

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LOS ANGELES REGION**

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013
(213) 576-6600

Public Notice No. 14-042
NPDES No. CA0001309

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**PROPOSED REISSUANCE
OF
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
(National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit)**

<u>DISCHARGER</u>	<u>DISCHARGE LOCATION</u>	<u>RECEIVING WATER</u>
The Boeing Company Santa Susan Field Laboratory	5800 Woolsey Canyon Road Canoga Park, CA 91304-1148	Bell Creek Arroyo Simi

The Santa Susan Field Laboratory (SSFL) occupies approximately 2,850 acres and is located at the top of Woolsey Canyon Road in the Simi Hills, Ventura County, California. The Facility is jointly owned by Boeing and the United States of America. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) administers the portion of the property owned by the federal government. The site is divided into four administrative areas (Areas I, II, III, and IV) and undeveloped land areas to both the north and south. The NASA property includes a portion of Area I and all of Area II. The United States Department of Energy (DOE) also owns several buildings that were constructed on land owned by Boeing in the northwest portion in Area IV.

The developed portion of the site comprises approximately 1,500 acres. Boeing and its predecessors' operations at the SSFL since 1950 included research, development, assembly, disassembly, and testing of small scale nuclear reactors, rocket engines, and chemical lasers. During the 1950s to the mid-1970s, volatile organic compounds were utilized for the cleaning of hardware and rocket engine thrust chambers, and for the cleaning of other equipment. These solvents migrated into the subsurface, contaminating groundwater primarily with trichloroethylene (TCE) and 1,2-dichloroethylene (1,2-DCE).

NASA operations included rocket engine assembly and testing, and propellant and fuel storage and loading. Rocket engine testing began at the SSFL in the 1950s. In late 2006, the rocket engine and component testing operations at the facility were terminated. These tests generated fuel related pollutants and heavy metals. Three of the test stands and the associated spillways remain onsite.

DOE's past operations include research and development of energy related programs, and seismic testing experiments. The activities included developing and operating reactors, and fabricating and disassembling nuclear fuel. The DOE began to phase out the program in the 1960s. The last reactor was shut down in 1980, and nuclear

research was terminated in 1989. The research and the associated activities resulted in residual soil and groundwater contamination.

The discharge from the SSFL regulated by the proposed Order is composed primarily of stormwater runoff that traverses the site. The stormwater runoff picks up pollutants present on site as a result of past activities. Treated groundwater is also discharged from the SSFL and is regulated by this Order. Wastes discharged shall be limited to 187 mgd of stormwater runoff and 0.144 mgd of treated groundwater.

Approximately 60% of the discharge exits the property via two southerly discharge points (Outfalls 001 and 002) to Bell Creek, a tributary to the Los Angeles River, a water of the United States, with its confluence located near the intersection of Bassett Street and Owensmouth Avenue in Canoga Park. Upstream outfalls that contribute to the discharge at Outfalls 001 and 002 include Outfalls 011 and 018. Outfalls 019 and 020 discharge treated groundwater downstream of Outfall 001 and 002, respectively.

All extracted groundwater is pumped to the Area I Groundwater Extraction and Treatment System (GETS). Extracted groundwater after treatment is conveyed to its current discharge location, Outfall 019 (located immediately downstream of Outfall 001) or Outfall 020 which will be located 25 feet downstream and down gradient from Outfall 002. Water from Outfalls 001 and 002 will flow into the drainage that leads to Bell Creek. The amount of treated groundwater discharge from Outfalls 019 and 020 will depend upon the direction from California Department of Fish and Wildlife with the goal of protecting the natural resources and preventing the growth of invasive species that may have a negative impact on the waterways and native plants and animals.

The stormwater from the northern boundary of the site is discharged via Outfalls 003 through 007 and 010 or it is transferred to Silvernale Pond for treatment prior to discharge at Outfall 018. Stormwater from Outfalls 003 through 007 and 010 that is not pumped to Silvernale Pond is discharged to the Arroyo Simi. Outfall 009 always discharges to Arroyo Simi. The stormwater runoff from Happy Valley (Outfall 008) flows via Dayton Canyon Creek to Chatsworth Creek. Chatsworth Creek flows south to Bell Creek which subsequently flows southeast to the Los Angeles River.

The treatment process at the GETS includes particulate filters, ion exchange vessels, an air stripper, liquid and vapor phase granular activated carbon, an ultraviolet/hydrogen peroxide system, and chemical dosing for pH and hardness adjustment (as needed). The GETS is designed to discharge up to 0.144 million gallons per day (mgd) of treated groundwater. Extracted groundwater after treatment is conveyed to its current discharge location, Outfall 019 (located immediately downstream from Outfall 001). A new 6-inch above grade HDPE pipeline will be attached to the existing pipeline and will follow the road that transverses the site in the southern undeveloped land area to Outfall 002.

Public Notice No. 14-042
The Boeing Company
Santa Susana Field Laboratory

HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

Date: February 12, 2015
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Metropolitan Water District, Board Room
700 N. Alameda Street,
Los Angeles, California

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The Report of Waste Discharge, related documents, tentative requirements, comments received, and other information received on the discharge are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Arrangements for file review and/or obtaining copies of the documents may be made by calling the Los Angeles Regional Board at (213) 576-6600. The entire file will become a part of the administrative record of this proceeding, irrespective of whether individual documents are specifically referenced during the hearing. The entire file will not be present in the hearing room. Should any interested persons desire staff to bring to the hearing any particular documents that are not included in the agenda packet, they must submit a written or electronic request to staff during business hours, not later than 5 business days before the hearing. The request must identify the documents with enough specificity for staff to locate them.

NATURE OF HEARING

This will be a formal adjudicative hearing pursuant to section 648 et seq. of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Chapter 5 of the California Administrative Procedure Act (commencing with section 11500 of the Government Code) will not apply to this proceeding.

Ex Parte Communications Prohibited: As a quasi-adjudicative proceeding, no board member may discuss the subject of this hearing with any person, except during the public hearing itself. Any communications to the Regional Board must be directed to staff.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAFF BEFORE THE HEARING

The lead staff member responsible for this item is:

Mazhar Ali
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
PHONE: (213) 576-6653
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PARTIES TO THE HEARING

The following are the parties to this proceeding:

1. The applicant/permittee

Any other persons requesting party status must submit a written or electronic request to staff not later than 20 business days before the hearing. All parties will be notified if other persons are so designated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the revised tentative waste discharge requirements, or submit evidence for the Board to consider, are invited to submit them in writing to the above address. To be evaluated and responded to by staff, included in the Board's agenda folder, and fully considered by the Board, written comments must be submitted to the Regional Water Board staff at losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with a copy submitted to Mazhar Ali at mazhar.ali@waterboards.ca.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 8, 2015. Comments or evidence received after that date will be submitted, ex agenda, to the Board for consideration, but only included in administrative record with express approval of the Chair during the hearing. Additionally, if the Board receives only supportive comments, the permit may be placed on the Board's consent calendar, and approved without an oral testimony.

HEARING PROCEDURE

The meeting, in which the hearing will be a part of, will start at 9:00 a.m. Interested persons are invited to attend. Staff will present the matter under consideration, after which oral statements from parties or interested persons will be heard. For accuracy of the record, all important testimony should be in writing. The Board will include in the administrative record written transcriptions of oral testimony that is actually presented at the hearing. Oral testimony may be limited to 3 minutes maximum or less for each speaker, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard. Parties or persons with similar concerns or opinions are encouraged to choose one representative to speak. At the conclusion of testimony, the Board will deliberate in open or close session, and render a decision.

Parties or persons with special procedural requests should contact staff. Any procedure not specified in this hearing notice will be waived pursuant to section 648(d) of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Objections to any procedure to be used during this hearing must be submitted in writing not later than close of business 15 business days prior to the date of the hearing. Procedural objections will not be entertained at the hearing.

If there should not be a quorum on the scheduled date of this meeting, all cases will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting on March 12, 2015. A continuance will not extend any time set forth herein.

Date: December 4, 2014