

WHNC Resolution Letter for the
NASA Draft Environment Impact Statement (DEIS)

Allen Elliott
SSFL Program Director
NASA MSFC ASO1, Building 4494
Huntsville, Alabama 35812

Dear Mr. Elliott

The West Hills Neighborhood Council (WHNC) is in disagreement with the plan being proposed by NASA. There are two major areas of concern.

The first is the traffic and transportation scheme in which NASA estimates it will require 142 one-way truck trips per day (284 when round trips) for the disposal of 94,536 tons of building and rocket stand debris, the removal of up to 500,000 cu. yds. of contaminated soil and the installation of 167,000 cu. yds. of backfill soil from off-site sources. Under the proposal this work is planned to be done between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM for a five day week and over a period of 3 years.

NASA points out the impacts to the safety of school children and the danger of driving trucks down a mountain road, Woolsey Canyon and the traffic affected by 142 one-way truck trips (284 when round trips) on Valley Circle and Roscoe Blvd. The threats to child safety are unacceptable. The proposed traffic volume needs to be reduced. NASA should place greater emphasis on on-site treatment to reduce truck traffic.

The second is that WHNC has serious concerns with the removal of such a large amount of soil fearing that erosion will endanger the creeks in Dayton Canyon, Bell Canyon and Woolsey Canyon. The plan does not discuss grading or drainage methods.

Under the NASA proposal, Native American artifacts and sites including sacred areas and historic locations are to be destroyed. The plan includes the disruption of the wild life corridor, the removal of the natural habitat for many wild animals and the uprooting of plants and trees. Further, the removal of the rocket test stands would destroy historic structures that were part of our national space program.

The cleanup method that NASA has chosen calls for the most stringent standard, clean up to background. This plan does not recognize the expected eventual use of the NASA land as open area which only requires cleanup to risk based levels. No consideration has been given to intermediate cleanup methods that are risk based and that are approved

by the USEPA and used throughout the United States. These methods would greatly reduce the amount of soil to be removed, the traffic and associated hazards, risk of hazardous contamination resulting from the transportation of soil, the time to complete and resulting cost.

The WHNC requests that NASA reconsider its decision to limit the selection of one cleanup method and look at other alternatives and procedures that would mitigate the negative effects of this DEIS.