

>>> "Shawn Bayliss" <Shawn.Bayliss@lacity.org> 8/25/2009 4:52 PM >>>Gentlemen,  
Thank you for getting back to me and helping me understand the process. Attached is the  
resolution that was passed by the City of Los Angeles, which states its objection to the current  
project. The Department of Transportation comments should be sent soon, along with  
Planning and Environmental. I appreciate the opportunity to submit our concerns after  
the deadline period.

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Thanks again,

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## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

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WHEREAS, Newhall Ranch Co. has released an EIR/EIS for its Army Corps 404 permit to alter the Santa Clara River and its tributaries for its 21,000 unit project along the Santa Clara River; and

WHEREAS, as proposed, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan is a large-scale residential development, and where as early as 2030, 11,963 acres of land will be completely built out with 21,000 new residential dwellings occupied by at least 70,000 new residents; and

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WHEREAS, this project will affect all communities in the Los Angeles region by increasing traffic, air pollution, air emissions, climate change, and global warming as will altering the Santa Clara River and reducing available water supply for many decades to come; and

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WHEREAS, residents submitted public comments including concerns regarding the negative impacts on the Santa Clara River, bank stabilization, traffic effects on local highways, air emissions from project traffic, water availability, climate change and cumulative development in the Santa Clarita Valley and Los Angeles Region; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is supportive in the State's commitment to the implementation of AB 32 and SB 375 to reduce air polluting emissions and do so within the context of smart growth planning in land use respectively; and

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WHEREAS, in the comments submitted in public scoping meetings, residents voiced concerns regarding the project's alteration of the Santa Clara River, bank stabilization, traffic effects on local highways, and air emissions from project traffic, water availability, climate change and cumulative development in the Santa Clarita Valley; and

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WHEREAS, meaningful studies on how pollution, traffic growth and traffic access south of the Newhall Pass and into the North East San Fernando Valley would impact the City of Los Angeles have yet to be presented to the City Council; and

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2009-2010 Federal legislative program its opposition to any administrative or discretionary action by the Department of Fish & Game or the Army Corps of Engineers that would approve Newhall Ranch Co.'s Army Corps 404 permit to alter the Santa Clara River, or any other permit by a Federal agency that would approve the EIR/EIS development of Newhall Ranch Co.'s proposed 21,000 residential unit development, in as much as this would negatively impact the Los Angeles Region by increasing traffic, air pollution, air emissions, climate change, and global warming as will altering the Santa Clara River and reducing available water supply for many decades to come; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council instruct the Planning Department, the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Affairs Department, the Public Works Department and the City Attorney, to review the environmental reports, and all staff reports on the abovementioned project, and

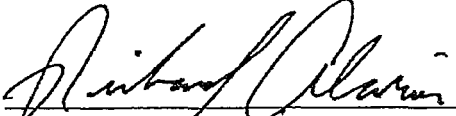
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on the determined negative impacts, write letters on of the City of Los Angeles in opposition to the mentioned project including opposition statements submitted by the City's residents.

FURTHER RESOLVED, I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council determine, as provided in 154954.2(b)(2) of the Government Code, and pursuant to Rule 23 of the Rules of the City Council, there is a need to take immediate action on this matter AND that the need for action came to the attention of the City Council subsequent to the posting of the agenda for today's Council meeting.

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PRESENTED BY:



RICHARD ALARCON  
Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



**022. City of Los Angeles Resolution, dated August 14, 2009**

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**Response 1**

The comment is an introduction to the comments that follow, which are in the form of a resolution by the City of Los Angeles, objecting to the current project. Because the comment does not raise any specific issues regarding the analysis provided by the Draft EIS/EIR, no additional response is provided.

**Response 2**

The comment is a preamble to a resolution. Since the comment does not raise any specific issues regarding the analysis provided by the Draft EIS/EIR, no additional response is provided. However, the comment will be included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed Project.

**Response 3**

The comment is a preamble to a resolution. Since the comment does not raise any specific issues regarding the analysis provided by the Draft EIS/EIR, no additional response is provided. However, the comment will be included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed Project.

**Response 4**

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIS/EIR, **Section 4.8**, Traffic; **Section 4.7**, Air Quality; and **Section 8.0**, Global Climate Change. Please also see revised **Sections 4.7, 4.8, and 8.0** of the Final EIS/EIR. The comment is a preamble to a resolution and does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided. However, the comment will be included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed Project.

**Response 5**

The comment is a preamble to a resolution and raises the same general issues addressed in **Response 4**, above. Since the comment does not raise any specific issues regarding the analysis provided by the Draft EIS/EIR, no additional response is provided. However, the comment will be included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed Project.

**Response 6**

The comment states a commitment by the City of Los Angeles to implementation of AB 32 and SB 375. The implementation of AB 32 and SB 375 received extensive analysis in the Draft EIS/EIR, **Section 8.0**, Global Climate Change. Please also see revised **Section 8.0** of the Final EIS/EIR. The comment is a preamble to a resolution. The Corps and CDFG acknowledge your input and comment. The comment will be included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed Project.

**Response 7**

The comment is a preamble to a resolution. Since the comment does not raise any specific issues regarding the analysis provided by the Draft EIS/EIR, no additional response is provided. However, the comment will be included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed Project.

**Response 8**

The Draft EIS/EIR includes meaningful analysis of the impacts of the proposed Project relative to traffic and air quality in the area south of the Newhall Pass and into the North East San Fernando Valley and concludes that no significant air quality or traffic impacts would occur south of the Santa Clarita Valley area. The Draft EIS/EIR traffic impacts analysis study area included all areas in which the proposed Project and alternatives potentially could result in significant impacts. Additionally, at the request of the City of Los Angeles, the study area was extended south of the Santa Clarita Valley and includes the I-5, I-405, I-210, and SR-118 freeways, Balboa Boulevard, San Fernando Road, The Old Road, Foothill Boulevard, and Sierra Highway. (Draft EIS/EIR, p. 4.8-13.) As shown in the Draft EIS/EIR, **Appendix 4.8**, Newhall Ranch RMDP and SCP EIR/EIS Traffic Analysis (December 2008), Figure 2, Study Area - Los Angeles County, the Project study area extends south of the Santa Clarita Valley and includes the north San Fernando Valley area. (Draft EIS/EIR, pp. 4.8-9.) Draft EIS/EIR **Figure 4.8-1** inadvertently omitted illustration of the full study area; the Final EIS/EIR replaces **Figure 4.8-1** with Figure 2 from the Newhall Ranch RMDP and SCP EIR/EIS Traffic Analysis (December 2008) in **Appendix 4.8**. The Final EIS/EIR contains similar replacement revisions to other EIR figures, each of which was accurately depicted in the December 2008 traffic analysis included in Draft EIS/EIR (**Appendix 4.8**). Please see Final EIS/EIR (April 2010), revised **Section 4.8**, Traffic.

Consistent with the study area, the Draft EIS/EIR includes year 2030 traffic forecasts for the north San Fernando Valley area, and Project impacts were evaluated by deriving the Project's trip distribution patterns based on the background traffic patterns for long-range cumulative conditions. Project impacts are determined based on the net increase/decrease in traffic volumes, as determined by the Santa Clarita Valley Consolidated Traffic Model (SCVCTM) at the cordon points (gateways) bounding the San Fernando Valley. The increased traffic volumes are distributed throughout the San Fernando Valley portion of the study area proportionate to the long-range cumulative condition traffic volumes on the study area roadways, and impacts are assessed based on the applicable significance criteria. (See Draft EIS/EIR, **Appendix 4.8**, December 2008 Traffic Analysis, Figures 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24.) The impacts analysis determined that neither the proposed Project nor any of the alternatives would result in significant impacts south of the Santa Clarita Valley area. (See, *e.g.*, Draft EIS/EIR, **Table 4.8-7** and p. 4.8-46.) The air quality impacts analysis, which is derivative of the traffic impacts analysis, analyzed the proposed Project's potential impacts within the same geographic study area.

**Response 9**

The comment states opposition to the proposed Project and raises the same general issues addressed in **Response 4**, above. Since the comment does not raise any specific issues regarding the analysis provided by the Draft EIS/EIR, no additional response is provided. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) appreciate the comment provided. It will be included

as part of the record and made available to decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed Project.

**Response 10**

The comment expresses general opposition to the proposed Project and resolves to take certain procedural actions. The Corps and CDFG appreciate the comment provided. It will be included as part of the record and made available to decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed Project. Because the comment does not address the content of the Draft EIS/EIR, no additional response is provided.