

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & WASTE MANAGEMENT MOTION

The Santa Susana Field laboratory (SSFL) is a 2,800 acre site located in the Simi Hills area Of Ventura County, adjacent to the *City* of Los Angeles. SSFL has been used for a variety of purposes since 1950, including the testing of engines for missiles, spacecraft and rockets, nuclear reactor research and the development of lasers for defense and commercial applications. During these activities, a number of industrial solvents and radioactive materials were released into the soil and groundwater. In 1989, testing at the SSFL began to publicly indicate the extent of pollution at the site.

A myriad of agencies have since been assembled to manage and oversee the environmental remediation of the SSFL site, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United states Department of Energy, the California Department of Health Services, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Through the creation of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Working Group, these entities have attempted to coordinate their efforts and the activities of the Boeing Corporation, who currently owns the property.

Despite a number of studies conducted on the SSFL property and adjacent off-site areas. significant questions remain unanswered regarding the extent and migration of its numerous pollutants. For example, recent water samples near former SSFL nuclear reactor sites indicated previously unknown radioactive contamination beyond EPA standards. These issues have been of particular concen to residents in the western San Fernando Valley who are in close proximity to the site. Recent testing in other areas surrounding SSFL, including Simi Valley, have suggested that perchlorate may have traveled beyond the SSFL property and contaminated local water supplies.

While acknowledging its limited jurisdiction in directly regulating the cleanup of the SSFL site, the City of Los Angeles should ensure it maintains an active role in overseeing the process and advocating on behalf of *its* impacted residents. In light of the complicated and technical nature of the testing and remediation work being completed, city staff from the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) with the required expertise should be tasked with participating in the SSFL Working Group and related activities.

By actively participating in the ongoing proceedings surrounding the SSFL cleanup, the EAD's staff can provide informed, balanced status reports to policymakers and community stakeholders. Additionally, staff can ensure that community concerns are properly conveyed and addressed by the relevant agencies. This improved coordination and communication will certainly result in better representation of the interests of City residents in the SSFL remediation activities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Environmental Affairs Department be instructed to immediately begin participating in all public meetings and activities relating to the environmental remediation of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and Environmental Affairs Department, with assistance from the appropriate governmental entities and outside experts, be directed to participate in any public meetings requested by the relevant Neighborhood Councils or other community stakeholders regarding the environmental remediation of the Santa Susana Field laboratory.

I FUTURE MOVE that the Environmental Affairs Department be instructed to commence recurring reports to the Environmental Quality and Waste Management Committee, beginning within 60 days, including a status report on the environmental remediation efforts at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

Presented by Councilman Dennis P. Zine, Third District  
Seconded by Councilmember Greig Smith, Twelfth District