building 4494
Huntsville, AL 35812

September 29, 2013

by email to: msfc-ssfl-eis@mail.nasa.gov

RE: Comments on Draft EIS for Demolition and Cleanup Activities at the SSFL

Dear Mr. Elliot,

The Susana Knolls Homeowners Association would like to submit our comments and concerns to NASA on their Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Demolition and Cleanup Activities at the SSFL.

As an introduction, we are one of the oldest Homeowner's Associations in Ventura County, having formed in the 1960's. We are a community of approximately 500 homes all nestled beneath the SSFL. Many of our homes were built in the 1920's and 1930's as hunting cabins so our community was inhabited when the facility opened.

Our HOA Board has been very informed and active since we read about the pollution at SSFL when the news broke in The Daily News in May 1989. We have listened to our HOA Board members who attend many meetings about the ongoing cleanup efforts by NASA, DOE and Boeing.

We were very encouraged when we heard that the AOCs, requiring cleanup to background, had been signed by both NASA and DOE on December 6, 2010. The AOCs brought peace of mind to our community. Whenever the Santa Ana's blow or the heavy rains come we feel extremely vulnerable living below and in the direct path of migrating deadly toxins. Our community is well aware that the Water Board has reported numerous violations of contaminants leaving the site. This is very disconcerting to us when we live below with creeks running through many of our properties.

When our HOA Board members go to meetings and hear a few people further from the site showing little regard for cleaning up we try to understand. It is obviously hard for them to comprehend our fear of raising children and possibly exposing them to deadly carcinogens. For many years the contamination has been downplayed, but studies are proving otherwise. Our fear is magnified when we read reports showing studies that breast cancers are highest at the East end of Simi Valley and the West end of the San Fernando Valley.

We feel that the EIS needs to commit to focusing on the pollution that needs to be cleaned/removed in order to meet the background levels defined in the AOCs. When our neighborhood sees the EIS focusing on truck trips that are necessary to remove the contaminants and equates it to children's safety rather than recognizing the possible harm inflicted on all the children living beneath the site by migrating contamination we feel that NASA's EIS is missing the point.

We feel that the test stands are given more consideration than the health and welfare of our communities

below. The AOC requires all of the contamination to be cleaned up. Much of that contamination is beneath the test stands. One cannot realistically meet NASA's commitment to clean up to background without getting the test stands out of the way to allow for a full cleanup of the ground beneath which we all know was horribly contaminated by TCE and other chemicals.

Native American Artifacts are already protected under the AOC. But the discussion in the EIS seems to go far beyond the AOC to suggest that one might simply declare the whole 2850 acres of the long-degraded SSFL land "sacred" and rather than restoring the polluted land from its contaminated state perhaps walk away from one's cleanup obligations. The AOC does not permit that.

We now live with the knowledge that UCLA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry have found elevated cancers in the workers and in people living offsite and close to the SSFL. This information enforces the realization that the site requires cleanup to background.

We applaud NASA for signing and committing to the AOCs and to a full cleanup to background. Please don't drag your feet or take the focus away from the important work of removing the contaminants and returning this beautiful site to how it was before you came. Future generations should have the privilege to safely experience the magnificence of this site.

Our fundamental message about the EIS is that NASA must fully live up to the obligations it assumed in the AOC to completely clean up the pollution it created so close to our homes and families. There must be no backtracking.

We await this day.

Sincerely,



Sandra Capaldi

President

Susana Knolls Homeowners Association