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Sen. Pavley Responds to Historic Santa Susana Clean-up Agreement

AGOURA HILLS, CA - Senator Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills) today praised community activists as well as state and federal agencies for the historic agreement to clean up the Santa Susana Field Lab, one of the most contaminated sites in the United States.

“After years of hard work, today we witnessed a historic agreement between California and two federal agencies – the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration – for cleaning up Santa Susana Field Laboratory, one of the most polluted places in the entire United States,” said Senator Pavley. “I want to thank community activists for their tireless efforts to bring about this cleanup. I also want to thank Governor Schwarzenegger, DOE Secretary Steve Chu, Senator Barbara Boxer, former Senator Sheila Kuehl, and Assemblywoman Julia Brownley for their persistent and very effective work on this agreement. I must also single out the extraordinary work of Cal-EPA Secretary Linda Adams, her staff, and the cleanup experts at the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).”

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.

The clean-up 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.

“This great accomplishment, overwhelmingly supported with comments received from the public, will become even more meaningful when the Boeing Company steps up and agrees to a similar agreement with California and the federal agencies,” Pavley said. “As a landowner at the site, Boeing is responsible for assisting with this cleanup. I join the public and the many elected officials at the federal, state, and local level who are demanding that Boeing do the right thing. I will continue to work with all of those parties in 2011.”

This enforceable agreement, when implemented, will result in the removal of toxics to the level that existed before 30,000 rocket tests occurred, resulting in tons of deadly chemicals contaminating the air and soil.

“For far too long the neighbors of the Santa Susana Field Lab have suffered from incredibly difficult illnesses,” said Pavley. “I’m thrilled that the community will finally receive what they deserve; the basic guarantee of clean water and uncontaminated soil.”

View the agreement at: http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Santa_Susana_Field_Lab/SSFL-Cleanup.cfm

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