

Notice of Availability
Draft Additional Environmental Analysis
for the
Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan
and Spineflower Conservation Plan Environmental Impact Report
(SCH No. 2000011025)

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (formerly California Department of Fish and Game) announces the extension of the public comment and review period for the previously released Draft Additional Environmental Analysis (AEA) for the Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan and Spineflower Conservation Plan (RMDP/SCP) Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (SCH No. 2000011025). CDFW previously released the Draft AEA for public circulation, review, and comment between November 3, 2016 and January 6, 2017. The review period has been extended to February 13, 2017.

CDFW certified the RMDP/SCP EIR in December 2010 in connection with various approvals under the Fish and Game Code for the Newhall Ranch project located in northern Los Angeles County. A detailed description of the project as a whole is provided in the previously certified December 2010 RMDP/SCP EIR and CDFW's related approval documents from that time, including findings adopted by CDFW. A description of the project as modified is included in the Draft AEA specifically.

As stated in CDFW's related notice on November 3, 2016, CDFW prepared the Draft AEA in response to two important issues recently addressed by the California Supreme Court in *Center for Biological Diversity v. California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife* (2015) 62 Cal.4th 204. The Supreme Court decision addresses the project and the RMDP/SCP EIR specifically and, in issuing its decision, the court held: (1) for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that CDFW's 2010 significance determination regarding project greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions was not supported by substantial evidence and (2) CDFW's approval of the project in 2010 with two biological resource mitigation measures calling, if necessary, for collection and relocation of unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*), violated Fish and Game Code section 5515. Unarmored threespine stickleback is a freshwater fish native to California designated as endangered by federal and state law, and as fully protected under the Fish and Game Code. The Draft AEA is specifically responsive to these two issues.

Five Point LLC (formerly, The Newhall Land and Farming Company), the project applicant, responded to the Supreme Court decision with a proposal to CDFW to modify the previously approved project in two respects. As to the GHG issue addressed by the court, the project applicant has committed to achieve zero net GHG emissions for the project with implementation of 13 mitigation measures, Mitigation Measures 2-1 through 2-13 described in the Draft AEA, that will reduce, mitigate, and offset 100 percent of the project's GHG emissions. With respect to unarmored threespine stickleback, the project applicant has proposed modified design and construction methods for bridges and bank stabilization in or near the Santa Clara River to obviate the need for the two prior mitigation measures of focus for the Supreme Court, consistent with Fish and Game Code section 5515.

Public Review Period

The public review period for the Draft AEA began on November 3, 2016, and has been extended to February 6, 2017. Written comments limited to issues addressed in the Draft AEA must be postmarked or received by e-mail by CDFW no later than February 13, 2017. Written comments sent to CDFW by regular mail should be sent to the following address:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Comments on Newhall Ranch Draft AEA
c/o Betty Courtney
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123

Written comments transmitted to CDFW by E-mail should be sent to the following address: newhallranch@wildlife.ca.gov. Please put "Comments on Newhall Ranch Draft AEA" in the subject line. If you would like a CD containing the Draft AEA, please send an E-mail request to this address.

The Draft AEA is available electronically to review and download at CDFW's web page: www.wildlife.ca.gov/regions/5/newhall.

Copies of the Draft AEA are available for public review at CDFW's South Coast Regional Office at the address shown above and several other public locations:

- Old Town Newhall Library, 24500 Main Street, Santa Clarita, CA 91321
- Stevenson Ranch Library, 25950 The Old Road, Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381
- Valencia Library, 23743 West Valencia Boulevard, Santa Clarita, CA 91355
- Sylmar Library, 14561 Polk Street, Sylmar, CA 91342
- E.P. Foster Library, 651 East Main Street, Ventura, 93001
- Castaic Library, 27971 Sloan Canyon Road, Castaic, CA 91384
- Department of Fish and Wildlife, Los Alamitos Office, 4665 Lampson Avenue, Los Alamitos, CA 90702
- Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Planning Branch, 1700 Ninth Street, 2nd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95811.

Information regarding CDFW's environmental review and permitting effort for the project, various other project documents, contact/ mailing information, and a list of repository sites where documents are available for public review is also available at the CDFW web site:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/regions/5/newhall.