

# SSFL Surface Water Facts

November 17, 2022

COMPILED BY PARENTS AGAINST SANTA SUSANA FIELD LAB

## EXPERT PANEL:

- The “Expert Panel” is not part of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) but is a paid panel that lobbies on behalf of the Boeing Corporation.

- The Board is required according to Boeing’s NPDES permit set by the LARWQCB.
- The Expert Panel recommended a reduction of fines for the Boeing Company after the Woolsey Fire, which were then reduced by over \$100,000.

## NPDES PERMIT

- An NPDES permit regulates how much contamination can flow offsite during rain events; however, Boeing’s limits at the SSFL are regularly exceeded. Boeing has been fined over \$1M for NPDES violations at the SSFL and exceedances continue to occur.
- There are 310 historically documented chemicals of concern at the Santa Susana Field Lab. Only 35 of these are currently being tested for by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board under Boeing’s NPDES permit.
- Contamination detected in SSFL water runoff has included lead, mercury, arsenic, perchlorate, TCE, dioxins, PCBs, radioactive particles, and “forever” chemicals.

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

- The agreement promises to remove Boeing’s rainwater discharge permit (NPDES) ten years before the clean-up is completed.
- MOU gives authority to the Expert Panel, paid by Boeing, to make critical judgments about testing requirements and methodologies.
- MOU assumes that Boeing’s Settlement Agreement with the DTSC will remove all dangerous contamination. Therefore Boeing won’t need an NPDES permit to monitor or regulate chemicals flowing offsite and into local waterways.

- After the bogus “Settlement Agreement” cleanup is completed, Boeing will be allowed to remove the Best Management Practices (BMPs) at the SSFL, allowing even more contamination to reach local waterways after the NPDES has been canceled.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- The SSFL has the potential to discharge approximately 187 million gallons per day of stormwater runoff that may contain pollutants from the facility.
- Contaminated water from the SSFL impacts Bell Creek, Dayton Creek, Runkle Canyon, the Los Angeles River, the Simi Arroyo, Ventura County’s Calleguas Creek Watershed, and the Pacific Ocean.
- Local Watersheds are used for drinking water, crop irrigation, recreation, fishing, support sensitive and endangered wildlife, are sacred to local indigenous tribes, and reach the Pacific Ocean.



## SSFL CONTAMINATION OVERVIEW

- In 1959 the Sodium Reactor Experiment (SRE) experienced a partial meltdown. A third of the nuclear fuel melted. It was one of the worst nuclear accidents in American History.
- Ten nuclear reactors were located at the SSFL, four of which experienced major accidents, including the SRE accident. Other nuclear accidents occurred in the “hot lab,” at six critical facilities, and at the plutonium fuel facility.
- For decades, radioactive waste and toxic chemicals were burned in open pits at the SSFL, contaminating

**Follow-up Water Meeting: Online Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at 7:00 pm**

Register in advance: [www.parentsagainstssfl.com/new-events](http://www.parentsagainstssfl.com/new-events)

the soil, air, and groundwater.

- Over 30,000 rocket engine tests were conducted at the SSFL. It's estimated that 500,000 gallons of toxic Trichloroethylene (TCE) have contaminated the soil and groundwater. Analytical data indicate that both the shallow aquifer and the deeper Chatsworth Formation aquifer have been contaminated with TCE. Although other volatile organic compounds, such as trans-1,2-dichloroethylene, vinyl chloride, Freon-113, toluene, and benzene, also have been detected, TCE is the compound detected with the highest concentration and greatest frequency.
- According to CalEPA in 2007: Perchlorate was detected in 56 of 277 wells at the SSFL. The highest concentration was measured at 1,600 parts per billion. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment lists the public health goal for perchlorate in drinking water at 0.001 parts per billion.
- A few of the contaminants documented at the SSFL include plutonium-239/240, cesium-137, strontium-90, carcinogenic radium, toxic chemicals such as dioxins, chromium, TCE, perchlorate, "forever chemicals," and heavy metals such as lead, arsenic and cyanide.

## HEALTH STUDIES OVERVIEW

(Full studies can be found on our website):

- 2021: A study by Fairwinds Energy Education Foundation "Radioactive Microparticles related to the Woolsey Fire in Simi Valley," found radioactive contamination in soil and ash samples, as far away as Thousand Oaks.
- 2015: Boeing's draft "RCRA Facility Investigation Data Summary" found that 96 out of 100 people would get cancer if they lived on parts of Boeing's property at the SSFL.
- 2012: The EPA Radiological Survey, "EPA Radiological Background Study" and accompanying statistical appendix found 291 soil samples with Cesium-137 contamination, at levels up to 1,000 times background, 153 samples had strontium-90, at levels up to 284 times background.
- 2007: An federally-funded study, "Cancer Incidence in the Community Surrounding the Rocketdyne Facility in Southern California" showed a 60% higher cancer incidence rate for residents living within two miles of the SSFL.

## CITIES, COUNTIES, AND ELECTED OFFICIALS SUPPORTING THE COMPLETE SSFL CLEANUP

- Senator Alex Padilla
- Senator Dianne Feinstein
- Congresswoman Julia Brownley
- Congressman Brad Sherman
- Congressman Adam Schiff
- Congressman Tony Cardenas
- Congresswoman Karen Bass
- Congressman Mike Thompson
- Congressman Mark Desaulnier
- California Senator Henry Stern
- Assembly Member Jesse Gabriels
- Former Los Angeles Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
- Los Angeles Supervisor Kathryn Barger
- Former Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks
- Ventura County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez (In Memoriam)
- Former Ventura County Supervisor Robert Huber
- Los Angeles City Councilmember John Lee
- Simi Valley Councilmember Ruth Luevanos
- Los Angeles County
- Ventura County
- City of Los Angeles
- City of Moorpark
- City of Hidden Hills
- City of Malibu
- City of Thousand Oaks
- City of Calabasas

## ORGANIZATIONS AND ALLIES SUPPORTING THE COMPLETE SSFL CLEANUP

- Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles
- Committee to Bridge the Gap
- National Resource Defence Council (NRDC)
- California Environmental Justice Coalition (CEJC)
- Alliance for Nuclear Accountability
- Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
- Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS)
- CORE: Nuclear and Aerospace Workers
- Heal the Bay, Los Angeles
- Rocketdyne Cleanup Coalition
- Consumer Watchdog
- Center for Health, Environment & Justice
- Friends of Farmworkers, Ventura County
- Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation



**PARENTS AGAINST  
SANTA SUSANA  
FIELD LABORATORY**  
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