



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



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ARNOLD
SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

January 15, 2008

The Honorable Sheila James Kuehl
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, California 94249-0041

Dear Senator Kuehl:

Thank you for your December 10, 2007 letter to the Governor regarding the consideration by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.EPA) of placement of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) site on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). He has asked me to respond on his behalf. In your letter, you urge the Governor to support an NPL listing, and you provide a number of reasons for your request.

Over the past two weeks, I have hosted meetings and discussions with community members and organizations and environmental and public health organizations regarding the listing recommendation and, more generally, the remediation of environmental hazards at the SSFL site. The meetings were very productive, and as a result, Secretary Chrisman and I have signed a letter of Intent with these individuals and organizations regarding the listing recommendation (a copy of the LOI attached). The LOI represents an understanding with the community and stakeholders and their concurrence with the State's request that U.S.EPA defer for six months its decision regarding whether to propose NPL listing for the SSFL site.

Consistent with the LOI, and on behalf of the Governor, I have communicated to U.S.EPA our request that their decision on NPL listing be deferred for six months (a copy of the letter to U.S.EPA is also attached). This additional time will allow the State to negotiate formal agreements with Boeing for the cleanup of the site and to fully evaluate possible impacts and ramifications of an NPL listing on achieving the goal of a comprehensive, protective and expedited cleanup of the site. Please note that State action regarding cleanup will continue during this period.

A significant element of this course of action is your bill, SB 990 (Chapter 729, Statutes of 2007) and the cleanup process and standards it requires for the site. In our discussions at the time the Governor signed the bill, we believed that cleanup legislation would be needed this year to modify the provisions of SB 990. In a letter dated October 12, 2007, you graciously committed to introducing and carrying that clean-up legislation.

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After our recent discussions with members of the community and stakeholder groups and further evaluation of the bill's requirements, we no longer believe that clean-up legislation is necessary. I appreciate your willingness to modify the bill if needed, but am pleased to inform you that since a bill to amend SB 990 is not necessary, the Administration is permanently relieving you of your commitment to carry such legislation.

As to the negotiation of formal agreements with Boeing for the cleanup of the site and subsequent transfer of the property, as we discussed previously, I look forward to meeting with you soon to discuss ways to ensure that the community can provide meaningful input into those negotiations. This will be a very important discussion, as I highly value their perspectives. If I can provide any additional information before then, please feel free to contact me at (916) 323-2514.

Sincerely,

Linda Adams
Secretary for Environmental Protection

Attachments

cc: The Honorable Julia Brownley
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Audra Strickland
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4208
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The Honorable Member Cameron Smyth
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Chris Kahn, Legislative Secretary
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bcc: John Moffatt, Deputy Legislative Secretary
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