



Fall 2022

Recently, the California Environmental Protection Agency announced a comprehensive framework with two state agencies – the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) – that provides Boeing with a clear process, schedule, and criteria for future decision-making at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

Federal and state laws require that sites be cleaned up to limit risks to human health and the environment, based upon current and future land use. Boeing’s agreement with the state goes beyond this level, given that Boeing’s property will remain open space forever and never be developed under our 2017 conservation easement.

We agreed to the framework because it provides regulatory certainty and a clear, accelerated path forward for our cleanup. Whatever cleanup standard is selected by DTSC, that cleanup standard will consider and be protective of both recreators onsite and people living and working in surrounding communities. The commercial/industrial, resident, and resident with gardens exposure scenarios would require the excavation and removal of significantly more soil than what California law requires to protect human health for an open space property.

We recognize that members of the community are frustrated and have a variety of concerns, such as traffic congestion, dust control measures, open space protection, natural and cultural resource protection, and the need to complete the cleanup in a protective manner. The framework accelerates and we look forward to cleaning up our site and preserving it as open space for future generations.



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## CalEPA Announces Framework for Boeing Cleanup



In May, the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) announced a *comprehensive framework* that establishes strict cleanup protocols and timelines. The framework involves two state agencies – DTSC and the Los Angeles Water Board – and provides all stakeholders with a clear process, schedule, and criteria for future decision-making at Santa Susana.

The framework agreement was signed by DTSC and Boeing in May, and a separate but related memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Water Board and Boeing was recently approved by the Board. Highlights include:

- Boeing has agreed to **clean radionuclides in soil** in its areas of responsibility to “background” levels;
- Given the potential for extreme weather due to climate change, Boeing has agreed to **start cleanup of the Area I Burn Pit**, currently covered by a geotextile fabric, as soon as Spring 2023;
- **Boeing has agreed not to contest DTSC’s selection of a broad range of cleanup standards**, including a resident with garden

exposure standard. Under that standard, soil would be remediated to allow people to live onsite and consume produce from a backyard garden, even though the site will be preserved as open space;

- The DTSC Settlement Agreement processes include **safeguards to protect important environmental and cultural resources at the site**;
- Following completion of our soil cleanup, Boeing will **conduct years of post-cleanup monitoring**;
- Boeing will **prepare a Human Health Risk Assessment** to demonstrate that stormwater runoff from our areas of responsibility are not polluted.

The Agreement does not impact the validity of the conservation easement recorded on Boeing’s property at Santa Susana. The land under the easement will forever be protected, consistent with local county objectives for the preservation of open space and critical habitats and with the State’s initiative to preserve 30 percent of California land as open space.

For more information, visit: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/boeing-settlement-agreement-faqs/>.



# State of California Orders Cleanup of Simi Valley's Sage Ranch Park



Boeing contractors sample soil at Sage Ranch Park.

In April, DTSC issued an order to Boeing for the cleanup of soil contaminated by lead from shot, skeet fragments, and clay pigeon target fragments in Simi Valley's Sage Ranch Park. The land is owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (MRCA) but was previously leased by a prior owner to a gun club that consisted of employees of Rocketdyne and Atomics-International and their families.

The nonprofit gun club operated a recreational shooting range on what is now the Sage Ranch Park property from the 1970s until the early 1990s. Over time, the property has been transferred by

sale to subsequent owners, and interim cleanup activities have been performed. However, additional cleanup is needed to protect wildlife and remove soil contaminated by lead shot and clay target waste left behind by the former gun club.

Boeing has received approval from DTSC on the Removal Action Workplan and is acquiring the necessary access agreements and permits as well as receiving bids from contractors.

Some field work has already started, including waste characterization sampling and cultural and biological surveys.

Once the cleanup begins, it should take approximately five months to complete.

For additional information, visit: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/smrp-projects/dtsc-orders-cleanup-of-sage-ranch-park/>.



Photo of lead shot in soil with a pencil to provide size perspective.



# Building a Bridge for Wildlife Connectivity

In observance of Earth Day, Boeing employees gathered alongside California elected officials and community leaders to participate in a ceremonial groundbreaking of the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing. Once completed, the Boeing-funded crossing will become the largest of its kind in the world. It will span 10 lanes of U.S. Highway 101 in Los Angeles to reconnect an integral wildlife zone near Boeing's Santa Susana Field Laboratory. Construction is set to be complete in 2025.

As part of Boeing's commitment to sustainability as a company value — with a focus on environmental stewardship — company officials announced a \$1 million donation to the Crossing. Ziad Ojakli, Boeing executive vice president, Government Operations, made the announcement in February at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, near the exhibit that features the famed mountain lion known as P-22, who survived crossing two major local freeways. The wildlife crossing, which will be one of the largest of its kind in the world, will be critical to saving the threatened local population of mountain lions from extinction.



Boeing celebrates Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing Groundbreaking with Beth Pratt, executive director, National Wildlife Federation (center-left) and Seth Riley, U.S National Parks Service Wildlife Branch Chief and UCLA Institute of the Environment & Sustainability Adjunct Associate Professor (center-right).

"We are pleased to make this contribution to this historic crossing, and are committed to environmental protection and stewardship at all levels, including urban conservation efforts that are often overlooked," Ojakli said. "This investment demonstrates our ongoing commitment to preserving the unique wild heritage and biodiversity of the area, including the Santa Susana site."

The Santa Susana site sits within a wildlife corridor that connects California's coast with inland mountain ranges. The habitat is home to unique wildlife, endangered plant species, and Native American cultural resources. Wildlife research efforts on the site have recorded 135 bird species, more than 20 reptile species, 10 amphibian species, and more than 24 mammal species, including raccoons, deer, coyote, bobcat, foxes, skunks, black bears, bats, and mountain lions.

"We thank Boeing for their long-term partnership and support in helping to make this project a reality as well as their donations to our important community-based work, like Wildlife 2 Watts and building schoolyard habitats," said Dirk Sellers, Chief Development Officer, National Wildlife Federation.

Boeing has a history of partnership with National Wildlife Federation, including donations for the wildlife crossing campaign, the long-term mountain lion study in the Santa Monica Mountains, and education outreach efforts that allow students to connect with nature, document the wildlife species that visit their school, and learn about the natural world in an authentic way.

Since 2017, Boeing has provided more than \$5.8 million to environmental organizations across California.



Ziad Ojakli, Boeing's executive vice president of Government Operations, presents a \$1 million check to Dirk Sellers, Chief Development Officer at the National Wildlife Federation for the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing.



# Citizen Scientists in Action



**Left-to-right, top-to-bottom:**

**Row 1:** Simi Hills Wildlife Observatory conducts year-round bird banding, counting, and owling activities.

**Row 2:** Sky Valley Volunteers germinate native acorns and plant oak seedlings to help regrow oak woodland areas.

**Row 3:** Southwestern Herpetologists Society conducts reptile and amphibian studies.