

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 14, 2021

The Honorable Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

Dear Secretary Blumenfeld:

As we work to secure additional federal resources, we write to request an update regarding the status of the clean-up of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) site and to express our concerns about delays in the required clean-up.

As you know, clean-up of the SSFL site is of critical importance to the residents of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties who live near the site. It is imperative that the clean-up eliminate the potential significant health and safety risks for people who will continue to live nearby and those who will be using the site in future years.

At the federal level, we are absolutely committed to ensuring that the two federal responsible parties, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), uphold their commitments to the State of California and to our constituents to clean-up toxic chemical and radiological contamination at the SSFL site.

The 2007 Consent Order and 2020 Administrative Orders on Consent govern clean-up of the site and tasked the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) with responsibility for overseeing the clean-up. These Orders required that soil cleanup be completed by 2017, however the agreed upon soil remediation at the site has yet to begin. We are deeply concerned about the lengthy delays in the clean-up of SSFL, and we understand there have been reports that DTSC may be considering additional changes to the Standardized Risk Assessment Methodology, which may result in additional delays to the clean-up of soil contamination at SSFL.

We strongly support the existing cleanup agreements between the state and the three responsible parties. These agreements should be vigorously enforced and proceed with all appropriate urgency. We stand ready to take action at the federal level to ensure NASA and DOE are ready to proceed with the necessary clean-up pursuant to the 2007 Consent Order and 2010 Administrative Order on Consent, and we would appreciate an update on the status of the SSFL clean-up and the actions CalEPA and DTSC are taking to move forward with full site clean-up in an expeditious manner and to enforce those critical agreements.

Sincerely,



JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



ALEX PADILLA
U.S. Senator



J. LUIS CORREA
Member of Congress



GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California