

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 102**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Smyth**

January 8, 2009

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An act to add Section 5006.43 to the Public Resources Code, relating to parks.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 102, as amended, Smyth. Santa Susana State Park.

Existing law requires the Department of Parks and Recreation to develop, operate, and maintain units of the state park system.

This bill would require the Director of Parks and Recreation, not later than January 1, 2012, to establish the Santa Susana State Park Advisory Committee, which would be responsible for assisting the department, in an advisory capacity, to plan for interim and permanent land uses and facilities through the general planning process for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory site in Ventura County. The bill would also require the department to take specified actions with respect to the development of a state park at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory site.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The Santa Susana Field Laboratory property in Ventura
- 4 County can play an important role in aiding the preservation of

1 critical habitat and wildlife corridors, as well as historical artifacts  
2 of regional, statewide, and national importance. Remarkably  
3 preserved Native American cave paintings exist at this site and  
4 should be safeguarded for future generations.

5 (b) The property played a crucial role in the development of our  
6 country's space and nuclear programs. Equipment used to develop  
7 that technology still exists at the site and should be preserved as  
8 educational monuments for future generations.

9 (c) Testing done at the site had the great misfortune of  
10 contaminating the ground, causing the property to become a source  
11 of regional controversy. The enactment of Chapter 729 of the  
12 Statutes of 2007 guarantees that the property will be cleaned to  
13 the highest standards. With the issue of cleanup of the property  
14 codified in state law, it is important to establish a vision for the  
15 property once the cleanup is complete.

16 (d) The site offers a rare opportunity to create a diverse park  
17 that incorporates wildlife and habitat protection, recreational  
18 opportunities, as well as the education of visitors on both the  
19 historical significance of the site and the importance of applying  
20 appropriate land use protocols in order to avoid contamination of  
21 sensitive ecosystems in the future.

22 (e) The Department of Parks and Recreation is the appropriate  
23 state agency to lead the development of the creation of this property  
24 as a new state park.

25 (f) In creating a new state park in the Ventura and Los Angeles  
26 region, it is important that the Department of Parks and Recreation  
27 work with local groups and allow them to play an advisory role to  
28 guarantee that the region has a voice during the creation of the  
29 park.

30 SEC. 2. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide park  
31 and recreational opportunities for the Ventura and Los Angeles  
32 region and the state by designating the Department of Parks and  
33 Recreation to develop into a state park the property known as the  
34 "Santa Susana Field Laboratory" in Ventura County.

35 (b) It is further the intent of the Legislature that local, state, and  
36 federal agencies, environmental, recreational, historic preservation,  
37 and cultural organizations, museums, educational institutions and  
38 organizations, labor groups, private persons and entities, and  
39 community-based organizations, including the groups instrumental  
40 in community advocacy that led to current plans for development

1 of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory site as a state park, have the  
2 opportunity to participate in project planning and development.

3 SEC. 3. Section 5006.43 is added to the Public Resources Code,  
4 to read:

5 5006.43. (a) On or before January 1, 2012, the director shall  
6 establish the Santa Susana State Park Advisory Committee, which  
7 shall be responsible for assisting the department, in an advisory  
8 capacity, to plan for interim and permanent land uses and facilities  
9 through the general planning process for the Santa Susana Field  
10 Laboratory (SSFL) site. The director shall terminate the advisory  
11 committee after the adoption of a general plan for the state park.

12 (b) The director shall convene and appoint the advisory  
13 committee. The members of the advisory committee shall be  
14 selected by the director, and shall include representatives from  
15 entities, including, but not limited to, local, state, and federal  
16 agencies, environmental, recreational, historic preservation, and  
17 cultural organizations, museums, educational institutions and  
18 organizations, labor groups, individuals and private sector entities,  
19 and community-based organizations, including African American,  
20 Asian Pacific American, Chinese American, and Latino community  
21 organizations, and other interested ethnic groups.

22 (c) The department shall take all of the following actions with  
23 respect to the development of a state park at the SSFL site:

24 (1) Coordinate the implementation of the SSFL project,  
25 considering recommendations for uses and development from the  
26 advisory committee.

27 (2) Survey statewide and community preferences in a range of  
28 park services appropriate for the setting of the SSFL site, as assisted  
29 by the advisory committee.

30 (3) Seek input from and cooperate with local, state, and federal  
31 agencies, environmental, recreational, historic preservation, and  
32 cultural organizations, museums, educational institutions and  
33 organizations, labor groups, individuals and private sector entities,  
34 and community-based organizations, as appropriate, that are  
35 interested in the use or development of park and recreational  
36 facilities and programs for the public benefit at the state park  
37 proposed to be located at the SSFL site, including the special needs  
38 of children, youths, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities.

39 (d) The advisory committee shall identify and recommend to  
40 the director priorities for long-range plans for the SSFL site that

1 meet the needs of Californians and the general public, including  
2 park and recreational facilities and programs serving residents  
3 within communities surrounding the SSFL site in Ventura County.

4 SEC. 4. (a) The Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL)  
5 property shall not be transferred to the state and a park shall not  
6 be opened at the SSFL site until the site has been cleaned pursuant  
7 to Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 25359.20) of Chapter  
8 6.8 of Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code.

9 (b) *This act shall not make the state liable for cleanup of any*  
10 *contamination that may be found to be present at the SSFL site.*