

Santa Susana **Newsletter**









Fall 2025

Three years ago, Boeing agreed to the comprehensive framework developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency to implement a stringent cleanup of the site. The framework involves agreements with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and provides Boeing with a clear process, schedule and criteria for future cleanup decision-making while also protecting important biological and cultural resources.

After years of delay, considerable progress toward our final cleanup has been made. In the past two years, we have removed more than 50,000 cubic yards of soil, enough to fill nearly 5,000 dump trucks. And this month, DTSC issued its proposed final soil cleanup plan for Boeing's areas of responsibility for public comment, clearing the way for us to finalize soil cleanup in 2027, an outcome community members have sought for decades.

In fact, we surveyed thousands of community members who live closest to the site and the results show overwhelming support (79%) for the cleanup progress at the site. Specifically, community members were pleased with a cleanup of radiological contamination to background and chemical contamination to levels stringent enough to eat produce grown onsite, even though our property will be preserved as open space in perpetuity under a conservation easement, and will never be used for residential or agricultural purposes.

We appreciate the ongoing support from the community and look forward to the successful restoration and preservation of the Santa Susana site for the benefit of future generations.



Kamara Sams Program Director



Mike Bower Project Manager

National Park Service Collars Two More Pumas at Santa Susana ... In the Same Week

This summer, the National Park Service (NPS) added two more mountain lions from the former Santa Susana Field Laboratory to their regional mountain lion study. The newly added pumas are P-123, an approximately two-year-old female, and P-124, an approximately four-year-old male. They were captured and fitted with GPS-tracking collars within a week of each other, which is rare. They now join a number of other mountain lions that are currently being tracked by NPS in the Simi Hills, Santa Susana Mountains and Santa Monica Mountains.

The goal of their study is to determine how mountain lions in and around the Simi Hills and Santa Monica Mountains survive in a fragmented and urbanized environment. Boeing has participated in the study since its inception 23 years ago. Nearly 20 mountain lions have been tracked at the former field laboratory, providing confirmation that they hunt, eat, breed and give birth at the site.

Two decades of NPS' regional studies have shown that roads and development are not only proving deadly for animals trying to cross, but have also created islands of habitat that can genetically isolate all wildlife – from bobcats to birds to lizards. Without conservation efforts, mountain lions could vanish from our region in less than 50 years. One of those significant conservation efforts is the construction of a wildlife crossing over the 101 (Ventura) Freeway.

Three years ago, Boeing donated \$1 million to the Wallis Annenberg

Wildlife Crossing, demonstrating the company's ongoing commitment to preserving the unique wild heritage and biodiversity of the area and the Santa Susana site. The wildlife crossing is set to open in 2026 and will connect wildlife populations between the Santa Monica Mountains and Simi Hills, and ultimately, to the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

NPS Wildlife Study at Boeing Receives Top Honors



In 2019, NPS partnered with parks agencies and private landowners, including Boeing, on a Woolsey Fire Wildlife Recovery Camera Project to study the long-standing effects from the fire on the ecosystem and wildlife. NPS announced recently that they received the park agency's 2025 regional and national Excellence in Volunteerism Innovation Awards. When accepting the awards, NPS credited Boeing and others for providing long-term support for the six-plus year study.

Stormwater Questions, Answered

During the 2024-2025 rain season, July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, 10.75 inches of rain were recorded at Santa Susana. While the amount of rainfall was less than the typical annual average, the majority of the rain occurring in just a few large storms.

Out of hundreds of analytes tested this year, permit site exceedances were observed for aluminum, manganese, mercury and dioxins, which were all attributed to levels that naturally occur or are at ambient levels in soil. There were also exceedances for lead, attributed to natural background levels, as well as elevated lead in soils near the Former Employee Shooting Range at the adjacent Sage Ranch property, which recently underwent a DTSC-ordered cleanup.

We know community members have questions about stormwater sampling and monitoring and hope this Q&A section helps answer some of them.



Q: How stringent is Boeing's stormwater permit with the Regional Board?

A: The stormwater discharge limits for the Santa Susana site in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) are some of the country's most stringent limits. Although stormwater is not used as drinking water, the numeric limits in the site's permit, in many cases, are lower than the levels that the state of California deems safe for people to drink.

Q: What has Boeing done to comply with the permit?

A: Boeing has completed the following types of projects at Santa Susana to meet the strict limits in the site's NPDES permit:

• Designed and constructed two stateof-the-art storm water treatment systems that use processes and chemicals similar to those used by city and county municipalities to make clean drinking water.

- Installed a biofilter that was recognized by the California Stormwater Quality Association as a creative solution.
- Removed over 25,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil.

Over the past decade, Boeing has performed thousands of analyses on stormwater leaving the Santa Susana site to ensure compliance with the NPDES permit. Even with the permit's stringent limits, Boeing has maintained over 97% compliance for stormwater leaving the site. The exceedances that have occurred are generally associated with metals and inorganics at naturally occurring levels.

Q: The Water Board included new provisions in the permit in 2023. Why did Boeing appeal some of those provisions?

A: Boeing filed a narrow appeal of several requirements in the 2023 stormwater permit because the Water Board did not follow applicable law, or applicable orders and directives by the State Water Resources Control Board, when instituting certain requirements in the new permit, and inappropriately expanded its regulatory authority. They also failed to give due consideration to sampling data, expert analysis, including the opinions and recommendations of its own staff, and other technical evidence.

The lower Court set aside some provisions in Boeing's permit that were not based on sound science and applicable water quality regulations. However, the Court upheld some of the remaining contested permit requirements.

Earlier this year, Boeing appealed two of those contested provisions. Removing the unlawful requirements from the permit will help ensure that future environmental cleanup and stormwater management at Santa Susana are based on regulatory requirements, sound science, reliable data and an accurate understanding of conditions at Santa Susana.

Q: One of the new permit provisions includes the creation of a groundwater infiltration study. What is the status of the study?

A: The groundwater infiltration study work plan was submitted on March 29, 2024, in compliance with our permit due date with the Water Board. We received comments from the Water Board on June 12, 2025. A finalized work plan incorporating the comments by the Water Board was submitted by the August 31, 2025, due date.

For more information about our stormwater management activities, please review our fact sheet.

Santa Susana Stormwater **Expert Panel Hosts Site Tour & Public Meeting**

On November 4, the Santa Susana Stormwater Expert Panel will host their annual site tour and public meeting to provide an update on recent stormwater sampling results and management activities. Preregistration with Boeing is required for the site tour. Please email the first and last name of each attendee to kamara.sams@boeing.com by October 30.

Tour: Santa Susana Field **Laboratory,** a former rocket engine and energy test site

Site Tour: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. 5800 Woolsey Canyon Rd., Canoga Park, CA

Public Meeting: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Courtyard by Marriott, 191 Cochran St., Simi Valley, CA

For nearly two decades, the Santa Susana Stormwater Expert Panel, an independent committee of five internationally recognized experts, has been providing guidance to Boeing and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. Their recommendations have included best management practices and measures that include a biofilter and bioswales, media filters, soil and pavement removal, erosion controls and channel restoration.

DTSC Announces Public Comment Period for Boeing Final Soil Cleanup Plan



DTSC recently announced a 45-day public comment period for its proposed remedy for Boeing's final soil cleanup for its areas of responsibility at Santa Susana. The proposed remedy for Boeing's soil cleanup is included in DTSC's Draft Surficial Media Operable Unit (SMOU) Statement of Basis and is based in part on Boeing's Final SMOU Corrective Measures Study (CMS). The CMS identified and evaluated

potential corrective measures to address contamination and mitigate risk to human health and the environment.

DTSC's Draft Statement of Basis incorporates the environmental analysis and findings of the certified Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for Santa Susana in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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Figure 1: SSFL Areas of Responsibility - The Boeing SMOU CMS and DTSC Statement of Basis address the Boeing areas of responsibility (shown in blue and labeled Boeing).

For more information, visit: https://dtsc. ca.gov/supporting-documents-for-boeingsmou-cms-and-dtsc-statement-of-basis/

DTSC also issued a Draft Post Closure Permit (PCP) for public comment for five closed surface impoundments in Boeing's areas of responsibility at the site (shown in the blue areas of Figure 1).

Boeing looks forward to beginning the soil cleanup next year in support of our commitment to a protective cleanup on our areas of responsibility. We remain focused on protecting future users of the site, surrounding communities, cultural resources and sensitive habitats throughout the cleanup process. The public comment period runs from September 15 through October 30.

Visit www.restoresantasusana.com to submit a comment directly to DTSC to move the cleanup forward and to approve the protective remedy that preserves the site as an open space habitat. The cleanup should not be delayed further — your voice matters.

Make Your Voice Heard On www.

restoresantasusana.com

The regulatory process works best when the community participates.

Please take a few minutes to submit a comment asking DTSC to move forward with the proposed soil remedy in its Draft SMOU Statement of Basis. The proposed "resident with garden" soil remedy requires Boeing to perform a cleanup that is protective of people and the environment, preserves valuable cultural and biological resources, and is consistent with the long-term use of the site as open-space habitat under a conservation easement. Boeing's final soil cleanup should not be delayed further — your comment can help ensure the process continues without unnecessary postponement.

Please submit your comment by October 30 - www. restoresantasusana.com

Community Members Celebrate Earth Day with Nature Walk

This spring, more than 125 hikers celebrated Earth Day at Santa Susana, learning more about the site's history, including Native American tribes, ranching families, movie history, rocket engine testing and energy research as well as our current cleanup activities.

Volunteer hike leaders from the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association pointed out flora and fauna along the hiking trail, and our volunteer citizen scientists from the Simi Hills Wildlife Observatory, Southwestern Herpetologists Society, Sky Valley Volunteers and Herp Connection shared details about their onsite biological studies.

To sign up for our hike interest list, email: santasusanacommunitytours@boeing.com













