

SANTA YNEZ BAND OF CHUMASH INDIANS

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BUSINESS COMMITTEE

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April 21, 2015

The Honorable Charles F. Bolden, Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Administrator's Office, 9th Floor
300 E Street S.W.
Washington, DC. 20546-0001

RE: Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) site

Dear Mr. Bolden:

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians ("Tribe") thanks you for your concern for Native American issues at all your NASA sites and specifically at the former Rocketdyne site at the Santa Susana Field laboratory (SSFL).

We continue to work with SSFL Project Director Mr. Allen Elliott, Jennifer Groman and Peter Zorba and are looking forward to their next site visit this June.

SSFL is the spiritual cross-roads of the Chumash, Fernandeno/Tatviam and Gabrieleno/Tongva Native peoples and all three tribes have created the Sacred Sites Council to better address SSFL issues. Merely listing the pictographs at Burro Flats in the National Register is just the beginning. Subsequent archeological investigations by DOE, NASA and BOEING have begun to uncover the historical and sacred importance of the NASA and entire SSFL site.

We thank you again for your efforts to protect the sacred and historical aspects of the NASA and entire SSFL site. We believe the SSFL site is so important that it should be considered for National Monument status under the Antiquities Act and we have prepared a background paper for your consideration. We respectfully ask for your support for such a SSFL National Monument and that you continue to work with other federal agencies so we can protect SSFL as a National Monument.

We additionally request that any demolition of the rocket test stands, especially COCA, be deferred for as long as possible, so as to maximize its chances of being protected as an integral part of any SSFL National Monument.

Sincerely,

Vincent P. Armenta
Tribal Chairman

Enclosure: Comparison of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory to National Monuments of Noteworthy Archaeological and Ethnological Value, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (Jan. 30, 2015)

CC:

Allen Elliott
SSFL Project Director
NASA MSFC AS01, Building 4494
Huntsville, AL 35812

Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior;
Alletta, Belin, Senior Counselor to the Deputy Secretary, DOI;

Secretary Ernest Moniz, Department of Energy