



For Immediate Release
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Sen. Pavley Responds to Santa Susana Clean-up Final Draft Agreement

AGOURA HILLS, CA - Senator Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills) today thanked the public for their overwhelming support of the "agreements in principle" between the Federal Department of Energy (DOE) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) for the cleanup of the Santa Susana Field Lab, one of the most contaminated sites in the United States. A final agreement is now available for public comment until November 22, 2010. A final agreement will be executed on December 6, 2010 unless there are new significant comments that require further study.

"It is gratifying that the public showed overwhelming support for the proposed cleanup agreements for the Santa Susana Field Lab," said Senator Pavley. "Approximately 1700 people called for the agreements to be immediately signed."

The "agreement in principle", which formed the substance of the final draft agreement was made available for public comment in September 2010 and provided the framework for the final draft agreement. The DOE requested an additional comment period to give interested parties the opportunity to review the final agreement.

"I trust that the additional comment period that the Department of Energy has requested will not impact its promise to sign the agreement by December 6," said Senator Pavley. "The community has been waiting for far too long for the basic guarantee of clean water and uncontaminated soil. I am encouraged by this proposed agreement, which ensures that the strongest possible public health protections will be used in the cleanup, and I will be thrilled when it is finally signed."

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) is located 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles in southeastern Ventura County, near the crest of the Simi Hills at the western border of the San Fernando Valley. A former rocket engine test and nuclear research facility, the 2,849-acre field laboratory 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.

"Years of hard work have gone into the final draft agreement," Senator Pavley said. "I want to thank community activists for their tireless efforts to bring about this cleanup. I also want to thank Cal-EPA Secretary Linda Adams, Governor Schwarzenegger, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, and many others at the Department of Toxic Substances Control for the years of work they have put into this cleanup. 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."

The final draft agreement covers DOE's 290-acre portion of the facility and will fully implement SB 990, legislation authored by former State Senator Sheila Kuehl, who represented Senate District 23, from 2000-2008.

The public can view the final draft agreement at:
http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Santa_Susana_Field_Lab/SSFL-Cleanup.cfm

Comments can be submitted through November 22, 2010 at: ssfl@dtsc.ca.gov

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