

THE FORMER SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY SITE

What Happened Here?



The **Chumash** and other **Native Americans** lived here as long as 10,000 years ago. **Sacred artifacts remain.**



Many **Western movies** were filmed here beginning in the 1930's.



Rocketdyne (now Boeing) tested **rocket engines** for the American Space Program at SSFL. The COCA test stand (seen below) was used to develop the Space Shuttle Main Engine.



Nuclear research was performed by **Atomics International** at a different area of SSFL. They first operated the **Energy Technology Engineering Center** here.



NASA funded the rocket testing while the US Department of Energy (DOE) sponsored the nuclear research.



SSFL Cleanup In A Nutshell

During research and testing the SSFL was **contaminated by chemical and radioactive materials.** The environmental investigation began in 1989.

For **political reasons**, NASA and DOE agreed to remove all detectable traces of contamination from their sites by agreeing to an “AOC” cleanup in 2010.

The AOC does not allow for review of the **negative impacts to the environment and community** from the cleanup to determine how much soil to remove. Instead, the AOC is an “everything must go” rule.

A 2012 EPA radiation study found the site can be cleaned up for use as open space parkland. Despite the good news, the **AOC agreements remain in place.**

DOE and NASA now estimate they must remove up to 2,100,000 cubic yards of soil from the site to comply with the AOC.

The AOC cleanup standard has not been required anywhere else in California.

Unintended Consequences Of The AOC Cleanup

DOE and NASA didn't know how much soil would be stripped from the site when they signed the AOC's. What are the other unintended consequences of the AOC?

- **Over 210,000 trucks trips** will be required to remove (and replace) soil and habitat that is allowed to remain at other sites.
- **New or updated road(s)** built to handle the truck weight and traffic could benefit developers at taxpayer expense.
- **No replacement soil has been found** that meets the AOC requirements.
- Widespread removal of soil and habitat ensures **the site will not be suitable as a park.**
- **Native American artifacts will be disposed of as waste** if not found in time.
- The severity of the AOC cleanup **prevents returning the land to its “natural state.”**



What Are The SSFL CAG Concerns?

- The AOC requirements **do not balance the benefits of cleanup with the damage to the environment or the surrounding communities.**
- The cleanup required by the AOC has **not been used before and ignores the successful cleanup process used elsewhere.**
- The unnecessary cleanup will **strip huge volumes of soil and natural resources from the site making it usable only for housing development.**
- Roads constructed for the cleanup will **further harm the surrounding habitat and erode property values.**

What Does the SSFL CAG Think?

- **The SSFL must be cleaned to a protective health standard.**
- Use a risk-based cleanup at SSFL that **minimizes excavation, soil removal and backfill** thereby reducing danger to public health and functions of the surrounding communities.
- **Designate the site as open space now to stop future housing development.**
- **Revise the NASA and DOE AOC cleanup agreements to provide for risk-based suburban residential cleanup similar to other sites.**

About the SSFL Community Advisory Group

The SSFL CAG was formed in 2013 by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control in accordance with State law.

Our volunteer members represent a cross-section of interested and affected neighbors from the surrounding communities.

“Know the past, understand the present, and advocate for clean and healthy future.”

**LEARN THE FACTS
ADD YOUR VOICE
ssflcag.net
mail@ssflcag.net**

How Can Our Community Benefit From The Future Open Space?

- Horseback Riding
- Hiking
- Preserving Native American Artifacts
- Nature Study
- Making Movies
- Geology Walks
- Bird Watching
- Star Gazing
- Wildlife Corridor
- Spring Wildflowers!
- Field Trips

Who Are The Key Representatives For The Former SSFL Site?



- Ventura County Supervisor
Linda Parks
- State Senator **Fran Pavely**
- U.S. Senator
Barbara Boxer
- U.S. Representative
Julia Brownley

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory

The AOC Cleanup: More Harm Than Good?

Provided by:

**The SSFL
Community Advisory Group**



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*In Memory of Diana Dixon-Davis,
a SSFL CAG Founding Member*