

Re: Santa Clara River

June 1, 2009

California Dept. of Fish and Game
 Newhall Ranch EIR/EIS
 Dennis Beford
 4949 Viewridge Avenue
 San Diego, CA 92143


Dear Mr. Beford,

The American Rivers designated Santa Clara River in Northern LA County as one of **the nation's ten most endangered rivers**. That was in 2005. And now the Newhall Land and Farming is proceeding with plans to obtain an Army Corp permit and State Fish and Game streambed alteration agreement. 1

This is a sensitive flood plain area. It is home to several endangered and threatened **species that are not found any where else in the world**. This also includes the three-spined unarmored stickleback fish and the San Fernando Valley Spine Flower and a host of critters. This wildlife corridor allows large animals to get to water safely. 2

A previous river permit along 15 miles of the Santa Clara River has not worked. Many endangered species that it was supposed to protect have completely disappeared from the area. **Santa Clara River in Northern LA County is a significant ecological area that needs preserving. Let's leave it the way it is, not only for us, but for future generations.** We don't need another altering "project". 3
 I strongly oppose this streambed alteration agreement. 4

Concerned Citizen of LA County,


 Shirley Radcliff-Bruton
 4207 Cumberland Avenue
 Los Angeles, CA 90027

068. Letter from Shirley Radcliff-Bruton, dated June 1, 2009

Response 1

We acknowledge the commentor's statement regarding the American River's 2005 designation of the Santa Clara River as one of the nation's ten most endangered rivers. 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 address the content or the adequacy of the environmental analysis provided by the Draft EIS/EIR, no additional response is provided.

Response 2

The comment addresses general concerns related to species of concern found on the Project site, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIS/EIR, including **Section 4.5**, Biological Resources. In addition, for further responsive information, please see revised **Section 4.5** of the Final EIS/EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issues regarding the adequacy of the environmental analysis provided in the Draft EIS/EIR; therefore, 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.

Please also note that the Draft EIS/EIR provided extensive analysis regarding the project's effects on floodplain areas and associated resources located on and off the Project site. This analysis is included in **Section 4.1**, Surface Water Hydrology and Flood Control; **Section 4.2**, Geomorphology and Riparian Resources; and **Section 4.6**, Jurisdictional Waters and Streams. The analyses provided in those sections indicate that Project-related impacts to the floodplain and its associated resources can be feasibly reduced to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of proposed mitigation measures. In addition, the Draft EIS/EIR evaluated an alternative to the proposed Project (Alternative 7) that substantially minimizes development within the 100-year floodplain as it is delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This is one of the alternatives the Corps and CDFG will consider before taking action on the proposed Project. Additional information regarding wildlife movement is provided in **Topical Response 12: Wildlife Habitat Connectivity, Corridors, and Crossings**. In addition, for further responsive information, please see revised **Sections 4.1, 4.2, and 4.6** of the Final EIS/EIR.

Response 3

Please refer to **Topical Response 3: Natural River Management Plan Projects and Mitigation**, for additional information regarding the implementation of the NRMP.

Response 4

The Corps and CDFG appreciate the comments provided in your letter. The commentor's opinion regarding the Santa Clara River and the proposed Project will be included as part of the record and made available to decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed Project. However, because the comment does not address the content of the Draft EIS/EIR, no additional response is provided. Please refer to **Topical Response 11: River Corridor SMA/SEA 23 Consistency**, for additional information regarding the proposed Project's relationship to the Significant Ecological Area (SEA) that has been established on the Project site.