



*This is an actual photo of outdoor toxic blasts at Site 300*

**For the Public  
Hearing  
Thursday, July  
12**

**333 Civic  
Center Plaza,  
Tracy, CA.**

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## **Media Event at 6pm. Hearing begins at 6:30 pm**

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**Background:** The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's (SJVAPCD) preliminary decision gives Livermore Lab's high explosives testing range, called Site 300, near Tracy, CA a permit to increase the size, weight and yield of toxic bomb detonations on a 7,057 square-foot outdoor firing table.

The permit will allow the daily explosive limit to rise from 100-pounds of high explosives to 1,000-pounds per day and the annual limit to rise from 1,000-pounds to 7,500-pounds per year.

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### **Talking Points on the San Joaquin County Air Pollution Control District's "Notice of Preliminary Decision – Authority to Construct" that would allow larger open-air explosive detonations at Site 300 near Tracy, California.**

- As a member of the public, I am concerned that SJVAPCD declared the proposal EXEMPT from the detailed environmental impacts analysis mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This means that full scientific-based reporting of the environmental impacts of the project will simply not be done, and therefore will not be known, by regulators or by the public.
- I am concerned that these open-air blasts will be allowed to happen with *no* air pollution control, despite the fact that technology exists to move the explosions into a containment chamber, according to SJVAPCD's Best Available Control Technology analysis. SJVAPCD cites the technical feasibility of Livermore Lab constructing a containment chamber for these blasts, and offers a cost figure that amounts to **less than one percent** (0.7%) of the Dept. of Energy funding for Livermore Lab, when calculated over that same period of time. It should also be noted here that Livermore Lab operates the Big Explosives Experimental Facility (BEEF) facility at the Nevada National Security Site where large detonations, like to the ones proposed for Site 300, are presently conducted. These blasts should not happen in the open air in a populated area.

- I am concerned that SJVAPCD has not included in its cursory cumulative impacts section the other hazardous emissions at Site 300, including those from crude “open burn” hazardous waste activities that happen regularly near the firing table where these new, larger open-air detonations will occur. The full air emissions of the site need to be cumulatively analyzed.
- I am concerned about the impacts of the 121 hazardous substances listed by Livermore Lab that will be released into the open air by these explosions. I am also concerned about the noise impact that, according to Livermore Lab will be loud enough to rattle windows or pictures on walls, thereby causing “annoyance.” I would find that more than annoying.
- I would also point out that Site 300 is heavily contaminated Superfund cleanup site. Previous outdoor blasts of the type that would be conducted under the permit have contributed to the pollution that is still present in the soil, surface water and groundwater aquifers at Site 300. At the firing tables where these larger toxic blasts will occur, there have been recent finds of radioactive uranium-238 including finds of chunks of uranium sitting on the top of the ground. Spreading gravel over this contamination before each bomb blast may not be sufficient to prevent re-suspension of radioactive particles into our air. A more rigorous CEQA review is required to consider this radiation threat. Finally, I would also note that Livermore Lab has written that the Superfund cleanup at the firing table will be delayed due to these blasts and will not occur as long as the firing table is used for this purpose. Cleanup should be prioritized over bombs.
- This is a very controversial project. The air district has not conducted the detailed analysis required before making a preliminary decision to issue a permit. I ask the district to reconsider, and to inform me of the final decision.

***Add any personal connection you have to the community and any additional thoughts you have. Now is the time to speak up! Thank you!***