

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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December 21, 2011

In Reply Refer To: DOE090423A

Stephanie Jennings
Department of Energy
5800 Woolsey Canyon Rd
Canoga Park, CA 91304

Re: Santa Susana Field Laboratory Geologic Testing, Ventura County, California

Dear Ms. Jennings:

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 8-05-04) regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking my comments on its determination of effects that the proposed undertaking will have on historic properties.

The undertaking consists of the DOE excavating two trenches, with four additional contingency trenches if necessary, for geologic testing at Santa Susana Field Laboratory. Each of the trenches will be 100 feet long and approximately two feet wide. The depth of each trench will vary from zero to up to 18 feet depending on bedrock depth. Trench spoils will be placed adjacent to each trench during work. Each trench will be backfilled after work is completed. All trenches will be excavated with a backhoe. Direct access to each trench location will use existing roads. The Area of Potential Effects will be 100 feet long and approximately 32 feet wide, 15 feet on either side of the trench, for equipment maneuvering and spoils at each trench location. Ground disturbance will reach a maximum depth of 18 feet. In addition to your letter and maps received September 6, 2011, October 3, 2011, and October 21, 2011, you have submitted the following documents as evidence of your efforts to identify historic properties in the APE:


- *Historic Structures/Sites Report for Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory* (Post/Hazeltine Associates: April 2009).
- *Class III Inventory/Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Area 4, Ventura County, California* (W & S Consultants: September 2001).
- *Cultural Resources Identification Survey: Northern Undeveloped Land at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Site* (Michael Hogan et al., CRM Tech, June 2010)

The DOE is using data from a previous survey completed by the EPA in June 2010 (report not provided or listed above) to identify historic properties within the APE. Through this survey, the DOE has identified six archaeological sites near or adjacent to the APE, however none are within the direct project area. The DOE has committed to flagging the locations of each of these sites to ensure their avoidance. Additionally, the DOE has committed to having a Native American and archaeological monitor on site during all ground disturbing activities. Native American consultation has been ongoing with several site visits with all individuals identified by the Native American Heritage Commission.

Given the above self-imposed conditions, the DOE has determined that a finding of No Adverse Effects to historic properties is appropriate. After reviewing your letter and supporting documentation, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(c), I concur with your finding of No Adverse Effect.

Be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, the DOE may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800. Thank you for seeking my comments and for considering historic properties in planning your project. If you require further information, please contact Trevor Pratt of my staff at phone 916-445-7017 or email tpratt@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan K Stratton for".

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer