

**From:** [Russell, Dusty](#)  
**To:** [Rohlfes, Larry@DTSC](mailto:Rohlfes, Larry@DTSC)  
**Subject:** Senator Pavley - Letter to Barbara Lee (DTSC) 8/15/16  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:14:46 AM  
**Attachments:** [Senator Pavley\\_DTSC.SSFL\\_8.15.16.pdf](#)

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Good morning Mr. Rohlfes,

I am sorry I didn't have a chance to say hello at the DTSC IRP meeting last night. I arrived just as things were getting started. I thought Gideon and the other members did an excellent job hearing out the community members' concerns about the SSFL site. Hopefully, some of testimonies will be helpful to the IRP's overall efforts.

For the last two years, I have served as Senator Pavley's point person in the District on SSFL. I have tracked it quite closely. It's a very complex issue to be sure. Based on some of my observations in the field, Senator Pavley recently sent a letter to Director Lee to encourage DTSC staff's thorough preparation to facilitate meaningful public engagement once the SSFL Draft PEIR is released later this year. I thought a copy of the letter might provide some helpful insight as the IRP works to develop their public engagement recommendations for the Department.

Respectfully,

Dusty

**Dusty Russell, MPA**  
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**State Senator Fran Pavley**  
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Sign-up for Senator Pavley's monthly e-newsletter at <http://sen.ca.gov/pavley>.

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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**FRAN PAVLEY**

TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER  
CHAIR  
ELECTIONS  
ENERGY, UTILITIES &  
COMMUNICATIONS  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING

August 15, 2016

Barbara Lee  
Director  
California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Director Lee,

As the State Senator representing the communities and residents surrounding the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), I am writing to strongly encourage your engagement in assisting in the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) staff to be fully prepared to facilitate constructive public hearings following the release of the SSFL Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), expected later this year.

The history of the site, environmental and public health concerns, and years of clean-up project preparation, as well as delays, have frustrated many of my constituents in the surrounding communities. While I appreciate the complexity of the tremendous task at hand to clean-up the SSFL site, I also understand the sentiments of the communities I represent – several who have been engaged on this issue for decades.

Residents in my district have expressed concern about a diminished level of DTSC participation in community-hosted meetings focused on the SSFL clean-up project, despite invitations to staff to attend and engage with community stakeholders. Some constituents have also reported concerns about instances of intimidation and harassment by other community stakeholders at SSFL-focused meetings, including those hosted by DTSC.

The release of the Draft PEIR is an important step in SSFL clean-up planning, and the subsequent public hearings will be crucial to both the public's understanding of the project and the Department's decision-making process. It is essential that residents of the surrounding communities are able to meaningfully engage with DTSC. It is also imperative that DTSC are fully prepared to facilitate constructive public hearings where residents feel at liberty to raise the issues that are important to them without fear of intimidation or harassment by other community stakeholders, and where DTSC staff are equipped to provide detailed responses to the public's wide range of concerns.

Again, I strongly encourage your leadership in assisting DTSC staff to be fully prepared for effective community engagement following the release of the SSFL Draft PEIR. DTSC's preparedness will be of great value to the community as we work collectively to move forward on the SSFL clean-up project.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dusty Russell of my staff at (818) 876-3352 with any additional questions. Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fran Pavley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fran Pavley  
California State Senator  
District 27