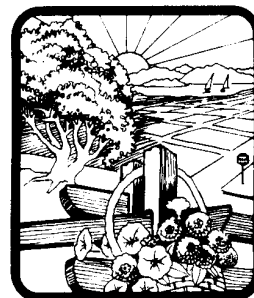


SCOPE**Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment**TO PROMOTE, PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY
AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY

POST OFFICE BOX 1182, SANTA CLARITA, CA 91386



June 14, 2009

Attn: Donald Bedford Re: Newhall EIR/EIS
California Dept. of Fish and Game
4949 Viewridge Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123

Attn: Aaron Allen Re: Newhall EIR/EIS
US Army Corp
2151 Alessandro Dr. Suite 110
Ventura, CA 93001

Via US mail and email to: newhallranch@dfg.ca.gov

Aaron.O.Allen@usace.army.mil

Re: Request for extension of time to comment on the Newhall Ranch EIR/EIS for the 404 Permit and
Streambed Alteration Agreement

Dear Sirs:

We request that you extend the time to comment on this project for an additional 120 days beyond the June 26th deadline.

The Newhall Ranch proposal is an enormous project that will have permanent and irreversible impacts on the Santa Clara River, LA County's last unchannelized river. Impacts to animals and plants that currently inhabit this area, including several endangered and high profile species will also be extensive. We are sure that you will agree that it is important that we take all precautions to reduce these impacts to the greatest extent possible. In the time period of the twenty-five-plus- year estimated development window for this project, an additional 120 days to ensure that we have done the best we can, is a very short inconvenience.

We believe that this extension is warranted because, as you are well aware, this document is voluminous. It contains thousands of pages of information that must be reviewed for unbiased accuracy and to ensure that all relevant information has been included.

A previous EIR/EIS for Newhall's "Natural River Management Plan" 404 permit issued in 1998 and covering 59 projects in the area of Santa Clarita area, was two volumes, while this document is 26 volumes. We don't understand exactly why this new document contains so much additional material, but obviously conducting the comprehensive review that this project deserves, will take more time than a normal document.

We are also in the process of requesting additional documentation from other agencies regarding this project. This information will not be available in time to meet the current deadline.

Thank you in advance for honoring our request. Please inform us as soon as possible of your decision.

Sincerely,

Lynne Plambeck
President
Email exec@scope.org

035. Letter from Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment (Lynne Plambeck), dated June 14, 2009

Response 1

This comment indicates that for various reasons, the public review period for the Draft EIS/EIR should be extended. Items mentioned by the comment as warranting an extended review period include the large size of the proposed Project, the length of the Draft EIS/EIR, the duration of the proposed Project's build-out period, and impacts to plants and animals located in the Project area. In response to this and other requests, the Corps and CDFG extended the comment period for the Draft EIS/EIR. Please refer to **Topical Response 1: EIS/EIR Public Review Opportunities**.

This comment also refers to a planning program known as the "Natural River Management Plan (NRMP)." Please refer to **Topical Response 3: Natural River Management Plan Projects and Mitigation**, regarding implementation of the NRMP.