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October 6, 2015

Tom Frieden, MD, MPH
Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Pat Breysse, PHD
Director, National Center for Environmental Health and
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
4770 Buford Hwy, NE
Atlanta, GA 30341-3717

Re: Santa Susana Field Laboratory

Dear Dr. Frieden and Dr. Breysse:

In 2010, legally binding cleanup agreements were entered into by NASA and DOE with California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requiring all of the detectable radioactive and chemical contamination at their SSFL operations be cleaned up to background. Also in 2010 DTSC declared that under its cleanup requirements for all sites in the state, cleanup is based on current zoning and County General Plan land use designations, which for SSFL would require cleanup to the most protective standards, equivalent to a cleanup to background.

It is of concern that recent actions by the ATSDR to replace the independent studies with one conducted by the federal government could lead to a recommendation that the federal government break its cleanup commitments.

ATSDR reports it is acting in response to a citizen's petition. However, the petition is from one individual, a former official of SSFL who worked as a contractor for the nuclear industry. It should also be noted that ATSDR did not consult with local elected officials or the independent epidemiological investigators involved in the SSFL issue prior to accepting the petition.

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The County of Ventura has repeatedly endorsed the cleanup of all contamination at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. The federal government contaminated this site in our county; ATSDR reviewed and accepted independent health risk assessments; and the federal government signed binding agreements to clean up all the contamination. ATSDR should not act to breach the independence of the studies or engage in efforts that could lead to the federal government's reversal of its cleanup commitments.

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors urges you to reverse the recent ATSDR decision.

Sincerely,


Kathy M. Long, Chair
Supervisor, Third District