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Speaker Appoints Assemblymember Julia Brownley to Chair New “Assembly Select Committee on Cleanup of Santa Susana Field Lab”

First hearing to be held on draft Consent Order, 9/24

SACRAMENTO—Today, Assembly Speaker Karen Bass appointed Assemblymember Julia Brownley to head up a new Select Committee on Cleanup of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

“I’m deeply honored and grateful to the Speaker for this important assignment,” said Brownley. “For the last 2-1/2 years I’ve been working with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and other state and Federal entities to help get this highly contaminated site cleaned up to the standards set forth in SB 990, which then-Senator Sheila Kuehl and I co-authored and which was signed into law in 2007. The formation of a new Assembly Select Committee will provide an important venue to hold formal hearings as needed to insure that everyone involved gets the most current and accurate information possible.”

Presently, a draft Consent Order that has been negotiated between DTSC and NASA and the Department of Energy is being circulated for public comments.

“It’s a highly technical and complex document,” Brownley said, “and it’s clear to me that there is also considerable uncertainty, and even unease, about the terms that NASA and the DOE want included in the new Order that they say they are prepared to sign. For that reason, I’m calling the first hearing of the Select Committee on September 24, time and place to be determined, where I and the other Committee members can be formally briefed by the state on the details and can get our questions answered with the public present.”

The other Assemblymembers who have agreed to serve on this new committee are Assemblymembers Sam Blakeslee (R), Bob Blumenfield (D), Michael Feuer (D), Jared Huffman (D), and Cameron Smyth (R).

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