January 2, 2020

Mr. Peter Zorba  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
SSFL Project Director  
5800 Woolsey Canyon Road  
Canoga Park, CA 91304

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES’ COMMENTS ON THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION’S DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR SOIL CLEANUP ACTIVITIES AT SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY, VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. Zorba:

We are writing to urge the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to advance the soil cleanup activities at Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) in Ventura County, California, as proposed in Alternative A of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

Although the SSFL has been inactive for several years, various serious incidents have left radioactive and chemical contaminants in the soil, in airborne dust particulates, and in stormwater runoff. These contaminants have affected the air, soil, and water in nearby Los Angeles County communities and have posed a serious health risk to constituents for decades. These health risks will continue if a full clean-up of the site is not achieved in a timely manner.

In the Draft SEIS, NASA has developed risk-based methodologies for cleanup involving several additional alternative methods that would leave a majority of the contamination in place. Only the original Alternative A provides for the full cleanup and is consistent with the legally binding Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) for Remedial Action negotiated and executed by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the State’s regulating entity, and NASA in 2010. The AOC clearly defines NASA’s obligation to clean up soils at SSFL to background levels, or reporting limits if no background value exists, on a point-by-point basis. We are fully committed to holding NASA accountable to their commitment to DTSC for a full cleanup at this site.
Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

KATHRYN BARGER
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, Fifth District

HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District

SHEILA KUEHL
Supervisor, Third District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District

JANICE HAHN
Supervisor, Fourth District