

Tomar Rudy J. Ortega Sr.
Tribal President



Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

Tribal Historic & Cultural Preservation

June 21, 2009

Dr. Aaron O. Allen
Regulatory Branch
United States Army Corps of Engineers
2151 Alessandro Drive No. 110
Ventura, California 93001

Re: Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan and Spineflower Conservation Plan EIS/EIR

Dear Dr. Allen:

We appreciate the opportunity to be able to provide comments on the Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan and Spineflower Conservation Plan Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR). The Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (Tribe) is a California Native American Indian government in the northern Los Angeles County. Recognized by the State of California trustee agency for Native American Cultural Resources, the Native American Heritage Commission designated the Tribe as the local trustee agency within northern Los Angeles County by limits of its tribal historic boundaries. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) 36 CFR Part 800, California Government Code §65352.3 (SB18), and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Tribe engages to protect and maintain all interested historic and cultural sites within its historic boundaries.

After careful review of the EIS/EIR information, the Tribe has concluded that cultural resources may be impacted during the course of soil disturbance during construction. The area along the Santa Clarita River and adjacent uplands is known to contain Native American Cultural Resources and has been documented as a traditional habitation area for close to 8,000 years. The Tataviam are believed to have arrived sometime around AD 450. Numerous archaeological sites have been documented as a result of the number of water sources in the area. The area has been used for habitation, hunting, occupational sites, religious worship and burials. During the course of the Valencia Commence Center and CalTrans projects along State Route 126, cultural artifacts were uncovered during normal project construction operations. Due to this extent the Tribe understands that there is a high possibility of Cultural Resources that may be disturbed during the course of the project. Based on the Tribe's review of the document, we have concluded that mitigation program prescribed by this EIS/EIR adequately address the potential significant impacts to cultural resources within the Newhall Ranch project area.

The Tribe has an existing (2007) agreement with the Newhall Land and Farming Company (Newhall) that, among other things, identifies tribal monitors that would be retained during grading and development of the Newhall projects. In accordance with our agreement with Newhall, the Tribe

proposes to continue providing principal tribal consultation and tribal monitoring during Newhall Ranch project operations. The Tribe will also provide special expertise related to Native American heritage and interest and act as the primary liaison with the Native American community.

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Thank you for the opportunity for the Tribe to provide its public comments for the EIS/EIR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Gonzalez".

William Gonzalez
Tribal Senator, Chair of Tribal Historic & Cultural Preservation Committee

Cc; Mark Subbotin, Newhall Land

**029. Letter from Fernandño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (William Gonzalez),
dated June 2, 2009**

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow and no additional response is provided.

Response 2

This comment restates information contained in the Draft EIS/EIR and does not raise environmental issues not previously evaluated or addressed by the document. In addition, the comment indicates concurrence with the Draft EIS/EIR's conclusion that proposed cultural resource mitigation measures would reduce impacts to archaeological resources to a less-than-significant level.

Response 3

This comment restates information contained in the Draft EIS/EIR and does not raise environmental issues not previously evaluated or addressed by the document. 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. However, because the comment does not raise an environmental issue, no further response is provided.