

## Lawrence Yee Statement

“On August 11, 2022 at the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) meeting in Santa Clarita, a grave injustice was perpetrated. The civil liberties of an entire community were trampled by an arbitrary government action that made a mockery of due process.

A decision was made by the LA Regional Water Board to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Water Board and the Boeing Company regarding conditions and requirements that need to be met for the termination of Boeing’s waste discharge permit post cleanup at the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL).

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory, a 3000 acre property south of and adjacent to the city of Simi Valley, was the site of rocket engine testing for the space program that occurred years ago during the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s. In addition to extensive rocket testing, there were nuclear experiments and accidents.

The toxic ‘witches brew’ of chemical contamination and radioactivity that was left behind has never been cleaned up due to inaction, disputes and litigation among the responsible parties – the Boeing Company, NASA, and the US Dept of Energy. An unusual number of health concerns, most notably cancer, particularly in children, have been clustering in neighborhoods bordering SSFL.

Approval of the companion MOU was necessary for the recent Settlement Agreement between the state Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Boeing Company to take effect. Without approval, the package cleanup deal would become null and void.

The CA Environmental Protection Agency which oversees DTSC and the State Water Board, is mandated to protect the environment and public health. What seems abundantly clear is CA EPA and its two agencies – DTSC and the LARWQCB – negotiated with Boeing behind closed doors and struck a deal for a cleanup of SSFL that favors Boeing and leaves the public and the environment largely unprotected. Due process was grossly violated.

The net result is Boeing, the polluter, is protected, enjoying a much less stringent level of cleanup than what was required by the Consent Order of 2007. The environment and people are not adequately protected and continue to suffer from the awful contamination at SSFL.

The public agencies whose missions are to protect us from harm failed us. Justice has not been served. It will take determination, courage and resolve to right this wrong and bring justice and healing to the land and all those affected.”