The former Santa Susana Field Laboratory sits within a key habitat linkage connecting California’s coast to inland mountain ranges and is home to abundant wildlife, endangered plant species and Native American cultural resources. The area is dominated by sandstone cliffs, oak woodlands, valleys and mountain vistas.

Santa Susana played a critical role in NASA’s rocket engine development and testing that powered virtually every major U.S. space program. A handful of decommissioned rocket engine test stands dot the landscape, relics of the testing that powered moon landings, satellite launches and national defense. The site was also home to advanced energy research, development and testing on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Past work resulted in the release of chemicals onto the ground, which contaminated areas of soil and groundwater on-site.

Scientific investigations and numerous health studies conducted over many years collectively reinforce that past operations have not affected the health of area residents. Comprehensive soil and groundwater investigations and assessments based on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requirements confirm that visitors participating in bus tours and guided walks are safe.

- Hikes and bus tours are conducted along paved or gravel roads in areas adjacent to former operations.
- The dirt hiking trail along the southern undeveloped lands is not identified as a cleanup area.
- The EPA conducted a comprehensive study for radionuclide contamination in Area IV (the area of the site managed by the DOE) and concluded that none of the detected results “posed a health risk to personnel.”

As cleanup progresses, the land is used for environmental research, restoration and recreation by high school and college students as well as environmental organizations and community groups, including the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, Southwestern Herpetologist Society, Herp Connection, United States Geological Survey, Sky Valley Volunteers, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association and Los Angeles Astronomical Society.

Boeing has made considerable progress investigating, cleaning up and restoring its areas of responsibility at Santa Susana since becoming the owner of the majority of the land in 1996. To date, Boeing has:

- Reviewed historical data, received public input and utilized experts to help identify what to sample and where.
- Received regulatory agencies’ approval of plans.
• Collected more than 38,000 soil and groundwater samples.
• Installed more than 270 groundwater monitoring wells.
• Dismantled more than 300 structures.
• Installed a state-of-the art groundwater treatment system.
• Built stormwater containment and filtration systems, designed in consultation with a panel of national stormwater experts, to meet water quality standards that, in many cases, are stricter than drinking water standards (although there is no human water consumption).
• Cleaned up more than 45,000 cubic yards of soil at the site.
• Conducted and continues to operate groundwater treatment interim measures.
• Restored 900 acres of land.

Boeing is compliant with the 2007 consent order governing cleanup at the Santa Susana site and is awaiting approval of numerous reports from the DTSC as well as DTSC’s certification of a final environment impact report. Boeing looks forward to completing the cleanup and restoration process as quickly as possible.

In 2017, Boeing recorded a conservation easement over its property to permanently protect the site’s vital natural and cultural resources and preserve Santa Susana as open space for people and wildlife for years to come.

CONTACT

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If you would like to take a tour of the site or have any questions, please go to our website at www.boeing.com/santasusana.