



## DTSC Issues Cleanup Evaluation to Protect Residents and the Environment

### Santa Susana Field Laboratory Program Environmental Impact Report Release

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared a Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

#### What is the Final PEIR?

The PEIR describes and evaluates the possible environmental impacts from the cleanup and identifies ways to avoid or reduce them. The PEIR identified sixty-four mitigation measures in ten categories, such as air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and traffic, to reduce impacts during cleanup.

DTSC thoroughly considered thousands of comments on the Draft PEIR and prepared detailed written responses that are included in the PEIR. In response to the comments received, DTSC made updates and clarifications to the impacts evaluated to reflect an increase in soil excavation and backfill volumes and changes to truck capacities and truck haul distances. This detailed analysis *did not* result in any new significant information requiring recirculation of the Draft PEIR under CEQA. Note that the PEIR is not a decision document.\*

The conclusion of the CEQA process is a major milestone that sets the stage for DTSC to make informed decisions on cleanup plans and implementation. DTSC will ensure that the cleanup of the site is protective of people and the environment around SSFL.

#### How long will the cleanup take?

Soil cleanup will take about 15 years once it starts. Groundwater cleanup and monitoring will continue as long as needed to meet water quality standards that ensure the site does not present a risk to human health or the environment.

#### When will the cleanup start?

Fifteen critical soil cleanups and removal of several buildings have already been completed. After PEIR certification (completed in July of 2023), Boeing, NASA, and DOE will submit draft cleanup plans describing how they propose to clean up soil and groundwater in their areas of responsibility. Each plan will have its own timeline and the public will be asked to comment on these plans beginning in late 2024. The cleanup activities are anticipated to start in 2026.

#### About SSFL

SSFL is a roughly 2,850-acre site in Simi Valley where rocket engine testing and nuclear research happened. DTSC is the lead regulatory agency overseeing the SSFL cleanup.

CEQA requires state and local government agencies to inform decision makers and the public about the potential environmental impacts of proposed projects, and to reduce those environmental impacts to the extent feasible by considering alternatives to and mitigation measures for the proposed project.

#### How can the public offer feedback?

DTSC will conduct public meetings, workshops, and other activities to directly involve the community as we move forward with cleanup. Public comment periods for the first cleanup plans are scheduled to begin in late 2024.

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[Sign up](#) to receive public comment notifications and updates or contact us: [dtsc.ca.gov/santa\\_susana\\_field\\_lab](https://dtsc.ca.gov/santa_susana_field_lab)

*\*A decision document or cleanup plan documents the selected alternative for a cleanup. It provides information on the need for a removal action, a description of the proposed action and cleanup levels, and the rationale for why the proposed action was selected.*

