

Comment Letter No. IE1

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Thomas Barron <Barron@ImageG.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 5:37 PM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: COMMENT OPPOSING: Mission Village and Landmark Village - Newhall Ranch projects

Dear CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE,

I have already testified at several hearings OPPOSING Newhall Ranch's projects that adversely impact the Santa Clara River watershed, floodplain and the many important unique species of flora and fauna therein.

The EIR does not address Global Warming:

Recently I testified about the fallacy of depending on electric vehicle infrastructure to address the need to reduce green house gas emissions - an intrinsic product of the project. Hybrid vehicles will always trump all-electric battery vehicles (and thus continue to produce toxic gas emissions) because the need for long range driving, from the proposed very distant subdivisions.

The company owns the former rail line easement but still persists in using private, individual vehicles as the prime mover of the millions of trips in and out of the project areas.

The floodplain is in danger:

The Oroville Dam episode, requiring the downstream evacuation of tens of thousands, is a dramatic example of a problem I pointed out in my first comments, years ago at the Los Angeles County Planning Commission - before any approvals. My concern is the potential failure of Castaic Lake Reservoir and the Bouquet Canyon Reservoir, both upstream of the floodpath through the project area. God forbid that a large earthquake of the magnitude of the nineteenth century Fort Tejon trembler, which exceeds the design specification of Castaic Reservoir, causes a surge down to the ocean.

The previous flood caused by the failure of the San Francisquito Dam created tremendous devastation in what was then, the sparsely populated region. Castaic Lake is many times larger (320,000 acre-ft vs. 38,168 acre-ft) - Bouquet about the same size (36,500 acre-ft) - than San Francisquito Dam.

The absurdity of raising the Landmark floodplain by massive earth movement, would not avert the catastrophe in the event of a dam failure, but also creates other serious concerns: the destruction of the many rare life forms resident on the land and "cost" in a carbon dioxide bloom at a time when science tells us that the Earth is at a tipping point.

Regards,
 --TMB

Comment Letter No. IE1

Thomas Barron
28006 San Martinez Grande Canyon Road
Castaic, CA 91384
Barron@ImageG.com
661-257-3036 home
818-761-6644 cell

Comment Letter No. IE2

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Wildlife Ask R5
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 3:13 PM
To: Courtney, Betty@Wildlife
Subject: FW: Newhall Ranch Project

Hi Betty,
 Here is another one that came in askr5.
 Thank you,
 Sue

Susan Howell

Office Technician
 3883 Ruffin Rd
 San Diego, CA 92123
 858-467-4201

Every Californian should conserve water. Find out how at:



SaveOurWater.com · Drought.CA.gov

From: Techno Git [<mailto:technogit@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 3:08 PM
To: Specialprojects@planning.lacounty.gov; daranda@planning.lacounty.gov; Wildlife Ask R5
Subject: Newhall Ranch Project

Gentlepeople,

I'm writing to urge you to reject Newhall Ranch's latest proposal; the Mission and Landmark "villages" are an ill-conceived new city cloaked in feel-good promises of "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions. **In reality, many of the emissions reductions won't occur on site, or even in California, but instead, would come from carbon marketers selling offsets of an unknown quantity.** The environmental impact reports contain no clear standards to ensure that offsets represent real, enforceable, verifiable reductions that wouldn't have occurred anyway.

What's more, although Newhall is now promising "no water contact" bridge construction to protect the highly imperiled stickleback fish, **there are no safeguards in place to ensure this federally protected species won't be harmed through the life of the project.** Moreover, **The Santa Clara River is the only wild river left in Los Angeles County.**

That's why I urge the county to reject these projects and not certify **the current environmental impact reports, which focus solely on greenhouse gasses and stickleback.** **The Mission and Landmark projects remain a disaster for the Santa Clara River and valley.** And at a minimum, the county must embark on a

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full environmental review that reflects current standards for smart growth instead of trying to implement an outdated, 14-year-old "Newhall Specific Plan" through piecemeal environmental review.

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Sincerely,

Jeri Ann Boyd

24756 Quigley Canyon Road,

Santa Clarita, CA 91321

(661 200-3155

Comment Letter No. IE3

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Bruce Campbell <madroneweb@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 6:20 PM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: Comments on Newhall Ranch Draft Additional Environmental Analysis for N.R. RMDP/SCP Final EIR (SCH No. 2000011025)

February 13, 2017

Bruce Campbell
 3520 Overland Ave. # A 149
 Los Angeles, CA 90034

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Comments on Newhall Ranch Draft AEA

To whom it may concern at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, L.A. County, and beyond,

Thanks for extending the comment time in regards to the couple portions which the massive development proponent decided to take up again following the decision in the *CBD* case at the California Supreme Court.

First, I find it disturbing that the proponent for the largest development ever in California had the gall to determine for itself which sections of the EIR needed to be re-circulated. Generally, one would await guidance from the court as to what sections would need to be revised. Then, sadly, the cherry-picked topics seem to be accepted by some decisionmakers as sufficient. (Not the way law and agencies are supposed to operate – even in the age of Trump!) For instance, where is the chapter regarding traffic? Clearly, the decrease in gas prices over the last approximately four years combined with increased development in the north county has led toward much more crowded roadways. Traffic congestion means more emissions – yet one would not note that due to the proponent’s convenient ignoring of traffic shifts in the last decade, of GHG emissions relating to solid waste, and of GHGs related to moving and filtering water.

I notice that the California Supreme Court held that (pertaining to CEQA) the determination by CDFW back in 2010 which essentially declared **the greenhouse gas emissions** that would come from this largest development ever proposed in the State of California as insignificant was **NOT supported by substantial evidence**.

Often, “evidence” can be more convincing if it can be quantified. I notice that it is mentioned that about 11,000 tons of GHGs are generated annually in the area proposed for development. Well if one looks at the “current” situation in the proposed development area, one can count trees and bushes and do related research and come up with an estimate of how much carbon is being sequestered in the vicinity in this pre-massive development phase? Yet, not only did there appear to be no attempt to try to estimate the amount of carbon sequestered, there was not even an admission that trees and vegetation have a role in sequestering carbon except to poo-poo its significance by calling such important functions merely “incremental”. And at the same time, construction emissions are being poo-pooed as well despite known toxicity of black carbon, diesel, and other emissions.

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In my vocal comments, I brought up that I will believe that the developers are serious about carbon sequestration when they call for the cutting of ZERO oak trees from the property. Yet there are a number of even sizable oaks targeted for removal under the massive "Village" plans. The only place where I could find an admission that trees / vegetation play a role in sequestering carbon / GHG emissions is on page 1.0-23 under mitigation measure LV 4.23-10 where it simply says that "Los Angeles County shall confirm that the project applicant or its designee shall fully mitigate the related construction and vegetation change GHG emissions (the "Incremental Construction GHG Emissions")" by relying either on funding activities to reduce or sequester GHG emissions, or else to purchase and retire a carbon credit from elsewhere.

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This is very weak and I object strenuously! First, the oaks and other vegetation currently storing carbon are not being funded by the proponent, thus any such funding would be to try to make up a little for fairly widespread destruction of trees as well as scraping many properties bare of vegetation as a prelude to construction. Excuse me, these trees and bushes are already sequestering carbon in this Hwy. 5 vicinity. While I am all for sequestering carbon around the world, the current trees and plants store carbon at the site itself, and obviously, construction emissions will occur at the site itself.

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I notice, despite zero attempt to quantify how much carbon is stored in local trees and vegetation, such a service of nature is essential – rather than "incremental." In addition, I noticed that the plan is to be constructing this largest development ever in California for 30 years! Thus, the particular dangerous emissions related to construction are not just a burden on the area for a year or two, but for three decades! A combo of the huge amount of fill planned to be deposited onto the Santa Clara River floodplain (which would be sure to result in dustier conditions in the Santa Clarita Valley (with current particulate matter already exceeding federal standards), the unrelenting plan for 30 years of construction with no suggestion of seeking to reduce emissions from construction equipment. "Black carbon" is an especially bad pollutant at construction sites, so where is the plan to address that? Also, diesel has over 40 known cancer-causing air pollutants. I call for a recirculation once you come up with actual methods / mitigation measures to control construction emissions. The very term "Incremental Construction GHG Emissions" clearly indicate that the writer who invented this term did so in order to downplay both the toxicity of emissions from construction vehicles, as well as in order to downplay the important carbon sequestration role which current trees and vegetation of the vicinity are providing.

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Now to contend with the unarmored threespine stickleback. The proponent makes it appear that this rare fish will do just fine as long as it isn't physically crushed by heavy equipment. However, there are lots of things involved in having an area habitable for certain species, and please remember that "take" of a species does not need to involve death of a member of such species. When a project brings about significant deterioration of the habitat which a species needs to survive, due to shifts in moisture, nutrient level, dust, etc., from adding a huge amount of fill to the floodplain of the last free-flowing river in Los Angeles County while allowing some pumping from the Santa Clara River alluvial plain, that is essentially harassment and "take" since it is a downward spiral as far as diminishing quality of habitat.

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Just because heavy equipment in the Santa Clara River area would not be in the wet part of the channel to run over the rare fish directly anymore (in the latest document shift), does not mean that one can conclude that there will not be increased sedimentation of the Santa Clara River that would bring a deterioration in the habitat of the unarmored threespine stickleback and other species – once there is massive ground, natural vegetation, and riverbank scraping under the "Village's" proposal. Partly due to concern about damage due to heavy construction equipment, I call for a radius of at least ¼ of a mile around spineflower preserves.

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I'd like to ask: what endangered, threatened, or rare species would have their habitat negatively impacted by the placement of a massive amount of fill onto the floodplain of the Santa Clara River? Will the imported fill be carefully evaluated to try to "weed out" noxious weeds and various contaminants which often accompanies "available" dirt? 22

I did mention in my vocal comments that I understand that there are a lot of carbon / GHG emissions relating to the manufacture of cement – while it doesn't take much brainpower to realized that asphalt seems to generally be layers of hot oil over some little stones. This should also have been evaluated. In addition, methane relating to trash production from the massive developments is a serious GHG emission, while the proposed-for-expansion Chiquita Landfill will clearly be increasing its methane emissions if allowed to expand. 24

Are you accounting for toxic GHG emissions being emitted in far away locations – such as from a coal-fired facility in the Rocky Mtns. area or from two coal-fired facilities in Appalachia which power a uranium enrichment facility? Even if a certain energy source means no more carbon emissions in the Santa Clarita area, it is likely causing damage to lungs of indigenous peoples (as well as others) as well as negatively impacting vegetation and various species in the region. 25

What is presented as the AEA clearly does not meet the court mandate which called for "substantial evidence" if GreenHouse Gas emissions are to be declared insignificant for the proposed huge "Village" projects. Please reject this pathetic effort which refuses to even attempt to quantify carbon storage currently in the area, and also calls for no local measures to seek to mitigate for harmful emissions from construction equipment – including "black carbon" and diesel pollution. 26

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Campbell

Comment Letter No. IE4

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: MALINDA CHOUIINARD <Malinda.Chouinard@patagonia.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 3:11 PM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: Newhall Ranch development

There are so many reasons to be aghast over developments in the Santa Clara River, but we are particularly distressed for the river and wildlife. The river is the only remaining wildlife corridor. It is obvious it is a dangerous place for human to put their life savings into homes and businesses. But development for the animals spells extinction. Voting NO on this misguided plan is both humanitarian and fiscally responsible. Thank you,

Yvon Chouinard
Patagonia Inc.
235 W. Santa Clara St
Ventura. CA. 93001

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- To protect the river water quality and the endangered fish, the project should be moved away from the Santa Clara River. Filling the floodplain with 200 million cubic yards of dirt hurts water replenishment and will massively add to dust pollution in the Santa Clarita Valley.
- There should be a .25 mile buffer around the spine flower preserves to protect this endangered flower. The proposed endowment is not sufficient to provide protection. We see what has happened in the valley oaks Savannah (SEA 64 – no trails as promised, inadequate management to preserve the oaks, oaks dying)

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Comment Letter No. IE5**Courtney, Betty@Wildlife**

From: Kevin <hikevw@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 7:56 PM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: Newhall Ranch project

I'm opposed to the scale of the Newhall Ranch Project as it is. The exclusion of a traffic chapter make the supplemental document inadequate because traffic has greatly increased since the 2007 review was released and new projects have been approved. A chapter updating the traffic analysis should be added. The project is still too big and impactful to the Valley and flies in the face of 21st century smart planning – it needs to be significantly scaled back and away from the Santa Clara River.

Thanks for your time,
 Kevin Corcoran
 Valencia CA 91355

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Comment Letter No. IE6

Wildlife Newhall Ranch

From: Dennis Hagerty <djhagerty@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 9:38 AM
To: specialprojects@planning.lacounty.gov; Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: Mission Village and Landmark Projects

I am a 20 year resident of Santa Clarita and I have witnessed an explosion of growth during this time, as observed by increased traffic congestion, the over taxing of our water supply, now at critical levels due to sustained drought and a steady and serious deterioration of our air quality. For these reasons and many more, I am opposed to both the Mission Village and Landmark Projects.

Of most concern to me is the flawed promise of "Zero GHG's". This plan appears naïve and lacks measurable, provable and enforceable mitigation measures. Dust caused by filling the floodplain with 200 million cubic yards of dirt will negatively impact our air quality. There will be continued damage to and continued depletion of our already limited water supply. There will be increased traffic and GHG emissions caused not just by the addition of 70,000 people, but by all that it takes to support that addition (waste management services, increased trucking services to supply goods and services), which don't appear to be accounted for in the "Zero GHG" proposal. Finally, this project all will bulldoze over Native American sacred burial sites and threatens several endangered species. These projects leave way too big of a carbon footprint and are examples of poor 21st century planning.

I am requesting that the County of Los Angeles and the State of California deny permits for these projects.

Thank you.

Julie Criss-Hagerty, Ph.D.
(661) 714-3974

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Comment Letter No. IE7

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: John Paladin <paladinesq@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 4:02 PM
To: SouzanPaladin@AOL.com
Subject: Opposition to Newhall Ranch development.

Rouzanna Egian
 Post Office Box 800773
 Valencia, California 91380-0773

(818) 717-3000

February 13, 2017

Los Angeles County
 Department Of Regional Planning
 320 West Temple St., Room 1348
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

specialprojects@planning.lacounty.gov,
newhallranch@wildlife.ca.gov,

Re: Mission Village and Landmark projects;
 Newhall Ranch development; Project no. 00-196-(5);
 Environmental assessment no. 00-196-29442;
 Project no. 04-181-(5);
 Environmental assessment no. 04-181-29455

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am opposed to the Newhall Ranch phases 2 and 3 in their current size. The Santa Clara River is one of the last free-flowing rivers in Southern California. It should be preserved and not altered. It should not be filled in or paved in any way. The river is a scenic area which should not be damaged.

Endangered species should receive better protections for their environment.

There should be at least a 250 yard undeveloped buffer zone on the sides of the river and around endangered plants which cannot be developed. No runoff should be allowed to enter the river.

It is improper to build homes over an oil field (Mission Village) because of health risks and environmental risks in that area.

The traffic analysis is not adequate because it is outdated and it does not account for current or future traffic levels.

There is a limit to the proper amount of density in a particular area. There has already been extensive development in the Santa Clarita Valley. The current proposal creates excessive development and excessive traffic in an area which should be left as agricultural land, parks and open space.

It is not OK to keep building as much density as possible in every open area. The free-flowing river and the open space should be preserved with a minimum of development.

The claim of "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions is not believable from a large development in an open area which is experiencing global warming.

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Comment Letter No. IE7

The river area in its natural state is an important asset which should be preserved as much as possible in its natural state.

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Sincerely,

Rouzanna Egian

Comment Letter No. IE8

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Mal Gaffney <malgaff@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 5:51 PM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: State permit to the California Fish and Wildlife Dept

Dear California Fish and Wildlife Dept.,

- Houses should not be built over a closed oil field (Mission Village). There is too great a chance that airborne VOCs will leak up into the homes. 1

- The exclusion of a traffic chapter make the supplemental document inadequate because traffic has greatly increased since the 2007 review was released and new projects have been approved. A chapter updating the traffic analysis should be added. 2

- Controlling greenhouse gases and traffic congestion are intimately related. Traffic congestion in the Santa Clarita area is already over the top and will only get worse if Landmark Village and Mission Village are built as planned. It is necessary to consider these two factors together and absolutely ensure no net increase in GHG for these projects. 3

- The promise of zero GHGs sounds good on paper but the enforcement reality is lacking: 4

There are no safeguards to track the future offsets that will need to be bought;

Will the offsets actually exist to be bought? Will enough offsets be available?

Who will assure that the offsets are actually bought? 5

Who will assure that the offsets are actually effective to offset the amount of GHGs needed to be offset?

How will the use of electric cars be monitored and enforced in order to gauge if the touted GHG reductions actually occur? 6

All these assurances need to be codified as enforceable mitigation measures. 7

The project is still too big and impactful to the Valley and flies in the face of 21st century smart planning – it needs to be significantly scaled back and away from the Santa Clara River 8

Comment Letter No. IE8

• Where's the analysis of the methane that will be generated from trash created by this massive project, what about emissions from trash truck – the GHG analysis is not sufficient | 9

• The severe water cutbacks required in the SCV in the last six years are new information showing that we cannot accommodate this massive project with our current water resources. That water table dropped 70 feet and several wells went dry. | 10

• There have been a lot of articles about how offsets are often a green washing scam. What guarantee do we have that the offsets being purchased as GHG mitigation will result in measurable, provable, reductions in GHG emissions beyond what would have otherwise occurred? | 11

• Mitigation for GHG that is proposed to be bought as pollution credits in other countries is unenforceable and unverifiable. AND it will not help our local air pollution problems. | 12

• No mention or itemization of the external creators of GHG for this project, like methane from waste disposal, energy production for water delivery and desalination of waste water, off site energy production for infrastructure, auto and truck deliveries and other uses is not in the Environmental document because those chapters are excluded from the document. These issues must be discussed in order for the document to be valid. | 13

• Our Valley is already out of federal compliance for dust pollution (PM10 and PM mil) that causes asthma and permanent lung damage and affects our children's health. Filling the flood plain with 200 million cubic yards of dirt will substantially add to this pollution. | 14

• To protect the river water quality and the endangered fish, the project should be moved away from the Santa Clara River. Filling the floodplain with 200 million cubic yards of dirt hurts water replenishment and will massively add to dust pollution in the Santa Clarita Valley. | 15

• There should be a .25 mile buffer around the spine flower preserves to protect this endangered flower. The proposed endowment is not sufficient to provide protection. We see what has happened in the valley oaks Savannah (SEA 64 – no trails as promised, inadequate management to preserve the oaks, oaks dying). | 16

Sincerely,

Comment Letter No. IE8

M. Gaffney

24700 Valley Street

Apt 2057

Newhall, CA 91321

661.670.8761

Comment Letter No. IE9

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Wildlife Ask R5
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 2:32 PM
To: Courtney, Betty@Wildlife
Subject: FW: Mission Village and Landmark Village
Attachments: Comments to CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife_2-12-17.doc

Hi Betty,

This came in askr5.
Thank you,
Sue

From: Cher Gilmore [mailto:chergilmore@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 2:22 PM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch; Wildlife Ask R5
Cc: Cher Gilmore
Subject: Mission Village and Landmark Village

(Note: this message is also attached in document form)

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To the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife:

Thank you for receiving public input on the proposed Newhall Ranch Project – in particular the first two phases – Landmark and Mission Villages, which this message addresses. In my opinion, this whole development is a prime example of private interests overriding all reasonable measures of the public good. First and foremost, it is proposed to be built on, and will destroy, over 140 acres of floodplain. It is *never* a good idea to build on floodplains. Floodplains store floodwaters, and given the alternating drought and flooding cycles in this area – projected to become even more extreme with increased global warming, this floodplain is absolutely critical. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board has wisely recommended that the Newhall Ranch applicant avoid development in the floodplain, but that recommendation was ignored. I hope the county and state will listen to the wisdom of the Water Quality Control Board on this matter.

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Further, having sufficient fresh water in this area for the past six years has been increasingly problematic, and cutbacks have been required. The current population is barely sustainable in dry years now – it is not reasonable to suppose an additional 70,000 people (projected for the completed project) will have enough fresh water in future years, as global warming progresses and droughts become longer and more severe. Unless some method of storing huge amounts of water – such as underground cisterns – is undertaken in the near term, a greatly enlarged population simply will not be able to be supported here. The developers, of course, aren't bothered by this, as they will have collected their money and moved on.

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Another problem with the development is the lack of buffer zones to protect the sensitive biological resources in the riparian areas along the Santa Clara, Southern California's last major free-flowing river. Without significant buffer zones, the natural riparian corridor would most certainly be negatively affected by such urban forces as domestic predators (cats and dogs), pollution, diseases transmitted from domestic animals to wildlife, increased artificial light at night, disruption by pedestrians and off-road vehicles, etc. These extraordinary, and

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Comment Letter No. IE9

endangered, natural resources should be preserved as an important part of the public commons rather than paved over and developed for private profit.

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The project also completely disregards the rights of the Chumash and other Native American tribes to their sacred burial sites and other cultural resources in the area proposed for Newhall Ranch. These tribes were here long before we were. Why do we insist on continuing to shove them aside – once again for financial gain? Would we want some organization with a lot of money to plow up and pave over *our* sacred spaces?

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And there would be additional negative impacts on other fronts: increased air pollution, which is already a major problem in the Santa Clarita valley; vastly increased traffic in an area whose infrastructure is already inadequate; and the loss of nearly 1500 acres overall of rich agricultural land, whose long-term protection is extremely important for society's well-being.

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Finally, the claim that Newhall Ranch will have net-zero emissions and will not contribute to climate change simply defies belief. Just because there would be outlets to charge electric vehicles in every house does not mean every house would have an electric vehicle – far from it. And the so-called "offsets" would be taken in other parts of the country or world. They would not affect pollution in Santa Clarita, and the proposal indicates no method of measurement or insuring that they are even legitimate. Using this kind of offset for emissions reduction has proven unreliable in cap and trade programs elsewhere, and there is no reason to believe they would be any more effective in this situation.

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With so much public opposition to this proposal for so many years, it would seem obvious that it is *not* a good idea. At the public hearing I attended, the only speakers in favor of it were individuals whose business would financially benefit from it. In my opinion, personal enrichment cannot justify the negative environmental effects and damage to a precious and rare community resource – a river and floodplain that should be part of the public commons. There are other options for development, if there *must* be further development (and I would argue that there should *not* be in this area). For example, the project could be greatly reduced in size and moved to the eastern part of the property next to existing urban areas, which would provide an adequate buffer zone from the river and avoid development of the floodplain.

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Again, I urge you to reject not only the first two phases (Landmark and Mission Villages) of the Newhall Ranch project, but the entire Newhall Ranch proposal as currently conceived and configured, and not certify the current environmental impact reports, which are incomplete and inadequate.

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Cher Gilmore
18911 Circle of Friends
Newhall, CA 91321
661-251-1718

Comment Letter No. IE9

To the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife:

Thank you for receiving public input on the proposed Newhall Ranch Project – in particular the first two phases – Landmark and Mission Villages, which this message addresses. In my opinion, this whole development is a prime example of private interests overriding all reasonable measures of the public good. First and foremost, it is proposed to be built on, and will destroy, over 140 acres of floodplain. It is *never* a good idea to build on floodplains. Floodplains store floodwaters, and given the alternating drought and flooding cycles in this area – projected to become even more extreme with increased global warming, this floodplain is absolutely critical. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board has wisely recommended that the Newhall Ranch applicant avoid development in the floodplain, but that recommendation was ignored. I hope the county and state will listen to the wisdom of the Water Quality Control Board on this matter.

Further, having sufficient fresh water in this area for the past six years has been increasingly problematic, and cutbacks have been required. The current population is barely sustainable in dry years now – it is not reasonable to suppose an additional 70,000 people (projected for the completed project) will have enough fresh water in future years, as global warming progresses and droughts become longer and more severe. Unless some method of storing huge amounts of water – such as underground cisterns – is undertaken in the near term, a greatly enlarged population simply will not be able to be supported here. The developers, of course, aren't bothered by this, as they will have collected their money and moved on.

Another problem with the development is the lack of buffer zones to protect the sensitive biological resources in the riparian areas along the Santa Clara, Southern California's last major free-flowing river. Without significant buffer zones, the natural riparian corridor would most certainly be negatively affected by such urban forces as domestic predators (cats and dogs), pollution, diseases transmitted from domestic animals to wildlife, increased artificial light at night, disruption by pedestrians and off-road vehicles, etc. These extraordinary, and endangered, natural resources should be preserved as an important part of the public commons rather than paved over and developed for private profit.

The project also completely disregards the rights of the Chumash and other Native American tribes to their sacred burial sites and other cultural resources in the area proposed for Newhall Ranch. These tribes were here long before we were. Why do we insist on continuing to shove them aside – once again for financial gain? Would we want some organization with a lot of money to plow up and pave over *our* sacred spaces?

And there would be additional negative impacts on other fronts: increased air pollution, which is already a major problem in the Santa Clarita valley; vastly increased traffic in an area whose infrastructure is already inadequate; and the loss of nearly 1500 acres overall of rich agricultural land, whose long-term protection is extremely important for society's well-being.

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Comment Letter No. IE9

Finally, the claim that Newhall Ranch will have net-zero emissions and will not contribute to climate change simply defies belief. Just because there would be outlets to charge electric vehicles in every house does not mean every house would have an electric vehicle – far from it. And the so-called “offsets” would be taken in other parts of the country or world. They would not affect pollution in Santa Clarita, and the proposal indicates no method of measurement or insuring that they are even legitimate. Using this kind of offset for emissions reduction has proven unreliable in cap and trade programs elsewhere, and there is no reason to believe they would be any more effective in this situation.

With so much public opposition to this proposal for so many years, it would seem obvious that it is *not* a good idea. At the public hearing I attended, the only speakers in favor of it were individuals whose business would financially benefit from it. In my opinion, personal enrichment cannot justify the negative environmental effects and damage to a precious and rare community resource – a river and floodplain that should be part of the public commons. There are other options for development, if there *must* be further development (and I would argue that there should *not* be in this area). For example, the project could be greatly reduced in size and moved to the eastern part of the property next to existing urban areas, which would provide an adequate buffer zone from the river and avoid development of the floodplain.

Again, I urge you to reject not only the first two phases (Landmark and Mission Villages) of the Newhall Ranch project, but the entire Newhall Ranch proposal as currently conceived and configured, and not certify the current environmental impact reports, which are incomplete and inadequate.

Cher Gilmore
18911 Circle of Friends
Newhall, CA 91321
661-251-1718

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Comment Letter No. IE10

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Wildlife Ask R5
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:12 PM
To: Courtney, Betty@Wildlife
Subject: FW: Please say no to the Newhall Ranch Development and protect the Santa Clara River from development.

Good Afternoon Betty,
This came in askr5.
Happy Monday!
Sue

-----Original Message-----

From: Deanna Hanashiro [mailto:17pancakes@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:07 PM
To: Wildlife Ask R5
Subject: Please say no to the Newhall Ranch Development and protect the Santa Clara River from development.

February 13, 2017
Dear To Whom It Concerns:

Please reject Newhall Ranch's proposed Mission and Landmark Villages. Please protect the Santa Clara River.

Why? The current environmental impact report focuses solely on:

1.) Greenhouse gas emissions: In reality, many of the emissions reductions won't occur on site or even in California.

2.) Imperiled stickleback fish: No safeguards are in place to ensure this federally protected species won't be harmed through the life of the project.

The County must embark on a full environmental review that reflects current standards for smart growth instead of trying to implement an outdated, 14-year-old "Newhall Specific Plan" through piecemeal environmental review.

Why are there plans to enlarge the nearby Chiquita Landfill and not closed as promised to the residents who are neighbors to the proposed Mission and Landmark Villages?

Why is there such an uproar about trucks on the Highway 14 should the Cemex Mine be built yet there is no comment about the already congested Interstate 5 and the impact the Mission and Landmark Villages will have should they be constructed. For those in Valencia needing to be in downtown LA by 8 a.m., they currently need to leave before 6:30 a.m. Those in Castaic and Saugus need to leave even earlier. All would need to leave earlier if the Mission and Landmark Villages are built.

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Comment Letter No. IE10

Why are there plans to destroy the last remaining free flowing river in Los Angeles County? And everything is being done to try to restore the Los Angeles River that was cemented over with development?

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The above three circumstances mentioned illustrate a dysfunctional personality. The left side is doing the total opposite of the right side.

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Thank you for your consideration of rejecting the proposed Mission and Landmark Villages, Deanna Hanashiro Santa Clarita resident

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Sent from my iPad

Comment Letter No. IE11

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Bob Hazard <whitefoot@ca.rr.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 3:10 PM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: newhallranch@wildlife.ca.gov

Sir

I **would not like** to see the Newhall Ranch project built along the 126 Highway. I like the open areas as many people do but if unfortunately the project does happen there are two things I would like to see implemented in the project to soften its impact.

1

First I think each home and park should be included with **a large underground cistern** to collect rain water for use on the properties where they are located. This water can be used for landscape watering and toilet flushing. This would be very valuable in drought prone areas.

2

Second because the Newhall Ranch project is located in between two mountain ranges and along a river, wildlife can be abundant in the area. There should be **a wildlife corridor** or bridge which spans the 126 highway and allows wildlife to have free range between each mountain range and access to the water in the river.

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Both of these ideas can **funded by including them in the original cost of the home price.**

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Please pass along these ideas.

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Thank you

Robert Hazard

whitefoot@ca.rr.com



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Comment Letter No. IE12

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Norman Harris <hwharris@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 11:19 PM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: Mission and Landmark Villages Newhall Ranch

February 12, 2017

Project No. 00-196-(5)
 Oak Tree Permit No. 00-196-(5)
 Project No.04-181-(5)
 Oak Tree Permit No.200500032
 Oak Tree Permit No.200500043

Dear Honorable Persons:

These three Oak Tree Permits are requesting the removal of 11, 143, and 65 trees = (218-total trees requested to be removed) of these 10 are Heritage Oak Trees reaching at 45-inches-high, thirty-six inches around or more. Also over 58 Oak Trees are slated for major encroachment into their protected zones. Of these two are Heritage-Oakes.

The removal of the two-hundred and eighteen Native California Oak Trees is not only eliminating an irreplaceable protective natural resource which is part of the 13-million acres of oak woodlands and forest in California. Their destruction would remove the 218-CO2-carbon absorbers as part of the loss of the 675-million-metric TONS of carbon absorbed by Oak Trees and in the understory vegetation, downed woody material and soil horizons. This is in a study by Tom Gaman for the California Oak Foundation of the US Forest Service Inventory and Analysis Summer 2008. This report was published (2008) before the record drought cause millions of Oak Trees to die, removing even more "Sequesters" from the environment. The carbon-inventory for Oak Forest and Woodlands of California would be gravely reduced by the removal of these 218-Oak Trees.

An Inventory of Carbon and California Oaks: California oak woodlands and forest could sequester a BILLION tons of carbon, Addendum to Oaks 2040, by Tom Gaman, Registered Professional Forester, states "Oaks are"...normally with out prolonged drought, "long-lived trees. If we assume that our current oak woodlands and forest average 100-years of age (as clearly the Oak Trees in these projects as noted by the number of Heritage Oak Trees present), then we can expect to sequester almost three-million tons of additional carbon a year by protecting and conserving these Oak Trees throughout the 21st century."

Additionally, " California is estimated to be at risk of losing 750,000 acres of oak forest and woodland by the year 2040." "... This means that up to 33-million tons of sequestered carbon are at risk of entering the atmosphere should development processes eliminate these oak woodlands and forest, and their associated carbon pools."

The Santa Clare River is critical to supply a water source to the many oak trees along it banks.

It would be impossible to create a "negative green-house emission" by granting these Oak Tree Removal permits. The sequestering carbon lost must be an issue addressed in these projects.

Very truly yours,
 Cynthia Harris,
 Past-Vice President of the Santa Clarita Oak Conservancy
 and private-concerned citizen

References:
 Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/tools-data/>
 USFS 2008 Carbon online Reporting Tool, <http://ncasi.umi.edu/COLE/cole.html>
 California Climate Action Registry 2007, www.climateregistry.org
 Tom Gaman and Jeffrey Firman 2006 Oaks 2040, www.californiaoaks.org/Oaks 2040

Comment Letter No. IE12

Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP),
<http://frap.fire.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/select.asp>

Comment Letter No. IE13

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Randy Martin <drrandymartin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 11:24 PM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch; Special Projects Drp
Subject: Newhall Ranch Concerns - Vote No

- Houses should not be built over a closed oil field (Mission Village). There is too great a chance that airborne VOCs will leak up into the homes. 1

- The exclusion of a traffic chapter make the supplemental document inadequate because traffic has greatly increased since the 2007 review was released and new projects have been approved. A chapter updating the traffic analysis should be added. 2

- Controlling greenhouse gases and traffic congestion are intimately related. Traffic congestion in the Santa Clarita area is already over the top and will only get worse if Landmark Village and Mission Village are built as planned. It is necessary to consider these two factors together and absolutely ensure no net increase in GHG for these projects. 3

- The promise of zero GHGs sounds good on paper but the enforcement reality is lacking: 4
 There are no safeguards to track the future offsets that will need to be bought;
 Will the offsets actually exist to be bought? Will enough offsets be available?
 Who will assure that the offsets are actually bought?
 Who will assure that the offsets are actually effective to offset the amount of GHGs needed to be offset?
 How will the use of electric cars be monitored and enforced in order to gauge if the touted GHG reductions actually occur?
 All these assurances need to be codified as enforceable mitigation measures. 7

- The project is still too big and impactful to the Valley and flies in the face of 21st century smart planning – it needs to be significantly scaled back and away from the Santa Clara River 8

- Where's the analysis of the methane that will be generated from trash created by this massive project, what about emissions from trash truck – the GHG analysis is not sufficient 9

- The severe water cutbacks required in the SCV in the last six years are new information showing that we cannot accommodate this massive project with our current water resources. That water table dropped 70 feet and several wells went dry. 10

Comment Letter No. IE13

- There have been a lot of articles about how offsets are often a green washing scam. What guarantee do we have that the offsets being purchased as GHG mitigation will result in measurable, provable, reductions in GHG emissions beyond what would have otherwise occurred? 11

- Mitigation for GHG that is proposed to be bought as pollution credits in other countries is unenforceable and unverifiable. AND it will not help our local air pollution problems. 12

- No mention or itemization of the external creators of GHG for this project, like methane from waste disposal, energy production for water delivery and desalination of waste water, off site energy production for infrastructure, auto and truck deliveries and other uses is not in the Environmental document because those chapters are excluded from the document. These issues must be discussed in order for the document to be valid. 13

- Our Valley is already out of federal compliance for dust pollution (PM10 and PM_{10.5}) that causes asthma and permanent lung damage and affects our children's health. Filling the flood plain with 200 million cubic yards of dirt will substantially add to this pollution. 14

- To protect the river water quality and the endangered fish, the project should be moved away from the Santa Clara River. Filling the floodplain with 200 million cubic yards of dirt hurts water replenishment and will massively add to dust pollution in the Santa Clarita Valley. 15

- There should be a .25 mile buffer around the spine flower preserves to protect this endangered flower. The proposed endowment is not sufficient to provide protection. We see what has happened in the valley oaks 16

- Savannah (SEA 64 – no trails as promised, inadequate management to preserve the oaks, oaks dying) 17

Comment Letter No. IE14

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Wildlife Ask R5
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:00 AM
To: Courtney, Betty@Wildlife
Subject: FW: Landmark/Mission Builds

Good Morning Betty,
 This came in askr5.
 Happy Tuesday and Valentine's Day!!!
 Sue

From: Tracy McAnany [mailto:rtmcanany@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 7:30 PM
To: Wildlife Ask R5
Subject: Landmark/Mission Builds

To Whom It Concerns;

I'm writing to urge you to reject Newhall Ranch's latest proposal; the Mission and Landmark "villages" are an ill-conceived new city cloaked in feel-good promises of "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions. In reality, many of the emissions reductions won't occur on site, or even in California, but instead, would come from carbon marketers selling offsets of an unknown quantity. The environmental impact reports contain no clear standards to ensure that offsets represent real, enforceable, verifiable reductions that wouldn't have occurred anyway.

What's more, although Newhall is now promising "no water contact" bridge construction to protect the highly imperiled stickleback fish, there are no safeguards in place to ensure this federally protected species won't be harmed through the life of the project.

That's why I urge the county to reject these projects and not certify the current environmental impact reports, which focus solely on greenhouse gasses and stickleback. The Mission and Landmark projects remain a disaster for the Santa Clara River and valley. And at a minimum, the county must embark on a full environmental review that reflects current standards for smart growth instead of trying to implement an outdated, 14-year-old "Newhall Specific Plan" through piecemeal environmental review.

Thank you,

Tracy McAnany
 Valencia, CA

Comment Letter No. IE15

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Jason McCaffrey <Jason.McCaffrey@patagonia.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:17 AM
To: specialprojects@planning.lacounty.gov; Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: comments on the Mission and Landmark County

To whom it may concern;

- Houses should not be built over a closed oil field (Mission Village). There is too great a chance that airborne VOCs will leak up into the homes. 1
- The exclusion of a traffic chapter make the supplemental document inadequate because traffic has greatly increased since the 2007 review was released and new projects have been approved. A chapter updating the traffic analysis should be added. 2
- Controlling greenhouse gases and traffic congestion are intimately related. Traffic congestion in the Santa Clarita area is already over the top and will only get worse if Landmark Village and Mission Village are built as planned. It is necessary to consider these two factors together and absolutely ensure no net increase in GHG for these projects. 3
- The promise of zero GHGs sounds good on paper but the enforcement reality is lacking: 4

There are no safeguards to track the future offsets that will need to be bought;

Will the offsets actually exist to be bought? Will enough offsets be available?

Who will assure that the offsets are actually bought? 5

Who will assure that the offsets are actually effective to offset the amount of GHGs needed to be offset?

How will the use of electric cars be monitored and enforced in order to gauge if the touted GHG reductions actually occur? 6

All these assurances need to be codified as enforceable mitigation measures. 7

The project is still too big and impactful to the Valley and flies in the face of 21st century smart planning -- it needs to be significantly scaled back and away from the Santa Clara River 8

- Where's the analysis of the methane that will be generated from trash created by this massive project, what about emissions from trash truck – the GHG analysis is not sufficient 9
- The severe water cutbacks required in the SCV in the last six years are new information showing that we cannot accommodate this massive project with our current water resources. That water table dropped 70 feet and several wells went dry. 10
- There have been a lot of articles about how offsets are often a green washing scam. What guarantee do we have that the offsets being purchased as GHG mitigation will result in measurable, provable, reductions in GHG emissions beyond what would have otherwise occurred? 11

Comment Letter No. IE15

- Mitigation for GHG that is proposed to be bought as pollution credits in other countries is unenforceable and unverifiable. AND it will not help our local air pollution problems. 12
- No mention or itemization of the external creators of GHG for this project, like methane from waste disposal, energy production for water delivery and desalination of waste water, off site energy production for infrastructure, auto and truck deliveries and other uses is not in the Environmental document because those chapters are excluded from the document. These issues must be discussed in order for the document to be valid. 13
- Our Valley is already out of federal compliance for dust pollution (PM10 and PM mil) that causes asthma and permanent lung damage and affects our children's health. Filling the flood plain with 200 million cubic yards of dirt will substantially add to this pollution. 14
- To protect the river water quality and the endangered fish, the project should be moved away from the Santa Clara River. Filling the floodplain with 200 million cubic yards of dirt hurts water replenishment and will massively add to dust pollution in the Santa Clarita Valley. 15
- There should be a .25 mile buffer around the spine flower preserves to protect this endangered flower. The proposed endowment is not sufficient to provide protection. We see what has happened in the valley oaks Savannah (SEA 64 – no trails as promised, inadequate management to preserve the oaks, oaks dying) 16

17

Comment Letter No. IE16

January 18, 2017

Don P. Mullally
10418 Gothic Avenue
Granada Hills, CA 91344
818-363-3040
mpbsmis@socal.rr.com

California Department of Fish and Game *and Wildlife*
Comments on Newhall Ranch Draft AEA
@ Betty Courtney
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123

SUBJECT LINE

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. 20000011025).
Project No. 00-196-(5) of L A County
NEWHALL RANCH, MISSION VILLAGE
LANDMARK VILLAGE

SUGGESTED COMMENTS & ISSUES
By Don Mullally sightings and information.

Don Mullally
BIRD ISSUES

Some species of southern California locally or statewide uncommon or rare. If they are observed on the property of the Newhall Ranch Project (EIR) (SCH No. 20000011025) by competent observers, studies of their frequency on the property should be made, before decisions are made. If too rare or important for other reasons, development should be disqualified.

Scarce species of some noteworthy birds:

- a. Golden eagle: Mating pair noted on cliffs and ledges one mile southeast of Mentryville, circa five years ago. Don Mullally and Henry Shultz (deceased).
- b. Prairie falcon: Breeding pairs noted for twenty years on huge tall cobblestone turrets 1 ½ miles north of the Santa Clarita River and this distance from Aqua Dulce Canyon Road. By Don Mullally.
- c. Peregrine falcon: Breeding pairs on ledges of sandstone rock in the Simi Hills west and southwest of Chatsworth, California 1952-post 2010. Location still in use. Possibly ongoing. Known to falconers and Don Mullally. This species also seen in the Santa Susana Mountains.

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Comment Letter No. IE16

Richard Greene, Landscaping business in Santa Clarita, has watched a pair of Peregrines perch and feed on a tall steel power line pole, located at Dalby and Orchard Village Road in Santa Clarita for five years. Greene has collected the wings of birds eaten by these falcons on the pole: seagulls, ducks, and pigeons. Each year the hawks depart in March and return in early fall season.

- d. Northern Harrier: Noted many times flying over low brush, weeds and grasses in the wash of the Santa Clarita River. By Don Mullally
- e. Common Ground Dove: Noted in O'Melveny Park (groups of this doves) on ground in sagebrush, 1991. By Don Mullally.
- f. California Condor: seen by birdwatchers, nature lovers, and oil well employees on Oat Mountain from years past decades to about 1900. Also observed within the total area of the Santa Susana Mountains, Simi Hills, and in the Condor Preserve of the Topa Topa Mountains north of Piru, CA.
- g. Western tanager: observed in the spring and summer of 1949-1951 in woodlands located at the entrance to Elsmere Canyon beside State Highway 14. Observer: Don Mullally.
- h. Southern Spotted owl: Seen and heard by members of the Audubon Club of San Fernando Valley, 1988-1990s; oak woodlands and forests on the north slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains and O'Melveny City Park, northern San Fernando Valley, L. A.
- i. A single Burrowing Owl: Found during year 2000, killed on the road in front of O'Melveny City Park located in the Santa Susana Mountains. Bird found by Don Mullally, park employee.
- j. Long-eared owl: Observed in woodland in Rice Canyon, on an oak limb, perched ten feet above the ground (1985). By Don Mullally. Mullally also observed a juvenile Long-eared owl during midday within the grapefruit orchard of O'Melveny Park. (1991)

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MAMMAL ISSUES

- a. Mountain lion: Commonly observed, also trapped by rangers for attaching animal location devices and cameras, capturing animals for treatment of sicknesses and injuries, and retrieving the carcasses of dead animals. For decades, cougars have been living as wild animals in the Santa Barbara-Topa Topa Mountains, Santa Susana Mountains, Santa Monica Mountains, and Simi Hills. In the Simi Hills, Santa Susana and Santa Monica Mountains, Rangers with the United States National Park Service have used electronic devices to locate lions, their territories and their dens. Data indicates mountain lions hunt, den, and breed throughout the Santa Susana Mountains from East Canyon to the Ventura County border. Also, in the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy areas and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area.
- b. Black Bears: Observed multiple times as single adults and as parents with cubs in open spaces and parklands of the Santa Susana Mountains. Specifically in Ed Davis Park in Towsley Canyon, East, Wiley, Rice, and Towsley Canyons; and Knollwood Country Club in Granada Hills, CA

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Comment Letter No. IE16

(several). Also, one located north of Moorpark and Simi Valley in a large mountain park owned and operated by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The bear living in that park perished in a wildfire. The park extends to the crest of the Santa Susana Mountains and is located within 2-3 miles of the Newhall Land and Farm Development Project Plan. Project 00196 (5)). Two dead adult bears have been found on U. S. Hwy 5 beside the Santa Clarita Woodlands Open Spaces.

- c. Badger: A dead badger was found on Highway 118 in Chatsworth, CA during 1985. Sheep and cattle ranchers of former times are suspected of killing badgers. During the 1870-1885 period ranchers of farm and ranch animals in Santa Clarita Valley waged war against all meat eaters. Badgers were probably killed. Information regarding badgers in the rougher parts of Santa Susana Mountains is not available.
- d. Long-tailed weasel: Between 1980 and 1993 weasels were common near the entrance to O'Melveny City Park and in the northwestern end of adjacent Bee Canyon Park. Weasels were personally noted in weedy grasslands having some water, artificial savanna type park and open coastal-sage scrub on gently sloping hillsides. The animals had and used burrows. They finally disappeared from view for unknown reasons. Possibly rabies or dogs. The weasels were tolerant of people in parks. A few have been observed in wilderness savanna locations in the distant locations of Santa Susanna Mountains.
- e. Black- tailed Jackrabbit: The author has never observed or been informed about the presence of jackrabbits occurring in the Santa Susana Mountains east of Mentryville. According to the maintenance man of Mentryville, Audubon Cottontails are common in his park but jackrabbits are very scarce. Total absence of jackrabbits is also true in O'Melveny Park, Ed Davis Park, and other open spaces in Towsley, East, and other adjacent canyons.

Two jackrabbits were observed several years ago on the grounds of the Newhall Land and Farm Development Project. They were encountered approximately on the higher inland border of the riparian zone of the Santa Clara River. They were easily frightened away by the author.

Jackrabbits were common in Sagebrush Coastal sage scrub community north of the 118 Hwy and north and a bit east of the Ronald Reagan Library. The sagebrush present is Artemisia californica. Other local jackrabbit country during the 1940-1955 period of time was the east side of Pacoima Canyon in dry creek and wash, San Fernando, CA. Friends and I hunted in the location. Our old hunting ground has been developed into a part of suburbia – more houses.

Jackrabbits are presently rare in all the open spaces of coastal greater Los Angeles. In fact, practically extinct in that region. As a student at UCLA, I saw some of the last ones wild on the golf course of the Beverly Hills Country Club. I flew a Red-tailed hawk after them. A late local spot for a few local jackrabbits used to be the underdeveloped acres and sides of Hwy 126 between Filmore and Santa Paula. So I was told by Richard Greene of Santa Clarita, 1-661-400-1222.

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Comment Letter No. IE16

FISH ISSUES

A naturally developing, functioning and undamaged Santa Clara River and wash adjacent to the location of the Newhall Ranch Development Project, Mission Village, Landmark Village and other equivalent Newhall Villages is indicative of planning and a project which attempt to create a suburban city or a large town on land beside the only natural, functioning, and undamaged river and large wash remaining in the greater Los Angeles region is faulty at best and practically criminal at worst.

A successful project and its aftermath would soon eliminate surviving local populations of Southern Steelhead Rainbow trout and many other native species of wildlife. Considering global climate change and warming, perhaps eliminate the few fish of this type remaining in southern California.

Urban water and pollution tend to flow downhill into rivers and oceans. The villages and most developments of the Project would most likely damage the Santa Clara river and its adjacent wash. Damages and unwanted alterations are anticipated at bridges and other river crossings, locations between them, and parts of the Santa Clara River and its wash located upstream and downstream from the proposed villages of the full Project once is concluded 00-196 (57).

Between 1947-1957, the author observed a few large trout in lower Sespe Creek near Filmore, CA.

During the spring season of 1973 several school teachers and myself hiked down Sespe Creek from the campground and hot spring location beside upper Sespe Creek. We hiked downstream to a very large deep pond located in the middle of Sespe Gorge. The heads of (12-15) butchered trout had been scattered about by fishermen. Steelhead, presumably.

Perhaps Steelhead or at least Rainbow trout continue to migrate up Sespe Creek during the wet rain season. If so, fish of this species also may be migrating up the main course of the Santa Clara River to the location of the proposed Newhall Ranch Project and beyond to the entrance of Piru Creek and still further to the gorge of the Santa Clara River also named Soledad Canyon Gorge. It's located on the north side of the San Gabriel Mountains.

At a location on the Santa Clara River chosen by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, trout migrating north could be trapped in the river, selected or treated for sickness, then transported by truck to creeks deemed suitable for sustaining healthy, breeding trout. Good conditions include clean water without pollution, water is sufficient quantity, sufficiently cool water, large and deep pools, ledges furnishing shelter, relatively deep spots in creeks, and in occasional places having permanent water.

Suitable locations for trapping steelheads may be in the vicinity of Piru and the vicinity of Castaic Junction.

Suggested by the author is a list of creeks connected to the Santa Clara River which are thought to have contained trout before the Europeans conquests of America and the usages and development of the land.

1. Santa Clarita River upriver to the lower, southern parts of Acton. Potentially functional to the ocean.

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Comment Letter No. IE16

2. A tributary leading from the Santa Clara River to mid elevations on Mt. Gleason's western slope.
3. Placerita Canyon Creek is isolated by a freeway and engineered wash.
4. Towsley and Rice Canyon Creeks are isolated by development in the Santa Clarita Valley.
5. Bouquet Canyon Creek, flowing from Bouquet Reservoir down to Mint Canyon into the Santa Clara River.
6. San Francisquito Canyon Creek: enters the Santa Clara Creek near Castaic Junction flows north through a development and it may continue to harbor red-legged frogs.
7. Upper Piru Creek flows into Pyramid Reservoir from the northwest, draining the north facing slopes of the Topa Topa Mountains and other mountains located further to the west.
8. Trout in Piru Creek are stopped by Pyramid Dam from flowing down from and into Piru Creek located at Frenchman Flat.
9. Piru Creek flows downward through the Piru Gorge into Piru Lake, and visa-versa.
10. Trout swim from the Santa Clara River into Piru Creek and into Piru Lake.
11. Fish Creek, an undependable tributary of Cienaga Creek which flows into the Castaic Reservoir.
12. Gavin Canyon, the route of U. S. Hwy. 5 extends from the head of Newhall Pass down to the low ends of East, Rice, and Towsley Canyons before flowing north to flow into the Santa Clara River. Before being engineered out of existence, Gavin Canyon Creek gathered much water during wet years and seasons and carried it down to the Santa Clara River.

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Comment Letter No. IE16

SUGGESTED BROAD COMMENTS & ISSUES

1. Large River Washes: The wash of the Santa Clara River located between Acton, CA and Oxnard is unique in carrying a natural and practically undammed river which has not had its bottom encased in concrete and has not been captured by a huge dam before reaching the ocean.

All of the benefits of a combined system of river and wash are intact. Cities and towns have been placed sufficiently far from the Santa Clara River to avoid destroying the biological and scenic aspects of the river for the entire width of the wash.

2. The Newhall Ranch Project apparently threatens to destroy all or most of riparian environments existing on land and in wet shallows beside the river bed and channel.
3. Raptorial birds (hawks and owls) nest in the privacy of riparian woodlands. Such species include the Cooper, Red shoulder, Red-tail, and Sparrow hawks. Owl species nesting in riverside woodlands include Horned, Barn, and Long-eared owls.

Fly-catchers, warblers, vireos, bluebirds, woodpeckers, and other species are also prone to feed, live, and reproduce in such woodlands.

4. The Newhall Ranch Project planned to be composed of 21,000 units (homes, retail businesses, and other businesses) slated to form huge, long and wide man-made environments devoid of wildlife because of shortages of native plant and animal food, and natural habitats; presence of house cats, autos, traffic, congestion; and a large population of people, urban, and suburban features.

5. The gap in the natural environment caused by development can be accentuated by high levels of suburban noise, and extremely high levels of artificial light.

6. Open spaces rarely have equal environmental value: Four important values are clean water, riparian zone, significant ecological areas, wildlife corridors. The Newhall Ranch Project has all four: plus adequate rainfall and valuable soil.

As a result, gently sloping soils bordering the Santa Clara River from the City of Santa Clarita to Oxnard and Ventura have prospered from agriculture for many decades. Once created, a planned Newhall Ranch development will seriously diminish yields from agriculture.

7. A single large new development such as the Newhall Ranch Project on a side of a river usually leads to the construction of other new cities or towns spreading in all directions from the first development. Open spaces and agriculture will lose size in acreage importance and value.

8. If the Newhall Ranch AEA Project area is situated in the local County of Los Angeles Significant Ecological Area (SEA), the project should be discontinued. The SEA should continue to be in place on the identical parcel of land it occupied before the planning phase of the Newhall Ranch Project and the AEA. SEAs should remain pristine and environmentally natural. They do special kinds of environmental work.

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Comment Letter No. IE16

- 9. No buildings should be erected on the Newhall Ranch Project described in the area of its AEA until the project has acquired all government permits necessary for development. 19

- 10. If the Newhall Ranch Project plans are approved by government before development, the owners of the development should agree to incorporate the new devices of science and technology into the buildings and businesses of the Newhall Ranch Project development. The new suburbia should not be permitted to allow old, decadent and unprofitable buildings of the development detract from town appearances and profit making by its residents and owners. 20

- 11. Problems possibly stemming from problems including rising levels of CO₂, CO, NO₂ gas, SO₄ gases, hydrocarbon gases, ozone and particulates in the air have not been adequately considered for the Newhall Project AEA. 21

- 12. Other land use methods have probably not received adequate study: changes in zoning, fuel cell energy firms, solar cell energy firms, wind based energy firms, home gardens on land located beside homes, outdoor lights not permitted to be switched on during nighttime hours, etc. 22

Comment Letter No. IE16

Background Qualifications

Don Patrick Mullally graduated from the Hollywood High School and University of California in Los Angeles. At UCLA he majored in Vertebrate Zoology and Ecology. By 1952 he had published ten papers concerning Amphibians, lizards, and one on a species of ground squirrel.

After two years in the Army, his first professional job was being Curator of the San Mateo Museum. His second job was Science teacher, high school level, for twenty years. Concurrently he was California State Park Seasonal Naturalist for eight summers in Northern California; five different state parks.

Next employment was with the City Park Department of Los Angeles. While employed by the department, 1980-1992, he became the site manager of O'Melveny City Park.

Before and after retiring, Mullally engaged in volunteer preservation of nature, conservation, and creating wilderness parks. He became the father of the Santa Clarita Woodlands Preserve, 8,400 acres in size, located in the Santa Susana Mountains on the south side of Santa Clarita; formed between 1988-2000. During the 1990s Mullally was also instrumental in causing the creation of 800 acres of public recreation land and nature preserve on Green Creek in the subalpine zone of the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains. The location is east of Yosemite National Park and west of Bridgeport, CA. The California Dept. of Fish and Game acquired the land from a rancher about to sell-out to a developer.

The author has spent less time on all his other environmental interests and projects than he has working against ongoing attempts to ruin Open Space and create a large town between Gorman plus US Hwy 5 and Neenach plus Hwy 138. Caught between these locations is Quail Lake and Mother Nature giving us some of her best.

The Tejon Ranch Corporation and professional business associates have for many years attempted to gain government permits necessary for developing the land. The projects name is Centennial.

My goal has been to preserve the plants, animals, scenic qualities, habitats, and aspects of terrain and geology from destruction by land development.

The Centennial Project encompasses land around the towns of Gorman, Neenach, Quail Lake, and Hwy 138. U. S. Hwy 5 is apparently the western boundary of the project.

Present on the land of the Centennial Project during spring months are magnificent fields of wild flowers; particularly on the south facing slopes of hills such as those north of Gorman Post Road.

Also present are several species of large oaks, scattered Joshua trees, California junipers, stands of rare native bunchgrasses. Dr. Todd Keeler Wolfe and I examined some of the stands before sheep were allowed to feed on and damage the stands.

The very evident San Andreas Fault is located on the south side of the Gorman Post Road. Many large sag ponds occur on the fault. Ducks and other water birds inhabit and depend upon these

23

Comment Letter No. IE16

ponds. During summers, many white egrets feed on insects in the grassy fields around sag ponds.

From March through May motorists traveling north on U S Hwy 5 stop on the side of the road near Gorman to appreciate and photograph the wild flower-covered mountain sides north of Gorman and Gorman Post Road. However, most motorists take an off-ramp into Gorman, park on the Post Road, and take pictures or hike up the flowery canyons.

The good news is after many years of trying to obtain the permits necessary to develop the Centennial Project, efforts have failed. This spring will be a beautiful one.

Government decision makers of land-use of open spaces are accustomed to seeking information concerning citizens who provide issues or opinions to their offices: the goal being to identify individuals well educated and experienced in subjects relevant to uses of land involving development in the near future.

Therefore, information possibly useful personal background information has been submitted to departments and agencies concerned with EIRs, plans for developments, decision making, fact finding, etc.

23

Comment Letter No. IE17

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: John Paladin <paladinesq@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 3:48 PM
To: specialprojects@planning.lacounty.gov; Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: Mission Village and Landmark projects; Newhall Ranch development.

February 13, 2017

Los Angeles County
 Department Of Regional Planning
 320 West Temple St., Room 1348
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

specialprojects@planning.lacounty.gov,
newhallranch@wildlife.ca.gov,

Re: Mission Village and Landmark projects;
 Newhall Ranch development; Project no. 00-196-(5);
 Environmental assessment no. 00-196-29442;
 Project no. 04-181-(5);
 Environmental assessment no. 04-181-29455

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am opposed to the Newhall Ranch phases 2 and 3 in their current size. The Santa Clara River is one of the last free-flowing rivers in Southern California. It should be preserved and not altered. It should not be filled in or paved in any way. The river is a scenic area which should not be damaged.

Endangered species should receive better protections for their environment.

There should be at least a 250 yard undeveloped buffer zone on the sides of the river and around endangered plants which cannot be developed. No runoff should be allowed to enter the river.

It is improper to build homes over an oil field (Mission Village) because of health risks and environmental risks in that area.

The traffic analysis is not adequate because it is outdated and it does not account for current or future traffic levels.

There is a limit to the proper amount of density in a particular area. There has already been extensive development in the Santa Clarita Valley. The current proposal creates excessive development and excessive traffic in an area which should be left as agricultural land, parks and open space.

It is not OK to keep building as much density as possible in every open area. The free-flowing river and the open space should be preserved with a minimum of development.

The claim of "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions is not believable from a large development in an open area which is experiencing global warming.

The river area in its natural state is an important asset which should be preserved as much as possible in its natural state.

Sincerely,

Comment Letter No. IE17

John Paladin, Esq.
Attorney And Counselor At Law
Real Estate Broker, Mortgage Broker
Post Office Box 801777
Valencia, California 91380-1777

Phone: 661 255 5000
E mail: PaladinEsq@AOL.com
AttorneyPaladin.com

Comment Letter No. IE18**Courtney, Betty@Wildlife**

From: Marilyn <mmpoaks@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 4:07 PM
To: specialprojects@planning.lacounty.gov; Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: Opposition to Newhall Ranch development.

Marilyn Paladin
 18645 Hatteras Street, Unit 233
 Tarzana, California 91356-1872

(818) 578-5609

February 13, 2017

Los Angeles County
 Department Of Regional Planning
 320 West Temple St., Room 1348
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

specialprojects@planning.lacounty.gov,
newhallranch@wildlife.ca.gov,

Re: Mission Village and Landmark projects;
 Newhall Ranch development; Project no. 00-196-(5);
 Environmental assessment no. 00-196-29442;
 Project no. 04-181-(5);
 Environmental assessment no. 04-181-29455

Ladies and Gentlemen:

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Endangered species should receive better protections for their environment.

There should be at least a 250 yard undeveloped buffer zone on the sides of the river and around endangered plants which cannot be developed. No runoff should be allowed to enter the river.

It is improper to build homes over an oil field (Mission Village) because of health risks and environmental risks in

that area.

The traffic analysis is not adequate because it is outdated and it does not account for current or future traffic

levels.

There is a limit to the proper amount of density in a particular area. There has already been extensive development in the Santa Clarita Valley. The current proposal creates excessive development and excessive traffic in an area which should be left as agricultural land, parks and open space.

It is not OK to keep building as much density as possible in every open area. The free-flowing river and the open space should be preserved with a minimum of development.

Comment Letter No. IE18

The claim of "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions is not believable from a large development in an open area which is experiencing global warming.

10

The river area in its natural state is an important asset which should be preserved as much as possible in its natural state.

11

Sincerely,

Marilyn Paladin

Comment Letter No. IE19

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Suzie Rizzo <baroness1@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 11:22 AM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: State Permit Newhall Ranch Project

Dear California Fish & Wildlife Department:

The following points must be considered concerning the Newhall Ranch Project. The project violates protections that are established to enhance all our lives and to protect species that are threatened.

- Traffic congestion in the Santa Clarita area is already over the top and will only get worse if Landmark Village and Mission Village are built as planned. It is necessary to consider these two factors together and absolutely ensure no net increase in GHG for these projects.
- The severe water cutbacks required in the SCV in the last six years are new information showing that we cannot accommodate this massive project with our current water resources. That water table dropped 70 feet and several wells went dry.
- There have been a lot of articles about how offsets are often a green washing scam. What guarantee do we have that the offsets being purchased as GHG mitigation will result in measurable, provable, reductions in GHG emissions beyond what would have otherwise occurred?
- Mitigation for GHG that is proposed to be bought as pollution credits in other countries is unenforceable and unverifiable. AND it will not help our local air pollution problems.
- No mention or itemization of the external creators of GHG for this project, like methane from waste disposal, energy production for water delivery and desalination of waste water, off site energy production for infrastructure, auto and truck deliveries and other uses is not in the Environmental document because those chapters are excluded from the document. These issues must be discussed in order for the document to be valid.
- Our Valley is already out of federal compliance for dust pollution (PM10 and PM mil) that causes asthma and permanent lung damage and affects our children's health. Filling the flood plain with 200 million cubic yards of dirt will substantially add to this pollution.
- To protect the river water quality and the endangered fish, the project should be moved away from the Santa Clara River. Filling the floodplain with 200 million cubic yards of dirt hurts water replenishment and will massively add to dust pollution in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Your consideration of these factors will lead you to the correct decision. The Newhall Ranch Project must not be approved.

Thank you.

Susann Rizzo
 25366 Avenida Ronada
 Valencia, CA 91355
 805-490-1057

Comment Letter No. IE20

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: David Rodgers <wildcanyons@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 10:57 PM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: Newhall Ranch Project Environmental Impact Statement

Gentlepersons,

I disagree that the impact statement adequately addresses GHG emissions. There is no guarantee any significant portion of the homeowners will install rooftop solar or drive electric cars. Further, the massive traffic jams on both I-5 and I-14 which will be caused by the greatly-increased numbers of commuters on I-5 will result in substantial GHG emissions by all commuters passing through Santa Clarita. Further, the increase in auto emissions will substantially degrade the air quality in the Santa Clarita Valley, resulting in increased health problems for Santa Clarita residents.

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Sincerely,

David Rodgers
15636 Burt Ct.
Santa Clarita, CA 91387
wildcanyons@sbcglobal.net

Comment Letter No. IE21

Denice Schelling
28219 Stanley Ct.
Canyon Country, CA 91351

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

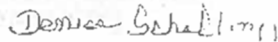
Attn: Betty Courtney

Dear Ms. Courtney:

My comments are regarding the unarmored threespine stickleback fish. If 5 Point LLC's latest draft AEA proposed modified design and construction methods for bridges and bank stabilization truly would prevent extinction due to the project, I'd feel more comfortable. It's the bank stabilization that worries me. Fish rely on a large number of criteria for their survival, including run-off of minerals, natural debris and nutrients from unstabilized banks. Are you taking in to consideration these factors and more? All I can ask, if this project is allowed to proceed as proposed, is that you monitor the construction like a hawk. I have seen first hand in the Canyon Country region the disregard for promises, rules of construction, etc. on un-monitored building sites.

What I would propose is moving the project back away from the banks of the Santa Clara River an additional distance to add a little more buffer. I've seen bank stabilization in Canyon Country destroy too much of the habitat.

Sincerely,



Denice Schelling

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Comment Letter No. IE22

Wildlife Newhall Ranch

From: Heather Shields <Heather.Shields@patagonia.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:55 AM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: Newhall Ranch and Landmark Village

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read public comments regarding the two proposed towns along the Santa Clara River. I have several concerns with the two projects proposed.

- 1. In the Landmark Village EIR, it states that "given the presence of a culvert underneath SR-126..., wildlife could cross under SR-126 and continue to move north through Chiquito Canyon."
2. In the "Significant Unavoidable Impacts" section of Landmark's EIR, it states that even with mitigation efforts, "the proposed project's contribution to cumulative impacts to coastal scrub would remain significant."
3. Several places the EIR states that an Integrated Pest Management Plan will address the use of pesticides and prohibit the use of anticoagulant rodenticides.
4. The IPM will only dictate how rodenticides will be used during construction. With the thousands of residential and commercial units being built near the river, there is no stopping these new residents and retail units from using anticoagulant rodenticides and any kind of rodenticide.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our concerns. I hope that you will take steps to ensure that our wildlife is protected to the furthest extent.

Thank you,
Heather Shields

Heather Shields
Testing and Standards Engineer, Technical Knits
Patagonia, Inc.
259 W. Santa Clara St., Ventura, CA 93001 USA
Phone: (805) 667-4867

Please consider the Environment before printing this email.



Comment Letter No. 1E22

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Comment Letter No. IE23

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Wildlife Ask R5
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 10:15 AM
To: Courtney, Betty@Wildlife
Subject: FW: Newhall Ranch Project

Hi Betty,

This came in askr5 as well.
Thank you,
Sue

Susan Howell

Office Technician
3883 Ruffin Rd
San Diego, CA 92123
858-467-4201
Every Californian should conserve water. Find out how at:



SaveOurWater.com · Drought.CA.gov

From: Jeff Skolnik [mailto:jskolnik@newgenlife.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 10:13 AM
To: Wildlife Ask R5
Subject: Newhall Ranch Project

I'm writing to urge you to reject Newhall Ranch's latest proposal; the Mission and Landmark "villages" are an ill-conceived new city cloaked in feel-good promises of "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions. In reality, many of the emissions reductions won't occur on site, or even in California, but instead, would come from carbon marketers selling offsets of an unknown quantity. The environmental impact reports contain no clear standards to ensure that offsets represent real, enforceable, verifiable reductions that wouldn't have occurred anyway.

What's more, although Newhall is now promising "no water contact" bridge construction to protect the highly imperiled stickleback fish, there are no safeguards in place to ensure this federally protected species won't be harmed through the life of the project.

That's why I urge the county to reject these projects and not certify the current environmental impact reports, which focus solely on greenhouse gasses and stickleback. The Mission and Landmark projects remain a disaster for the Santa Clara River and valley. And at a minimum, the county must embark on a full environmental review that reflects current standards for smart growth instead of trying to implement an outdated, 14-year-old "Newhall Specific Plan" through piecemeal environmental review.

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Sincerely,

Comment Letter No. IE23

Jeffrey Skolnik

25731 Hammet Circle

Stevenson Ranch, Ca 91381



Jeff Skolnik | Marketing Manager

New Generation Insurance Marketing, Inc. | 28073 Smyth Drive, Valencia, CA 91355.

Main: (818) 920-1777 ext 1219 | Direct: (661) 705-1519 | Fax: (866) 890-8039

[CLICK HERE TO SEND ME A SECURE FILE](#)

[EMAIL](#) [WEBSITE](#) [BROCHURE](#) [MAP](#) [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

DO NOT LET YOUR CLIENT LAPSE ANY EXISTING COVERAGE EVER. NOT UNTIL ALL OF THE DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET. Please make sure that your business case is in compliance with IRC Section 101(j). Contact your New Generation Marketing Manager for details and the proper forms.

This message may contain confidential and/or privileged information. We ask that all information in this electronic transmission be held in the strictest of confidence, and that it not be communicated to any third parties without expressed permission. If you have received this transmission in error, please delete it.

Comment Letter No. IE24

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: JDRS1606 <jdrs1606@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 7:10 PM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Cc: lynnepl1@juno.com
Subject: Mission Village and Landmark Projects -- State permit

This letter is in opposition of the Mission Village and Landmark Projects.

Houses should not be built over a closed oil field (Mission Village). There is too great a chance that airborne VOCs will leak up into the homes.

1

The exclusion of a traffic chapter make the supplemental document inadequate because traffic has greatly increased since the 2007 review was released and new projects have been approved. A chapter updating the traffic analysis should be added.

2

Controlling greenhouse gases and traffic congestion are intimately related. Traffic congestion in the Santa Clarita area is already over the top and will only get worse if Landmark Village and Mission Village are built as planned. It is necessary to consider these two factors together and absolutely ensure no net increase in GHG for these projects.

3

The project is still too big and impactful to the Valley and flies in the face of 21st century smart planning –it needs to be significantly scaled back and away from the Santa Clara River

4

There is no analysis of the methane that will be generated from trash created by this massive project, what about emissions from trash truck – the GHG analysis is not sufficient

5

- The severe water cutbacks required in the SCV in the last six years are new information showing that we cannot accommodate this massive project with our current water resources. That water table dropped 70 feet and several wells went dry.

6

- Mitigation for GHG that is proposed to be bought as pollution credits in other countries is unenforceable and unverifiable. AND it will not help our local air pollution problems.

7

- Our Valley is already out of federal compliance for dust pollution (PM10 and PM mil) that causes asthma and permanent lung damage and affects our children’s health. Filling the flood plain with 200 million cubic yards of dirt will substantially add to this pollution.

8

- To protect the river water quality and the endangered fish, the project should be moved away from the Santa Clara River. Filling the floodplain with 200 million cubic yards of dirt hurts water replenishment and will massively add to dust pollution in the Santa Clarita Valley.

9

10

- There should be a .25 mile buffer around the spine flower preserves to protect this endangered flower. The proposed endowment is not sufficient to provide protection. We see what has happened in the Valley Oaks Savannah (SEA 64 – no trails as promised, inadequate management to preserve the oaks, and oaks are dying)

11

Comment Letter No. IE24

I live in Santa Clarita and these projects are not good for the environment.
Thank you for taking my comment.

Joyce Stein
Santa Clarita, CA
ids1606@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPhone 7

12

Comment Letter No. IE25

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Wildlife Ask R5
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:36 AM
To: Courtney, Betty@Wildlife
Subject: FW: Reject the NEWHALL RANCH DAEA

Good Morning Betty,

This email came in askr5. Thought you would be interested.
Thank you,
Sue

Susan Howell
Office Technician
3883 Ruffin Rd
San Diego, CA 92123
858-467-4201

Every Californian should conserve water. Find out how at:

SaveOurWater.com · Drought.CA.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Trautman [mailto:d.trautman@me.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 7:18 PM
To: Wildlife Ask R5
Subject: Reject the NEWHALL RANCH DAEA

(Letter also sent to Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning)

I'm writing to urge you to reject Newhall Ranch's latest proposal; the Mission and Landmark "villages" are an ill-conceived new city cloaked in feel-good promises of "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions. In reality many of the emissions reductions won't occur on site, or even in California, but instead would come from carbon marketers selling offsets of unknown quantity. The environmental impact reports contain no clear standards to ensure that offsets represent real, enforceable, verifiable reductions that wouldn't have occurred anyway.

What's more, although Newhall is now promising "no water contact" bridge construction to protect the highly imperiled stickleback fish, there are no safeguards in place to ensure this federally protected species won't be harmed through the life of the project.

That's why I urge the county to reject these projects and not certify the current environmental impact reports, which focus solely on greenhouse gases and stickleback. The Mission and Landmark projects remain a disaster for the Santa Clara River and valley. And at a minimum the county must embark on a full environmental review that reflects current standards for smart growth instead of

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Comment Letter No. IE25

trying to implement an outdated, 14-year-old "Newhall Specific Plan" through piecemeal environmental review.

8

Sincerely,

Diane Trautman
27665 Myrin Ct
Santa Clarita CA 91350

Comment Letter No. IE26

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Wildlife Ask R5
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 8:17 AM
To: Courtney, Betty@Wildlife
Subject: FW: Newhall projects

Good Morning Betty,

This came in askr5. Hope you had a nice Valentine's Day!
Sue

From: Roselva Ungar [mailto:roselvaungar@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:55 PM
To: Wildlife Ask R5
Subject: Newhall projects

I'm writing to urge you to reject Newhall Ranch's latest proposal; the Mission and Landmark "villages" are an ill-conceived new city cloaked in feel-good promises of "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions. In reality many of the emissions reductions won't occur on site, or even in California, but instead would come from carbon marketers selling offsets of unknown quantity. The environmental impact reports contain no clear standards to ensure that offsets represent real, enforceable, verifiable reductions that wouldn't have occurred anyway.

What's more, although Newhall is now promising "no water contact" bridge construction to protect the highly imperiled stickleback fish, there are no safeguards in place to ensure this federally protected species won't be harmed through the life of the project.

That's why I urge the county to reject these projects and not certify the current environmental impact reports, which focus solely on greenhouse gases and stickleback. The Mission and Landmark projects remain a disaster for the Santa Clara River and valley. And at a minimum the county must embark on a full environmental review that reflects current standards for smart growth instead of trying to implement an outdated, 14-year-old "Newhall Specific Plan" through piecemeal environmental review.

Sincerely,

Roselva Ungar 20349 Jay Carroll Dr. Santa Clarita, CA 91350

“

Comment Letter No. IE27

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Barbara Wampole <barbara@wampole.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 5:18 PM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Cc: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: Mission Village and Landmark Village / Newhall Ranch projects

Importance: High

Dear CA Department of Fish and Wildlife,

RE: the Newhall Ranch projects' tracts; Mission Village and Landmark Village;

These are the comments I submitted at the hearing in the Santa Clarita Valley plus a few additional comments;

Good evening

My name is Barbara Wampole and I'm speaking in opposition to the two agenda items #2 & #3.

Thank you for coming to the SCV tonight.

I'm a 45 yr resident of the SCV , a founding member and vice chair of Friends of the Santa Clara River (FSCR), and a local business woman.

On behalf of the FSCR and my local community, we continue to strenuously remind you of the importance - *for our very being, our survival and nothing less* - of wetlands, riparian habitat, water quality and the endangered and threatened species that depend on those resources.

We've known about Climate Change since our founding in 1993 and before. Where was Five Points Corp (Newhall Land and Farming) then?

This project should be moved away from the Santa Clara River, out of its floodplain and should not be filling the floodplain to redefine it according to the US Army Corps.

Filling the floodplain with 20 million cubic yards of dirt has enormous implications. It harms water replenishment and adds massively to air pollution. It's enough soil to fill 6 Great Pyramids. And that's just the fill in the Santa Clara River's floodplain and its tributaries.

The grading plan for the entire project would require 200 cubic yards of soil to be removed from one place and deposited elsewhere. Let's see, that's 60 Great Pyramids!

That doesn't begin to illustrate the dramatic change in the land and the impacts that would occur. But that does indicate the harm to the endangered fish in the area that is at issue here tonight .

I've never felt better about the young people of this country and the world, who are taking Climate Change and environmental protection very seriously. Avoidance of impacts is critical. And promises that aren't kept wouldn't be an issue in that situation.

Comment Letter No. IE27

This project proposes "offsets" for their climate change impacts.
"Offsets" are not viable as mitigation for the impacts of their projects.
"Offsets" haven't worked in Europe. Cheating on "offsets" makes them unreliable in far too many ways.
And it's astounding that without thorough understanding, people simply believe the "NetZero" branding this project is applying to themselves.

9

This project needs to stay out of the wetlands and the floodplains of the river and it's tributaries.

10

A true American Dream protects these precious resources for us and future generations.

11

By the way, Newhall Land and Farming may have been local, with our community's interests in mind. Five Points is not Newhall Land and Farming.
And we in Val Verde know what those promises were worth and didn't deliver.
Valencia's tributaries are in concrete channels.

12

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(my two minutes were up or I would have said "Thank you").

14

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/8/25/european-climate-credits-fail.html>

A United Nations-backed carbon-trading scheme in Europe, originally meant to combat global warming, has instead resulted in the release of more than half a billion additional tons of greenhouse gases, according to a new report (link below). <https://www.sei-international.org/mediamanager/documents/Publications/Climate/SEI-WP-2015-07-JI-lessons-for-carbon-mechs.pdf>

15

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union_Emission_Trading_Scheme

Carney, Sean (28 January 2011). "EU Carbon Market Suffers Further Setback". The Wall Street Journal.

According to UBS Investment Research, the EU ETS cost \$287 billion through to 2011 and had an "almost zero impact" on the volume of overall emissions in the European Union and the money could have resulted in more than a 40% reduction in emissions if it had been used in a targeted way, e.g., to upgrade power plants.[74]

16

<http://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/7194/20150826/carbon-trading-fails-to-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions.htm>

Barbara Wampole
28006 San Martinez Grande Road
Castaic, CA 91384-2306
661-257-3036 home

barbara@wampole.com
<http://www.imageg.com>
<http://FSCR.org>
<http://www.wampole.com>

When you drink the water, remember the spring / Chinese Proverb

Please call my home phone number and leave a message if you need my immediate attention - I do not check

email routinely. . . beware time sinks
Thank you

Comment Letter No. IE27

Comment Letter No. IE28

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Barbara Wampole <barbara@wampole.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 12:43 PM
Cc: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: Mission Village and Landmark Village / Newhall Ranch projects / COMMENTS IN LIGHT OF OROVILLE DAM EMERGENCY SPILLWAY FAILURE
Importance: High

Dear CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE ,

In addition to the comments I submitted yesterday (included below also) on the Newhall Ranch projects Landmark and Mission Villages I am submitting these concerns not included in my previous comments;

1

It has been a concern since the earliest review of this project that the Newhall Ranch project has proposed building housing tracts in the floodplain and floodway of the Santa Clara River which is immediately adjacent to the confluence of Castaic Creek, and directly downstream of the Castaic Dam. I will repeat here the concerns expressed over the twenty years that this project has been proposed and been opposed as proposed.

2

In light of the emergency evacuations implemented in the past 24 hours of communities downstream of the Oroville Dam,

3

I urge the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to take it as a personal and professional issue to reconsider allowing the building of a community, including an elementary school, directly downstream of Castaic Dam, when it is neither a financial nor a housing necessity to build in this floodplain nor this floodway!!!

4

We do not need to build in floodplains.

As can be seen by yesterday's emergency, it isn't simply seismic dangers, nor engineering failure to detect geologic problems (in the case that led to the failure of the nearby Saint Francis Dam disaster in 1928) that accompany dams, but even a weather season of heavy rain, now threatens the safety of communities when built in floodplains.

5

We are facing dramatic changes in weather patterns with Climate Change.

Regardless of whether the spillways and actual dams in these two situations are identical, there is no doubt, with climate change, that the Castaic Dam is vulnerable to similar problems of unexpected high volumes of water and the safety of communities built downstream.

6

As can be seen from the news report links included here, Northern California communities under evacuation were trapped on the roads due to the high volume of traffic in this evacuation. If this dam/spillway had failed, people could have been caught in the ensuing floodwaters.

http://sfist.com/2017/02/12/compromised_oro_ dam_ auxiliary.php

http://ktla.com/2017/02/13/pure-chaos-188000-residents-forced-

to-evacuate-amid-oro-ville-dam-emergency/

http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-live-updates-oro-ville-dam-20170212-htmstory.html

7

The emergency evacuation area in Butte County included areas from Oroville Dam to Yuba City 38 miles downstream!!!

Comment Letter No. IE28

Landmark Village elementary school site and nearby proposed Homestead Village are only 7 to 9 miles downstream of the Castaic Dam.

Again, I urge the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to clearly analyze the risk to downstream communities in the event of similar, formerly unprecedented, hazard that these high storm events now pose to the safety of what is proposed to be built in the floodplain of the Santa Clara River.

Allowing the intact integrity of the natural communities that have for millennia evolved in this habitat and the intact integrity of the meander of the river in its floodplain and in this region are the best assurance against risks to life and property that these projects create.

And I urge you to move all Newhall Ranch projects out of the floodplain and floodway of the Santa Clara River.

I believe it is your personal and professional duty to consider this as a real danger to life and property as it has been to the health of our natural communities and river.

Thank you
Barbara Wampole.

<http://www.buttecounty.net/>

Oroville Evacuation Information

Public Information Line

Immediate Evacuation Order for the Following Areas: Oroville Area: Downtown Oroville and Thermalito, the areas south of Lincoln Blvd on the west side of Lincoln to Ophir Road.

All low lying areas around the Feather River, which includes Gridley, Biggs, Yuba City, Loma Rica, and anywhere south of Butte County along the River. We will provide more specific information later.)

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Comment Letter No. IE28



Live updates: Mass evacuation below Oroville Dam as officials frantically try to make repairs before new storms
Feb. 13, 2017, 11:05 a.m.

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Gov. Jerry Brown issued an emergency order aimed at bolstering the state's response to the crisis. A list of evacuation centers can be found [here](#).

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Comment Letter No. IE28

Feb. 13, 2017, 11:02 a.m.
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Dear LA County Planning Department,

RE: the Newhall Ranch projects' tracts; Mission Village and Landmark Village;

These are the comments I submitted at the hearing in the Santa Clarita Valley plus a few additional comments;

Good evening
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On behalf of the FSCR and my local community, we continue to strenuously remind you of the importance - *for our very being, our survival and nothing less* - of wetlands, riparian habitat, water quality and the endangered and threatened species that depend on those resources.

Comment Letter No. IE28

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Filling the floodplain with 20 million cubic yards of dirt has enormous implications. It harms water replenishment and adds massively to air pollution. It's enough soil to fill 6 Great Pyramids. And that's just the fill in the Santa Clara River's floodplain and its tributaries.

The grading plan for the entire project would require 200 cubic yards of soil to be removed from one place and deposited elsewhere. Let's see, that's 60 Great Pyramids!

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I've never felt better about the young people of this country and the world, who are taking Climate Change and environmental protection very seriously. Avoidance of impacts is critical. And promises that aren't kept wouldn't be an issue in that situation.

This project proposes "offsets" for their climate change impacts. "Offsets" are not viable as mitigation for the impacts of their projects. "Offsets" haven't worked in Europe. Cheating on "offsets" makes them unreliable in far too many ways. And it's astounding that without thorough understanding, people simply believe the "NetZero" branding this project is applying to themselves.

This project needs to stay out of the wetlands and the floodplains of the river and it's tributaries.

A true American Dream protects these precious resources for us and future generations.

By the way, Newhall Land and Farming may have been local, with our community's interests in mind. Five Points is not Newhall Land and Farming. And we in Val Verde know what those promises were worth and didn't deliver. Valencia's tributaries are in concrete channels.

(my two minutes were up or I would have said "Thank you").

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/8/25/european-climate-credits-fail.html>
A United Nations-backed carbon-trading scheme in Europe, originally meant to combat global warming, has instead resulted in the release of more than half a billion additional tons of greenhouse gases, according to a new report (link below). <https://www.sei-international.org/mediamanager/documents/Publications/Climate/SEI-WP-2015-07-JI-lessons-for-carbon-mechs.pdf>

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Comment Letter No. IE28

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Barbara Wampole
28006 San Martinez Grande Road
Castaic, CA 91384-2306
661-257-3036 home

barbara@wampole.com
<http://www.imageg.com>
<http://FSCR.org>
<http://www.wampole.com>

When you drink the water, remember the spring / Chinese Proverb

Please call my home phone number and leave a message if you need my immediate attention - I do not check email routinely. . . beware time sinks
Thank you

Comment Letter No. IE29

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: Barbara Wampole <barbara@wampole.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 5:18 PM
To: Special Projects
Cc: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: Mission Village and Landmark Village / Newhall Ranch projects

Importance: High

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Comment Letter No. IE29

Wildlife Newhall Ranch**Comment Letter No. IE30**

To: Barbara Wampole <barbara@wampole.com>
From: Monday, February 13, 2017 12:33 PM
Sent: Special Projects
 Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Ce: Mission Village and Landmark Village / Newhall Ranch projects / COMMENTS IN
Subject: LIGHT OF OROVILLE DAM EMERGENCY SPILLWAY FAILURE
Importance: High

Dear Los Angeles County Planning Department,

In addition to the comments I submitted (included below also) yesterday on the Newhall Ranch projects Landmark and Mission Villages I am submitting these concerns not included in my previous comments;

It has been a concern since the earliest review of this project that the Newhall Ranch project has proposed building housing tracts in the floodplain and floodway of the Santa Clara River which is immediately adjacent to the confluence of Castaic Creek, and directly downstream of the Castaic Dam.

I will repeat here the concerns expressed over the twenty years that this project has been proposed and been opposed as proposed.

In light of the emergency evacuations implemented in the past 24 hours of communities downstream of the Oroville Dam,

I urge our Los Angeles County Planning Department to take it as a personal and professional issue to reconsider allowing the building of a community, including an elementary school, directly downstr Castaic Dam, when it is neither a financial nor a housing necessity to build in this floodplain nor this floodway!!!

We do not need to build in floodplains.

As can be seen by yesterday's emergency, it isn't simply seismic dangers, nor engineering failure to detect geologic problems (in the case that led to the failure of the nearby Saint Francis Dam disaster in 1928) that accompany dams, but even a weather season of heavy rain, now threatens the safety of communities when built in floodplains.

We are facing dramatic changes in weather patterns with Climate Change.

Regardless of whether the spillways and actual dams in these two situations are identical, there is no doubt with climate change, that the Castaic Dam is vulnerable to similar problems of unexpected high volumes of water and the safety of communities built downstream.

As can be seen from the news report links included here, Northern California communities under evacuation were trapped on the roads due to the high volume of traffic in this evacuation. If this dam/spillway had failed people could have been caught in the ensuing floodwaters.

http://sfist.com/2017/02/12/compromised_oroville_dam_auxiliary.php

<http://ktla.com/2017/02/13/pure-chaos-188000-residents-forced-to-evacuate-amid-oroville-dam-emergency/>

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-live-updates-oroville-dam-20170212-htmlstory.html>

Comment Letter No. IE30

The emergency evacuation area in Butte County included areas from Oroville Dam to Yuba City 38 miles [↑] downstream!!!
Landmark Village elementary school site and nearby proposed Homestead Village are only 7 to 9 miles downstream of the Castaic Dam.

Again, I urge the Planning Department to clearly analyze the risk to downstream communities in the event of similar, formerly unprecedented, hazard that these high storm events now pose to the safety of what is prop to be built in the floodplain of the Santa Clara River.
And I urge you to move all Newhall Ranch projects out of the floodplain and floodway of the Santa Cl a River.

I believe it is your personal and professional duty to consider this as a real danger to life and property.

Thank you
Barbara Wampole.

<http://www.buttecounty.net/>
Oroville Evacuation Information
Public Information Line
Immediate Evacuation Order for the Following Areas: Oroville Area: Downtown Oroville and Thermalit
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Comment Letter No. IE31

Courtney, Betty@Wildlife

From: lynne winner <lynnewinner@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 12:32 PM
To: Wildlife Newhall Ranch
Subject: Opposing Landmark Project

Because they are paving over the flood area of our last free flowing river.

Because our failing infrastructure already has more traffic than it can handle

Because we live in a desert and our water must be more carefully managed

Because the water they are saying they will use, has been agriculture water that is probably polluted

Because our local landfill is already subjecting residents to noxious fumes and is over capacity'

Because our earth needs a place to breathe

Sincerely
Lynne Winner

31202 Quail Valley Road
Castaic ca 661 257 2090

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