



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



Recipient of the 2001 Environmental Leadership Award from Keep California Beautiful

Linda S. Adams
Agency Secretary

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

June 7, 2009

Jonathan Fielding, MD, MPH
Director and Health Officer
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
313 N. Figueroa St., Rm 806
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Robert M. Levin, MD
Public Health Officer/Medical Director
Ventura County Department of Public Health
2240 E. Gonzales Rd., Suite 210
Oxnard, CA 93036

RE: REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT IN THE VICINITY OF THE BOEING COMPANY'S SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY, SIMI VALLEY

Dear Dr. Fielding and Dr. Levin:

During its May 8, 2009 meeting, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board received sworn testimony from individuals who live in the vicinity of The Boeing Company's Santa Susana Field Laboratory asserting that they, along with numerous other area residents, have experienced serious illnesses—including cancer, lymphoma, thyroid failure and miscarriage—as a result of exposure to contamination emanating from the field laboratory. Given the widespread presence of toxic chemicals and radioactive substances at the site, proximity of residential neighborhoods to the field laboratory, potential exposure pathways and compelling, albeit antidotal, nature of the testimony presented, the Regional Board requests both the Los Angeles County and Ventura County Departments of Public Health to consider conducting a community health assessment of those who live adjacent to the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. Geographic areas of particular interest include the northern portion of Ahmanson Ranch, American Jewish University/Brandis-Bardin, Black Canyon, Bell Canyon, Dayton Canyon, Oak Park, eastern portion of Roscoe Boulevard, Runkle Canyon, Sage Ranch, Santa Susana Knolls, Valley Circle Boulevard, West Hills and Woolsey Canyon.

To assist you with determining the appropriateness and scope of a health assessment, I would like to bring to your attention the following information resources:

- The Department of Toxic Substances Control is the lead agency overseeing the environmental investigation and remediation at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. It has created a web site that contains information on the type, fate and transport and toxicity of contaminants found at the field laboratory. The address for DTSC's web site is:
www.dtsc-ssfl.com/
- The Regional Board, which is addressing wastewater and stormwater runoff issues at the site, also has established an electronic information repository with a wealth of site-related information. The address for this web site is:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/tentative_orders/individual/npdes/Boeing_Santa_Susana_Field_Lab/index.shtml

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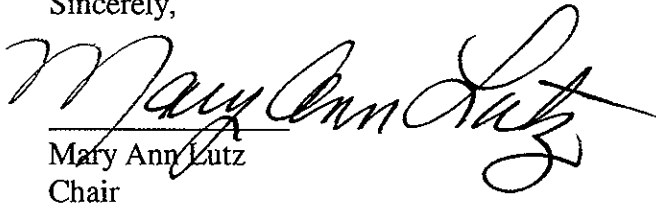
May 20, 2009

- A study conducted by The University of California Los Angeles found elevated levels of cancer-related deaths among certain groups of individuals who had worked at the field laboratory. This study can be viewed by visiting www.ph.ucla.edu/erg/current.html
- Notably, a 2007 study of cancer incidence in the residential population surrounding the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, conducted by The University of Michigan, School of Public Health, found elevated incident rates among those living in the vicinity of the field laboratory. A copy of this study has been enclosed with this letter.
- An assessment similar to the one envisioned by the Regional Board was conducted by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. This assessment considered the impact of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill on the health of north Los Angeles County residents; its findings were reported in the document titled, "Final Report on Community Health Concerns and the Sunshine Canyon Landfill". This study could serve as a template for the one being requested. A copy of this report has been enclosed with this letter.

A health assessment would assist the Regional Board with addressing the migration of contaminants from the field laboratory. Additionally, it would provide area residents with critical and much desired information on the impact of the field laboratory on their current health and future wellbeing.

On behalf of the Regional Board, I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Mary Ann Lutz
Chair

Enclosures (2)

213 240-8189

Cc: Dr. Steve Teutsch, Chief Science Officer, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health
Ms. Sandy McNeel, Research Scientist, Environmental Health Investigations Branch, California Department of Public Health
Board Members (7), Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Ms. Tracy Egoscue, Executive Officer, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Mr. Norm Riley, Division Chief, Department of Toxic Substances Control

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