

Hello Dennis, June 2, '09

071-Geisler_060209

You must cover a lot of territory with an office in San Diego and yet work on an EIR in Santa Clarita -

I am concerned about the Newhall Ranch Project, building in a FLOODPLAIN AREA!

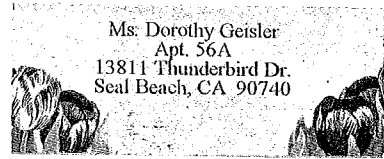
The Newhall LANDS permit of 1998 has not protected endangered species - mitigation measures are still not complete - Is this becu, Newhall land & Farming is in BANKRUPTCY ???

The Santa Clara river and the land around it is needed by MANY animals, one endangered fish, & 1 flower. It is a corridor for lots of animals to get to water.

You are, I presume working for FISH & GAME - Therefore you should be protecting them, not Developers.

Thank you for this

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LONG BEACH

02 JUN 2009

Calif Dept of F
Newhall Ranch
4949 View
San Di

Attn Dennis BEFORD

071. Letter from Dorothy Geisler, dated June 2, 2009

Response 1

The comment does not raise any specific issues regarding the 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.

Response 2

This comment expresses concern related to the development of the Project in a floodplain area. 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 indicates 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. In addition, for further responsive information, please see revised **Sections 4.1, 4.2, and 4.6** of the Final EIS/EIR.

Responses 3-4:

The comment appears to refer to the Natural River Management Plan (NRMP), which was approved by the Corps and CDFG in 1998 to allow the construction of flood-control and transportation infrastructure along a portion of the Santa Clara River within the Valencia master-planned community (upstream of the proposed RMDP project site). As discussed in **Topical Response 3: Natural River Management Plan Projects and Mitigation**, the NRMP includes a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) that imposes mitigation measures on each of the projects identified in the NRMP. As the comment points out, some of the mitigation measures have not been completed or initiated. This is due to the 20-year timeline of the NRMP project list. For a discussion of the Newhall Land and Farming bankruptcy, please see **Topical Response 2: Bankruptcy-Related Comments**. Many of the projects identified in the NRMP will be constructed in the future, but only if deemed necessary at that point in time. Likewise, the mitigation measures that apply to those projects will be implemented only when the projects themselves are constructed. As development and local municipality infrastructure needs dictate, some of the NRMP-identified projects may prove unnecessary and may never be constructed. With respect to the comment's reference to endangered species, it is unclear which endangered species the commentor believes have received inadequate protection under the NRMP, as no individual species are mentioned. However, as discussed in **Topical Response 3: Natural River Management Plan Projects and Mitigation**, according to surveys conducted by the Corps and CDFG, each endangered species affected by the NRMP projects continues to: (1) use or reside in the NRMP area; and (2) receive adequate protection consistent with the terms of the MMRP, Incidental Take Permits the Master Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (MLSAA), and 404 Permit that govern development of the NRMP.

Response 5

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. The comment does not raise any specific issues regarding the 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. Additional information regarding wildlife movement is provided in **Topical Response No. 12: Wildlife Habitat Connectivity, Corridors, and Crossings**. In addition, for further responsive information, please see revised **Section 4.5** of the Final EIS/EIR.

Response 6

CDFG takes seriously its statutory obligations as California's trustee agency for fish and wildlife resources. CDFG is fulfilling and will fulfill its trustee mandate in reviewing and making a final decision regarding the proposed permits and agreement under the Fish & Game Code. Your opinion regarding the proposed Project will be included as part of the record and made available to the Corps and CDFG decision makers prior to any final decision on the proposed Project