

FieldNOTE

An Update on NASA's Cleanup Efforts at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory



Demolition crews at Delta conducted abatement and demolition of a large tank used historically to store hydrogen gas for engine testing.



Excavators remove the concrete bases of Delta Test Stands 2-A and 2-B.



At Alfa, a crewmember sprays water to suppress dust as an excavator digs up the concrete encasement piping that protected underground cable leading from the control house to Alfa Test Stand 1.

Demolition Advances; Moves into Test Areas

Over the summer, NASA continued demolition activities in NASA-administered areas at SSFL to prepare for final cleanup and restoration of the site.

"I am really pleased with the enormous progress that we have made to date," said Peter Zorba, NASA SSFL Project Director. "Day in and day out, our team is hard at work to ensure demolition is conducted safely and effectively," he said.

In the Delta Test Area (Phase 2-B), crews continued with demolition, which began earlier this year. Work at Delta includes structures and inactive storage tanks, as well as the concrete bases of the Delta Test Stands, which remained after the superstructures were demolished in the 1970s.

Concurrent with demolition activities at Delta, NASA is conducting work in the Alfa and Bravo Test Areas (Phase 3-A). This phase, which began in June, consists of buildings and structures throughout the test areas, excluding the historic test stands and control houses. Work began with the removal of infrastructure such as pipelines, cables, power poles and transformers. Inside buildings, crews conducted asbestos abatement and removed universal waste materials, such as light bulbs and ballasts, batteries, and circuit boards.

In addition to the extensive technical planning and processes involved with demolition, significant efforts are made to ensure the potential for impacts to cultural and natural resources are minimized. For example, Native American monitors are onsite to observe demolition work daily, while biologists conduct regular visits to monitor and ensure the protection of migratory birds and other wildlife.

The adjacent photos highlight some of the work that took place this summer.

Demolition at a Glance

Phase	Location	Status
1	Service Area/ELV	Complete
2-A	Skyline, Coca Delta Fuel Farms, STP, LOX	Complete
2-B	Delta Test Area (no test stands)	In progress; completion 2017
3-A	Alfa and Bravo Test Area (excluding test stands and control houses)	In progress; completion 2017
3-B	Coca Test Area (excluding test stands and control house)	Premobilization; expected start date early 2018



Efforts to Protect Cultural Resources Continue

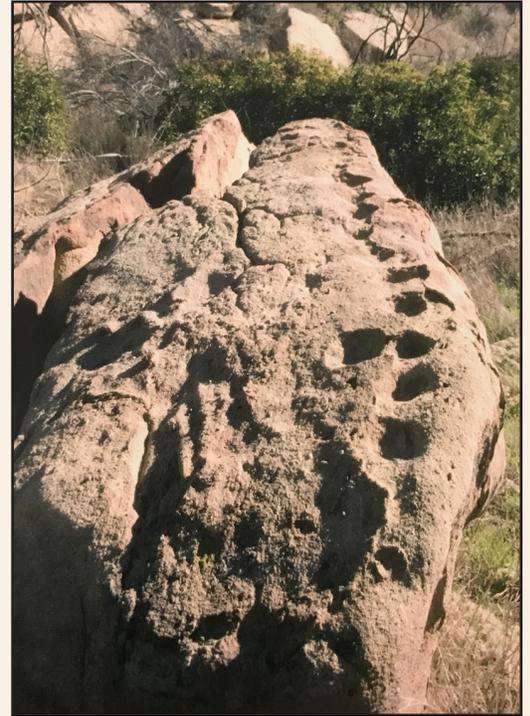
NASA is committed to protecting cultural resources at SSFL. A prominent example of these efforts is the updated nomination of the Burro Flats Site, a prehistoric archaeological site notable for its many rock features (pictographs, petroglyphs, and cupules) to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In 1974, the site was nominated for and listed in the NRHP, but at that time the criteria for listing had not been formalized. Now, using results of recent archaeological field investigations (see the [December 2016 FieldNOTE](#)), NASA is updating the NRHP nomination to include the new site boundaries and provide additional important information documenting the site's significance.

"The updated Burro Flats nomination is the result of extensive archaeological field work and our continued commitment to the protection of cultural resources at SSFL," said Peter Zorba, NASA Project Director for SSFL. "All of this information is helping NASA be the best possible steward of this important archaeological resource."

NASA is currently preparing the NRHP registration form and supporting documentation. The NRHP packet will be submitted to the Registration Unit at the California Office of Historic Preservation and the National Park Service, which oversees the NRHP. More information on nominating California historic properties to the NRHP can be found online at http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21237.

NASA is looking into other ways to identify and protect cultural resources. One of these is a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) evaluation. A TCP is a property associated with the cultural



A rock feature in the Burro Flats area with bedrock cupules carved into the surface.

practices, traditions, beliefs, lifeways, arts, crafts, or social institutions of a living community. NASA recently initiated the TCP evaluation process and is working with the Native American community as well as state and federal authorities to develop the evaluation.

NASA has conducted studies and interviews concerning cultural practices with members of the local native communities. NASA's goal for the TCP evaluation is to gather information that may have been passed down by oral history or practice that may not have been collected through prior archaeological studies.

More information about TCPs may be found at <https://www.nps.gov/history/tribes/Documents/TCP.pdf>.

EXPLORING SANTA SUSANA

Take a Virtual Tour of NASA Test Stands

NASA recognizes the historical importance of the SSFL site and its role in the development of our nation's space flight program. As part of NASA's effort to document the history of the site and the test stands used for rocket engine testing, NASA has recently released a short documentary as well as an interactive, virtual tour of the site.

Historical Documentary

NASA's seven-minute documentary video entitled: ***Santa Susana: Propelling American Space Exploration*** highlights the history of the SSFL site from the earliest days of rocket engine testing beginning in the 1950s to NASA's present day cleanup and restoration efforts. The full video can be found online at <https://ssfl.msfc.nasa.gov/history>.

SSFL Virtual Tour

NASA teamed up with the National Park Service's (NPS) Heritage Documentation Program to produce an interactive, **virtual site tour** that allows users to explore the historic NASA Test Areas. The virtual tour, along with more information about the partnership between NASA and NPS, can be found online at <https://ssfl.msfc.nasa.gov/history/virtual-tour>.

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