SSFL-CAG MEETING MINUTES

BELL CANYON COMMUNITY ROOM

June 18, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: 7:07PM

Members Present: Alec Uzemek, Ron Ziman, Richard Brandlin, Linda Hays, Diana Dixon-Davis, Sharon Ford, John Luker, Brian Sujata, David Karchem, Abe Weitzberg, Sam Cohen, Michael Kuhn, Tom Nachtrab Tim Brehn & Kathy Weiner

Members Absent: Christian Killiikkaa, Ross Berman

I: Approval of Minutes from the meeting of April. Approved unanimously

II: Tonight's meeting agenda approved by a unanimous vote

III: Valley Fever presentation by Dr. Guevara. Dr. Guevara was unable to make his presentation because of illness.

IV: Simi Valley Water & Perchlorate Study Michael Kuhn

Rumors have abounded about the water supply in Simi being contaminated with the runoff from SSFL.

Michael reported that nearly all of the water supply (96.5%) is obtained from the California State Water Project. It originates from the Sacramento & San Joaquin Rivers through the California Aqueduct, it treated in Granada Hills and eventually piped to Simi via tunnel under Santa Susana Pass.

65% Ventura County Water District #8

35% Golden State Water Company

Ventura County Water District #8 does pump 2 wells in Tapo Canyon. This water fell as rain on the north side of the valley. This water supplies Lost Hills Golf Course & a wholesale nursery in the canyon. Surplus from these wells is blended with imported water.

Golden State Water Company pumps 2 wells on the west side of Sycamore Drive south of Cochran. These wells draw their water from the northern side of the west end groundwater basin. No perchlorite has ever been detected in either of these wells. This water is blended with imported water in the ratio of 10% to 90%.

Some 3.5% of our potable water supply is derived from these 4 groundwater wells.

Both purveyors must prepare Annual Water Quality/Consumer Confidence Reports. They are available online & are distributed once per year to customers.

Water lines do leak. However, leakage is one way. Contamination cannot leak into the pipes because the lines are maintained under positive internal pressure.

Perchlorate in Simi Valley:

A claim has been made that perchlorate has flowed from SSFL into the Simi Valley water supply. In order to discuss this issue, it is necessary to explain the characteristics of the two groundwater basins in Simi Valley.

The eastern groundwater basin runs through the Metrolink Station to the western one half of Simi Valley High School. This alluvial fill is relatively shallow at 100 feet at its deepest. Water from the eastern basin cascades to the west over several subsurface rock barriers into the much larger western groundwater basin.

The western groundwater basin is about 600 feet at its deepest, under the intersection of Los Angeles Ave & Tapo Canyon. Approximately 100 feet west of Madera, the Simi-Santa Rosa fault crosses the Arroyo Simi.

Bedrock on the North-North-West side of the fault has been steadily uplifted to become the Santa Susanna Mountains. The bedrock presents a barrier to the movement of groundwater out of the valley & accounts for the high water table west of Erringer.

The high clay content of the alluvial fill in the upper 200 feet functions as an aquiclude to the upward or downward movement of groundwater. Water in the lower aquifer is confined under hydraulic pressure. Presently, some groundwater moves from the confined aquifer to the perched (or shallow) aquifer. The City of Simi operates 6 dewatering wells at the west end to reduce the artesian head in the confined aquifer & to abet downward drainage of water in the perched (shallow) aquifier.

Groundwater does naturally enter the Arroyo Simi through the lower banks of the water course west of Erringer.

DTSC has thoroughly examined the question of possible perchlorite contamination in Simi Valley. There has been none detected in the east 2/3rds of Simi Valley. <u>The aquifer under SSFL does not run under Simi Valley High School. There is an impervious layer between the SSFL aquifer and the aquifer at SVHS</u>.

Some perchlorate is present in the perched aquifier at the western end of Simi Valley and there was one positive test result at the Brandeis Bardin Campus of the Jewish University. The Brandeis Bardin text was not reproducible and these results are considered a “false positive”. Especially because it is known that if perchlorate had moved off of the SSFL site and into Simi Valley, there would have been a continuous trail from the lab to the valley.

DTSC is confident that the perchlorate from the perched aquifier in the water table in the west end of the valley was deposited primarily from the runoff from citrus groves which at one time dominated the higher portions of the valley west of Tapo Canyon. Historically, the fertilizer used contained naturally occurring perchlorate and this may explain any miniscule readings of this toxin.

None of either the perched or the water table water is used for Simi Valley water. It is pumped out of the ground and allowed to run down to the Arroyo Simi.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

1. A Bell Canyon resident asked about the water in Bell Canyon. A. None of the water delivered to the residents of Bell Canyon comes from Bell Creek.

2. Do NASA, Boeing & DOE need to spend Millions of dollars to clean up minute amounts of contaminants? A. This is what is being discussed and decided now

F**ull text of Dr. Kuhn's presentation is available on the SSFL-CAG website.**

V. Health Studies Summary Abe Weitzberg

With the CAGs approval, Abe Weitzberg researched all studies conducted about SSFL. He was able to organize them into 3 categories:

-Cancer Incidence in the Vicinity of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory

- Worker Health Studies

- Pathway Studies

He used the various authors' information directly from their papers, augmented by information from other sources to write his 28 page Health Studies Summary.

-Cancer Incidence Studies: 1990-1992:CDHS Cancer Registry: Census tract data

1997-1999-2006: Tricounties Regional Cancer Registry/Simi Valley

1997-1999-2001: UCLA School of Public Health

2005: International Epidemiological Institute

2007: University of Michigan School of Public Health

2014: USC Keck School of Medicine-Dr. Mack

Universally, the investigators were unable to establish any statistically significant relationship between chemicals and/or radionuclides used at SSFL and any adverse health effects on either workers or the adjacent communities.

Mr Weitzberg would like very much to hear from all researchers especially Dr. Morgenstern & Dr. Mack addressing their willingness to be part of a panel to discuss the conclusions that their studies drew from the data collected.

<u>The full text of Abe Weitzberg's presentation is available on the SSFL-CAG website.</u>

Questions: A Bell Canyon resident is requesting a study by an Independent researcher. One who would represent Bell Canyon residence. Answer: That issue can be taken up at a Bell Canyon HOA meeting.

There was discussion of the unintended consequences of a "clean up to background" being a "flat compacted buildable pad".

Someone said Fran Pavley mentioned the need for a "new road" (?) not sure which road.

VI: CAG Business:

Alec made a motion to adopt Abe's Health Studies Summary. Richard Brandlin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Alec made a motion to adopt Michael Kuhn's Potable Water Report . Ron Ziman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Alec suggested a new Voting system be implemented. Whereby issues are posted and CAG members have 2 days to respond.

Someone suggested that we poll CAG members as to their meeting availability

Question from the audience: Regarding litigation/ getting lawyers involved. Answer: Sharon Ford discussed the three major things that drive people.

Abe requests permission to move forward with the planning & implementation of a panel discussion.

Seconded by Kathy Weiner. Approved unanimously.

Adjourned: 9PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Weiner

SSFL CAG Secretary