



## Fall 2021

As fall approaches, we are looking forward to feeling cooler weather, watching birds migrate and reflecting on this season of change. While COVID-19 restrictions have impacted our ability to host large outreach events like nature walks and bus tours, crucial work continues onsite.

Our citizen scientists have been busy conducting pollinator surveys, planting oak seedlings, identifying reptiles and amphibians, banding and counting birds, and photographing and documenting large mammals.

The groundwater team is conducting an interim measure which consists of extracting water from wells onsite where chemical concentrations are the highest, then treating that water in our onsite groundwater treatment system.

And recently, the Santa Susana Stormwater Expert Panel—an independent committee of five internationally recognized experts who have been providing guidance to Boeing and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board since 2008—hosted a virtual public meeting to provide an update on stormwater management activities.

We continue to meet all our obligations under the comprehensive cleanup agreement (Consent Order) with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Efforts to remove contamination from the site began three decades ago, and the final soil cleanup will begin as soon as the DTSC's environmental review process allows.

Please stay posted on our activities via our website: [www.boeing.com/santasusana](http://www.boeing.com/santasusana). We look forward to seeing you, at least virtually, in the near future.

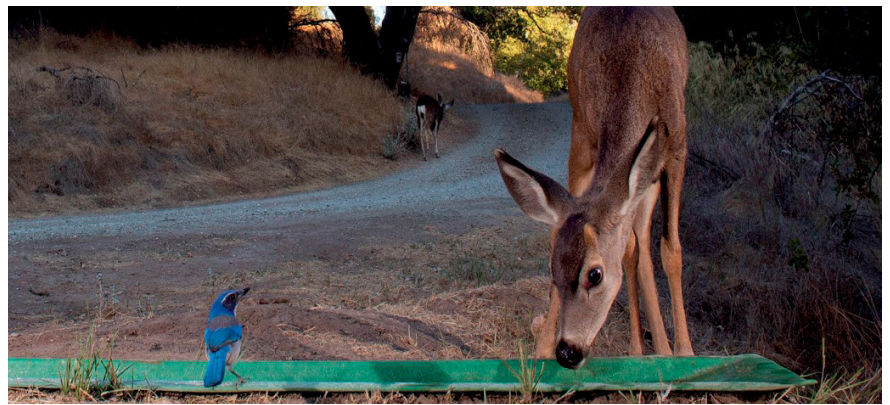


**Kamara Sams**  
Program Director



**Mike Bower**  
Project Manager

## Wildlife Habitat Council Recognizes Boeing for Environmental Stewardship



Boeing receives gold-level environmental certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council.

Boeing's commitment to environmental stewardship at Santa Susana was recognized recently by the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) with a gold-level environmental conservation recertification. The site was originally certified in 2014 and received the gold-level certification, the highest level WHC bestows, in 2018. Santa Susana's recertification acknowledges the importance of biodiversity restoration at the site, including establishing pollinator habitats, utilizing citizen scientists for biological and wildlife studies, offering community outreach activities and ensuring contractors receive rare and protected plant species briefings. WHC also recognized Boeing with an award for remediation work at the site, which includes proficiency in stormwater management, groundwater investigation and treatability studies and interim soil excavation activities.

For 33 years, WHC has been promoting and certifying ecological stewardship action on corporate lands through partnerships and

education. Since only 10 to 15% of the world's land surface is protected, private lands provide an essential opportunity for restoring and protecting biodiversity. As the only international conservation NGO focused exclusively on the private sector, WHC provides a framework for voluntary conservation action on a wide variety of corporate lands. WHC's corporate members represent some of the leading national and multinational corporations seeking to support sustainable ecosystems and the communities that surround them. These efforts have resulted in more than 1,000 certified programs across 47 states and 28 countries.

This is especially important in California as Governor Newsom established the California Biodiversity Collaborative to work with state agencies and conservationists to advance strategies to conserve at least 30% of California's land and waters by 2030 in a manner that preserves biodiversity and natural resources, and expands equitable outdoor lands and recreation for all Californians.

# Santa Susana, the Golden Eagles Have Landed



Golden eagle nest at Santa Susana with mom, dad and two eaglets.

Golden eagles have been spotted flying in and around the Santa Susana Field Laboratory for decades. The expansive areas of rocky bluffs and large former test stands provide the perfect nesting habitat for golden eagles and other raptors. In 2011, Boeing's biologists documented an active golden eagle nest at the site for the first time. Over the next decade, biologists monitored that eagle nest and observed no inhabitants. This summer, biologists

confirmed the presence of an eagle family including mom, dad and two eaglets.

Named for the golden hue on their head and neck feathers, golden eagles are one of the largest, fastest, nimblest raptors in North America. Sometimes seen attacking large mammals, or fighting off coyotes or bears in defense of its prey and young, the golden eagle has long inspired both reverence and fear.

Of all the birds, the eagle is the most sacred among many Native American tribes. Some tribes believe the eagle is a messenger, carrying words and messages on its wings from people to the Great Spirit.



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife considers golden eagles a fully protected species. They are also protected under the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (as amended in 1990) by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 by the USFWS.

Studies have shown that golden eagles are sensitive to some forms of disturbance, often leading to nest failure. To ensure adequate protection of golden eagles during soil and groundwater activities, a buffer of 2,600 feet surrounding the nest is maintained during the nesting cycle until the fledglings are observed to be hunting independently of the adults.



# Stormwater Management at Santa Susana: Questions & Answers



Boeing uses an array of stormwater treatment technologies including advanced treatment systems and biofiltration basins.

## **Q: How stringent is Boeing's stormwater permit with the Regional Board?**

**A:** The stormwater discharge limits for the Santa Susana site in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) are some of the country's most stringent limits. Although stormwater is not used as drinking water, the numeric limits in the site's permit, in many cases, are lower than the levels that the state of California deems safe for people to drink.

## **Q: What has Boeing done to comply with the permit?**

**A:** Boeing has completed the following types of projects at Santa Susana to meet the strict limits in the site's NPDES permit:

- Designed and constructed two state-of-the-art stormwater treatment systems that use processes and chemicals similar to those used by city and county municipalities to make clean drinking water.
- Installed a biofilter that was recognized by the California Stormwater Quality Association as a creative solution.
- Removed over 25,000 cubic yards of soil that may have been adversely affecting stormwater runoff.

Over the past decade, Boeing has performed thousands of analyses on stormwater leaving the Santa Susana site to ensure compliance with the NPDES permit. Even with the permit's stringent limits, Boeing has maintained over 97% compliance for stormwater leaving the site. The exceedances that have occurred are generally associated with metals and inorganics at naturally occurring levels.

## **Q: Should I be concerned if I'm exposed to stormwater from the Santa Susana Field Laboratory?**

**A:** No. In response to concerns expressed by community members, Boeing



prepared a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA), an environmental risk assessment, under the direction of the Regional Board. The HHRA evaluated potential exposure of individuals who may come into contact with stormwater from the Santa Susana Field Lab in drainage areas immediately downstream of the property boundary while hiking, rafting or other recreational uses. The report considered possible ways recreational users could have direct exposure to the surface water, such as incidental ingestion, skin contact and inhalation. The HHRA, which was reviewed and approved by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), concluded that:

- Potential recreational exposures to Constituents of Potential Concern (COPCs) in surface water runoff exiting the Santa Susana site via Outfalls 001, 002, 008, 009, 011, 018 and 019 are below levels of concern as established by Cal-EPA and USEPA. This includes those COPCs that have had NPDES permit limit exceedances, such as lead and dioxins.
- The final HHRA is located [here](#).

For more information about our stormwater management activities, please review our [fact sheet](#).

## Boeing Releases First Sustainability Report

Recently, Boeing released its first Sustainability Report. In the report, the Company shares its vision for the future of sustainable aerospace, establishes broad sustainability goals, and highlights environmental, social and governance (ESG) progress in alignment with global sustainability standards. Boeing’s sustainability efforts are organized around four key pillars: people, products and services, operations and communities.

- Achieving net-zero emissions at work sites, while reducing energy consumption by 12%, water use by 23%, solid waste by 44% and hazardous waste by 34%.
- Contributing \$234 million in community giving, working with 13,400 community partners and volunteering 250,000 hours.
- Setting 2030 environmental performance goals to reduce emissions, waste, water use and energy consumption.

To read the report, visit: <https://www.boeing.com/principles/sustainability/annual-report/index.page>.

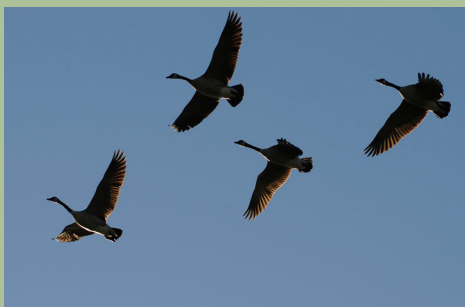


Last year, some of the Company’s highlights across these four pillars included:

- Committing to deliver commercial airplanes capable of flying on 100% sustainable fuels by 2030.
- Establishing a 20-member Racial Equity Task Force to represent diverse viewpoints and amplify all voices at Boeing.

Boeing’s inaugural Sustainability Report focuses on environmental stewardship, social progress and inclusion, and values-based and transparent governance.

## Santa Susana **Around the Watering Hole**



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

**Row 1:** Mariposa lily, Mountain lion, Mule deer, Bobcat

**Row 2:** Geese, Gopher snake, Golden eagle, California rose