

Pavley staffer Rebekah Rodriguez-Lynn, Congressman Brad Sherman, L.A. City Councilman Greig Smith, Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks, and Assemblywoman Julia Brownley urging Boeing to enter into cleanup agreement

After decades of hard work by community activists and countless hours of meetings and negotiations with state and federal authorities, I'm thrilled to announce that a historic proposed settlement agreement has been reached to clean up the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL) by 2017. The plan would remove soil contaminated with carcinogenic dioxins, heavy metals and radioactive materials from the former nuclear research facility, considered one of the most contaminated sites in the United States.

The 2,849-acre field laboratory located in the Simi Hills, the site of America's first partial nuclear meltdown in July of 1959, has been the focus of a

comprehensive environmental investigation and cleanup program, conducted by Boeing, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and overseen by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

I want to thank the community members who fought tirelessly for this cleanup as well as Assemblywoman Julia Brownley, Cal-EPA Secretary Linda Adams, Governor Schwarzenegger, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, my policy staff consultant Bill Craven who has worked on this issue for years, and many others at the Department of Toxics Substances Control for the years of work they have put into this clean-up. Special thanks go to U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer who has been very forceful on behalf of the public health protections that should be in place and who worked very hard with the federal agencies to make sure this agreement adhered to state law, which was authored by former District 23 Senator Sheila Kuehl.

These agreements in principle between the state, the U.S. Department of Energy and NASA must be finalized formally before they become effective. DTSC invites public review and comment until October 1, 2010. To access the proposed settlement, click here. It's now time for Boeing to clean up the land they own at SSFL.