

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 25, 2015

Mr. Vincent P. Armenta
Tribal Chairman
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
P.O. Box 517
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Vincent
Dear Chairman Armenta:

Thank you for your letter dated April 21, 2015, requesting NASA's support for the proposal that the Santa Susana Field Lab property be designated as a national monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906. While NASA cannot take a position on the proposal at this time, I can assure you that we do recognize the unique features and sacred status of the property, as outlined in your detailed letter. I can also assure you that I will instruct my staff to contact the appropriate Federal agencies and departments with expertise in the national monument designation process to share your proposal.

In preparation for remediation of the site under the terms of the 2010 California State Administrative Order on Consent, our staff at Marshall Space Flight Center are actively proceeding with the demolition process for on-site structures. However, I have instructed them to defer demolition of the historical rocket testing stands for as long as possible without impacting overall cleanup responsibilities, in order to allow appropriate offices within the Executive Branch to consider your proposal.

Thank you for the continuing efforts that the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and the Sacred Sites Council have made in sharing tribal cultural concerns and expertise in the cleanup process at Santa Susana Field Lab. With your ongoing assistance, I believe we can implement a cleanup that honors the unique qualities and sacred status of the site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CFB", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator