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**Comments to LARWQCB on Boeing's SSFL NPDES Permit
by Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks, February 10, 2022**

Good afternoon, Board members. Congratulations on being re-elected chair, Chair Yee. Ventura County is well served with you on the Regional Board. It is also great to see Norma Camacho, our past director of our Watershed Protection District there too. Thank you to Ms. Purdy and her staff for reaching out to me to hear my concerns. I know all of you have a difficult job and we count on you to protect our water and waterways, one of the most important issues of our time.

With the Santa Susana Field Lab, it is also our health that is at stake. Your staff left out of their presentation that there was a partial core melt down of the nuclear power plant at the Santa Susana Field Lab, making it one of the most toxic sites in the nation. I would recommend that in the future that it be included in the presentation.

The water contamination posed by Santa Susana Field Lab is unique, with hundreds of toxic compounds including radionuclides. This is not a typical wastewater or industrial discharger. The approach your Board takes at Santa Susana Field Lab must reflect this unique situation, the severe toxicity of contamination, and the episodic and irregular releases to water and waterways. There is no other agency that has the focused and independent role of your Board in protecting water and by doing so protecting our human health and the environment. Nor is there another agency that has the staffing, expertise, and enforcement authority to effectively assure this protection.

Your independence is particularly important when proponents for cleanup are not only fighting to remove all the harmful contaminants from the site, but also against regulatory capture by Boeing.

Strong oversight and enforcement is essential to protect people. The sooner SSFL is fully cleaned of toxic contamination, the sooner we can be sure that SSFL will no longer pose a risk to public health or cause cancer including to children.

It is indisputable, health-damaging toxic and radiological material are transported by storm, wind, and wildfires. It is critical that an abundance of monitoring occur to safeguard the public and that fines are levied, not waived.

Proponents of cleanup ask that you increase, not reduce, your monitoring and enforcement for additional contaminants of concern, particularly those recommended in the Reasonable Potential Analysis. It is entirely possible that contaminants that were not found during one time period or in one location will nonetheless be found in the future. We've seen this before where toxics were unearthed by erosion in adjacent Sage Ranch.

My submitted letter additionally outlines our concerns with the confidential negotiations between the Water Board, DTSC, and Boeing so I will not reiterate that here. As you know, many are frustrated by the failure to clean up SSFL and decisions that favor the polluter at the expense of the public's health.

In general, I am opposed to reduction of monitoring or relaxation of numeric standards and believe your Board should operate with a great abundance of caution with regard to this very high-risk site. Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you.