



2017 YEAR in REVIEW

NASA SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY

NASA administers 451.2 acres in two areas of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) used historically for the research, development, and testing of rocket engines associated with programs such as Apollo and the Space Shuttle. This Year in Review is intended to present highlights from the work accomplished at SSFL over the past year as NASA continues to work toward achieving a cleanup that is fully protective of public health and the natural environment.

DEMOLITION

NASA had a productive year implementing its demolition program at SSFL. NASA finished Phase 2-A, completing the deconstruction and removal of obsolete buildings and infrastructure outside of the Test Areas. In early 2017, NASA began its Phase 2-B and Phase 3-A demolition activities, focused on removing concrete slabs and asphalt, obsolete structures, pipelines, inactive tanks, and electrical infrastructure in the Delta Test Area and in the Alfa and Bravo Test Areas (excluding the test stands), respectively. NASA achieved enormous progress with these efforts, completing most of the Phases 2-B and 3-A demolition work. NASA expects to finish the remaining demolition activities in the Test Areas in early 2018. Over the course of 2017, demolition activities generated over 9,000 tons of concrete, approximately 1,150 tons of steel and 2,600 tons of asphalt. All demolition debris was tested and recycled, where possible, or disposed of at the appropriate, licensed facilities. Once demolition is complete in an area, a specialized hydroseed mix of plants native to the Santa Susana site is applied to the area to promote natural re-vegetation and erosion control. Over the course of the year, NASA applied the hydroseed mix to approximately nine acres of land.



In addition to the physical progress made with demolition in 2017, NASA made the decision to continue to defer demolition of all six of the existing test stands and their associated control houses, unless they pose a risk to safety, human health, or the environment.

In 2017, NASA took important steps toward its goal of protecting the significant cultural resources found in the NASA-administered areas at SSFL. One important milestone was the completion of the updated nomination of the Burro Flats Site to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The nomination includes information about the site that has been gathered since the original NRHP nomination in 1974. In December, the nomination was submitted to the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and the Sacred Sites Council for review and comment. After the review period, NASA will address comments and submit the final nomination to the registration office at the SHPO.



NASA also completed and published a public version of an [Ethnographic Study](#) documenting the prehistoric and historic native uses of the areas in and around the SSFL. Following the completion of its ethnographic study, NASA began the process of evaluating the area for a potential Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) and developing an NRHP nomination, as stipulated in the [Programmatic Agreement](#). A TCP is a property associated with the cultural practices, traditions, beliefs, lifeways, arts, crafts, or social institutions of a living community. The nomination will be the culmination of the TCP evaluation that began in 2017, in consultation with the Native American community and state and federal authorities. NASA expects to complete and submit the NRHP nomination to the California State Historic Resources Commission in 2018.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

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GROUNDWATER AND SOILS

It was a busy year for the NASA SSFL groundwater team. Using knowledge gathered from the groundwater characterization efforts, NASA developed a Draft Groundwater Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation Report, referred to as the Groundwater RFI. This report provides site-specific data and summarizes the results of all investigations performed regarding the nature and extent of groundwater contamination at the SSFL site. The RFI will be used to prepare a RCRA Corrective Measures Study that will recommend specific cleanup actions. NASA submitted the RFI report to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in May 2017 and is currently awaiting comments from the DTSC.



NASA also submitted its Final Soil Data Summary Report (DSR) summarizing data found during soil investigations, and identifying the nature and extent of soil contamination in NASA-administered areas. NASA submitted the final DSR in February 2017 and is awaiting finalization of the report from the DTSC.

In September 2017, the DTSC published the Draft Programmatic Environmental Report (PEIR) for SSFL. NASA thoroughly reviewed the SSFL PEIR and submitted comments to the DTSC. The DTSC is currently reviewing our comments, as well as those received from other stakeholders. NASA looks forward to continuing to work with DTSC to reach our shared goal of a safe and sound environmental cleanup at SSFL.

NASA continued to take proactive steps to address stormwater in 2017. During the year, NASA enhanced best management practices (BMPs) that capture road runoff in Area II. NASA designed and constructed a culvert and stormwater diversion to direct roadside runoff across Service Area Road to one of the existing Culvert Modifications (CM), CM-1, where stormwater runoff can be treated. NASA also implemented recommendations made by the SSFL Stormwater Expert Panel, installing or replacing sandbag berms in areas at the bottom of Wells 13 Road. All improvements were completed in October.



NASA made significant progress maintaining existing BMPs in current and former demolition areas. As demolition teams completed work in an area, NASA took responsibility for the upkeep of surface- and stormwater BMPs installed by demolition contractors. These stormwater pollution prevention (SWPPP) maintenance efforts will continue as demolition and cleanup activities proceed.

NASA also made its annual preparations for the winter rainy season, staging materials such as wattles, sandbags, and gravel throughout Area II for placement as needed during rain events.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit <https://ssfl.msfc.nasa.gov> or contact:

Lori Manes

NASA SSFL Community Outreach Coordinator

Phone (818) 806-8834 **Email** lori.manes@nasa.gov

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