



NEWS FROM

Councilman Dennis P. Zine

Third Council District, City Hall, Room 450, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Contact: Jennifer Forkish (818) 756-8848

cell (213) 276-2093

ZINE WANTS CITY OF LOS ANGELES TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS EFFECTED BY SANTA SUSANA FIELD LAB CONTAMINATION

LOS ANGELES - Recent Federal and State reports detailing the discovery of 60 potentially hazardous chemicals in the grounds of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory prompted City Councilman Dennis P. Zine to take action.

During Tuesday's meeting of the Los Angeles City Council, Zine proposed legislation directing the City's Environmental Affairs Department to immediately begin participating in all public meetings and activities relating to the environmental impact of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

"There is a prevailing perception that this is a Simi Valley issue, not a City of Los Angeles problem, and that couldn't be further from the truth," said Zine. "The communities of West Hills and Chatsworth are in close proximity to this facility, and there is a concern that residents could be directly impacted by pollutants."

Adjacent to the City of Los Angeles, the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) is a 2,800 acre site located in the Simi Hills area of Ventura County. Since 1950, SSFL has been used for a variety of purposes, including the testing of engines for missiles, spacecraft and rockets, nuclear reactor research and the development of lasers for defense and commercial applications. During these activities, a number of industrial solvents and radioactive materials were released into the soil and groundwater. In 1989, testing at the SSFL began to publicly indicate the extent of pollution at the site.

Despite a number of studies conducted on the SSFL property and adjacent off-site areas, significant questions remain unanswered regarding the extent and migration of its numerous pollutants. Pending approval of the motion, the EAD staff will be able to provide detailed and informed status reports to policymakers and community stakeholders.

"The City needs to guarantee that the communities concerns are promptly addressed by the appropriate agency," said Zine. "I have no doubt that this legislation will result in better representation of City interests."

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