

Mr. David Szymanski
Supervisor, Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

June 13, 2013

BE IT KNOWN THAT on June 13, 2013, the **Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils** voted to approve the following letter of support:

The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) fully supports the transfer of authority of the 450 acres of property in the former **Santa Susana Field Laboratory** that have been administered by NASA to the **National Park Service** (NPS); this transfer to take place upon completion of the cleanup program supervised by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

We believe that the NPS is the only entity that has the expertise to preserve this site in perpetuity. We envision this site as particularly well suited to house a public museum honoring the nations rocketry achievements, as well as it is a critical habitat linkage between the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and the Los Padres National Forest. The NASA site also includes a significant Native American pictograph area, on the National Registry of Historic Places, and has an extensive archaeological district with many artifacts and areas that show it was heavily used by Native Americans.

We are asking for your help in preserving forever this parcel that contributes in so many ways to public goals. This parcel will assist with the key linkage between the Santa Monica Mountains and other open space, and may become part of the Rim of the Valley Trail. This site, above all others, provides an opportunity to maintain significant, unique cultural and historic riches as resources that we - and our grandchildren - will be able to visit and marvel at in perpetuity.

The transfer of authority over this property must be solidified now, even though the property will not be actually transferred to the NPS authority until the mandated cleanup is completed. The General Services Administration's land disposal process is reaching a critical stage; delay could mean the loss of this land to private development.

Thank you for your support,

Jill Banks Barad
Chair and Founder

The VALLEY ALLIANCE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS was founded in 2003 and is the oldest and largest Neighborhood Council coalition in Los Angeles. It represents the 34 councils in the San Fernando Valley, more than one-third of the councils in the city. The mission of VANC is to inform neighborhood council leaders and stakeholders of the critical issues facing them locally and citywide and to get them involved in the process.