

**Murray, Dillan**

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**From:** Travis Longcore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 28, 2020 6:36 PM  
**To:** Murray, Dillan  
**Subject:** Burro Flats Cultural District  
**Attachments:** SSFL\_LAAudubon.pdf

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To the Cultural Heritage Board:

We have concern that the application to place Burro Flats on the National Register of Historic Places is a strategy to avoid or scale back the clean-up of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory under the guise of protecting cultural resources. No consideration of park or Historic Register status should be considered until the agreed-upon cleanup is completed. Our position on the cleanup, as adopted by the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Audubon Society in 2016, is attached.

Sincerely,  
Travis Longcore

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**Travis Longcore, Ph.D.**  
Conservation Chair  
Los Angeles Audubon Society  
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Los Angeles, California 90093-1057

### **Statement on Cleanup of Santa Susana Field Laboratory**

Los Angeles Audubon Society has been a voice for birds and conservation in Los Angeles for 106 years with a mission to promote the study and protection of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats across the diverse landscapes of the Los Angeles area. We have over 3,500 members and supporters, most of whom live in Los Angeles.

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory is the site of both radioactive and chemical contamination as a result of a long history of industrial and governmental use. State and federal agencies committed in 2010 to a cleanup of the site to background levels of contamination. Since that time, the primary landowner has sought to promote a cleanup to far lower standards and thus leave most of the contamination remaining on site, in part by suggesting that the property could become parkland, thereby limiting the duration of human exposures.

Los Angeles Audubon opposes this approach and endorses cleanup to the standards agreed upon in 2010. It would be unacceptable to leave radioactive and chemical contamination on a site that might be used for birding and other recreation. We recognize that a cleanup to background standards would itself result in environmental impacts, but once completed, the site can be actively restored and even without active restoration the site would continue to function as a crucial linkage for wildlife. Santa Susana Field Laboratory presents an extraordinary circumstance; the contamination at the site is an environmental disaster that must be remedied before moving forward with any other use.

Los Angeles Audubon is deeply concerned about and opposes current efforts to include the Santa Susana Field Laboratory in the Rim of the Valley Corridor or to designate it as a National Monument as a means to avoid the agreed upon cleanup to background standards. Neither action should be considered until the agreed upon cleanup to background standards has been fully carried out.

Approved by the Board of Directors of Los Angeles Audubon Society.  
Contact: Travis Longcore, Ph.D., Conservation Chair, [REDACTED]

September 25, 2016