

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

**320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, California 90013  
(213) 576-6600**

**Public Notice No. 23-011  
NPDES No. CA0001309**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND  
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 Susana Field Laboratory	5800 Woolsey Canyon Road Canoga Park, CA 91304-1148	Bell Creek, Dayton Canyon Creek, and Arroyo Simi

The Boeing Company (hereinafter Discharger, or Permittee), is the operator of Santa Susana Field Laboratory (hereinafter SSFL, or Facility), 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 owned several buildings that were constructed on land owned by Boeing in the northwest portion in Area IV. All above ground portion of the DOE buildings have been demolished.

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. Two of the test stands complexes 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. All operations at the Facility have ceased. Current activities include demolition, remediation, and restoration across the Facility.

The Facility discharges stormwater runoff to the Arroyo Simi in the northern portion of the Facility, to Bell Creek towards the south, and to the to Dayton Canyon Creek to the southeastern portion, waters of the United States. The stormwater runoff picks up pollutants present on site as a result of past industrial activities. The discharge is limited to 187 MGD of stormwater runoff. The discharge from the Facility is regulated under waste discharge requirements contained in Order No. R4-2015-0033, adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) on April 1, 2015. Order No. R4-2015-0033 serves as a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES No. CA0001309). The Discharger filed a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) and applied for reissuance of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and NPDES permit on September 26, 2019, for discharges of stormwater runoff to the receiving waters. The application was deemed complete on October 29, 2019. The terms and conditions of the current NPDES permit have been automatically continued and remain in effect until new WDRs and NPDES permit are adopted pursuant to the proposed Order.

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the Los Angeles Water Board tentatively proposes to issue waste discharge requirements and the NPDES permit under Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) § 124.4(c)(2).

#### HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

**Date: September 28, 2023**  
**Time: 9:00 a.m.**  
**Place: Board of Supervisors Hearing Room**  
**Ventura County Government Center**  
**800 S. Victoria Avenue #1920**  
**Ventura, CA 93009**

Interested persons are invited to attend. At the public hearing, the Los Angeles Water Board will hear any testimony pertinent to the discharge, tentative WDRs, and NPDES permit. Oral testimony will be heard; however, for accuracy of the record, important testimony should be in writing.

A virtual platform is also available for those who want to join online. Please follow the directions provided in the agenda to register or to view the Board meeting.

Please be aware that dates and venues may change. Our web address is [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board\\_info/agenda/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_info/agenda/), where you can access the current agenda for changes in dates and locations.

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Any person desiring to receive future notices about any proposed Board action regarding this Discharger, please contact Duong Trinh at [duong.trinh@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:duong.trinh@waterboards.ca.gov), to be included on the e-mail list.

### AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

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

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
320 West 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Water 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.

The tentative WDRs, comments received, and the response to comments when prepared will also be available on the Regional Water Board's website at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml)

### NATURE OF HEARING

This will be a formal quasi-adjudicative proceeding 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) does 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 Los Angeles Water Board must be directed to staff.

### COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAFF BEFORE THE HEARING

The lead staff member responsible for this item is:

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Duong Trinh  
320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
(213) 576-6665  
[duong.trinh@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:duong.trinh@waterboards.ca.gov)

### 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 tentative waste discharge requirements, or submit evidence for the Board to consider, are invited to submit them in writing. To be evaluated and responded to by staff, included in the Board's agenda folder, and fully considered by the Board, written comments and evidence must be submitted to the Board by mail to the address above or by email to [losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov) with a copy to [duong.trinh@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:duong.trinh@waterboards.ca.gov), and received at the Board's office by 5:00 p.m. on **August 21, 2023**. Please reference the comments as "Comments on tentative NPDES Permit, The Boeing Company, Santa Susana Field Laboratory, NPDES No. CA0001309".

Pursuant to section 648.4, title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, written comments or evidence submitted after the comment deadline will not be allowed or accepted into the Administrative Record without a showing of good cause for the delay, and in no event if any party or the Board would be unduly prejudiced by the late submittal including if staff or the Board would not have an adequate opportunity to review, consider, and respond to the comments or evidence.

Additionally, if the Board receives only supportive comments, the permit may be placed on the Board's consent calendar and approved without oral testimony.

### HEARING PROCEDURE

The meeting, in which the hearing will occur, 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 render a decision.

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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, this matter will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting on October 19, 2023. A continuance will not extend any deadline set forth herein.

Date: July 21, 2023