

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

July 9, 2013

BE IT KNOWN THAT on July 9, 2013, the Winnetka Neighborhood Council voted to approve the following letter of support:

The Winnetka Neighborhood Council requests that the National Park Service (NPS) step forward to be the eventual administrator of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory in the Simi Hills.

The General Services Agency (GSA) is tasked with disposing of excess federal property. Approximately 450 acres of the 2,700-acre Santa Susana Field Laboratory site is owned by the federal government and administered by NASA; it has been declared to be no longer needed by NASA and is being disposed of through a federal government process that provides first refusal rights to other federal agencies. Under this process, the transfer will occur in the near future. Such transfer would include a binding obligation for NASA to clean up the parcel to appropriate standards prior to transfer of the administration of the property.

We believe that the NPS is the only entity that has the expertise and experience to preserve this land in perpetuity. We envision this site as particularly well suited to house a public museum honoring the nation's rocketry and space achievements. It is, as well, 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 sites that show it was heavily used by Native Americans.

The National Park Service must step forward now, if this key property is to be preserved for future public use.

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.

Thank you for your support,

Eric Lewis
President

The WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL is an elected body of 15 members within the City of Los Angeles representing 45,061 residents (13,635 households) in the City of Winnetka, California.