



SSFL COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

**Citizens Working Together for the Responsible Cleanup of the Former
Santa Susana Field Laboratory**

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SSFL Community Advisory Group (CAG) FACT SHEET

Who is the SSFL CAG?

What is the SSFL CAG?

How did the SSFL CAG form?

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), as authorized by California's Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.8, responded to a petition of concerned affected community members by announcing its approval of the formation of the SSFL CAG in the Spring of 2013. The purpose of a CAG is to educate itself and the community, advise and provide community input to DTSC regarding the community's health and environmental concerns related to California's various environmental cleanup projects. In this case, the SSFL CAG is specifically advising DTSC regarding the Santa Susana Field Laboratory's (SSFL's) contamination cleanup plan as it evolves.

The CAG membership selection process was approved by DTSC and overseen by the Udall Foundation. The selection panel consisted of 3 full time academicians from different local academic institutions, 1 environmental justice advocate and 2 observers who were community members of the CAG organizing committee. Membership invitations were sent out to the broad community from DTSC and returned to the Udall Foundation. Membership applications were reviewed by the selection panel and objective criteria adhered to regarding admission as members. Inclusion rather than exclusion was the guiding principle. Once the membership was chosen, the Udall foundation also actively participated in the formative meetings of the CAG where the charter, bylaws and other governing documents were created and agreed to. Handoff by the Udall Foundation to the CAG leadership occurred after the Udall Foundation was satisfied that the CAG was off to an equitable and balanced beginning where all points of view are welcome and considered. The CAG began publically operating as an independent Community Advisory Group in August, 2013. It has not accepted any funding from Boeing, DOE, NASA or DTSC.

Those comprising the SSFL CAG:

- 23 individuals
- Representing well over 400,000 people in their respective communities and organizations
- Representing 13 distinct communities
- Representing both LA and Ventura Counties
- Representing the federally recognized band of the Chumash Indians and other Native Americans

Diverse backgrounds include specialized credentials, skills and experience in:

- Government affairs
- Legal officer and attorney
- Environmental resource planning and management
- Hazardous materials management
- Medicine
- Health and safety management
- Epidemiology
- Anthropology
- Chemistry
- Mechanical engineering
- Nuclear engineering
- Geology
- Public works planning
- The business community

The SSFL CAG membership has both:

- Former workers from the SSFL
- Those with family members who worked at the SSFL

Neighborhood representation encompasses:

- Chatsworth Neighborhood Council
- West Hills Neighborhood Council
- Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils
- Bell Canyon BoD
- Bell Canyon Community Center BoD
- Mountain View Estates Mobile Home Park HOA
- Siena at Woodland Hills

Other community and district organizations represented:

- LA Chamber of Commerce
- Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Calleguas Municipal Water District BoD

Society/Association representation from:

- Sierra Club
- Santa Susana Mountain Park Association Board
- Audubon Society
- LA Board of the California Native Plant Society
- Save Open Space Board
- Southern California Society of Risk Analysis/Air and Waste Management Association

- Rancho Simi Trail Blazers affiliated with the Rancho Simi Parks District

Community Outreach - Active Involvement In:

- Resolutions passed by 17 affected communities' neighborhood councils after NASA's DEIS released
- 3 Neighborhood councils (West Hills, Canoga Park Woodland Hills) are presently investigating the SSFL cleanup with the intent of passing a resolution
- The City of Calabasas Environmental Commission is currently investigating the cleanup with the intent of recommending a resolution to the City of Calabasas
- Completion of an analysis of the 11 existing health studies concerning SSFL's potential health impact on the surrounding communities
- The CAG has submitted comments during every public comment period related to SSFL since its inception

Overall, in the SSFL CAG's opinion, the CAG's establishment and operation has been an effective process to educate ourselves, the community, and provide community input to DTSC.