

From: [Christine Rowe](#)
To: [MSFC-SSFL-EIS](#)
Cc: [Elliott, Allen \(MSFC-AS01\)](#); [Fellows, Merrilee \(HQ-LD000\)](#)
Subject: Letter to Senator Boxer re: NASA EIS
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 7:26:07 PM
Attachments: [Senator Boxer re NASA DEIS September 22nd, 2013.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Elliott,

As per the request of NASA, I have not submitted this letter directly to NASA Administrator Bolden even though the CC says to NASA Administrator Bolden.

At this time, I believe that I have sent it to both Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein, to Congressman Waxman and Congressman Sherman. It will be sent to the others I have cc'd ASAP.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine L. Rowe
West Hills resident

Dear Senator Boxer,

September 22, 2013

October 1st, 2013, the public comments are due for the NASA Santa Susana Field Laboratory Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Last year you met with California Department of Toxic Substance Control Director Debbie Raphael regarding the NASA Environmental Impact Statement. I believe you also met with NASA Administrator Bolden, and you may have communicated with Nancy Sutley of the Council on Environmental Quality.

While I know that you have been hearing from many constituents over the past twenty years regarding the Santa Susana Field Lab site, the site is not as contaminated today as it was when you first became involved with this project.

At about the same time that you were having these meetings in Washington, D.C., I was the Environment Committee Chair and the Public Health Chair of the West Hills Neighborhood Council. We voted last May to write to NASA Administrator Bolden and to request a full scope Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

NASA has complied with your request and the request of Director Raphael to do a Draft EIS with only two alternatives - a cleanup to the Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) and the required No Further Action.

This document is over 1000 pages, and I have skimmed all of those pages, and studied many others.

The conclusion that I have is this remediation action will have a tremendous impact on the communities of West Hills - where I have lived for more than 35 years, as well as the communities of Chatsworth, Canoga Park, and Woodland Hills.

DTSC has a Community Advisory Group, and it is my expectation that this group and many others including the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council will be asking DTSC and NASA to change their Administrative Order on Consent to a risk based cleanup. The majority of the people who understand the technical aspects of the site cleanup support a risk based clean up to a suburban residential standard.

The cleanup deadline for soils is 2017. There is no way for all three Responsible Parties to achieve their demolition and soil remediation by 2017, and do so in a safe manner. The roads that these trucks must traverse while they are highways in West Hills and the neighboring communities - they also cross many school crosswalks, and they drive through many minority and low income census tracts. Furthermore, you are taking soil that is not being cleaned up based on risk to other communities that are also Environmental Justice Communities.

I respectfully request that you ask the federal EPA, DTSC, and the California Department of Health to appear before your committee and tell you if the AOC level

of cleanup is necessary to protect public health offsite, and to protect people who would use the site in the future.

DTSC has already sent a letter to the Mayor of Simi Valley that indicates that they do not know of any offsite risk to the community at this time.

However, at recent meetings, it was brought up that the more soil that is removed, the greater risk that may be caused to the community from dust and spores that can cause Valley Fever and other illnesses. You will also risk releasing more naturally occurring radionuclides and other metals into the environment. Furthermore, the cleanup could possibly cause enough erosion that could lead to flooding in the area should we have a hard rain during the remediation period.

The loosened soil will most likely enter the streams which lead to the L.A. River and other blue line streams and they will most likely exceed the NPDES permits as a result of this remediation.

I have contacted the South Coastal AQMD regarding the truck emissions to and from the site and their impact on my community's health. I was told that they only monitor stationary sources, and that the Santa Susana Field Laboratory is in Ventura County, and outside of their jurisdiction. They have no control over the mobile sources.

The impact of greenhouse gases is also spelled out in the NASA Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Los Angeles has the worst air quality in the Nation, and now we are adding these trucks to our load for possibly the next 10 or more years.

I respectfully request that you find people in the government who can give you the real truth regarding how best to clean up this site to protect the public health and safety of my community, the wildlife corridor, the protected Endangered Species, and the global environment.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Christine L. Rowe

***Former West Hills Neighborhood Council Board member – for identification purposes only**

6732 Faust Avenue

West Hills, California 91307

cc: Senator Diane Feinstein
cc: Congressman Brad Sherman
cc: Congressman Henry Waxman
cc: Governor Jerry Brown
cc: DTSC Director Debbie Raphael
cc: Senator Fran Pavley
cc: NASA Administrator Bolden
cc: Nancy Sutley, Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality
cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti