

Final Environmental Impact Report

SCH No. 2004021002

Volume II of V

LANDMARK VILLAGE

Prepared By:



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**FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
for
LANDMARK VILLAGE**

SCH No. 2004021002

Volume II of V

Prepared for:

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Taylor, Gloria

From: Eric Grant [ericgrant@alumni.usc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2007 10:24 AM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: The Newhall Ranch project

The Newhall Ranch project:

In an era of global warming, we cannot continue to approve automobile based sprawl housing. You must re-think the landuse policies and not approve projects such as this.

1. Please extend the comment period to 120 days
2. Do not approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration
3. Oppose building in a Significant Ecological Area
4. Oppose destruction of 67 oaks
5. Request that impacts to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be approved.

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 Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

Grant

1/31/2007

E1. Letter from Eric Grant, dated January 9, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information responsive to the comment, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 3

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 4

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 5

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

23621 Mesa Ct.
Valencia Ca 91355
11 Jan 2007

Mrs. Susan Tae
Los Angeles Regional Planning - L.A. County
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles Ca 90013

RECEIVED
JAN 17 2007

Dear Mrs Tae:

I wish to present some points relative to the
Newhall Ranch Project - Phase I:

- a) Please extend the comment period to 120 days. 1
- b) Please take no action regarding approval of the
Newhall Ranch Project prior to the EIS on
the Santa Clara River being released. 2
- c) Please oppose any building in significant
Ecological Area (SEA) 23. 3
- d) Do not allow the destruction of the 67 oak
trees as planned in Phase I of the Newhall
Ranch Project. 4

Thank you for your support regarding these matters.

Respectfully,
Edward J. Benison

E2. Letter from Edward Benison, dated January 11, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information responsive to the comment, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 3

The comment is noted. No further response is required given the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

21721 Septo St. #120
Chatsworth, CA 91311
January 11, 2007

JAN 16 2007

Mr. Daniel Fierros
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village (Project No. 00-196-(5))
Request for Extension of EIR Comment Period

Dear Mr. Fierros

I would like an extension of the comment period for review of the EIR. I would also like to be given notification of where I can locate a copy for review. I understand that they are often available at County Libraries. Please let me know if this is in fact the case. My phone number is (818) 349-8889 and (818) 593-9223.

I understand that the Environmental Quality Act is a partnership that requires public participation to provide you with information in order that the best project for both the developer and the community will result from the planning process. Therefore, I hope that the County will consider extending the comment period.

I understand that an EIS will also be required for this project. It would therefore be sensible to allow time for both to be reviewed thoroughly and in conjunction with one another. The EIS has not yet been released. I believe that this process should not precede the release of that document because impacts identified and mitigated in that EIS may very well affect the design of the project before you.

Thus, I request that the comment period be extended to 120 days, ending March 24th, 2007. I thank you in advance for ensuring that this project receives the thorough public review that it deserves.

Sincerely,

Theresa Brady

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E3. Letter from Theresa Brady, dated January 11, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests an extension for the public comment period. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 2

The comment requested information as to the availability of the Draft EIR for review. The Landmark Village Draft EIR is available for review at the Newhall County Library, 22704 West 9th Street, Newhall, California 91321; Valencia County Library, 223743 West Valencia Boulevard, Valencia, California 91355 and Canyon Country Joanne Darcy Library, 19601 Soledad Canyon Road, Canyon Country, California 91351. The Draft EIR is also available on the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning website and at the Department of Regional Planning, Impact Analysis Section, Room 1348, 320 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. For additional information responsive to the comment, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**.

Response 3

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

Please see **Response 4**, above.

Response 6

Please see **Response 1**, above.

MS Swan Tae

Jan 11, 2007

LA County Regional Planning Dept
320 West Temple St.
Los Angeles, Ca 90013

RECEIVED
JAN 17 2007

Dear Ms Tae

I would like to express some comments on phase 1 of the newhall Ranch Project:

- 1. Please extend the comment area to 120 days
- 2. Oppose building in a Significant Ecological Area
- 3. Oppose destruction of 67 oaks
- 4. Do not approve the project before EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration
- 5.

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Sincerely
Waylon Roden
22641 Copperhill Dr #82
Saugus, Ca. 91350

E4. Letter from Galon Roden, dated January 11, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information responsive to the comment, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 2

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

RECEIVED
JAN 17 2007

Jan. 11, 2007

Ms. Susan Tae
L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: Newhall Ranch Project

Dear Ms. Tae:

Please oppose building in SEA 23.
Please oppose destruction of 67 oaks, they
take hundreds of years to grow.
Please extend the comment period to 120 days.
Please don't approve this before the
Environmental Impact Report Study on the Santa
Clara River is completed.

This project is going to impact the
traffic flow immensely and that is bad
enough.

It is difficult to plan well given our
current transportation systems.

Very truly yours
Bonica Wood
27611 Nugget Dr. # 3
Cupertino, CA 91387

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E5. Letter from Donica Wood, dated January 11, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

The comment addresses traffic flow, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

RECEIVED
JAN 22 2007
JAN. 11, 2007

MS. SUSAN TOE,
L.A. COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING DEPT.

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED NEWHALL RANCH PROJECT, AT LEAST THE FIRST PHASE SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL PEOPLE CAN BE BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THE PROJECT. IS THE PROJECT BEING PROPOSED IN A SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREA? IF SO, ITS CONSTRUCTION WOULD BE OPPOSED BY MYSELF, ALSO THE ISSUE OF "GLOBAL WARMING" MAY BE AN ISSUE WHICH MAY CAUSE OPPOSITION TO THE PROJECT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND CONSIDERATION OF THESE ISSUES

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John Skelley
 15670 POPPYSEED LANE
 CANYON COUNTRY, CA 91387

E6. Letter from John S. Kelly, dated January 11, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 4

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 5

Please see **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

RECEIVED
JAN 17 2007

12 January 2006
26092 Monterey Ave
Valencia, CA 91355

Ms. Susan Tae
LOS Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 West Temple Street
LOS Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Ms Tae:

I am writing regarding the first phase of the proposed Newhall ranch project. This ill-conceived project along the Santa Clara River needs significant modification. I encourage you to extend the comment period to 120 days. Also no approval should be given until the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been completed. Sixty seven oaks need to be protected. There should be no building in SEA 23. This project or proposed will have adverse effects on our efforts to limit CO₂ emissions, the principal cause of global warming. Our dependence on auto-based developments needs to be changed.

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Sincerely yours
David Morra

E7. Letter from David Moran, dated January 12, 2006[7]

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment requests an extension of the public comment period. Additional time for public comment has been provided. For additional information responsive to the comment, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 3

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 6

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Jan 16, 2007

Ms Susan Tse
Los Angeles Regional Planning Dept.
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, Ca, 90013

REC
R JAN 17 2007 D

Subject: Proposed Newhall Ranch Project

Ms Tse

In reference to the above subject, I am requesting that you extend the comment period to 120 days, oppose building in a S.E.A., oppose the destruction of 67 oaks, request that impacts to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be approved.

In addition, do not approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration

I thank you for these considerations.

Sincerely

Kenneth J. Kerner
16713 HIGH FALLS ST.
CANYON COUNTRY CA
91387

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E8. Letter from Kenneth Kerner, dated January 16, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests an extension of the public comment period. Additional time for public comment has been provided. For additional information responsive to the comment, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 2

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 5

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Ms. Susan Tae,

RECEIVED
JAN 17 2007

LA County Regional Planning Dept.
320 West Temple Street
LA, Ca 90013

Ms. Tae,

I care deeply about the Santa Clara River.
Please extend the ~~comment~~^{comment} period so more people have
time to comment and review this issue. Also,
I greatly oppose building in such ecologically significant
region. The cutting down of 67 precious oaks is
entirely inappropriate. And finally, it is unethical and
specious to approve project before the Santa Clara
River EIS is completed. Please, take your time and
complete this project in a way that does not
harm the quality of life of my community

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Sincerely,
Michael Brenetz of Santa Clara

E9. Letter from Michael Grenetz, dated January 19, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment requests an extension of the public comment period. Additional time for public comment has been provided. For additional information responsive to the comment, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 3

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 6

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Heffernan & Boortz
A Partnership Composed of Law Corporations
26 Corporate Plaza - Suite 100
Newport Beach, California 92660
Telephone (949) 640-4300
Facsimile (949) 721-1140
e-mail dboortz@hblaw.net

RECEIVED
JAN 22 2007

January 19, 2007

Mr. Daniel Fierros
County of Los Angeles
Department of Regional Planning
Impact Analysis Section, Room 1348
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") for Landmark Village
Tentative Tract Map No. TR53108
State Clearinghouse No. 2004021002

Dear Mr. Fierros:

Our firm represents the owner of Travel Village, the recreational vehicle park situated adjacent to Castaic Creek and the site of the proposed Landmark Village project (the "Project"). We have been asked by our client to provide you with the following comments concerning the above-referenced DEIR:

Based on an initial review of the DEIR, our client has no objection to the Project as described in the DEIR assuming that the following understandings remain in place:

1. It is our understanding that the development of the Project as described in the DEIR will not have any impact (whether by velocity or surface level) upon the Travel Village property insofar as the flow of water through both Castaic Creek and the Santa Clarita River are concerned;

2. We also understand that no modifications or improvements will be required for or made to the Travel Village property as a result of the Project other than those bank stabilization improvements that will be installed by the County or the Newhall Land and Farming Company pursuant to the State Route 126 and Commerce Center Drive Interchange project (the "SR 126 Project"); and

3. Finally, we understand that the development of the Project will not adversely impact the design or timing of the construction of the SR 126 Project improvements

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- Heffernan & Boortz -
A Partnership Composed of Law Corporations

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serving the Travel Village property including (i) the traffic light and intersection on SR 126 providing direct access to the Travel Village property at its west end, (ii) the service road providing access to the Travel Village property from Henry Mayo Drive, (iii) the sound attenuation walls along SR 126 and (iv) the inclusion of lateral connections and related facilities (e.g., manhole access facilities) for any utility services to be located within the utility corridor for connection to the Travel Village property.

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Additionally, we ask, unless that portion of Henry Mayo Drive between the east end of the Travel Village property and Commerce Center Drive is to be currently completed to full-street improvement level as part of either the Project or the SR 126 Project, that our client be given the option to install those street improvements that will not otherwise be constructed now to facilitate improved emergency access to and from the Travel Village property. Given the increased danger inherent in the substantial development and construction activities that will be taking place in close proximity to Travel Village during the next several years, providing additional access for the park's tenants, guests and employees is of critical importance.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments on the DEIR and the Project. Please do not hesitate to contact us immediately should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



DONALD L. BOORTZ

cc: Travel Village

- Heffernan & Boortz -

A Partnership Composed of Law Corporations

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01/19/07

E10. Letter from Hefferman & Boortz, dated January 19, 2007

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

The comment restates information contained in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Response 4

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Response 5

The County acknowledges 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.

January 21, 2007

Mr. Daniel Fierros
Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Landmark Village phase of the proposed Newhall Ranch development west of Santa Clarita (**Project No. 00-196 / Tract Map No. 53108 / Landmark Village.**

I am a local environmental activist living in the Santa Clarita area. I am also a mother of three young children who live, play and go to school in the Santa Clarita Valley. It is of serious concern to me that the County of Los Angeles and the City of Santa Clarita continues to approve all of these housing developments -- in spite of the fact that it is well documented that these projects will seriously further degrade the air quality of the Santa Clarita Valley, and surrounding areas. A recent study done by the City of Santa Clarita found that, more than 51% of the working population in Santa Clarita has to commute to the San Fernando Valley and beyond. Each one of these sprawling developments that entice people to move from the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles -- without supplying adequate local employment opportunities -- contributes to our already declining air quality with commuter traffic while clogging our roads and freeways. New housing is not what is required to support the Santa Clarita Valley. Smart planning would create and attract businesses to employ the many folks that live in Santa Clarita, but still have to commute to better paying jobs in San Fernando and Los Angeles.

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Yet, project after project has been approved with so-called overriding considerations. It troubles me that a society would override the health of our children and shorten their life span in doing so. This is not smart planning, smart planning would ensure that projects are built that include jobs to support those currently living here to reduce our already degraded air quality and relieve congestion on our roads and freeways that travel through Los Angeles, Ventura and Kern Counties. It is irresponsible to continue building housing developments that will further strain our already maxed out roads and freeway systems, while threatening the health of our most precious gift -- the future generation, our children. The result is short term financial benefits and long term consequences to our children's health and well being.

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Regarding the Santa Clara River, it is a precious gift to our county. We have to save it now. The Nature Conservancy has recently submitted a report called the Santa Clara River Watershed Plan. It outlines the most significant ecological areas within the Santa Clara River. Much of this land is within the proposed Landmark Village plan, and the rest of the proposed Newhall Ranch project area. Audubon California has said the Santa Clara River -- especially in LA County -- is on the verge of disaster. American Rivers designated the river as one of the top 10 endangered rivers in the Country. Many organizations and individuals recognize the value of the Santa Clara River and the imminent threat to it. We need the County of Los Angeles to recognize the value of the Santa Clara River, by appreciating and protecting this resource from further development. We must find a way of protecting the Santa Clara River from more degradation. We can do this by making all the projects back up off the Santa Clara River -- and out of its floodplain -- and making acquisitions of important wildlife habitats along the river corridor and associated upland habitat, with a focus on connectivity with other areas.

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The nearly five and a half linear miles of riparian degradation being proposed in the Landmark Village Project area is a significant and negative impact on the ecosystem. It is a permanent disturbance that will eliminate breeding and foraging habitat for the endangered arroyo toad, the California fully protected unarmored threespined stickleback, the southwestern pond turtle, the Santa Ana sucker, the two-striped garter snake, the

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endangered Least Bell's Vireo, the fully protected White-tailed Kite and the many sensitive species that are known or expected to occur within the project area.

12

Stream hydrology, ecology, and morphology are influenced by impervious cover, as is overall stream water quality. The proximity of this proposed project to the Santa Clara River will create severe negative impacts. Urban development in the riparian zone and hardening/stabilizing of the stream banks will increase the impervious cover in this natural ecosystem. This hydromodification of riparian habitat and wetlands will reduce groundwater recharge; increase streambank erosion; increase channel scour; increase storm water concentrations of metals, hydrocarbons and priority pollutants; reduce amphibian and reptile populations; reduce fish diversity; and reduce diversity of aquatic insects. Stream degradation in many streams can be measured when there is as little as 10% impervious cover in the watershed (Schueler 1994, Capiella and Brown 2001).

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Higher traffic volumes translate into higher levels of stormwater pollution running off of commercial parking lots and high-traffic streets, contributing a very high and disproportionate amount of the total pollution load (Beech 2002).

16

The Santa Clara River in the section of Landmark Village, the pending Embarcadero Project, and the Commerce Center Drive Project contain all the primary constituent elements, including breeding pools in low gradient stream segments, sandy substrates, seasonal flood flows, and riparian and upland habitats for foraging and dispersal. Special management considerations are required to address urban development in these areas. There are breeding arroyo toads within a short distance of the project area, and with proper management the population near the Landmark Village site has the potential to greatly increase in size with appropriate conservation and protections.

17

The arroyo toad has been documented in the Santa Clara River Watershed near the Landmark Village project area. Including but not limited to: Upper Piru Creek, Castaic Junction, and Upstream of I-5.

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Arroyo toads have perhaps the most specialized habitat requirements of any amphibians found in California – shallow, exposed streamside, quiet water stretches, or overflow pools with silt-free sandy or gravelly bottoms particularly favored for breeding (Jennings and Hayes 1994, Stebbins 2003). Impacts from human activities can affect water quality, flow frequency, sedimentation, and the degradation or loss of surrounding uplands reduces and eliminates foraging and overwintering habitat (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1999). Artificial stabilization of the river will eliminate the river's capacity to meander and will increase the flow velocities, scouring the banks (Riley 1998). Hydromodification of natural streambeds by channelization or stabilization for flood control extend the negative effects of arroyo toad habitat by destroying potential dispersal routes between closely spaced tributary streams (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1999).

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The southwestern arroyo toad, one of the "true toads," is specialized for life in an unstable habitat. No more than three inches long, this small toad was once found throughout coastal rivers and streams in southern and central California, from Monterey to San Diego counties, as well as in Baja California. The toad hatches in a river or stream and begins to develop in water; as an adult, it lives on land, where it forages for insects (mostly ants) and digs burrows on sandy terraces.

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The same issues that caused the decline and eventual listing of the arroyo toad as an endangered species will occur within the Landmark Village project area.

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As recognized Arroyo toad populations have suffered throughout the twentieth century as watersheds in southern California have been dammed and polluted by siltation from development and other activities. The toad's habitat has been degraded, fragmented and reduced by urban sprawl, dams, cattle grazing, mining and off-road vehicle use; it now survives only in 22 small, isolated headwaters. In addition, having lost over 80% of

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its habitat in Southern California and as populations dwindle, the toad has become more vulnerable to other factors that reduce species, such as predation by introduced species.

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Projects built and approved within Newhall Land's Natural River Management have failed to address the loss of habitat for the endangered arroyo toad partly because Newhall denied their presence. Even once it became well documented that the arroyo toads occurred within the Natural River Management Plan, no meaningful mitigations were made to protect the arroyo toad from further harm. Newhall Land, the City of Santa Clarita, LA County Sheriff's Department and State and Federal Agencies have not fulfilled their mitigation measures in the Natural River Management Plan. For instance, constant off road vehicle use continues right in the Santa Clara River, creating apparent off road vehicle "parks" right within the arroyo toad habitat, including near and on where both arroyo toad tadpoles and adults have been previously observed. This is evident in the following photograph taken in December 2006 (just a few weeks ago) by Lisa Fimiani, with Los Angeles Audubon, during Audubon's 2006 Santa Clarita Christmas Bird Count.

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Since it has been well documented that mitigation measures have failed within Newhall Lands Natural River Management it is quite clear that these same mitigations as proposed in the Landmark DEIR will fail to address impacts to the arroyo toad and many other sensitive species. It is also clear that the City of Santa Clarita, County of Los Angeles, California Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife, and the Army Corps of Engineers have not yet figured out how to enforce such mitigation.

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Unarmored Threespined stickleback (*Gatserosteus aculeatus williamsoni*)
Santa Clara River populations of the unarmored threespined stickleback (*Gatserosteus aculeatus williamsoni*) have survived because of the relative lack of urbanization and the existence of barriers to dispersal of plated

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sticklebacks and exotic organisms. *G. a. williamsoni* has been extirpated from most of the river due to habitat destruction because of channelization, drying of streams by groundwater pumping, and the introduction of exotic organisms, such as mosquito fish (City of Santa Clarita 1991). The same issues that caused this species decline will occur within the Landmark Village Project area.

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There will be a loss of 169 acres of wetlands, which will be filled to raise the development out of the flood plain (4.2 Hydrology). Rather than destroying the wetland area by dumping fill material into the river, there should be no construction in the floodplain. Any urban development in this area should be set back a minimum of 500 feet from the upland edge of the riparian zone. This buffer serves to not only preserve the riparian habitat; it also provides a buffer from stormwater runoff from the impervious surfaces of the developed areas.

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The constructed hydrologic systems to convey stormwater away from homes and roads exacerbate the degradation of the riparian zone. Not only do the concrete boxes and channels add to impervious cover of the area, they concentrate the pollutants in high velocity runoff, both scouring the streambanks downstream and degrading the water quality. They prevent the natural percolation of rainfall. Additionally, these constructed capital projects will become publicly maintained facilities. In other words, they will be operated and maintained at taxpayer expense.

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Downstream erosion resulting from concentrated and high velocity flows from the proposed narrowing of the river and bank hardening has not been adequately addressed. Both northern and southern banks of the river are proposed to be degraded by soil cement, reinforced concrete, or riprap. These are mischaracterized as improvements, but they in fact negatively affect the natural flow and structure of the river and degrade wildlife habitat.

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The DEIR erroneously calls exposed soil cement a naturalized and aesthetic bank protection method. It is, in fact, a cement channel. It also errs in claiming that re-vegetation of soil dumped on the cement will maintain the natural habitat presently found along the river. The Santa Clara River is a dynamic system. Grading its banks, pouring in cement, and covering it with dirt does not produce a natural habitat. There is a false assumption that an ecosystem can be buried with cement and then recreated. As proposed in this DEIR, the excavation and placement of up to 5.8 million cubic yards of fill in the floodplain combined with almost five and a half linear miles of hardened banks, the river's natural meandering system is slated for destruction.

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Edge effects:

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With continued development and increasing human population along the Santa Clara River and its tributaries so do the threats that people bring to the watershed and species. Currently Off Road Vehicle (ORV) use continues in the Santa Clara River, in spite of the fact that it is an illegal activity. Environmentalists and organizations have met with the City of Santa Clarita, the Local Sheriff's Department, contacted Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife to no avail. These agencies evidently do not have the personnel or the will to implement and enforce mitigation measures as set forth in the approvals of prior developments. For instance, in Newhall Lands Natural River Management Plan we have tried to address the ORV use in the Santa Clara River. Unfortunately, we have been unable to reduce these impacts as evident in photograph above.

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Urbanization, increases Brown-Headed Cowbird

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Mitigation measures to control Brown-headed Cowbirds in the Landmark Village DEIR does not fix the root causes which drives high rates of parasitism to threatened and endangered species. Clearly habitat loss will increase the cowbird population.

In the last century, Brown-headed Cowbirds have experienced massive range expansions and population explosions as forests have been opened to make way for agricultural and suburban landscapes. Clearly the increase in parasitism has been caused by human encroachment and fragmentation of the host species habitat.

Cowbird control is a short-term solution that ignores the real problem of habitat degradation as a result of agriculture, grazing and development.

Cowbirds occur most often in agricultural/residential landscapes near open woodlands. Cowbirds frequent woodland edges created when deforestation leads to a mosaic of trees and open brush/grassland.

Fragmented forests have proportionally more edge than contiguous forests, creating small woodlots that are easy for cowbirds to penetrate.

Rates of parasitism depend on the proximity of cowbird feeding sites to host breeding sites. Cowbirds search for hosts near woodland edges and feed in agricultural/residential areas, They are often seen at home bird feeders. The closer such cowbird foraging areas are to host breeding habitats, the more likely hosts will suffer cowbird parasitism (Halterman and Laymon, Tewksbury et al.).

Landmark Village will negatively affect threatened and endangered species. Loss of Habitat will likely increase the cowbird population. In addition, the use human bird feeders in developments along the project area will attract Brown-headed Cowbirds. Additionally Brown-headed Cowbirds may not be as easily trapped and removed from the riparian areas, as they may learn to avoid the traps because food will be offered in the housing development.

Further mitigation measures may be required, including the exclusion of Bird Feeders in new residential areas.

Non – Native Species

Habitat Loss in the Landmark Village Project area will increase the populations of non-native species. The DEIR does not adequately address the many negative impacts that non-native species will have on native wildlife. Therefore the DEIR fails to address this in any meaningful way. The list of introduced species and their impacts on the environment are many. Here I address just a few of the species that will impact native species.

The introduced European Starling and European House Sparrow cause serious decline in native bird populations. They evict Bluebirds, Swallows, Wrens, Nuthatches and Woodpeckers from their nests and tree holes and often destroy the eggs and young in the process. In addition, Starlings have been found to have a very negative impact on American Kestrels, the smallest falcon in North America. Both Starling and House Sparrow populations will increase with development of the Landmark Village Project Area. These species are not realized as pests in the Landmark DEIR. Therefore, their impacts to native bird species have not been adequately analyzed or addressed in the DEIR. It is important to note that House Sparrows can be plentiful at bird feeding stations in yards and gardens. Both the Sparrow and Starling make good living off our trash, pet food and bird feeding stations. An amended DEIR should be required in order to address the impacts of these non-native species on our native bird populations.

Norway Rats and House Mice The Landmark Village DEIR does not address the increase of non-native Norway Rats or House Mice.

Within the vicinity of human inhabitation, they subsist well on carrion, refuse, offal and spoiled food, bird feeders and pet food... They will feed on a multitude of native birds, reptiles, amphibians and plants. This increase of non-native rodents will have a serious impact on our native species. Human constructions provide

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excellent shelter for these commensals, and around urban areas the population density of House Mouse can reach 10 per square metre, 1000 times of that in the wild.

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It is estimated that one rat occurs per person in homes and related areas, (Wachtel and McNeely 1985).

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Anticoagulant use is NOT the answer and here is why:

Poisons set out to kill non-native populations, such as anticoagulants, should not be used as a method to reduce non-native rodent populations as they can negatively impact non-target species and cause secondary poisoning to native wildlife that feed upon the poisoned rodents. In developed areas along the Santa Clara River and its tributaries rodent bait stations are currently being used. The County of Ventura is currently taking measures to reduce the use of anticoagulants in order to reduce the impacts to non-target species. Biological methods must be studied and implemented to reduce the number of non native rodents without the use of harmful poisons. The utilization of Barn Owl houses, raptor perches, American Kestrel houses, etc., can all help keep the population of rodents down. In addition, trash must be properly disposed of and covered, and bird feeders should not be allowed in the project area.

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It should also be noted that anticoagulants have killed mountain lions not far from the proposed Landmark Village project area. It is believed that two mountain lions likely fed on dead or dying coyotes that had eaten poisoned rodents. Anticoagulants are also partly responsible for the decline in the bobcat and coyote population. In addition, they impact other non-target species, such as Owls, Hawks and Falcons.

**Rodent poison blamed after
two mountain lions are
found dead in Simi Hills
By Daniel Wolowicz
Special to the Simi Valley Acorn**



Within the past three months, two mountain lions were found dead in the Simi Hills.

The two carnivores—a female known as P4 and a male called P3

—were among the wildlife tracked by National Park Service naturalist Seth Riley in a recent study. His research found that suburban development and pest control substances cause problems for wild animals in the local habitat.

Riley, a wildlife ecologist for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, recently addressed a standing-room-only crowd at the National Park Service Visitor Center in Thousand Oaks.

In his lecture "Carnivores on the Fringe," he presented the results of his nine years of field research on the impact of urbanization on large carnivores.

Hosted by the NPS, the lecture was part of a series that lets the public speak directly with scientists, said Park Ranger Sheila Braden, the event's coordinator.

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Riley's talk focused on bobcats, coyotes and mountain lions. His fieldwork on bobcats and coyotes was done primarily in the Simi Hills, while he tracked the mountain lions throughout the Santa Monica Mountains, the Simi Hills and the Santa Susana Mountains.

Specifically, Riley noted how major freeways and roadways, as well as toxic anticoagulants used in most major rodent poisons, have hurt the large carnivore population.

"The main reason for this lecture is to show people how their everyday lives affect the local wildlife," Riley said. "The simple usage of rat poison can have a complex affect on the total ecosystem, even on large cats such as mountain lions."

Using radio collars and motion sensor cameras hidden in the brush along known wildlife trails, Riley tracked animals throughout Ventura County and into the Santa Monica Mountains.

"On the coyotes and bobcats, we use basic VHF tracking collars," Riley said. "But on the mountain lions, we can use VHF collars with global positioning capability, which uploads the animal's location to a satellite on a regular basis. We can then download the information and better understand the lions' patterns."

Riley noted that the relatively new GPS technology has added a means to collect data that scientists couldn't previously have acquired.

Riley based his findings on the tracking of more than 100 coyotes, 15 to 20 bobcats, four adult mountain lions and four mountain lion cubs recently found in the Simi Hills.

The increase in urban development has brought a marked decrease in the animals' daytime movement, Riley said. In addition to the fact that these animals are primarily nocturnal, Riley thinks they curb their daytime movement to avoid human contact.

Scientists estimate 1,400 acres of natural habitat are destroyed annually to make room for urban development in the 350-square-mile Santa Monica Mountains, according to the Los Angeles Times.

"In some cases, these animals end up living in habitats totally surrounded by developed land," Riley said.

Because large predators require an enormous amount of space to find food and mates—an adult male mountain lion prowls about 300 square miles—Riley said many of the animals cross busy roads or freeways on a regular basis.

However, highways aren't the primary reason so many large carnivores die prematurely, according to Riley.

Within a group of tracked bobcats, 28 died. Of those deaths, vehicles killed only six. There were 18 tracked coyote deaths, and only five were a result of road fatalities.

"The deaths by car are pretty low, considering how many animals we track," Riley said. "It was the anticoagulants that had a much more devastating effect on the lives of the animals."

Anticoagulants are toxins used in major rodent poisons like d-Con, which is available at hardware stores. Often used by schools, parks, golf courses, housing developments, even the National Park Service, anticoagulants are eaten by rodents and cause the blood to thin, resulting in death from massive internal bleeding. The two most common anticoagulants are bromadiolone and brodifacoum.

Rodents have developed greater resistance to the chemicals. Higher and higher doses of the poisons are required to kill rodents, which, in turn, are eaten by coyotes and bobcats. If an average-sized coyote, about 30 to 40 pounds, ingests three or four rodents over a short period of time, there's a good chance these

anticoagulants will pass from the infected rodent to the coyote, killing him.

Although most felines have high resistance to the toxin, Riley said toxicology reports showed 80 percent of bobcats tested in the area had some levels of anticoagulants, and 23 of 31 studied bobcats were carrying more than one toxin.

Riley's study took a dramatic turn in the spring of 2002. A disproportionate number of bobcats were dying from what scientists thought was a form of mange, a typically non-lethal strain of the skin disease that's found primarily in cats.

A previously recorded 77 percent chance of survival from year-to-year for bobcats dropped to 50 percent in 2002 and then to only 20 percent in 2003.

Scientists realized bobcats that died of mange also had high levels of anticoagulants in their systems. Together, these two factors caused a nearly 50 percent drop in survival rates for local bobcats in a two-year period.

"We're working very hard to get this information published," Riley said. Then, he said, they'll try to let the public know "how they can make a difference."

Anticoagulants also affect the largest of the local cats—the mountain lions. Scientists suspect cougars acquire toxins from coyotes, which are one of their primary food sources.

Toxicology reports conducted by scientists from UC Davis concluded that the mountain lions P4 and P3 had high levels of anticoagulants.

Riley estimates that the Santa Monica Mountains and the Simi Hills provide enough habitat to support about eight adult mountain lions. Before the deaths of P4 and P3, Riley's team tracked four adult lions and four mountain lion cubs. So when two of the four known adult lions died in a relatively short amount of time, Riley and his team took special note because their deaths were preventable.

Riley, who received his doctorate degree in ecology from UC Davis and is an adjunct professor at UCLA, believes there's hope for these animals.

The recent discovery of the four lion cubs heartens the ecologist.

"It's great that (the cubs) are out there," he said. "Right now, they're about 5 months old. We're really interested in tracking them after they've grown up so we can better understand where they go. That would be the next step in our study if we could find available funding."

Keeping the public informed, Riley said, coupled with efforts by Caltrans and other agencies to build animal-friendly bridges and tunnels for roadways will help maintain the wildlife population.

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Domestic Cats:

Landmark Village DEIR does not address the impacts of domestic cats on our wildlife population or any meaningful mitigation to ensure that cats do not have access to our native species.

Landmark Village will cause loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat, resulting from development, road construction, and other land uses. This is by far the leading cause of declining bird populations. However, with an estimated 20,000 plus homes to be build in the Newhall Ranch project, we must also address the fact that domestic cats will more than likely become numerous within the project area and will wreak havoc on threatened and endangered species. Domestic cats are numerous, efficient, non-native predators who will dramatically contribute to the decline of species. For example, habitat fragmentation provides cats easier access to wildlife forced to live on smaller and smaller tracts of native land. Rather than providing havens for wild creatures, these smaller tracts can become death traps instead.

Cats are non-native species and their outdoor presence in the project area should not be permitted. Homeowners and associations must agree that cats found outdoors will be trapped and immediately turned over to animal control.

Introduced cats are a serious threat to native birds and other animals. There are an estimated 63 million pet cats in the United States (Nassar and Mosier 1991), plus as many as 30 million feral cats (Luoma 1997). Cats prey on native birds (Fitzgerald 1990), plus small native mammals, amphibians, and reptiles (Dunn and Tessaglia 1994). Cornell University estimates that about 465 million birds are killed by cats per year in the United States.

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David Pimentel, Lori Lach, Rodolfo Zuniga, and Doug Morrison
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Cornell University .

The following studies and data provided by the American Birds Conservancy:

How many birds and other wildlife do domestic cats kill each year in the U.S.? No one knows, although reasonable extrapolations from scientific data can be made. Nationwide, cats are estimated to kill hundreds of millions of birds and more than a billion small mammals, such as rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, and shrews each year. Cats kill not only plentiful animals, but also rare and endangered species for which the loss of even one animal is significant. The scientific community is increasingly concerned about cat predation. How many birds and other wildlife do domestic cats kill each year in the U.S.? The scientific community is increasingly concerned about cat predation.

There are over 66 million pet cats in the United States. A recent poll shows approximately 35 percent are kept exclusively indoors, leaving more than 40 million owned cats free to kill birds and other wildlife, all or part of the time. In addition, millions of stray and feral cats roam our cities, suburbs, farmlands and natural areas. Abandoned by their owners or lost (stray), or descendants of strays and shunning all human contact (feral), these cats are victims of human irresponsibility through owner abandonment and the failure to spay or neuter pets. No one knows how many homeless cats there are in the U.S., but estimates range from 60 to 100 million. These creatures lead short, miserable lives.

Loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat, resulting from development, road construction, intensive agriculture, and other land uses, are by far the leading causes of declining bird populations. Domestic cats are numerous, efficient, non-native predators who contribute to the decline. For example, habitat fragmentation provides cats easier access to wildlife forced to live on smaller and smaller tracts of land. Rather than providing havens for wild creatures, these smaller tracts can be death traps instead.

Cats Are Not a Natural Part of Ecosystems

The domestic cat, *Felis catus*, is a descendant of the wild cat of Africa and extreme southwestern Asia, *Felis silvestris libyca*. Domesticated in Egypt approximately 4,000 years ago, cats were introduced to Europe around 2,000 years ago. Cats were introduced to North America when Europeans arrived on this continent, but were brought in large numbers during the latter part of the nineteenth century in an attempt to control burgeoning rodent populations associated with the spread of agriculture. Some people presume that a cat killing certain animals, such as field mice, is beneficial, but native small mammals are important to maintaining biologically diverse ecosystems. For example, mice and shrews are an important food source for birds such as the Great Horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel.

Cats Compete With Native Predators

Owned cats have huge advantages over native predators. They may be afforded some protection from disease, predation, competition, and starvation, factors, which control native predators such as owls, bobcats, and foxes. Cats with dependable food supplies are not as vulnerable to changes in prey populations. Unlike many native predators, cats are not strictly territorial, keeping members of their own species out of a given area. As a result, cats can exist at much higher densities and may out-compete native predators for food. In addition, unaltered cats are prolific breeders. A female cat can have up to three litters per year, with four to six kittens per litter.

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Cats Transmit Disease to Wildlife

Unvaccinated cats can transmit rabies and cats are the domestic animal most frequently reported rabid to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cats are also suspected of spreading feline leukemia virus to a mountain lion in California and may have infected the endangered Florida panther with feline distemper. Feline infectious peritonitis has been diagnosed in mountain lion and lynx, and feline immunodeficiency virus has been found in Florida panther and bobcats

Studies of Cat Predation

Extensive studies of the feeding habits of domestic, free-roaming cats have been conducted over the last 50 years in Europe, North America, Australia, Africa, and on at least 22 islands. These studies show that approximately 60 to 70 percent of the wildlife cats kill are small mammals, 20 to 30 percent are birds, and up to 10 percent are amphibians, reptiles, and insects.

Scientists have found that the number and types of animals killed by cats vary greatly, depending on the individual cat, time of year, and availability of prey. Some free-roaming domestic cats kill more than 100 animals each year. Some cats specialize in killing birds while others take mainly small mammals. One regularly fed cat that roamed a wildlife experiment station was recorded to have killed more than 1600 animals (mostly small mammals) over 18 months. Rural cats take more prey than suburban or urban cats. Birds that nest or feed on the ground are the most susceptible to cat predation, as are nestlings and fledglings of many other bird species. Following are summaries of specific studies:

Wisconsin Study: Researchers at the University of Wisconsin coupled their four-year cat predation study with data from other studies, and predicted a range of values for the number of birds killed each year in the state. By estimating the number of free-ranging cats in rural areas, the number of kills per cat, and the proportion of birds killed, the researchers calculated that rural free-roaming cats kill at least 7.8 million and perhaps as many as 217 million birds a year in Wisconsin. They estimated that in some parts of the state, free-roaming cat densities reach 114 cats per square mile, outnumbering all similar-sized native predators. (Coleman, J.S. and S.A. Temple. 1995. How many birds do cats kill? *Wildlife Control Technology*:44.)

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Virginia Study: Virginia researchers compared free-roaming domestic pet cats in a rural setting and a more urban one. A total of 27 native species (eight bird, two amphibian, nine reptile, and eight mammal, including the star-nosed mole, a species of special state concern) were captured by a single rural cat. Four urban cats captured 21 native species (six bird, seven reptile, eight mammal). Between January and November 1990 each cat caught, on average, 26 native individuals in the urban area, and 83 in the rural area. The study did not count prey killed and completely consumed, prey killed and left elsewhere, or non-native prey. (Mitchell, J. and R.A.Beck. 1992. Free-ranging domestic cat predation on native vertebrates in rural and urban Virginia. *Virginia Journal of Science* 43:197-206.)

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Yet another reason that bird feeders should be prohibited in the project area: Death to bird population.

Cats at Bird Feeders Study: A continent-wide survey of 5,500 homes with bird feeders during the winter of 1989-90 showed that the domestic cat was a significant predator of birds at feeders. Species killed by cats at bird feeders included Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin, Northern Cardinal, and American Goldfinch. (Dunn, E.H. and D.L. Tessaglia. 1994. Predation of birds at feeders in winter. J. Field Ornithology 65(1):8-16.) **Cats at Bird Feeders Study:** A continent-wide survey of 5,500 homes with bird feeders during the winter of 1989-90 showed that the domestic cat was a significant predator of birds at feeders. Species killed by cats at bird feeders included Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin, Northern Cardinal, and American Goldfinch. (Dunn, E.H. and D.L. Tessaglia. 1994. Predation of birds at feeders in winter. J. Field Ornithology 65(1):8-16.)

Cats on Islands

Because some island bird populations evolved in the absence of mammalian predators, they have no defense mechanisms against them. When an efficient predator such as the domestic cat is introduced or abandoned on an island, elimination of entire bird populations can result. Domestic cats are considered primarily responsible for the extinction of eight island bird species and the eradication of over 40 bird species from New Zealand islands alone. Island bird species that are now extinct primarily due to cat predation include the following: Stephen's Island Wren, South Island Thrush, Chatham Island Rail, Stewart Island Snipe, and the Auckland Island Merganser. On Marion Island in the Sub-Antarctic Indian Ocean, cats were estimated to kill about 450,000 seabirds annually prior to cat eradication efforts.

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Cat Predation of Wildlife in Habitat Reduced to Islands

Cats can have highly significant impacts on local wildlife populations, especially in habitat "islands" such as suburban and urban parks, wildlife refuges, and other habitats that are surrounded by human development. For birds, the loss of species from habitat islands is well documented, and nest predation is an important cause of the decline of neotropical migrants. The Point Arena mountain beaver, Stephen's kangaroo rat, and Pacific pocket mouse, protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act, now live on habitat islands created by destruction and fragmentation of their habitat in California. Domestic cat predation by pet and feral cats on these species is a serious threat to their future existence on the habitat that is left.

Cat Predation of Federally-Protected Wildlife

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the hunting, taking, capturing, or killing of any migratory bird. However, owners of free-roaming domestic cats permit their pets to kill birds protected by the MBTA in seeming violation of this landmark law. Domestic cats are also killing birds and other wildlife protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Through the Endangered Species Act, the federal government protects and restores wildlife at risk of extinction. Habitat loss is the most significant cause of species declines, and predation, including killing by cats, ranks second. Although cats may not be responsible for the perilous status of endangered wildlife, the loss of even a single animal can be a setback to the survival of the species. It is not possible to document fully the predation of protected species by cats, but the following is a list of protected species for which there is at least one documented case of cat predation in the U.S.

Documented Cat Predation of Birds

Protected by the Endangered Species Act

Light-footed Clapper Rail, *Rallus longirostris levipes*

California Clapper Rail, *Rallus longirostris obsoletus*

California Least Tern, *Sterna antillarum browni*

Western Snowy Plover, *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*

California Brown Pelican, *Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*

California Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila californica*

Piping Plover, *Charadrius melodus*

San Clemente Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus mearnsi*

Palila, *Loxioides bailleui*

Florida Scrub-Jay, *Aphelocoma coerulescens*

Documented Cat Predation of Mammals Protected by the Endangered Species Act

Pacific Pocket Mouse, *Perognathus longimembris pacificus*

Stephens' Kangaroo Rat, *Dipodomys stephensi*

Morro Bay Kangaroo Rat, *Dipodomys heermanni morroensis*

Point Arena Mountain Beaver, *Aplodontia rufa nigra*

Florida Beach Mouse, *Peromyscus polionotus*

Santa Rosa Beach Mouse, *Peromyscus polionotus leucocephalus*

Key Largo Woodrat, *Neotoma floridana smalli*

Key Largo Cotton Mouse, *Peromyscus gossypinus allopaticola*

Documented Cat Predation of Reptiles

Protected by the Endangered Species Act

Island Night Lizard, *Xantusia riversiana*

Alameda Whipsnake, *Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus*

Correcting Four Myths About Cat Predation of Birds and Other Wildlife

Some people mistakenly believe:

- (1) Well-fed cats are not a danger to wildlife;
- (2) Putting a bell on a cat is an effective way to deter predation;
- (3) Interrupting an attack by a cat allows the prey to escape and live;
- (4) Stray cat colonies present no danger to wildlife.

Well-fed Cats Do Kill Birds: Well-fed cats kill birds and other wildlife because the hunting instinct is independent of the urge to eat. In one study, six cats were presented with a live small rat while eating their preferred food. All six cats stopped eating the food, killed the rat, and then resumed eating the food. Well-fed Cats Do Kill Birds: Well-fed cats kill birds and other wildlife because the hunting instinct is independent of the urge to eat. In one study, six cats were presented with a live small rat while eating their preferred food. All six cats stopped eating the food, killed the rat, and then resumed eating the food.

Cats With Bells on Their Collars Do Kill Birds: Studies have shown that bells on collars are not effective in preventing cats from killing birds or other wildlife. Birds do not necessarily associate the sound of a bell with danger, and cats with bells can learn to silently stalk their prey. Even if the bell on the collar rings, it may ring too late, and bells offer no protection for helpless nestlings and fledglings. Cats With Bells on Their Collars Do Kill Birds: Studies have shown that bells on collars are not effective in preventing cats from killing birds or other wildlife. Birds do not necessarily associate the sound of a bell with danger, and cats with bells can learn to silently stalk their prey. Even if the bell on the collar rings, it may ring too late, and bells offer no protection for helpless nestlings and fledglings.

Birds That Seem to Escape Don't Get Away Unscathed: Birds That Seem to Escape Don't Get Away Unscathed: Contrary to popular belief that birds and other small animals can be rescued from a cat attack and get away unharmed, wildlife rehabilitation centers report that most small animals injured by cats die. Cats carry many types of bacteria and viruses in their mouths, some of which can be transmitted to their victims. Even if treatment is administered immediately, only about 20 percent of these patients survive the ordeal. A victim that looks perfectly healthy may die from internal hemorrhaging or injury to vital organs.

Wildlife rehabilitation centers also report that a large percentage of their patients are cat attack victims and animals orphaned by cats. At Wildlife Rescue, Inc. in Palo Alto, California, approximately 25 percent of their patients during May and June 1994 were native cat-caught birds and almost half were fledglings. Thirty percent of birds and 20 percent of mammals in the care of the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in California were caught by cats. Cat predation of wildlife is especially frustrating to wildlife rehabilitators. These losses are totally unnecessary because unlike other predators, pet cats don't prevent the predation of birds and other wildlife. For example, a famous heron and egret rookery of several thousand birds reportedly has been decimated, and songbird populations have plummeted, in Greynolds Park in Dade County, Florida where the numbers of cats and raccoons fed by humans have exploded.

Sincerely,

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E11. Letter from Teresa Savaikie, dated January 21, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment claims that large development will encourage residents from the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles to move to the Santa Clarita Valley, where the comment contends that there are not enough employment opportunities. The comment asserts that this will contribute to more traffic and declining air quality. Contrary to this general comment, the project brings with it employment opportunities. Existing employment opportunities also are present in the Santa Clarita Valley. As is evidenced below, Landmark Village, as with all of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, incorporates the following components of a sustainable or smart growth community:

- **Mix of Land Uses.** Landmark Village, along with the other villages in Newhall Ranch, will include a broad range of housing types, including affordable housing, along with commercial, office, and public facilities. As to Landmark Village, a diverse range of 1,444 homes (308 single-family and 1,136 multi-family units) would be provided. To minimize and shorten vehicle trips, most homes will be within walking distances to the Landmark Village community's commercial and mixed-use areas, elementary school site, community park, and trail system. Finally, Landmark Village is located adjacent to the Valencia Commerce Center, one of the largest employment centers in the Santa Clarita Valley. Bike and pedestrian trails within Newhall Ranch and Landmark Village will connect to trails within the Valencia Commerce Center.
- **Provision of Jobs.** A portion of Newhall Ranch's projected 19,000 new jobs would be offered through Landmark Village's mixed-use and commercial areas. Newhall Ranch is adjacent to the existing Valencia Gateway (which includes the Valencia Commerce Center), which presently provides 50,000 jobs. Other development within Valencia Gateway will create an additional 30,000 jobs. When completed, the job centers in Newhall Ranch and Valencia will have resulted in the creation of approximately 100,000 jobs in the Santa Clarita Valley. A balanced jobs-housing base is a critical component to a sustainable community because it allows people to work close to home and minimizes vehicle miles traveled.
- **Locating of Residential Uses in Close Proximity to Commercial Services/Public Spaces.** Nearly 60 percent of the residential units in Newhall Ranch will be located within walking distance of village or commercial centers. This is clearly documented by the Landmark Village land plan. Residents within Landmark Village will be able to utilize paseos/trails and/or the Santa Clara River Regional Trail to walk to commercial centers, private recreational facilities, the elementary school and a community park. As stated above, this traditional neighborhood design minimizes vehicle trips.
- **Provision of Transit and Light Rail Right-of-Way.** Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will be part of the Santa Clarita Transit system and will pay its fair share for transit service to the

community. Transit improvements within Newhall Ranch will include a park-and-ride lot, a future transit station, transfer station, bus stops, and preservation of light rail right-of-way. Landmark Village will include a total of five bus stops, a park-and-ride lot, and the preservation of light rail right-of-way along SR-126. The provision of transit and the accommodation of light rail encourage residents to rely less on vehicular travel.

- **Open Space, Recreation, and Preservation of Sensitive Resource Areas.** Newhall Ranch, of which Landmark Village is a part, includes the preservation of the High Country, Salt Creek Corridor and the Santa Clara River and internal open areas - a total of nearly 7,800 acres. A total of three community parks (Landmark includes the first community park) and up to ten neighborhood parks will be provided as part of Newhall Ranch. Finally, private recreation facilities will be provided throughout the entire Ranch providing additional recreational opportunities to residents. In short, Landmark Village's design connects jobs, retail, schools, parks, and recreation facilities with the community's trail system to promote walking and biking while minimizing vehicle trips.
- **Hierarchy of Trails.** Newhall Ranch will include over 50 miles of trails to encourage pedestrian mobility. Landmark Village includes a 2-mile extension of the Santa Clara River trail, with direct connections to residential, commercial, and park uses, and various paseos including the paseo running along "A" Street or the Landmark Village Spine Road. This design also is intended to minimize vehicle trips.
- **Reducing Impermeable Surfaces.** To curtail urban runoff and maximize groundwater recharge, Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will utilize open/soft bottom channels, smaller street sections, where possible, increased native landscape areas, and non-structural water quality treatment improvements.
- **Water Conservation and Re-Use.** Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will utilize native, drought-tolerant plants in the community's landscaping, use recycled water for irrigation, and evapotranspiration controllers (i.e., weather-sensitive sprinklers) to reduce potable water demand and runoff.
- **Traffic/Transportation Improvements.** Landmark Village's traffic circulation plan, which is consistent with all of Newhall Ranch, minimizes vehicle trips and reduces GHG emissions through the design of internal roads in conjunction with homes, school site, commercial areas, and trail system. Transit is included in the traditional neighborhood design, and it includes a park-and-ride lot and bus stops. Additionally, a 5-mile right-of-way for a potential Metrolink light rail extension is accommodated along SR-126. Trails and bike paths leading to close-to-home jobs, neighborhood-serving retail, and the school encourage residents to reduce vehicle miles traveled. The applicant also has committed to fund \$300 million in roadway improvements in the Santa Clarita Valley in conjunction with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, including Landmark Village, to improve traffic movement and circulation.

Newhall Land also has prepared a "Sustainability Summary" for Landmark Village that identifies the above project design features and includes green building measures. This summary is found in **Appendix F** of this Final EIR.

The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, concludes that with mitigation, impacts to circulation would be less than significant. However, because the Santa Clarita Valley is in an area of non-attainment, air quality impacts generated by the project would remain significant and unavoidable even after mitigation.

Response 3

The comment claims that new housing is not needed in the Santa Clarita Valley; instead, businesses are needed that would employ existing residents. The Landmark Village project, in combination with other developments planned for the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan will result in the creation of an additional 19,000 permanent jobs in the Santa Clarita Valley. Newhall Ranch is adjacent to Valencia Gateway, which presently provides 50,000 jobs. Additional development within Valencia Gateway will create an additional 30,000 jobs. When completed, the job centers in Newhall Ranch and Valencia will have resulted in the creation of approximately 100,000 jobs in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Response 4

The comment objects to projects that are approved with a statement of overriding considerations, pursuant to CEQA. The provisions of CEQA allow for project approval, despite significant unavoidable impacts provided that such impacts are considered and accepted when balanced against a project's overriding considerations. (Please see *CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15091–15093.) In approving the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan and certifying the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan EIR, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations after balancing the benefits of the Specific Plan against the project's unavoidable significant impacts. The major benefits included: the preservation of the High Country, Santa Clara River corridor and the Salt Creek corridor; the incorporation of 2,200 affordable dwelling units within the Specific Plan; the inclusion of up to 13 parks, three fire stations, a sheriff's station and library; preservation of the Asistencia – the most historical site in the Santa Clarita Valley; the incorporation of "livable or sustainable" community concepts into the Specific Plan; and, the generation of a annual fiscal surplus to the County upon buildout.

Finally, 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 5

The comment states that the Santa Clara River should be saved. The Landmark Village Draft EIR contains extensive information regarding the Landmark Village project's potential impacts on or adjacent

to the Santa Clara River. For responsive information, please refer to the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, and the Draft EIR, Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications. As to project impacts on the river, the Draft EIR, Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications, p. 4.5-70, states:

"The proposed project would place bank stabilization along selected portions of the river, developing areas behind the bank stabilization, and installing a bridge across the river. These actions would alter flows in the river; however, the effects would only be observed during infrequent flood events that reach the buried bank stabilization. The proposed project would cause an increase in flows, water velocities, and water depth. However, these hydraulic effects would be minor in magnitude and extent. These effects would be insufficient to alter the amount, location, and nature of aquatic and riparian habitats in the project area and downstream. Under the project, the river would still retain sufficient width to allow natural fluvial processes to continue. Hence, the mosaic of habitats in the river that support various sensitive species would be maintained, and the populations of the species within and adjacent to the river corridor would not be significantly impacted."

The opinion that the Santa Clara River must be "saved" due to damaged caused by the Landmark Village project is unsubstantiated. Nonetheless, 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 6

The comment states that the Nature Conservancy recently completed "a report called the Santa Clara River Watershed Plan." The Nature Conservancy's plan is actually entitled, "Santa Clara River Upper Watershed Conservation Plan," Fall 2006. The County has reviewed and considered this plan, along with other plans prepared in 2006 and 2007 relating to the Santa Clara River watershed. The two other plans are (a) "State of the Watershed – Report on Surface Water Quality, the Santa Clara River Watershed," November 2006, prepared by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board's Watershed Coordinator; and (b) "Santa Clara River Watershed Study," June 2007, prepared by Dudek & Associates, Inc.

Response 7

The comment states that Audubon California has said that the Santa Clara River is on the verge of disaster and that American Rivers has designated the river as one of the "endangered" rivers in the country. The comment also asks that the County recognize the value of the Santa Clara River by protecting it against further development. First, the Landmark Village project's effects on the Santa Clara River have been extensively addressed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Please see, Final EIR, revised

Section 4.4, Biota, and the Draft EIR, Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications. Second, these general comments 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 comments do not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 8

Please see **Response 7**, above.

Response 9

Please see **Response 7**, above.

Response 10

The comment claims that all projects should be set back from the Santa Clara River and outside of the floodplain. Additionally, the comment suggests that acquisitions should be made of habitats along the river corridor and upland habitat with a focus on connectivity. The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.2, Hydrology, p. 4.2-1, states:

“Approximately 169 acres of the Landmark Village tract map site would be elevated above the capital floodplain (the remaining portions of the tract map site are already above the capital floodplain) and, therefore, none of the improvements proposed on the tract map site would be subject to flood hazard from the river or other nearby drainages. Neither the Adobe Canyon borrow site nor the Chiquito Canyon grading site include proposed structures within a 100-year or capital flood hazard area. By elevating the project site above the 100-year and capital flood hazard areas and by providing bank protection and erosion protection, where necessary, no housing or structures would be exposed to flood hazards.”

Consequently, the proposed Landmark Village project would be removed from the floodplain. The project also incorporates a setback/buffer from the Santa Clara River. For a detailed explanation of this setback/buffer, please see **Response 4**, to letter from Heal the Bay, dated January 22, 2007.

The comment also questioned proposed development in the floodplain. Please see the above response for pertinent information. Finally, development in the floodplain was heavily discussed and debated during the numerous hearings on the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. In approving the Specific Plan, the Board authorized development within portions of the FEMA 100-year floodplain and the County’s Capital Storm floodplain provided that these areas were raised above floodplain elevations and flood protection was installed. The Landmark Village project, and its associated development in the existing floodplain, is

consistent with the Specific Plan approval. Those areas presently within the floodplain will be elevated above the floodplain elevations and protected, primarily with buried bank stabilization.

Response 11

The comment states that the project will result in about 5.5 miles of "riparian degradation." The environmental consultant, Impact Sciences, Inc., does not concur with this characterization. It is believed that the comment is referring to buried bank stabilization upstream and downstream of the Landmark Village tract map site. The Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, p. 4.4-65, summarizes impacts as follows:

"The proposed project would result in the permanent conversion of 367.19 acres of land currently used for agricultural purposes. An additional 19.84 acres would be temporarily disturbed by bank stabilization and/or haul roads, but would be revegetated to native vegetation following completion of construction. Given the disturbed condition of the area, and that this land cover type is not considered a natural community by resource agencies, the loss of agricultural land would be a less than significant impact. The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR included the loss of this land cover as part of the analysis of the overall loss of wildlife habitat (**heading 9.b.1.(b), Wildlife Habitat Loss**)."

The proposed bank stabilization is described in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 1.0, Project Description, p. 1.0-53, as follows:

"Consistent with the Specific Plan, the Landmark Village project proposes buried bank stabilization where necessary to protect against flooding and erosion pursuant to Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' requirements. The bank stabilization is designed and would be constructed to retain the Santa Clara River's significant riparian vegetation and habitat, to allow the river to continue to function as a regional wildlife corridor, and to provide flood protection pursuant to Los Angeles County standards.

The location of the protection was illustrated earlier on **Figure 1.0-23**. As shown, the proposed buried bank stabilization extends along the Santa Clara River and Castaic Creek adjacent to and downstream of the tract map site. In total, approximately 18,600 linear feet (LF) of bank would be provided with bank stabilization. This would include approximately 11,000 LF fronting the southern boundary of the tract map site on the north bank of the Santa Clara River, and approximately 6,400 LF on the south bank of the river, beginning at the Long Canyon Road Bridge and extending both east and west."

Based on the above analysis, there will be no "riparian degradation" resulting from the proposed buried bank stabilization.

Response 12

The comment suggests that permanent disturbance will eliminate breeding and foraging habitat for the arroyo toad, unarmored threespine stickleback, the southwestern pond turtle, the Santa Ana sucker, the two-striped garter snake, the least Bell's vireo, and the white-tailed kite. The County directs the reader to the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.5, Floodplain Modification, p. 4.5-1:

“The hydraulic impacts on sensitive aquatic/riparian resources in the Santa Clara River corridor due to floodplain modifications associated with construction and operation of the proposed Landmark Village project site would be localized, and not cause significant hydrological impacts adjacent to or downstream from the Landmark Village site. On that basis, and given the limited amount of riparian habitat permanently altered by Landmark Village site development, project construction and operation would not significantly impact the unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*), arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*), or two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*).”

Furthermore, the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, p. 4.4-90, concludes the following regarding the white-tailed kite:

“**White-tailed kite** (*Elanus leucurus*), *California Fully Protected*. This species has been observed on the project site (Guthrie 2004). At least three pairs were observed nesting along the River in 2007, including adjacent to the project site (Bloom 2007) and they likely forage up and down the River in suitable grassland and agricultural fields. The riparian and oak woodland habitats, as well as the eucalyptus trees on the project site provide suitable nesting habitat. If present, construction-related activities could result in the loss or abandonment of active nests during that year's nesting season. Depending on the number and extent of this species' bird nests that may be disturbed or removed, the loss of active nests would be a potentially significant impact. Implementation of proposed **Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-24** would avoid impacts to nesting white-tailed kites. The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR concludes that due to the substantial loss of habitat resulting from buildout of the Specific Plan, impacts to white-tailed kite would be considered a significant unavoidable impact; however, the mitigation proposed in that EIR was not as extensive as this EIR. See Wildlife Habitat Loss, above, for a discussion of project-related impacts to special-status wildlife due to habitat loss.”

With regard to the least's Bell's vireo, the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, p. 4.4-91 finds:

Least's Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), *Federal Endangered, California Endangered*. *IUCN Lower Risk/Near Threatened, Audubon Watch List, U.S. Bird Conservation Watch List*. The riparian habitats on and bordering the project site provide suitable nesting habitat. This species has been observed nesting a short distance to the east and west of the tract map boundaries in 2004 (Guthrie 2004) and at least 19 territories were recently identified within or in close proximity to the project site (Bloom 2007). If nesting during development of the site, the proposed removal of riparian vegetation and/or

construction-related noise could result in the loss or abandonment of active nests during that year's nesting season. Depending on the number and extent of this species' bird nests on site that may be disturbed or removed, the loss of active nests would be a potentially significant impact. Implementation of proposed **Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-24** would reduce impacts to nesting least Bell's vireos to below a level of significance. The finding that impacts to least Bell's vireo can be reduced to below a level of significance with mitigation is consistent with the findings of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR.

Response 13

The comment provides background information, but does not raise an environmental issue over the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 14

The comment expresses the opinion that the proximity of the proposed project to the Santa Clara River will create "severe negative impacts." This is considered an unsubstantiated opinion. For further information responsive to this comment, please refer to **Responses 4 and 28** to letter from Heal the Bay, dated January 22, 2007.

Response 15

Please see **Responses 16 and 17** below. Please also see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.2, Hydrology, p. 4.2-1, which summarizes the decrease in stormwater runoff as follows: "Once developed, the Landmark Village project would reduce post-development stormwater flows during a capital storm event, as compared to existing conditions. Specifically, the amount of discharge from the project site (including the tributary watershed in which the project site lies) would decrease from 1,117 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 850 cfs. This 24 percent reduction in rainfall runoff would be due to the reduction in erosive areas on the project site that contribute sediment and debris to the runoff, as well as to one existing and three proposed upstream debris basins north of State Route 126 (SR-126)."

Impervious structures do affect the infiltration of water on a project site as discussed in Section 4.2, Hydrology, p. 4.2-8, "Buildings, driveways, patios, sidewalks, and roads all create new impervious covers to the natural ground, and prevent water from being absorbed, or infiltrating, into the ground. The water that would normally infiltrate into the ground would, therefore, run off at higher than normal flow rates. Thus, the surface discharge from developed areas is greater than from undeveloped areas." According to

the technical memorandum entitled, "Effect of Urbanization on Aquifer Recharge in the Santa Clarita Valley," John Porcello/CH2MHILL, February 22, 2004, most of the groundwater recharge occurs in the Santa Clara River and its major tributaries: "In the Santa Clarita Valley, stormwater runoff finds its way to the Santa Clara River and its tributaries, whose channels are predominantly natural and consist of vegetation and coarse-grained sediments (rather than concrete). The stormwater that flows across paved lands in the Santa Clarita Valley is routed to stormwater detention basins and to the river channels. Where the porous nature of the sands and gravels forming the streambeds allow for significant infiltration to occur to the underlying groundwater." Also, the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service, p. 4.10-2, indicates that there is no long-term depletion of groundwater: "Both the Alluvial Aquifer and the Saugus Formation can meet the groundwater demands for the Santa Clarita Valley under both short- and long-term conditions without creating any significant groundwater impacts."

Response 16

The comment states that higher traffic volumes will lead to a very high pollutant runoff. The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.3, Water Quality, pp. 4.3-1 through 4.3-3, summarizes the following:

Construction and operation of the Landmark Village project would replace agricultural runoff with urban runoff. The following is a summary of the determinations regarding the significance of impacts for the pollutants of concern under wet- and dry-weather conditions in the post-developed conditions:

- **Sediments:** *Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, Construction General Permit, Dewatering General Permit, and Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP)-compliant Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the project to address sediment in both the construction phase and post-development. Mean total suspended solids concentration and load are predicted to be less in the post-development condition than under existing conditions. Turbidity in stormwater runoff will be controlled through implementation of a Construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and will be permanently reduced through the stabilization of erodible soils with development. On this basis, the impact of the project on sediments is considered less than significant.*
- **Nutrients (Phosphorous and Nitrogen [Nitrate+Nitrite-N and Ammonia-N]):** *MS4 Permit, Construction General Permit, Dewatering General Permit, and SUSMP-compliant BMPs will be incorporated into the project to address nutrients in both the construction phase and post-development. Nitrate-nitrogen plus nitrite-nitrogen concentrations and loads are predicted to decrease in the post-developed condition. Total phosphorous concentration is predicted to be below the minimum observed value in the Santa Clara River. Nitrate-N plus nitrite-N and ammonia-N concentrations are predicted to be well below Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan objectives and below or in the low range of observed values in the*

*Santa Clara River Reach 5.*¹ The predicted nutrient concentrations are not expected to cause increased algae growth. On this basis, the impact of the project on nutrients is considered less than significant.

- **Trace Metals:** MS4 Permit, Construction General Permit, General Dewatering Permit, and SUSMP-compliant BMPs will be incorporated into the project to address trace metals in both the construction phase and post-development. The mean loads and concentrations of dissolved copper, total lead, and dissolved zinc, and total aluminum concentration are predicted to decrease with project development. Although total aluminum loads are predicted to increase with development, mean concentrations of dissolved copper, total lead, dissolved zinc, and total aluminum are predicted to be below benchmark Basin Plan objectives, California Toxics Rule (CTR) criteria, and the National Ambient Water Quality Criteria (NAWQC) criterion for aluminum. Cadmium is not expected to be present in material concentrations in runoff discharges from the project. On this basis, the impact of the project on trace metals is considered less than significant.
- **Hydrocarbons:** Hydrocarbon concentrations will likely increase with development because of vehicular emissions and leaks. In stormwater runoff, hydrocarbons are often associated with soot particles that can combine with other solids in the runoff. Such materials are subject to treatment in the proposed extended detention basins, bioretention areas, and vegetated swales. Source control BMPs incorporated in compliance with the MS4 Permit, the Construction General Permit, and the SUSMP will also minimize the presence of hydrocarbons in runoff. During the construction phase of the project, pursuant to the Construction General Permit, the Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan must include BMPs that address proper handling of petroleum products on the construction site, such as proper petroleum product storage and spill response practices, and those BMPs must effectively prevent the release of hydrocarbons to runoff per the Best Available Technology Economically Achievable and Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology standards. On this basis, the impact of the project on hydrocarbons is considered less than significant.
- **Trash and debris:** Trash and debris in runoff are likely to increase with development if left unchecked. However, the project PDFs, including source control and treatment BMPs incorporated in compliance with the MS4 Permit and the SUSMP requirements will minimize the adverse impacts of trash and debris. Source controls such as street sweeping, public education, fines for littering, covered trash receptacles and storm drain stenciling are effective in reducing the amount of trash and debris that is available for mobilization during wet weather. Trash and debris will be captured in catch basin inserts in the commercial area parking lots and in the treatment control PDFs. During the construction phase of the project, PDFs implemented per Construction General Permit and Dewatering General Permit requirements will remove trash and debris through the use of BMPs such as catch basin inserts and by general good housekeeping practices. Trash and debris are not expected to significantly impact receiving waters due to the implementation of the project PDFs.
- **Chloride:** MS4 Permit, Construction General Permit, Dewatering General Permit, and SUSMP-compliant BMPs will be incorporated into the project to address chloride in both the construction phase and post-development. The mean concentration and load of chloride is predicted to decrease with development, the predicted concentration is well below the Los Angeles Basin Plan objective and is near the low range of observed values in the Santa Clara River Reach 5. Chloride is not a pollutant of concern in construction-related runoff. On this basis, the impact of the project on chloride is considered less than significant.

¹ The Santa Clara River is divided into reaches for purposes of establishing beneficial uses and water quality objectives. This EIR will utilize the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) reach designations.

- **Methylene Blue Activated Substances (MBAS):** *The presence of soap in runoff from the project will be controlled through the source control PDFs, including a public education program on residential and charity car washing and the provision of a centralized car wash area directed to the sanitary sewer in the multi-family residential areas. Other sources of MBAS, such as cross connections between sanitary and storm sewers, are unlikely given modern sanitary sewer installation methods and inspection and maintenance practices. During the construction phase of the project, equipment and vehicle washing will not use soaps or any other MBAS sources. Therefore, MBAS are not expected to significantly impact the receiving waters of the proposed project.*

The Landmark Village Draft EIR finds that pollutant concentrations generated by the project would not exceed acceptable limits.

Response 17

The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.5, Floodplain Modification, pp. 4.5-32 through 4.5-35, provides the following with regard to the habitat and presence of the arroyo toad on the project site:

“Arroyo toads occupy the margins of permanent and seasonal streams in coastal foothill canyons and valleys and to a limited extent in the desert, but they require extremely specialized and limited microhabitat within that general habitat type. Most spawning occurs in shallow overflow pools adjacent to inflow channels of third and higher-order streams, and during the remainder of the year adults occupy adjacent sand bars and sandy terraces, nearly always within 100 meters of suitable spawning pools. Suitable spawning pools lack suspended silt, aquatic predators, and dense woody bordering vegetation (Sweet, 1993). Suitable bordering sandbars are usually dampened by capillarity and include some emergent vegetation. The moist substratum keeps metamorphosing juveniles from desiccating during warm weather (Sweet, 1993; Jennings & Hayes, 1994). Suitable terrace habitat includes at least some dense overgrowth, such as California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), and willows (*Salix* sp.), but the understory is usually barren except for layers of dead leaves (Sweet, 1993). Adult and metamorphosed juvenile arroyo toads are known to forage for various invertebrates around the drip line of large oaks (*Quercus*) and also to forage extensively on ants (Sweet, 1992, 1993). Little is known of arroyo toad winter hibernaculum requirements (USFWS, 1999).

Neither of the museum database queries (CAS, 2004, UC Berkeley, 2004) yielded records of the arroyo toad from the main channel of the Santa Clara River. However, mainstem Santa Clara River CNDDDB records for the arroyo toad exist from the “Santa Clara River, just east of Interstate 5” (1994), which is about 2 miles east of the Landmark Village tract map site, and from “Bear Canyon at the Santa Clara River, 6 miles upstream of Solemint,” which is about 11 miles east of the project. Arroyo toads were also found recently at the confluence of San Francisquito Creek and the Santa Clara River, about 2.3 miles east of the Landmark Village project (Impact Sciences, 2001). Further, the Aquatic Consulting surveys (2002a) reported arroyo toad tadpoles from pools adjacent to the Valencia WRP and from a pool just upstream of the Landmark Village project area. Among north tributaries to the Santa Clara River, arroyo toads are well-known from the Blue Point area along Piru Creek (CNDDDB, LACM, and CAS records); from several sites along Sespe Creek (Ventura County) (CNDDDB and LACM records and Sweet [1992]); and

from at least one location along Castaic Creek north of Castaic Lake (CNDDDB 2004; Compliance Biology, 2004; USFWS 2004). The recent origin of many of the records indicates that the arroyo toad still inhabits suitable habitat within the Santa Clara River basin, including the main channel.

However, although standardized USFWS “protocol” surveys conducted recently within the Landmark Village project site (Impact Sciences 2001; Compliance Biology 2004) showed that all of the components of arroyo toad habitat exist within the Landmark Village project boundaries, these studies did not document the occurrence of arroyo toads within such boundaries. Non-protocol surveys by Aquatic Consulting Services (2002b) identified arroyo toad habitat in the Santa Clara River from the Landmark Village project downstream to the Ventura County line.

Overall, the surveys confirmed that limited potential arroyo toad spawning and foraging habitat exists along the Santa Clara River and possibly Castaic Creek within the Landmark Village project area boundaries. However, the results of the focused USFWS protocol surveys cited above indicate that arroyo toads are very scarce or absent along these reaches, and along the Santa Clara River downstream to the Los Angeles-Ventura County line (Aquatic Consulting Services, 2002).”

In addition, the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, p. 4.4-14, addresses arroyo toad, and states that additional arroyo toad surveys were conducted from April through July 2007. These protocol surveys were conducted for arroyo toad on portions of the project applicant’s property. The survey area included an approximately 25-mile stretch of the Santa Clara River and its major tributaries, including all portions of the Santa Clara River and Castaic Creek on and bordering the Landmark Village project site. The surveys were conducted by Bloom Biological, Inc., according to USFWS survey protocol.

Response 18

Please see **Response 17**, above. In addition, the comment provides background information, but does not raise an environmental issue over the content of adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 19

Please see **Response 17**, above.

Response 20

The comment provides factual background information, but does not raise an environmental issue over the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 21

Please see **Response 17**, above. The comment expresses an opinion, which is considered unsubstantiated. Nonetheless, 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 22

Please see **Response 17**, above. 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 23

The comment asserts that projects within the Natural River Management Plan area have contributed to the loss of the arroyo toad because the project applicant has denied their presence. This allegation is not correct. Please see **Response 17**, above. Please refer to the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, p. 4.4-14, for further information regarding survey work performed on and surrounding the project area.

Response 24

The comment claims that no meaningful mitigation is provided to keep the arroyo toad from harm. **Mitigation Measure SP 4.6-53** as well as **Mitigation Measures LV 4.4-8, LV 4.4-10, and LV 4.4-17** in the Final EIR (LV 4.4-3, LV 4.4-4 and LV 4.4-2 in the Draft EIR), all provide for mitigation specifically for the arroyo toad. The comment provides no supporting evidence as to why the proposed mitigation measures are insufficient in protecting the arroyo toad if found on the project site. No further response is required.

Response 25

The comment asserts that the project applicant, the City of Santa Clarita, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and state and federal agencies do not enforce the mitigation measures of the Natural River Management Plan (specifically the use of off-road vehicles in the Santa Clara River). Contrary to the comment, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department maintains an off-road vehicle team, which has access to the Santa Clara riverbed area; therefore, there are existing enforcement mechanisms in place to prevent illegal or unauthorized off-road vehicular use in the Santa Clara riverbed area. No further response is required or necessary, because the comments do not raise an issue over the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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 26

The comment asserts that because mitigation measures have "failed" within the Natural River Management Plan, "these same mitigation measures . . . will fail" on the Landmark Village project site with regard to the arroyo toad. The environmental consultant, Impact Sciences, Inc., does not concur with this unsubstantiated comment. For further responsive information, please see **Response 24**, above.

Response 27

The comment suggests that neither the City of Santa Clarita, County of Los Angeles, CDFG, USFWS, and the Corps can figure out how to enforce mitigation. The environmental consultant, Impact Sciences, Inc., does not concur with the opinion expressed in this comment. Nonetheless, 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 28

The comment asserts that the unarmored threespine stickleback has been extirpated from most of the River due to channelization, drying of streams by groundwater pumping, and the introduction of exotic organisms, and that these same issues will affect the stickleback at the project site. Please see **Response 12**, above, indicating that hydraulic impacts on sensitive aquatic/riparian resources in the Santa Clara River corridor due to floodplain modifications associated with construction and operation of the proposed Landmark Village project site would be localized, and not cause significant hydrological impacts adjacent to or downstream from the Landmark Village site. On that basis, and given the limited

amount of riparian habitat permanently altered by Landmark Village site development, project construction and operation would not significantly impact the unarmored threespine stickleback.

Response 29

The comment states that there will be a loss of 169 acres of wetlands. The comment is incorrect with regard to the loss of wetlands. The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-84 and 4.4-85, specifically state:

“The proposed project would result in the permanent fill of 5.43 acres and the temporary disturbance of an additional 2.82 acres of drainages under the jurisdiction of the ACOE (**Figure 4.4-8, Impacted Jurisdictional Resources**). Areas to be permanently filled include 1.97 acres of agricultural drains, 1.95 acres within Chiquito Creek, 0.13 acre of a seasonal tributary to Chiquito Creek, 0.78 acre within the Santa Clara River, and 0.60 acre of tributaries to the Santa Clara River. Temporary impacts (resulting from haul routes, utility corridor, and bank stabilization) would occur to 1.36 acres of Chiquito Canyon Creek, 0.09 acre of an agricultural drain, 1.35 acres of the Santa Clara River, 0.03 acre of tributaries to the Santa Clara River, and approximately 1.36 acres of Castaic Creek (Castaic Creek was not delineated in the field; the approximate acreage was estimated using Geographic Information Systems [GIS]).

These areas, as well as 46.66 acres of associated riparian vegetation to be disturbed (**Common Plant Communities** and **Sensitive Plant Communities**), are also under the jurisdiction of CDFG. The fill/removal of these jurisdictional resources would be a significant impact. Implementation of Specific Plan Mitigation Measures 4.6-1 through 4.6-26, and Measures 4.6-55 and 4.6-63, as well as proposed **Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-1 in the Final EIR (LV 4.4-7 in the Draft EIR)**, would reduce impacts to jurisdictional resources to below a level of significance. The finding that impacts to jurisdictional resources can be reduced to below a level of significance with mitigation is consistent with the findings of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR.”

The comment has confused a statement made in Section 4.2, Hydrology, which states: “Approximately 169 acres of the Landmark Village tract map site would be elevated above the capital floodplain...” The acreage to be elevated above the floodplain does not equate to those lands that qualify for wetlands status under Corps and CDFG regulations. These figures are not interchangeable.

Response 30

The comment suggests that there be no construction in the floodplain and that the development be setback a minimum of 500 feet from the upland edge of the riparian zone. With the elevation of the Landmark Village project outside of the floodplain, pursuant to acceptable FEMA regulations and County requirements, proposed development would not be located in the floodplain.

For information responsive to the requested setback, please refer to **Response 4** to the letter from Heal the Bay, dated January 22, 2007.

Response 31

Please see **Response 4** to the letter from Heal the Bay, dated January 22, 2007.

Response 32

Please see **Response 16**, above, with regard to concentrate of pollutants and water quality. Please also see **Response 35**, below, with regard to hydraulic impacts on the Santa Clara River.

Response 33

The comment states that the impervious cover prevents the natural percolation of water. Please see **Response 15**, above, with regard to imperious surfaces.

Response 34

The comment states that flood control improvements associated with the Landmark Village project will be maintained at taxpayer expense. This general comment does not raise any environmental issue over the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR; and, therefore, no further response is required. Nonetheless, 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 35

The comment contends that downstream erosion resulting from proposed narrowing of the river and bank hardening has not been adequately addressed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR. The County disagrees with this comment. The County directs the reader to the Draft EIR, Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications, p. 4.5-01, which finds that: "The hydraulic impacts on sensitive aquatic/riparian resources in the Santa Clara River corridor due to floodplain modifications associated with construction and operation of the proposed Landmark Village project site would be localized, and not cause significant hydrological impacts adjacent to or downstream from the Landmark Village site." In addition, the Landmark Village project site is consistent with the area analyzed in the previously certified Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR. (Please see the Newhall Ranch Final Additional Analysis, Volume VIII (May 2003), Section 2.3, Floodplain Modifications.)

Response 36

The comment suggests that the Draft EIR is misleading and that bank stabilization should be described as a "cement channel." The environmental consultant, Impact Sciences, Inc., does not concur with this comment. The bank stabilization proposed for the Landmark Village project is not a cement channel. The bank stabilization techniques used for the Landmark Village project are adequately described in the Draft EIR, Section 1.0, Project Description, pp. 1.0-53 and 1.0-54. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 37

The comment suggests that the proposed revegetation on the bank stabilization will not maintain the natural habitat presently found along the river. The environmental consultant, Impact Sciences, Inc., does not concur with this 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. However, because the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 38

The comment states that the Santa Clara River is a "dynamic system." The County agrees with this general comment. The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications, thoroughly addresses the project's effects on the river. Also, please see **Response 28** to letter from Heal the Bay, dated January 22, 2007. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 39

The comment asserts that the proposed bank stabilization does not produce a natural habitat and that there is a false assumption that an ecosystem can be recreated. The environmental consultant, Impact Sciences, Inc., does not concur with this comment. The County directs the reader to the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 1.0, Project Description, Figure 1.0-27, Bank Stabilization Techniques, which shows buried bank stabilization that depicts natural habitat that, in fact, withstood very heavy rainfall in 2005. This photograph demonstrates that not only can revegetated slopes on bank stabilization withstand heavy rainfall events, but also that revegetation efforts are successful. Please also see this Final EIR,

Appendix A (PACE Memorandum, Buried Soil Cement Evaluation after 2004/05 Winter Storms, May 8, 2007). The PACE memorandum concludes:

“The 2004/2005 winter rainy season proved to be one of the wettest years on record and produced an approximate 50 year flood in the Santa Clara River at the LA/Ventura County line. River flows at this location have been estimated by LA County at 49,800 cfs, the second highest on record.

The 2004/2005 storm runoff and river/tributary flows provided a good test for the buried soil cement bank protection. . . . The Bridgeport soil cement bank protection was constructed in 1999 and has substantial revegetation growth in the backfilled area. As shown in the photos, the 2004/2005 storms cleared vegetation in the active channel (riverbed) but no damage occurred in the revegetated Bridgeport area.”

Response 40

The comment is correct in that the project proposes a maximum import of up to 5.8 million cubic yards in the floodplain. This is necessary to elevate the proposed finished pads to a minimum of 1 foot above the Santa Clara River flood surface water elevation in accordance with the LACDPW requirements.

The comment concludes that there will be 5.5 miles of hardened bank and the river’s meandering nature is slated for destruction. The conclusion that there will be 5.5 miles of hardened bank is misleading. The County directs the reader to the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 1.0, Project Description, pp. 1.0-54 and 1.0-55. Page 1.0-54 describes the optional scenarios for bank stabilization. This discussion explains rip-rap or concrete will only be exposed where there is not enough space to allow the recovering of the revetment with earthen fill because of physical constraints, or where necessary underneath bridges and by bridge abutments. On p. 1.0-55, Figure 1.0-26 visually depicts three different scenarios of when bank stabilization would be buried, and when it would be exposed. Please also see **Response 39**, above. Finally, the river's meandering nature will not be significantly impacted. On pp. 4.5-70 and 4.5-71, the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.5, Floodplain Modification, states:

“The proposed project would place bank stabilization along selected portions of the river, developing areas behind the bank stabilization, and installing a bridge across the river. These actions would alter flows in the river; however, the effects would only be observed during infrequent flood events that reach the buried bank stabilization. The proposed project would cause an increase in flows, water velocities, and water depth. However, these hydraulic effects would be minor in magnitude and extent. These effects would be insufficient to alter the amount, location, and nature of aquatic and riparian habitats in the project area and downstream. Under the project, the river would still retain sufficient width to allow natural fluvial processes to continue. Hence, the mosaic of habitats in the river that support various sensitive species would be maintained, and the populations of the species within and adjacent to the river corridor would not be significantly impacted.

These findings apply with equal force to other aquatic species dependent upon riparian habitat in the River Corridor SMA/SEA 23 that were not targeted for study in this section. Species such as the Arroyo Chub and Santa Ana sucker, which are expected to occur in the portion of the river adjacent to the project site, have both life history requirements and habitat preferences that are dependent upon aquatic habitat. As described above, the project improvements would not result in significant changes to flow, water velocities, or depth of the river, so the mosaic of habitats that support such aquatic species would be maintained."

Response 41

The comment states that continued development and increasing human population along the Santa Clara River and its tributaries result in associated threats to the watershed and species. Please see **Response 46**, below.

Response 42

The comment asserts that there is a lack of enforcement of off-road vehicle users in the Santa Clara River. The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. In addition, for responsive information, please refer to **Response 25**, above.

Response 43

The comment states that brown-headed cowbirds impacts special-status bird species and that the Landmark Village project will result in increases in cowbird populations. Less than 9 acres of riparian habitat along the Santa Clara River, habitat in which most of the rare, threatened, or endangered bird species likely to be subject to parasitism by cowbirds exist, will be permanently converted due to the proposed project. Furthermore, this loss will be mitigated through revegetation, restoration, and enhancement of similar in-kind habitat in areas along the river devoid of riparian habitat or in need of enhancement such that there will be no net loss of riparian habitat. Consequently, any increase in cowbird populations due to the loss of riparian habitat is expected to be minimal.

Cowbirds already occur within the Santa Clara River Valley and it is acknowledged that the increase in human population in the Valley as a result of the Landmark Village project will likely attract more cowbirds. However, the initial loss of habitat for host riparian bird species is expected to be minimal and fully compensated; therefore, the increase in cowbird populations, while adverse, is not significant.

Response 44

The comment states that the project will affect threatened and endangered species. This statement is not correct. The Landmark Village project does not significantly impact any threatened or endangered species. For further information responsive to this comment, please see the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.

Response 45

Please see **Response 43**, above.

Response 46

The comment suggests that the Draft EIR does not adequately address the negative impacts that non-native species will have on native wildlife. The environmental consultant, Impact Sciences, Inc., disagrees with this conclusion. The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, p. 4.4-85, states that non-native species will impact native wildlife as follows:

“Indirect impacts on biological resources as a result of project development on the site can include the following: (1) increased lighting and glare effects on wildlife species in remaining and adjacent open space areas; (2) a potential increase in pesticides, herbicides and pollutants into adjacent drainages, creeks, rivers and wetlands, as a result of landscaping irrigation and stormwater runoff; (3) an increase in non-native plant and wildlife species that are adapted to more urban environments and can out compete native species for available resources, thus reducing the distribution and population of native species; (4) increased human activity and domestic animal presence that can disturb natural habitat areas and displace wildlife populations; and (5) erosion and dust resulting from construction/grading activities.”

Guidelines for the control of access to the River Corridor SMA include the following:

SP 4.6-17 Access to the River Corridor SMA for hiking and biking shall be limited to the river trail system (including the Regional River Trail and various Local Trails) as set forth in this Specific Plan.

- The River trail system shall be designed to avoid impacts to existing native riparian habitat, especially habitat areas known to support sensitive species. Where impacts to riparian habitat are unavoidable, disturbance shall be minimized and mitigated as outlined above under Mitigation Measures 4.6-1 through 4.6-8.
- Access to the River Corridor SMA will be limited to day time use of the designated trail system.
- Signs indicating that no pets of any kind will be allowed within the River Corridor SMA, with the exception that equestrian use is permitted on established trails, shall be posted along the River Corridor SMA.

- No hunting, fishing, or motor or off-trail bike riding shall be permitted.
- The trail system shall be designed and constructed to minimize impacts on native habitats.

TRANSITION AREAS

SP 4.6-18 Where development lies adjacent to the boundary of the River Corridor SMA a transition area shall be designed to lessen the impact of the development on the conserved area. Transition areas may be comprised of Open Area, natural or revegetated manufactured slopes, other planted areas, bank areas, and trails. Exhibits 2.6-4, 2.6-5, and 2.6-6 indicate the relationship between the River Corridor SMA and the development (disturbed) areas of the Specific Plan. The SMAs and the Open Area as well as the undisturbed portions of the development areas are shown in green. As indicated on the exhibits, on the south side of the river the River Corridor SMA is separated from development by the river bluffs, except in one location. The Regional River Trail will serve as transition area on the north side of the river where development areas adjoin the River Corridor SMA (excluding Travel Village).

SP 4.6-19 The following are the standards for design of transition areas:

- In all locations where there is no steep grade separation between the River Corridor SMA and development, a trail shall be provided along this edge.
- Native riparian plants shall be incorporated into the landscaping of the transition areas between the River Corridor SMA and adjacent development areas where feasible for their long-term survival. Plants used in these areas shall be those listed on the approved plant palette (Specific Plan Table 2.6-2 of the Resource Management Plan [Recommended Plants for Transition Areas Adjacent to the River Corridor SMA]).
- Roads and bridges that cross the River Corridor SMA shall have adequate barriers at their perimeters to discourage access to the River Corridor SMA adjacent to the structures.
- Where bank stabilization is required to protect development areas, it shall be composed of ungrouted rock, or buried bank stabilization as described in Section 2.5.2.a, except at bridge crossings and other locations where public health and safety requirements necessitate concrete or other bank protection.
- A minimum 100-foot-wide buffer adjacent to the Santa Clara River should be required between the top river side of bank stabilization and development within the Land Use Designations Residential Low Medium, Residential Medium, Mixed-Use and Business Park unless, through Planning Director review in consultation with the staff biologist, it is determined that a lesser buffer would adequately protect the riparian resources within the River Corridor, or that a 100-foot-wide buffer is infeasible for physical infrastructure planning. The buffer area may be used for public infrastructure, such as flood control access; sewer, water and utility easements; abutments; trails and parks, subject to findings of consistency with the Specific Plan and applicable County policies.

Response 47

The comment identifies bird species considered to be pests and that are not discussed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR. The comment further suggests that the Draft EIR should be amended to address the impacts of these non-native species on the native bird population. Please see **Response 46**, above, with regard to the impacts of non-native species to native species. An EIR is not required to identify every non-native species that could impact native species. Discussion at various locations within Section 4.4, Biota, acknowledges and discloses the impacts of non-native species to native species.

Response 48

Please see **Response 46**, above, with regard to the impact of non-native species to native species.

Response 49

The comment states that one rat per person occurs in homes and related areas. The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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 50

The comment suggests that poisons such as anticoagulants should not be used to kill non-native rodents because they can kill other mammals (mountain lions) as well. The comment also suggests that trash must be properly disposed of and that birdfeeders should not be allowed. The comment expresses opinions, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 51

The comment provides background information, which 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 52

The comment suggests that the Landmark Village Draft EIR does not address the impacts of domestic cats on wildlife population or provide meaningful mitigation to ensure cats do not have access to native

species. The comment is incorrect. The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, p. 4.4-91 (p. 4.4-108 in the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**), discloses the impact that cats (domestic animals) have upon wildlife:

“Increased use of the project site by future residents of Landmark Village would also result in a corresponding increase in use of the area by domestic animals. Dogs can disturb nesting or roosting sites and disrupt the normal foraging activities of wildlife in adjacent habitat areas. Should this activity occur frequently, and over a long period, these disturbances may have a long-term effect on the behavior of both common and special-status species and can result in their extirpation from the area. Feral cats and house cats can cause substantial damage to the species composition of natural areas, including the populations of special-status species, through predation. Implementation of Specific Plan Mitigation Measures 4.6-17 through 4.6-19 would reduce the magnitude of impacts related to increased human and domestic animal presence. However, consistent with the findings of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR, impacts caused by increased human and domestic animal presence would still be considered significant.”

As discussed above, domestic animals (including cats) are acknowledged to cause a significant impact to wildlife. The three above-referenced mitigation measures are proposed to reduce the magnitude of impacts caused by domestic animals, including cats.

Response 53

The comment states that implementation of the Landmark Village project will cause the loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat. This topic received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota (see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**). Absent a specific reference to a discussion provided in that section, no further response is required or can be provided. Nonetheless, 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.

The comment also provides documentation with regard to cats as a threat to birds and other animals. Please see **Response 52**, above, which concludes that domestic animals (including cats) would create a significant impact to wildlife. In addition, the comment states that cats "and their outdoor presence in the project area should not be permitted." The County has considered the information presented regarding cats and, in particular, the request to prohibit cats from going outdoors. Based upon that consideration, the County does not believe it is appropriate or enforceable to impose such a requirement on a project-by-project basis. Nonetheless, please refer to Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota, Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-33**, which requires the homeowner association "to supply educational information to future residents regarding not allowing cats outdoors or other pets outdoors while unattended." The material to be disseminated to future residents must "discuss the presence of native

animals (e.g., coyote, bobcat, mountain lion) that could prey on pets and indicate that no actions shall be taken against native animals should they prey on pets allowed outdoors." This measure will educate future residents and it will be up to them to appropriately manage their pets to reduce the magnitude of impacts overall.

Tae, Susan

Subject: FW: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruiz, Rosie
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007 3:03 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: FW: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

FYI

Rosie O. Ruiz
Commission Secretary
Department of Regional Planning
(213) 974-6409
rruiz@planning.lacounty.gov

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-----Original Message-----

From: jillmhughes1978@yahoo.com [mailto:jillmhughes1978@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007 1:16 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

1

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Jill Hughes
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E12. Letter from Jill Hughes, dated January 22, 2007

Response 1

The County acknowledges the 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.

From: MLCTIDWELL@aol.com [mailto:MLCTIDWELL@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2007 6:45 AM
To: Fierros, Daniel
Subject: Landmark Village
RE: Project No. 00-196 / Tract Map No. 53108 / Landmark Village, Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Fierros,

I am writing on behalf of an area that I hope you will be willing to look at with fresh eyes, as your department receives comments regarding the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

1

There are obvious challenges -- air quality, water, traffic, and energy, which must be overcome, but the most overriding challenge of all is whether we can save the last free-flowing river in Southern California from being destroyed in one of the last truly wild areas of Los Angeles County.

This is a tremendous opportunity for all of us to save the upper Santa Clara River, its floodplain, tributaries, and upland habitat -- which links to other wild areas in the state.

2

I am not against housing development; I understand the need to provide housing for our growing population -- however -- not at the detriment of this wonderful state resource.

Please reconsider the EIR and make recommendations that it be revised to include the proper studies to determine what areas are most critical to birds and wildlife. My greatest concern is that this project is being rushed through without acceptable scientific research, which has been strongly recommended by many non-profit organizations across Southern California:

3

- Audubon California *
- Los Angeles Audubon Society *
- San Fernando Valley Audubon Society *
- Ventura Audubon Society *
- California Native Plant Society CNPS
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Friends of the Santa Clara River FSCR
- Heal the Bay
- Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment SCOPE
- Sierra Club
- The Nature Conservancy TNC
- Wishtoyo Foundation

Sincerely,

Marina Tidwell
Author: Beyond the Beach Blanket, a guide to southern California coastal wildlife
9041 1/2 Krueger Street
Culver City, CA 90232
310-204-5196

E13. Letter from Marina Tidwell, dated January 24, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment requests reconsideration of the EIR. The comment also suggests that the project is being rushed without acceptable scientific research. Numerous biological studies have been conducted for the project site and are included in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Appendix 4.4, and in the Final EIR, **Appendix A**. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Tae, Susan

From: Jeanette Vosburg [jeanette@saveballona.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2007 10:57 AM
To: Tae, Susan; Fierros, Daniel; 'Lisa Fimiani'; paulherzog@riseup.net
Subject: Landmark Village, Draft EIR

January 24, 2007

Daniel Fierros
County of Los Angeles
Department of Regional Planning
Hall of Records (13th Floor)
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 974-6411
Fax: (213) 626-0434
TDD: (213) 617-2292

Daniel Fierros email: dfierros@planning.lacounty.gov

RE: Project No. 00-196 / Tract Map No. 53108 / Landmark Village, Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Fierros,

I have been working to Green Up and Restore Water Function to the Ballona Watershed. I know from experience, we never appreciate what we have until we lose it.

As an owner of property in Santa Clarita since the 1980's, I am frequently out there. I marvel at the natural parts of the Santa Clara River and watch with horror as concrete begins to find its way into this natural watershed. Nature does a much better job of cleaning urban runoff than mechanical solutions. Please respect that. Look with fresh eyes, as your department receives comments regarding the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

1

There are obvious challenges -- air quality, water, traffic, and energy, which must be overcome, but the most overriding challenge of all is whether we can save the last free-flowing river in Southern California from being destroyed in one of the last truly wild areas of Los Angeles County.

This is a tremendous opportunity for all of us to save the upper Santa Clara River, its floodplain, tributaries, and upland habitat -- which links to other wild areas in the state.

2

I am not against housing development, I understand the need to provide housing for our growing population -- however -- not at the detriment of this wonderful state resource.

Please reconsider the EIR and make recommendations that it be revised to include the proper studies to determine what areas are most critical to birds and wildlife. My greatest concern is that this project is being rushed through without acceptable scientific research, which has been strongly recommended by many non-profit organizations.

3

1/24/2007

Sincerely,

Jeanette Vosburg, Ballona Network
4124 East Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90066

1/24/2007

E14. Letter from Jeanette Vosberg, dated January 24, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment requests reconsideration of the EIR. The comment also suggests that the project is being rushed without acceptable scientific research. Numerous biological studies over the last 13 years have been conducted for the project site and are included in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Appendix 4.4, and in the Final EIR, **Appendix A**. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Tae, Susan

From: Susan Suntree [ssuntree@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2007 4:19 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: RE: Project No. 00-196 / Tract Map No. 53108 / Landmark Village, Draft EIR

January 24, 2007

Daniel Fierros
County of Los Angeles
Department of Regional Planning
Hall of Records (13th Floor)
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 974-6411
Fax: (213) 626-0434
TDD: (213) 617-2292

Daniel Fierros email: dfierros@planning.lacounty.gov <<mailto:dfierros@planning.lacounty.gov>>

RE: Project No. 00-196 / Tract Map No. 53108 / Landmark Village, Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Fierros,

I am writing on behalf of an area that I hope you will be willing to look at with fresh eyes, as your department receives comments regarding the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

1

There are obvious challenges -- air quality, water, traffic, and energy, which must be overcome, but the most overriding challenge of all is whether we can save the last free-flowing river in Southern California from being destroyed in one of the last truly wild areas of Los Angeles County.

This is a tremendous opportunity for all of us to save the upper Santa Clara River, its floodplain, tributaries, and upland habitat -- which links to other wild areas in the state.

2

I am not against housing development, I understand the need to provide housing for our growing population -- however -- not at the detriment of this wonderful state resource.

Please reconsider the EIR and make recommendations that it be revised to include the proper studies to determine what areas are most critical to birds and wildlife. My greatest concern is that this project is being rushed through without acceptable scientific research, which has been strongly recommended by many non-profit organizations.

3

Sincerely,
Susan Suntree
1223 11th Street
Santa Monica
CA 90401

E15. Letter from Susan Suntree, dated January 24, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment requests reconsideration of the EIR. The comment also suggests that the project is being rushed without acceptable scientific research. Numerous biological studies over the last 13 years have been conducted for the project site and are included in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Appendix 4.4, and in the Final EIR, **Appendix A**. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Taylor, Gloria

From: Tae, Susan
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2007 1:36 PM
To: Taylor, Gloria
Subject: FW: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)/Attention Ms. Susan Tae

please print for our package!

Thanks,
Susie Tae, AICP
Land Divisions Section
(213) 974-6433

Please note new e-mail address: stae@planning.lacounty.gov

From: margoteiser [mailto:margoteiser@ojai.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2007 1:35 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)/Attention Ms. Susan Tae

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

Dear Ms.Tae,

Please do not approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration.

1

It is important to recognize that the Santa Clara River and its biology is a treasure with value far beyond the monetary profits imagined by those who would destroy it. People all over the country and the world are now recognizing and preserving remaining natural, open land for us in the present and as a legacy for future generations. To accommodate the many others who oppose building in Significant Ecological Area 23, please extend the comment period to at least 120 days,

2

3

It is clear that such a massive, project is sure to create major traffic and air pollution problems. In this day and age, with so many alternatives increasingly available, it is necessary that such huge additions to global warming and pollution be addressed and mitigation proposed before the project could even be considered for approval. Another obvious way the planners demonstrate a disregard for protecting the environment is by proposing to needlessly destroy at least sixty-seven oak threes which produce oxygen and provide habitat and do not pollute.

4

5

6

The general public deserves good service by it's governmental agencies. Please let the so called developers know that urban sprawl is no longer acceptable and make all efforts to postpone decisions on this project until all evidence has been submitted and evaluated. If you have not already done so, I urge you to visit the area yourself to see why so many are urging protection of this significant place. Please contact Lynne Plambeck (lynneplambeck@access4less.net) who has been leading informative walks by the river and its surroundings.

7

1/25/2007



Very sincerely yours,
Margot Eiser
Co-Founder
Save Montebello Hills Sierra Club Task Force
Montebello, California
323 728 7066

1/25/2007

E16. Letter from Margo Eiser, dated January 25, 207

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment requests an extension of time to review the Draft EIR. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

The comment addresses traffic and air quality issues, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, in Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, and Section 4.9, Air Quality. The Draft EIR concluded that traffic/access impact would be mitigated to a less than significant level, while impacts to air quality would remain significant and unavoidable. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 6

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

RECEIVED
JAN 25 2007

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept
320 W. Temple St
Los Angeles, CAL 90013
SUBJECT: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

We urge you to oppose this Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5). This project is a bad idea. Not only will it destroy pristine wildlife and farming areas and the Santa Clara River, but also it will create terrible traffic jams and more air pollution problems.

Please do the following:

1. Extend the comment period to 120 days.
2. An EIS study on the Santa Clara River needs to be completed and then released before any project can be done. This study must be presented to the public so we can comment on your direction.
3. Oppose any building in significant ecological areas as well as opposing destroying 67 oaks.
4. Global warming must be addressed and mitigated before any project can be approved. The impacts on global warming are important.

We urge you to say No to the Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5).
Thank you,

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Sincerely,

Walter

+
Elvera Beonik

6411 SHoup AVE
WEST HILLS, CA 91307

E17. Letter from Walter and Elvera Deonik, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

The comment also addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, specifically for wildlife in Section 4.4, Biota, for farming in Section 4.18, Agricultural Resources, for traffic in Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, and air quality in Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 requests an extension of time to review the Draft EIR. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

In regards to opposing building in significant ecological areas, the comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

The comment also addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

RECEIVED
JAN 25 2001

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept
320 W. Temple St
Los Angeles, CAL 90013
SUBJECT: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

We urge you to oppose this Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5). This project is a bad idea. Not only will it destroy pristine wildlife and farming areas and the Santa Clara River, but also it will create terrible traffic jams and more air pollution problems.

Please do the following:

1. Extend the comment period to 120 days.
2. An EIS study on the Santa Clara River needs to be completed and then released before any project can be done. This study must be presented to the public so we can comment on your direction.
3. Oppose any building in significant ecological areas as well as opposing destroying 67 oaks.
4. Global warming must be addressed and mitigated before any project can be approved. The impacts on global warming are important.

We urge you to say No to the Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5).

Thank you,

Mrs. Celia R. Bursusweig
11619 FRANCIS PL.
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90066

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E18. Letter from Celia Burnsweig, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

The comment also states the project will cause destruction of pristine wildlife, and farming areas, create traffic jams, and cause more air pollution. The Landmark Village Draft EIR contains extensive analysis regarding these issues, specifically, for wildlife in Section 4.4, Biota, for farming in Section 4.18, Agricultural Resources, for traffic in Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, and for air quality in Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

In regards to opposing building in a significant ecological area, the comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

The comment also addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept
320 W. Temple St
Los Angeles, CAL 90013
SUBJECT: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

RECEIVED
JAN 25 2007

We urge you to oppose this Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5). This project is a bad idea. Not only will it destroy pristine wildlife and farming areas and the Santa Clara River, but also it will create terrible traffic jams and more air pollution problems.

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Please do the following:

1. Extend the comment period to 120 days.
2. An EIS study on the Santa Clara River needs to be completed and then released before any project can be done. This study must be presented to the public so we can comment on your direction.
3. Oppose any building in significant ecological areas as well as opposing destroying 67 oaks.
4. Global warming must be addressed and mitigated before any project can be approved. The impacts on global warming are important.

We urge you to say No to the Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5).

Thank you,

*Thank you,
Anita Kasover
5009 Alhama Dr.
Woodland Hills, Ca
91364*

E19. Letter from Anita Kasower, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

The comment also states the project will cause destruction of pristine wildlife and farming areas, create traffic jams, and cause more air pollution. The Landmark Village Draft EIR contains extensive analysis regarding these issues, specifically, for wildlife in Section 4.4, Biota, for farming in Section 4.18, Agricultural Resources, for traffic in Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, and for air quality in Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

The comment urges the Planning Commission to oppose building in a significant ecological area. The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

The comment also addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding

that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies;** **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources;** and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change,** for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

1/25/07

Ms Susan Tai;

I'm a concerned native born
Californian who's writing ask
you to oppose any more
building in the Newhall Ranch
area. The damage already
done to the Santa Clarita Valley
is measurable and we do
not need any more auto,
land gobbling, and smog.

Sincerely, Caroline Bole

1

E20. Letter from Caroline Boyer, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

Jan. 25 - 2007

Dear Ms. Tae

This letter concerns the
Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village
Project # 00-196-(5)

In an era of global warming
we cannot continue to promote
auto based sprawl housing -
Land use policies must change.

1

Please do not approve such a
project before the eis on the
Santa Clara River been released.

2

I oppose building in ecological
areas, & destruction of 67 oaks -
(another nightmare)

3

4

Thank you.

Mrs. Edward Haas
(Evelyn Haas)

E21. Letter from Evelyn Hass, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 3

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Juan Tse
LA Co. Reg. Flng. Dep
320 W Temple
LA, CA 90013

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

Jan 25, 2007

Dear Mr Tse,

Regarding the Newhall Ranch
project... please do not
approve the project before
the EIS on the Santa Clara River
has been made available + completed

1

This vital eco-area is very
important and must be preserved
without adverse impact.

2

Regards,
Manny Morales
concerned citizen

E22. Letter from Mary Morales, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

1-25-07

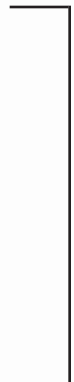
Ms. Susan Tae
L.A. Co. Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
L.A., Ca. 90013

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village project No. 00-196-65

Dear Ms. Tae:

I am writing this letter to respectfully request that the Regional Planning Dept. not allow ^{to} impact the Santa Clara River in a negative way during the construction of housing units in the nearby developed.



1

Sincerely,
Russell Beyle

E23. Letter from Russell Begle, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

RECEIVED 1/25/7
JAN 29 2007

Dear Ms. Tae,

My nephew lives in Santa Clarita and he would be negatively impacted by the destruction of the Santa clara River.

1

The traffic in the area is already impossible. The density is ridiculous for a semi-desert region as that.

2

3

There are plenty of neighborhoods not to far from your office which could be redeveloped instead with minimal additional ecological impact.

4

Thank you for considering my young nephew in your decisions regarding this project.

5

Sincerely,

David Starin
David Starin

E24. Letter from David Slavin, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment addresses traffic in the area, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 4

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 5

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

January 25, 2007

Ms. Susan Tse
Los Angeles County Regional
Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90013

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village
Project No. 06-196(5)

I am among many who oppose
the project before the EIS on the
Santa Clara River.

1

Sincerely,

Janet Falgout
(member Sierra Club)
3200 Fairview Dr., #2
La Crescenta, Ca. 91214

E25. Letter from Janet Halper, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Jan. 25, 2007

Dear,
Ms. Sussan Tge

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

Help save the Santa Clara
River, The last wild river in
Los Angeles County.

1

Thank You,
Kuy R. Daniels

E26. Letter from Ray Daniels, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

1-25-07

To Whom It May Concern,

I hereby protest against the Newhass Ranch project because of the damage it brings to the environment.

(Cutting oaks, pollution of the rivers biology and the traffic

1

Sincerely,
Hana Weintrand

E27. Letter from Hammer Weintraub, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment refers to oak tree impacts, pollution of rivers, biology, and traffic, all of which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, Section 4.3, Water Quality, and Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

January 25, 2007

Dear Ms Susan Tae

21,000 new homes right next to the Santa Clara River will despoil the lovely wild area. This is an abject case of urban sprawl.

Please extend the comment period to 120 days.

Please oppose building in a Significant Ecological Area

nd Please oppose the destruction of 67 beds,

Thank you for your attention

Jeanne Karpenter
620 N Xenwood St #110
Glendale, CA 91206

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E28. Letter from Jeanne Karpenko, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

It should be noted that, in addressing the 21,000 homes, the comment is referring to the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, which was approved in May 2003. The Landmark Village project is one tract map within the previously-approved Specific Plan.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 5

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, specifically in Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

01/25/07

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

I Ewa Zielinska oppose building is
a very significant ecological area

1

I very much oppose destruction of
67 acres

2

This is the Santa Clara river
project (EIR)

3

Sincerely
E. Ziel

E29. Letter from E. Ziel, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

1/25/07

Ms. Susan Tae
LA County Regional Planning
320 W. Temple
LACA 90013

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

Dear Ms. Tae:

In this era of global warming, it is frankly irresponsible to approve any further automobile-based sprawl housing. We urge LA County to re-think its land-use policies and refuse to approve any projects such as the Newhall Ranch project along the Santa Clara river. The EIR would allow severe negative impact to S.E.A. 23, the Santa Clara river and its biology, cut down 67 oak trees and create grossly unacceptable air pollution and traffic problems.

Thank you for reading and giving consideration to my comments.

Ron Petersen
245 W. Lorraine, #207
Glendale CA 91202

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E30. Letter from Ron Peterson, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 2

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses the Santa Clara River and its biology, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses air quality, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The Draft EIR concludes that with project implementation air quality impacts would remain significant and unavoidable. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses traffic, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, specifically, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

Mary E. Tyler
1600 E. Broadway #1
Glendale, Ca 91025

January 25, 2007

Ms Susan Lee
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, Ca 90013

Dear Ms Lee:

Re the Santa Clara River for development.
This is the last wild river in Calif. Please
consider opposing development along this
pristine river and ecological base. Development
would contribute to more urban sprawl and
automobiles and in light of Global warming,
this would be a mistake.

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It would be so wonderful to pass along
this environment to future generations, and
for children to enjoy, now and in the
future.

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Thank you for reading this letter

Mary Tyler

E31. Letter from Mary Tyler, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 3

Please see **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change.

Response 4

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Jan. 25, 2007

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

Dear Sirs,

I ask that you please extend the comment period to 100 days. In addition, the project should not be approved before the Environmental Impact Report has been completed.

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The destruction of 67 oaks is very disturbing which affects wild life habitat, beauty of the area and trees slow global warming.

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also construction of this magnitude will add to the pollution of the area.

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Sincerely
Sharon Doyle

E32. Letter from Sharon Doyle, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 the beauty of the area, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, specifically Section 4.6, Visual Qualities. The Draft EIR concluded that with mitigation, impacts to visual resources would be significant and unavoidable. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 6

The comment addresses topics, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

January 25, 2007

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

Dear Ms. Taz,

We are writing to you as concerned citizens of Los Angeles County in regards to the proposed Newhall Ranch development project. The area of concern is the Santa Clara River & its biology; Significant Ecological Area 23.

1

Please consider the following points:

- extension of the comment period to 120 days
- opposing building in a significant Ecological Area
- do not approve the project before EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released & completed because this may change the project configuration
- oppose the destruction of 67 oaks

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Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,
Derek Przebida

ANAWIA
RULAR PRZEBIDA

DAREK PRZEBIDA

E33. Letter from Darek Przebieda, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 3

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Jan. 25, 2007

Ms. Susan Tse -

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project - No. 00-196-15

The Santa Clara River, the last wild river in Los Angeles County, must be saved. I urge you to:

1) Extend your comment period to 120 days

2) Do not destroy 67 oak trees.

1) Do not build in a "significant ecological area".

2) Do not approve the project until the EIR on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration.

Please request that impacts on global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be approved.

The area is already impacted by thousands of housing units, ~~and~~ please don't add thousands more!

Sincerely,

Am B. Bigler

E34. Letter from Ann Bigler, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 3

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 5

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 6

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Ana Cader
 475 N. Sunnyside Ave.
 Sierra Madre, CA 91024

RECEIVED
 JAN 29 2007

January 25, 2007

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

I am very concerned about the impact the Newhall Ranch project will have on the pristine wildland and farming area. I am asking the County to:

- extend the comment period to 120 days
- oppose building in a significant Ecological Area
- do not approve the project before the TIS on the Santa Clara River has been released because this may change the project configuration
- request that impacts to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be approved
- oppose destruction of oaks and other vegetation in the area.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Ana Cader

E35. Letter from Ann Cader, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment addresses wildlife habitat and farming, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, as stated in Section 4.4, Biota, and Section 4.18, Agricultural Resources. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 3

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 6

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, specifically, Section 4.4, Biota. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

January 26, 2007

RECEIVED
JAN 30 2007

Daniel Fierros
County of Los Angeles
Department of Regional Planning
Hall of Records (13th Floor)
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 974-6411
Fax: (213) 626-0434
TDD: (213) 617-2292

Daniel Fierros email: dfierros@planning.lacounty.gov

RE: Project No. 00-196 / Tract Map No. 53108 / Landmark Village, Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Fierros,

I am writing about the **Landmark Village Draft EIR**.

Challenges must be overcome for us to save the last free-flowing river in Southern California in one of the last wild areas of Los Angeles County. From the looks of things now, it might be destroyed or at least seriously compromised.

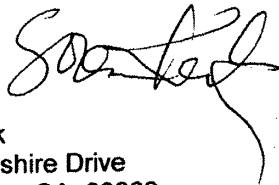
This is an opportunity to awaken together and save the entire upper Santa Clara River: its floodplain, tributaries, and upland habitat. They all link to other wild areas in the state.

Housing development also needs to occur in this region – but it can take place in harmony with this state natural resource.

I urge you to awaken and reconsider the **Landmark Village Draft EIR**. **Recommend that it be revised to include studies to discover what areas are critical to birds and wildlife.**

My greatest concern is that this project is being rushed through without sensitive thought and open discussion. Many individuals, community, and non-profit organizations feel that it is incorrect to rush a human project into a natural habitat without appropriate empirical study and open discourse.

Sincerely,



Soren Kerk
2761 Westshire Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90068

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E36. Letter from Soren Kerk, dated January 26, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment suggests that the EIR be reconsidered and revised to include studies critical to wildlife and birds. Numerous biological studies have been conducted for the project site, which are found in Appendix 4.4 of the Landmark Village Draft EIR and **Appendix A** of this Final EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Taylor, Gloria

From: Jason Hall [hall476@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2007 4:56 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Newhall Ranch

Dear Madam:

I am vehemently opposed to the Newhall Ranch project in Los Angeles County.

I am deeply disturbed that my government continually allows developers to destroy beautiful areas in California. In addition, in an era of global warming realities, my government should restrict developers from building such "commuter villages" that will absolutely require those living there to drive over 80 miles a day in their automobiles to get to work.

Which is better--preserving the last wild river in Los Angeles County or putting up 21,000 cookie-cutter houses requiring more roads and more strip-malls?

I have researched those who were involved in the approval of this project, and I will under no circumstances vote for them again in upcoming elections.

Regarding this project, please extend the comment period to 120 days.

Do not approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration.

In summary, I OPPOSE building on a Significant Ecological Area, and I OPPOSE destruction of 67 oaks.

I hope the developers of the Newhall Ranch project sleep well at nights in their South Bay McMansions knowing that they are going to destroy such a beautiful area in Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

M Jason Hall
Los Angeles

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Be a PS3 game guru.
Get your game face on with the latest PS3 news and previews at Yahoo! Games.
<http://videogames.yahoo.com/platform?platform=120121>

E37. Letter from M. Jason Hall, dated January 27, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 3

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 4

The comment expresses an opinion and raises issues that do not relate to any physical effect on the environment. 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 required.

Response 5

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 6

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 7

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 8

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 9

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Taylor, Gloria

From: Andrew Sutphin [asutphin@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2007 4:17 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: ATTN. SUSUAN TAE/Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

Dear Ms. Susan Tae-

Please rethink your landuse policies and DO NOT approve this project. The urban growth in the area is causing great stress to the environment and commuters.

1

The Significant Ecological Area 23 and the Santa Clara River will be severely impacted if this project is approved. 67 oak trees will also be cut down if the project is approved.

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Automobile based urban sprawl is reckless and harmful to southland residents and the local environment than has not disappeared due to urban sprawl. Approval of this project makes no sense except to those who will financially profit now. Later they will pay the price along with other southland residents and the environment.

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I urge you to oppose the destruction of 67 oaks, oppose the building in a Significant Ecological Area, address local environment impacts and global warming impacts before any current and future projects are considered for approval, delay possible approval until an EIS has been released and reviewed on any current and future projects.

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Sincerely,

Andrew Sutphin

Visita MSN Latino Entretenimiento: ¡música, cine, chismes, TV y más...! Haz clic aquí

1/29/2007

E38. Letter from Andrew Sutphin, dated January 27, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 5

The comment again addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

Please see impacts associated with the proposed project as addressed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Please also refer to **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 8

Please see **Topical Response 2**: EIS/EIR Project.

Taylor, Gloria

From: joaquin dorado [joaquind@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2007 3:37 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Santa Clara River

Dear Ms. Tae

As a concerned citizen I am asking you to reconsider the approval of the Newhall Ranch Project. The developers are sure to make a killing but the rest of the population in the entire LA area lose out on a precious piece of ecology, history and recreational resource. In this area local resources are being sacrificed at an alarming rate sure to contribute to the decline of our way of life. We need for public officials, such as yourself, to recognize this and limit the damage being done by development. It may be that growth in the LA area may call for development, however not at the sacrifice of naturally precious and great area such as the last wild river in this area. As an example of the future problems if these types of developments are allowed to go forward we need look no further than the LA river which was controlled for development purposes.

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Sincerely

Joaquin Dorado

1/29/2007

E39. Letter from Joaquin Dorado, dated January 28, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Taylor, Gloria

From: Randy Martin [drrandymartin@drrandymartin.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2007 9:18 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Dr Randy Martin, OMD, LAc, PhD, CCH, QME, MUP

Please consider stopping this project because the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been finalized and approved as complete and comprehensive. We should not be building in a Significant Ecological Area, and destruction of 67 Oaks. Also, impacts on noise, and on global warming should be addressed and these should be mitigated before project approval.

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Dr. Randy Martin
Valencia, CA

E40. Letter from Dr. Randy Martin, dated January 28, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 noise impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.8, Noise. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Taylor, Gloria

From: JOANNE N NAGY [jnn@juno.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2007 1:03 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Newhall Ranch Project

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Ms. Tae:

Since the Santa Clara River is the last wild river in Los Angeles County, it is unfortunate that it is also the proposed site of the Newhall Ranch project. I strongly suggest that you extend the comment period to 120 days.

It is important that you do not approve the project before the environmental impact report on the Santa Clara River has been released. When that is completed, their findings may change the project configuration.

You should oppose building in a Significant Ecological Area and oppose destruction of 67 oaks.

Finally, impacts to global warming should be addressed and mitigated before the project can be approved.

As a resident of the San Fernando Valley and a member of the Sierra Club, I urge you to take these points under consideration.

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Sincerely,

Joanne Nagy
16500 Simonds Street
Granada Hills, CA 91344
jnn@juno.com

E41. Letter from Joanne Nagy, dated January 28, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 3

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 4

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 5

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Taylor, Gloria

From: Kalember, Jim [JKalember@opusd.k12.ca.us]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2007 10:15 AM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project 00-196-(5)

Hi Susan:

I am oposed to additional development on the Santa Clara River. There are enough condos and other development along the river upstream near the 14Fwy crossing. The area west of I5 is a significant ecological area and the destructionof oak trees and other flora is not appropriate. We must get much more creative in accommodating development--please preserve the river.

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Jim Kalember
Governing Board
Oak Park Unified School District
Oak Park, CA 91377
661-575-7368 c
818-991-7180 h

E42. Letter from Jim Kalember, dated January 28, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

The remainder of the comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Taylor, Gloria

From: Judy Hopkins [judykhopkins@earthlink.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2007 7:36 AM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

As a Sierra Club member, I'm writing to ask you to:

1. extend the comment period for this project to 120 days	2. not approve the project
before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been completed and released	3. address and
mitigate the impact on global warming before approving this project	

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Thank you.

Judy Hopkins
Santa Monica

E43. Letter from Judy Hopkins, dated January 28, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 3

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Taylor, Gloria

From: Ruiz, Rosie
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 6:36 AM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: FW: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Rosie O. Ruiz
Commission Secretary
Department of Regional Planning
(213) 974-6409
rruiz@planning.lacounty.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: jcarter@dreamworks.com [mailto:jcarter@dreamworks.com]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2007 2:57 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

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Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Jason Carter
valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E44. Letter from Jason Carter, dated January, 26, 2007

Response 1

The County acknowledges your 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.

Taylor, Gloria

From: Paula Chadbourne [prchad@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 11:27 AM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project NO. 00-196.-(5)

Dear Ms. Susan Tae,
Please extend the comment period to 120 days.
Please do not approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration.
I oppose building in a significant ecological area.
I very much oppose the destruction of 67 more oak trees.
I request that impacts to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be approved.
Sincerely,

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Paula Chadbourne
23629 Del Monte Dr. #285
Valencia, Ca. 91355

1/29/2007

E45. Letter from Paula Chadbourne, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 3

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Taylor, Gloria

From: Laurel Neiswander [laurel@neisinteriors.com]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 12:06 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Newhall Ranch

REGARDING THE NEWHALL RANCH PROJECT:

- 1) PLEASE EXTEND THE COMMENT PERIOD TO 120 DAYS.
- 2) DO NOT APPROVE THE PROJECT BEFORE THE EIS ON THE SANTA CLARA RIVER HAS BEEN RELEASED/COMPLETED BECAUSE THIS MAY CHANGE THE PROJECT CONFIGURATION.
- 3) I OPPOSE BUILDING IN A SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREA.
- 4) I OPPOSE DESTRUCTION OF 67 OAKS
- 5) I REQUEST THAT IMPACTS TO GLOBAL WARMING BE ADDRESSED AND MITIGATED BEFORE THE PROJECT CAN BE APPROVED.

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SIGNED,
Laurel Neiswander
Northridge, CA

1/29/2007

E46. Letter from Laural Neiswander, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 3

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Taylor, Gloria

From: Cheryl Kohr [c_kohr@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 8:38 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Newhall Ranch Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

I am very concerned about the Santa Clara River and this proposed development. I urge you to extend the comment period to 120 days, refrain from approving the project until the EIS is complete, oppose building in a Significant Ecological Area, oppose destruction of the oak trees and address the project's impact to global climate change. Thank you for your attention.

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Cheryl Kohr
Redondo Beach CA

Check out all that glitters with the MSN Entertainment Guide to the Academy Awards® <http://movies.msn.com/movies/oscars2007/?icid=ncoscartagline2>

E47. Letter from Cheryl Kohr, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 3

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 4

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 5

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Betty Schreav
P.O. Box 152
Northridge, Ca. 91327

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

Jan. 25, 2007

Dear
Ms. Susan Tse:

RE: Newhall Ranch,
Landmark Village Project No. 00-
196-(5)

Please rethink your landuse policies and do not approve
The above project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has
been released or completed.

I oppose building in a Significant Ecological Area of
I especially oppose the demolition of 67 magnificent, mature
OAK TREES.

Please also address the impacts to Global Warming before
approving any part of this project.

I really want TO SEE The Santa Clara River run free!

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Sincerely yours,
Betty L. Schreav

E48. Letter from Betty Sehnour, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 5

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept
320 W. Temple St
Los Angeles, CAL 90013
SUBJECT: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

We urge you to oppose this Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5).
This project is a bad idea. Not only will it destroy pristine wildlife and farming areas and
the Santa Clara River, but also it will create terrible traffic jams and more air pollution
problems.

Please do the following:

1. Extend the comment period to 120 days.
2. An EIS study on the Santa Clara River needs to be completed and then released
before any project can be done. This study must be presented to the public so we
can comment on your direction.
3. Oppose any building in significant ecological areas as well as opposing
destroying 67 oaks.
4. Global warming must be addressed and mitigated before any project can be
approved. The impacts on global warming are important.

We urge you to say No to the Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5).

Thank you,

Bonnie Ramey + Jerry Ramey
23607 Shady Lane Pl.
Valencia, CA 91354

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E49. Letter from Bonnie & Jerry Ramey, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment addresses the wildlife, farmland, and Santa Clara River effects, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and Section 4.18, Agricultural Resources. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

The comment addresses traffic and air quality impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, and Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7


The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Dear Ms Tae

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2007

I am writing to oppose the building of homes in a significant ecological area near the Santa Clara River . Building over 20,000 homes will further impact global warming, and destroy oak trees which help mitigate global warming . It is not prudent to impact this area near the one remaining "wild" river in LA County .

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Sincerely


E50. Letter from Barry (Illegible), dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies;** **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources;** and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change,** for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies;** **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources;** and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change,** for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 5

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: integra8@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 11:06 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Andre Lupica
Saugus

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E51. Letter from Andre Lupica, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: ykpeto10@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 11:01 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

perfecto uribe
santa clarita

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E52. Letter from Perfecto Uribe, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: winit_8@hotmail.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 10:54 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Susan DeWinter
Newhall

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E53. Letter from Susan DeWinter, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: littleleo68@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 10:28 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Monique Huml
Canyon Country

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E54. Letter from Monique Huml, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: jframe01@excite.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 9:25 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will generate thousands of new jobs within the Santa Clarita Valley

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Like many of my neighbors, I view working near home as a win/win: less time commuting, more time at home, less fuel used and less smog created. The Newhall Ranch community plan can help make this ideal life situation a reality for thousands of Southern California residents.

As proposed, Newhall Ranch would create business and career opportunities through new commercial, retail and office destinations. In all, the plan could help bring thousands of new jobs to the region. Combined with the new employment opportunities Newhall Land is creating in its community of Valencia, more and more of the Valley's residents will be able to work close to home.

The almost 21,000 homes within Newhall Ranch will also help to attract employers and their jobs to the region. These homes can be a significant drawing card as business owners look to locate their operations in areas providing a wealth of talented employees nearby.

The smart way to accommodate growth is to bring jobs and homes together in one community. Newhall Ranch does this and I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

James Frame
Saugus

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E55. Letter from James Frame, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: jameswdavis1963@msn.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 9:25 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

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For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

James Davis
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E56. Letter from James Davis, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: erics10@msn.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 9:20 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

eric & eden sustin
castaic

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E57. Letter from Eric & Eden Sustin, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: cimarron21136@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 9:04 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

1

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Weon Kyeum Kim
SANTA CLARITA

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E58. Letter from Weon Kyeum, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: melindakc@ca.rr.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 9:04 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Melinda Coulter
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E59. Letter from Melinda Coulter, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: remailbox@cs.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 9:00 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Brian Smith
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E60. Letter from Brian Smith, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: lovelylesa@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 8:46 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will generate thousands of new jobs within the Santa Clarita Valley

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Like many of my neighbors, I view working near home as a win/win: less time commuting, more time at home, less fuel used and less smog created. The Newhall Ranch community plan can help make this ideal life situation a reality for thousands of Southern California residents.

As proposed, Newhall Ranch would create business and career opportunities through new commercial, retail and office destinations. In all, the plan could help bring thousands of new jobs to the region. Combined with the new employment opportunities Newhall Land is creating in its community of Valencia, more and more of the Valley's residents will be able to work close to home.

The almost 21,000 homes within Newhall Ranch will also help to attract employers and their jobs to the region. These homes can be a significant drawing card as business owners look to locate their operations in areas providing a wealth of talented employees nearby.

The smart way to accommodate growth is to bring jobs and homes together in one community. Newhall Ranch does this and I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Lisa Burke
Saugus

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E61. Letter from Lisa Burke, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: koalagurl@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 8:44 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Grossman
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E62. Letter from Jennifer Grossman, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: moonstr890@hotmail.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 8:41 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will generate thousands of new jobs within the Santa Clarita Valley

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Like many of my neighbors, I view working near home as a win/win: less time commuting, more time at home, less fuel used and less smog created. The Newhall Ranch community plan can help make this ideal life situation a reality for thousands of Southern California residents.

As proposed, Newhall Ranch would create business and career opportunities through new commercial, retail and office destinations. In all, the plan could help bring thousands of new jobs to the region. Combined with the new employment opportunities Newhall Land is creating in its community of Valencia, more and more of the Valley's residents will be able to work close to home.

The almost 21,000 homes within Newhall Ranch will also help to attract employers and their jobs to the region. These homes can be a significant drawing card as business owners look to locate their operations in areas providing a wealth of talented employees nearby.

The smart way to accommodate growth is to bring jobs and homes together in one community. Newhall Ranch does this and I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

arlie alfaro
santa clarita

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E63. Letter from Arlie Alfaro, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: duck654@ca.rr.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 8:04 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Leo Smith
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E64. Letter from Leo Smith, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: ljeanninet@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 7:58 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Lisa Tucker
Los Angeles

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E65. Letter from Lisa Tucker, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: Lauren@EasyHomeLocator.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 8:36 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Lauren Lensch
Castaic

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E66. Letter from Lauren Lensch, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: mangilit@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 8:27 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Angela Mangilit
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E67. Letter from Angela Mangilit, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: adam31@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 8:27 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Adam Laraway
Palmdale

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E68. Letter from Adam Laraway, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: ICHANDRAN@MSN.COM
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 8:13 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will generate thousands of new jobs within the Santa Clarita Valley

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Like many of my neighbors, I view working near home as a win/win: less time commuting, more time at home, less fuel used and less smog created. The Newhall Ranch community plan can help make this ideal life situation a reality for thousands of Southern California residents.

As proposed, Newhall Ranch would create business and career opportunities through new commercial, retail and office destinations. In all, the plan could help bring thousands of new jobs to the region. Combined with the new employment opportunities Newhall Land is creating in its community of Valencia, more and more of the Valley's residents will be able to work close to home.

The almost 21,000 homes within Newhall Ranch will also help to attract employers and their jobs to the region. These homes can be a significant drawing card as business owners look to locate their operations in areas providing a wealth of talented employees nearby.

The smart way to accommodate growth is to bring jobs and homes together in one community. Newhall Ranch does this and I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

IVAN CHANDRAN
MONROVIA

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E69. Letter from Ivan Chandran, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: gbalehannina@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 7:48 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will generate thousands of new jobs within the Santa Clarita Valley

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Like many of my neighbors, I view working near home as a win/win: less time commuting, more time at home, less fuel used and less smog created. The Newhall Ranch community plan can help make this ideal life situation a reality for thousands of Southern California residents.

As proposed, Newhall Ranch would create business and career opportunities through new commercial, retail and office destinations. In all, the plan could help bring thousands of new jobs to the region. Combined with the new employment opportunities Newhall Land is creating in its community of Valencia, more and more of the Valley's residents will be able to work close to home.

The almost 21,000 homes within Newhall Ranch will also help to attract employers and their jobs to the region. These homes can be a significant drawing card as business owners look to locate their operations in areas providing a wealth of talented employees nearby.

The smart way to accommodate growth is to bring jobs and homes together in one community. Newhall Ranch does this and I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Guru Kalle
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E70. Letter from Guru Kalle, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: epilpil@socal.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 11:06 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Arnold Pilpil
North Hills

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E71. Letter from Arnold Pilpil, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: tjshaner@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 7:47 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

1

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Tim Shaner
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E72. Letter from Tim Shaner, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: qiana.staral@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 7:45 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

1

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Qiana Staral
Canyon Country

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E73. Letter from Qiana Staral, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: mc_fields@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 7:42 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Mark Fields
Granite Bay

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E74. Letter from Mark Fields, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: jpark7788@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 7:24 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

1

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Jenny Park
Los Angeles

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E75. Letter from Jenny Park, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: jim@sandyandjim.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 7:22 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Jim Elliott
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E76. Letter from Jim Elliot, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: spark7788@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 7:20 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

1

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Steve Park
NORWALK

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E77. Letter from Steve Park, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: nameshift@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 7:19 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Brett Durfee
Los Angeles

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E78. Letter from Brad Durfee, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: moonshadow917@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 7:17 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

1

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Dani Lewis
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E79. Letter from Dani Lewis, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: tonyglewis@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 7:14 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: The Newhall Ranch plan protects the area's sensitive habitat and wildlife

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

After years of careful planning, Newhall Land has gone above and beyond to ensure the environmental resources of Newhall Ranch will be protected for generations to come.

For starters, more than half of the property, about 6,000 acres will be set aside as preserved natural areas. Within these preserved lands are the two most important environmental areas on the site, the Santa Clara River and more than 4,500 acres of High Country of the Santa Susanna Mountains.

I'm also excited about the more than 50 miles of nature trails and 13 parks that will finally allow the public to enjoy the natural open spaces of Newhall Ranch.

With approval of the Newhall Ranch villages, Newhall Land will also provide funding to cover the costs of on-going management of the property so this burden is not placed on taxpayers.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch. This is a balanced plan that deserves your support.

Sincerely,

Tony Lewis
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E80. Letter from Tony Lewis, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: mixxone@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 7:13 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

1

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Steve Williams
Castaic

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E81. Letter from Steve Williams, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: mike@moxietribe.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 7:06 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

1

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Mike Lizarraga
Burbank

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E82. Letter from Mike Lizarraga, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: edna.d.fernandez@juno.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 6:58 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will generate thousands of new jobs within the Santa Clarita Valley

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Like many of my neighbors, I view working near home as a win/win: less time commuting, more time at home, less fuel used and less smog created. The Newhall Ranch community plan can help make this ideal life situation a reality for thousands of Southern California residents.

As proposed, Newhall Ranch would create business and career opportunities through new commercial, retail and office destinations. In all, the plan could help bring thousands of new jobs to the region. Combined with the new employment opportunities Newhall Land is creating in its community of Valencia, more and more of the Valley's residents will be able to work close to home.

The almost 21,000 homes within Newhall Ranch will also help to attract employers and their jobs to the region. These homes can be a significant drawing card as business owners look to locate their operations in areas providing a wealth of talented employees nearby.

The smart way to accommodate growth is to bring jobs and homes together in one community. Newhall Ranch does this and I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Edna Dimataga-Fernandez
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E83. Letter from Edna Dimataga-Fernandez, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: epjenk@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 6:52 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

1

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Eric Jenkins
Saugus

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E84. Letter from Eric Jenkins, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: JUANMOLINA12@AOL.COM
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 6:46 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

JUAN MOLINA
GLENDALE

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E85. Letter from Juan Molina, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: GreenEggsandSam@SamNeylan.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 6:42 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Sam Neylan
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E86. Letter from Ed Neylan, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: calbrez@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 6:42 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Jaleen Mastroianni
Canyon Country

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E87. Letter from Jaleen Mastroianni, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: gncjr2000@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 6:40 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Guy Craighead
Santa Clarita

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E88. Letter from Guy Craighead, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: qpham1@irf.com
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 6:39 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: I support Newhall Ranch

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to enjoying the new outdoor opportunities of Newhall Ranch and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

It is exciting that the plan's High Country Preserve, with its thousands of acres of natural areas and 50+ miles of trails, will be opened to the public for the first time in over a century, as the various villages of Newhall Ranch are approved by the County. The five mile extension of the Regional River trail is another feature of the Newhall Ranch plan that will give people a chance to enjoy the outdoors.

Newhall Ranch has been carefully studied for years and has an approved Specific Plan. It is time for all the benefits to become a reality. I urge you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

quang pham
newhall

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E89. Letter from Quang Pham, dated January 29, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Santa Clara River

Taylor, Gloria

From: Joanne Hedge [hedgegraphics@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 11:40 AM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Santa Clara River

Ms., Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W Temple St.
Los Angeles CA 90013

Dear Ms. Tae:

As a southern California resident, hiker, birdwatcher, and Sierra Club member who sees how quickly native habitat and trees including 67 oaks, watersheds, and water courses are destroyed, degraded, or polluted for developments, this is to plead for opposition to the Newhall Ranch project in Significant Ecological Area 23, where no construction should be permitted.

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I just watched "An Inconvenient Truth" on cable pay-per-view last night, and was reminded again how immediate are the pressing issues associated with global warming. The Newhall Ranch project encourages more of the same that science shows us produced this desperate situation in the first place—auto-based sprawl housing which for the most part is located far from places of work and business, which is a direct cause of CO2 release.

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These impacts must be more adequately addressed and mitigated, the comment period needs to be extended to 120 days for fair study, and the project should not be approved before the EIS on the river has been completed and released, as this may change the project configuration.

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Joanne Hedge
1415 Garden Street
Glendale CA 91201-2716

This message contains information which may be confidential and privileged. Unless you are the intended recipient (or authorized to receive this message for the intended recipient), you may not use, copy, disseminate or disclose to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received the message in error, please advise the sender by reply e-mail, and delete the message. Thank you very much.

1/31/2007

E90. Letter from Joanne Hedge, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota (habitat and oak trees), and Section 4.2, Hydrology, and Section 4.3, Water Quality (watershed and water quality). The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 3

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 5

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Taylor, Gloria

From: Judith McClure [R-J_McClure@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 12:30 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

Dear Ms. Tae:

I respectfully request that the comment period for subject project be extended to 120 days. It has been difficult for us to complete our study of the EIR primarily because of the holidays and the extensive material which must be read and studied.

1

Thank you.

Judith McClure
29111 Lotusgarden Drive
Canyon Country, CA 91387

1/31/2007

E91. Letter from Judith McClure, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Taylor, Gloria

From: chon mung [mungchon@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 12:55 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Santa Clara River--Development

Dear Sirs and Ladies"

The Santa Clara River out Hwy. 126 west of the I-5 is the proposed site of the Newhall Ranch project. This is a potential diaster. The area is a pristine wildland and farming area. The Santa Clara is also Los Angeles County's last wild river.

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Please help save this beautiful area for the people of Los Angeles and neighboring counties and for the generations to come.

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I understand that there is a period for response by the public. Please extend the comment period so that people will have a genuine opportunity to voice opinions on this land grant use.

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In this age of global warming, when we are just beginning to realize the impact of loss of wilderness areas, of tree loss, of building in ecological areas, we must be firm in our opposition to overbuilding, to building that requires the use of the automobile to get to employment centers, and to the destruction of old stands or individual trees.

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Please do everything in your power to stop this development in what is known to be a Significant Ecological Area. Please don't cut down those trees. Please do not approve any project before the complete and entire environmental impact study has been released and studied.

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Thank you.

Mung Chong, resident of the San Fernando Valley

Food fight? Enjoy some healthy debate in the Yahoo! Answers Food & Drink Q&A.

1/31/2007

E92. Letter from Mong Chong, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 3

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 4

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 5

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 6

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 7

The comment addresses general subject areas of trees, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore,

no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 9

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 10

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Taylor, Gloria

From: Lizaamt@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 1:34 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: save the Santa Clara River area

Ms. Susan Tae
Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

It is hard, although unfortunately not impossible, for us to believe that Los Angeles County is seriously considering approving a large housing development that is essentially creating a new city on the Newhall Ranch.

We strongly oppose building in a Significant Ecological Area, particularly where a number of trees will be destroyed. This project will create air pollution and global warming, and add to a car culture that is already way too strong. Los Angeles County needs more public transit, not new developments in pristine areas that will cease being pristine as the flora and fauna are destroyed, and more cars are added to an already overburdened system. We assume that no public transportation is included in the project.

Does Los Angeles County really need to encourage more reliance on middle eastern oil?

In addition, water is also in short supply in Southern California. Is this project going to take water for lawns and golf courses and swimming pools from the Santa Clara River, so that it ends up being like the Owens river or, even worse, like the New River on the border with Mexico? Once the new city is there, you can't take away or limit its water requirements. And this is a naturally dry area.

We urge that you require the developer to address and mitigate the impacts of any project on global warming, and on water sources in this area, before approving the project.

We also urge that you extend the comment period on the EIR and/or the project to 120 days, and that you not approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River is completed and released to the public for comment. Never approving the project would be preferable.

Liza Amtmanis
Cabbot Laroux
8028 Selma Avenue, Los Angeles

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1/31/2007

E93. Letter from Liza Amtmantis, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

The comment addresses air quality, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The Draft EIR concludes that with the implementation of mitigation measures, impacts would remain significant and unavoidable. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 6

The comment addresses the need for more public transit in Los Angeles County, which received analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, pp. 4.7-20 through 4.7-21. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment addresses the project's impacts on flora and fauna, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 comment addresses the results of adding more cars to an "already overburdened system," which received analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The Draft EIR concluded that after implementation of mitigation measures, the proposed project would not create significant and unavoidable impacts. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 9

The comment addresses that no public transportation is included in the project. Please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 10

The comment raises economic, social, or political issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment. 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 required.

Response 11

The comment addresses water supply, a topic that received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 12

Please see **Response 11**, above.

Response 13

Please see **Response 11**, above.

Response 14

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 15

The comment addresses water resources in the area, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 3.0, Cumulative Impact Analysis Methodology, and Section 4.10, Water Service. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 16

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 17

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 18

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Taylor, Gloria

From: BRYAN BERGSTRAND [cbmai@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 6:03 AM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Newhall Ranch Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

Ms. Tae

I am writing to express concerns regarding the referenced project. Specifically:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Please do not approve this project prior to release/completion of the EIS on the Santa Clara River as this could change the configuration of the project. As the last wild river in Los Angeles County, the Santa Clara deserves special consideration and protection. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Building in a Significant Ecological Area deserves special consideration and should be avoided. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The project should, if built, be modified to prevent the destruction of the 67 Oak trees discussed. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Please consider global warming impacts as a part of the review process. California is leading the way in this regard. All projects in this state deserve that this issue be considered during review. According to a recent article in Residential Architect magazine, Seattle, WA - based Mithun architects will only design single family home projects that have at least 8 units per acre. This appears to be a step in the right direction. Traffic congestion and mass transit issues should be more fully addressed and mitigated. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Please extend the comment period to 120 days. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Sincerely,
Bryan S. Bergstrand PE - Civil
212 W Oak Park Dr
Claremont, CA 91711

1/31/2007

E94. Letter from Bryan S. Bergstrand, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment is noted. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

The comment also expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 6

The comment about traffic congestion and transit issues received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: cathy@lmopticaldiscwest.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 8:43 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Catherine Deme
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E95. Letter from Catherine Deme, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: joanbyrd@SCVFinehomes.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 8:37 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will generate thousands of new jobs within the Santa Clarita Valley

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Like many of my neighbors, I view working near home as a win/win: less time commuting, more time at home, less fuel used and less smog created. The Newhall Ranch community plan can help make this ideal life situation a reality for thousands of Southern California residents.

As proposed, Newhall Ranch would create business and career opportunities through new commercial, retail and office destinations. In all, the plan could help bring thousands of new jobs to the region. Combined with the new employment opportunities Newhall Land is creating in its community of Valencia, more and more of the Valley's residents will be able to work close to home.

The almost 21,000 homes within Newhall Ranch will also help to attract employers and their jobs to the region. These homes can be a significant drawing card as business owners look to locate their operations in areas providing a wealth of talented employees nearby.

The smart way to accommodate growth is to bring jobs and homes together in one community. Newhall Ranch does this and I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Joan Byrd
Castaic

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E96. Letter from Joan Byrd, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: koheifp@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 8:35 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Kohei Tomita
Santa Clarita

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E97. Letter from Kohei Tomita, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: lightning1968@msn.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 8:18 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Michael Bridge
Palmdale

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich



1

E98. Letter from Michael Bridge, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: jfernandez@mason-electric.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 8:24 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Judith Fernandez
Stevenson Ranch

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich



1

E99. Letter from Judith Fernandez, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: akaverucca@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 7:41 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Kelli Garner
Canyon Country

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich



1

E100. Letter from Kelli Garner, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: info@sold2000.net
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 7:57 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Larry wims
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich



1

E101. Letter from Larry Wims, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: dansuess@msn.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 7:03 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will generate thousands of new jobs within the Santa Clarita Valley

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Like many of my neighbors, I view working near home as a win/win: less time commuting, more time at home, less fuel used and less smog created. The Newhall Ranch community plan can help make this ideal life situation a reality for thousands of Southern California residents.

As proposed, Newhall Ranch would create business and career opportunities through new commercial, retail and office destinations. In all, the plan could help bring thousands of new jobs to the region. Combined with the new employment opportunities Newhall Land is creating in its community of Valencia, more and more of the Valley's residents will be able to work close to home.

The almost 21,000 homes within Newhall Ranch will also help to attract employers and their jobs to the region. These homes can be a significant drawing card as business owners look to locate their operations in areas providing a wealth of talented employees nearby.

The smart way to accommodate growth is to bring jobs and homes together in one community. Newhall Ranch does this and I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Dan Suess
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E102. Letter from Dan Seuss, dated January 20, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: ggardner@intlcompliance.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 6:58 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Greg Gardner
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E103. Letter from Greg Garner, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: wirpa@ca.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 6:50 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

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For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

apirl woodson
valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E104. Letter from April Woodson, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: dsabergel@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 6:05 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: I support Newhall Ranch

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to enjoying the new outdoor opportunities of Newhall Ranch and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

It is exciting that the plan's High Country Preserve, with its thousands of acres of natural areas and 50+ miles of trails, will be opened to the public for the first time in over a century, as the various villages of Newhall Ranch are approved by the County. The five mile extension of the Regional River trail is another feature of the Newhall Ranch plan that will give people a chance to enjoy the outdoors.

1

Newhall Ranch has been carefully studied for years and has an approved Specific Plan. It is time for all the benefits to become a reality. I urge you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Diane Abergel
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E105. Letter from Diane Abergel, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: blueskyinheaven@ca.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 5:11 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Borkoski
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E106. Letter from Suzanne Borkoski, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: binca6@mac.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 12:18 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Brian Donovan
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich



1

E107. Letter from Brian Donovan, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: stephanie_bte@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 11:15 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hardie
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich



1

E108. Letter from Stephanie Hardie, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: pennyvoelker@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 12:27 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

1

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Elaine Voelker
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E109. Letter from Elaine Volker, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: lca4caddy@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 11:53 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

1

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Armour
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E110. Letter from Lloyd Armour, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: ginof@goffg.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 11:52 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Gino Fronti
North Hollywood

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E111. Letter from Gino Fronti, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: csteale@wildsync.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 11:42 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will generate thousands of new jobs within the Santa Clarita Valley

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Like many of my neighbors, I view working near home as a win/win: less time commuting, more time at home, less fuel used and less smog created. The Newhall Ranch community plan can help make this ideal life situation a reality for thousands of Southern California residents.

As proposed, Newhall Ranch would create business and career opportunities through new commercial, retail and office destinations. In all, the plan could help bring thousands of new jobs to the region. Combined with the new employment opportunities Newhall Land is creating in its community of Valencia, more and more of the Valley's residents will be able to work close to home.

1

The almost 21,000 homes within Newhall Ranch will also help to attract employers and their jobs to the region. These homes can be a significant drawing card as business owners look to locate their operations in areas providing a wealth of talented employees nearby.

The smart way to accommodate growth is to bring jobs and homes together in one community. Newhall Ranch does this and I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Carrie Steele
Santa Clarita

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E112. Letter from Carrie Steele, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: nhbookworm@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 12:56 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

sheila dudman
merrimack

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E113. Letter from Sheila Dudman, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: robertmacasaet@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 1:13 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

robert macasaet
fair oaks ranch

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E114. Letter from Robert Macasaet, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: samyako@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 3:56 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

1

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

sam yako
castaic,

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E115. Letter from Sam Yako, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: judeeguzman@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 8:56 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: The Newhall Ranch plan protects the area's sensitive habitat and wildlife

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

After years of careful planning, Newhall Land has gone above and beyond to ensure the environmental resources of Newhall Ranch will be protected for generations to come.

For starters, more than half of the property, about 6,000 acres will be set aside as preserved natural areas. Within these preserved lands are the two most important environmental areas on the site, the Santa Clara River and more than 4,500 acres of High Country of the Santa Susanna Mountains.

I'm also excited about the more than 50 miles of nature trails and 13 parks that will finally allow the public to enjoy the natural open spaces of Newhall Ranch.

With approval of the Newhall Ranch villages, Newhall Land will also provide funding to cover the costs of on-going management of the property so this burden is not placed on taxpayers.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch. This is a balanced plan that deserves your support.

Sincerely,

judee guzman
los angeles

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich



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E116. Letter from Judee Guzman, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: debalebs@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 9:30 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: The Newhall Ranch plan protects the area's sensitive habitat and wildlife

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

After years of careful planning, Newhall Land has gone above and beyond to ensure the environmental resources of Newhall Ranch will be protected for generations to come.

For starters, more than half of the property, about 6,000 acres will be set aside as preserved natural areas. Within these preserved lands are the two most important environmental areas on the site, the Santa Clara River and more than 4,500 acres of High Country of the Santa Susanna Mountains.

I'm also excited about the more than 50 miles of nature trails and 13 parks that will finally allow the public to enjoy the natural open spaces of Newhall Ranch.

With approval of the Newhall Ranch villages, Newhall Land will also provide funding to cover the costs of on-going management of the property so this burden is not placed on taxpayers.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch. This is a balanced plan that deserves your support.

Sincerely,

Deborah Donovan
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich



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E117. Letter from Deborah Donovan, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: info@kinetixapt.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 9:43 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

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For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Michelle Eckard
Santa Clarita

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E118. Letter from Michelle Eckhard, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: rigcyun@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 9:29 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: I support Newhall Ranch

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to enjoying the new outdoor opportunities of Newhall Ranch and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

It is exciting that the plan's High Country Preserve, with its thousands of acres of natural areas and 50+ miles of trails, will be opened to the public for the first time in over a century, as the various villages of Newhall Ranch are approved by the County. The five mile extension of the Regional River trail is another feature of the Newhall Ranch plan that will give people a chance to enjoy the outdoors.

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Newhall Ranch has been carefully studied for years and has an approved Specific Plan. It is time for all the benefits to become a reality. I urge you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

lisa yun
santa clarita

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E119. Letter from Lisa Yun, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: jennimillan@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 9:13 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

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For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Jenni Millan
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E120. Letter from Jenni Millan, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: avalon29@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 10:01 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Melinda Vos
Marietta

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich



1

E121. Letter from Melinda Vos, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: ronsmithrea@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 10:33 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Ron Smith
Santa Clarita

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E122. Letter from Ron Smith, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: larrysee411@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 10:43 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will generate thousands of new jobs within the Santa Clarita Valley

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Like many of my neighbors, I view working near home as a win/win: less time commuting, more time at home, less fuel used and less smog created. The Newhall Ranch community plan can help make this ideal life situation a reality for thousands of Southern California residents.

As proposed, Newhall Ranch would create business and career opportunities through new commercial, retail and office destinations. In all, the plan could help bring thousands of new jobs to the region. Combined with the new employment opportunities Newhall Land is creating in its community of Valencia, more and more of the Valley's residents will be able to work close to home.

The almost 21,000 homes within Newhall Ranch will also help to attract employers and their jobs to the region. These homes can be a significant drawing card as business owners look to locate their operations in areas providing a wealth of talented employees nearby.

The smart way to accommodate growth is to bring jobs and homes together in one community. Newhall Ranch does this and I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Larry See
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E123. Letter from Larry See, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: patty@wagthedogmedia.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 10:47 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Patty Douglas
valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E124. Letter from Patty Douglas, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: mmaximon@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 7:35 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Merian Young
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E125. Letter from Merian Young, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: tiddlywinks23@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 10:03 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Byron Davis
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E126. Letter from Byron Davis, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: ammarek@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 8:21 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Alison Marek
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E127. Letter from Alison Marek, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: pmlaca5@ca.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 7:59 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Pablo Monterrosa
Castaic

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E128. Letter from Pablo Monterrosa, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: Chevykid24@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 7:56 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Gregg Herrera
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E129. Letter from Gregg Herrera, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: ltmoen@earthlink.net
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 7:45 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Larry T. Moen
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E130. Letter from Larry T. Moen, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: drmason1@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 7:02 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

mason abedinzadeh
santa clarita

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E131. Letter from Mason Abeninzadeh, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: Jenvet85@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 6:12 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Little
Northridge

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich



1

E132. Letter from Jennifer Little, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: d.diblasio@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 3:39 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Marissa DiBlasio
valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E133. Letter from Marissa DiBlaso, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: kjones@newhall.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 2:47 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Karleen Jones
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E134. Letter from Karleen Jones, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: therueffs@ca.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 11:24 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

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Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

danielle rueff
valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E135. Letter from Danielle Rueff, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: amyunderwood@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 2:29 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: The Newhall Ranch plan protects the area's sensitive habitat and wildlife

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

After years of careful planning, Newhall Land has gone above and beyond to ensure the environmental resources of Newhall Ranch will be protected for generations to come.

For starters, more than half of the property, about 6,000 acres will be set aside as preserved natural areas. Within these preserved lands are the two most important environmental areas on the site, the Santa Clara River and more than 4,500 acres of High Country of the Santa Susanna Mountains.

I'm also excited about the more than 50 miles of nature trails and 13 parks that will finally allow the public to enjoy the natural open spaces of Newhall Ranch.

With approval of the Newhall Ranch villages, Newhall Land will also provide funding to cover the costs of on-going management of the property so this burden is not placed on taxpayers.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch. This is a balanced plan that deserves your support.

Sincerely,

Amy Underwood
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich



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E136. Letter from Amy Underwood, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: sandy@sandyandjim.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 1:43 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Sandra and Jim Elliott
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E137. Letter from Sandra & Jim Elliot, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: driana_che@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 1:39 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Charles Chung
valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E138. Letter from Charles Chung, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: jcabrera@newhall.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 4:30 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

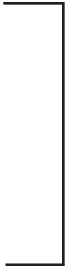
Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cabrera
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich



1

E139. Letter from Jennifer Cabrera, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Taylor, Gloria

From: Fierros, Daniel
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 11:17 AM
To: Susan Tebo
Cc: Tae, Susan; McCarthy, Paul; Silvas, Rudy
Subject: FW: Sierra Club Landmark Comment letter - ammonium perchlorate
Attachments: Landmark perchlorate comments.doc; Perchlorate Res (Chapter).doc; scanCLWA perchlorate time table.pdf; Perchlorate_and_Childrens_Health.pdf; Signal June9 - Well NC-13 Tests Positive.pdf

From: Jennifer Robinson [mailto:Jennifer.robinson@sierraclub.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 11:13 AM
To: Fierros, Daniel
Subject: Sierra Club Landmark Comment letter - ammonium perchlorate

The Sierra Club continues to respectfully request that the County grant an extension of the official review period so that all comments may be included in the FEIR and circulated to commentors.

Attached are our initial comments, pertaining only to the ammonium perchlorate pollution issue. We intend to submit comments on several other sections of the DEIR, but have not completed our review. We hope to provide you with additional comments on biology, geology, air pollution, traffic, water quality and water supply in the near future.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Robinson

Jennifer Robinson
Conservation Program Coordinator
Sierra Club Angeles Chapter
3435 Wilshire Blvd. Ste 320
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(213)387-4287 x204
jennifer.robinson@sierraclub.org

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1/31/2007

E140. Letter from Jennifer Robinson, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

The comment addresses ammonium perchlorate, and comments on biology, geology, air quality, traffic, and water quality, all of which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.3, Water Quality, for ammonium perchlorate and water quality; Section 4.4, Biota, for biology; Section 4.1, Geotechnical and Soil Resources, Section 4.20, Mineral Resources, and Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Also, as to water supply, please see Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service.

Susan Tebo

From: Fierros, Daniel [DFierros@planning.lacounty.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2007 7:50 AM
To: Susan Tebo
Cc: Tae, Susan
Subject: FW: The Santa Clara River

-----Original Message-----

From: Kate Wolf [mailto:kaylameloni@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2007 10:21 PM
To: Fierros, Daniel
Subject: The Santa Clara River

RE: Project No. 00-196 / Tract Map No. 53108 / Landmark Village, Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Fierros,
I am writing on behalf of an area that I hope you will be willing to look at with fresh eyes, as your department receives comments regarding the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

There are obvious challenges -- air quality, water, traffic, and energy,

which must be overcome, but the most overriding challenge of all is whether we can save the last free-flowing river in Southern California from being destroyed in one of the last truly wild areas of Los Angeles County.

This is a tremendous opportunity for all of us to save the upper Santa Clara River, its floodplain, tributaries, and upland habitat -- which links to other wild areas in the state.

I am not against housing development, I understand the need to provide housing for our growing population -- however -- not at the detriment of

this wonderful state resource.

Please reconsider the EIR and make recommendations that it be revised to

include the proper studies to determine what areas are most critical to birds and wildlife. My greatest concern is that this project is being rushed through without acceptable scientific research, which has been strongly recommended by many non-profit organizations.

Sincerely,

KATE WOLF
580 Crane Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA.
90065

Vertical sidebar with three numbered boxes (1, 2, 3) and horizontal lines extending from them to the left.

Get Hilary Duff's homepage with her photos, music, and more.
http://celebrities.live.com

E141. Letter from Kate Wolf, dated January 31, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment requests reconsideration of the EIR and that the EIR include “proper” biological studies. The comment also suggests that the project is being rushed without acceptable scientific research. Numerous biological studies over the last 13 years have been conducted for the project site and are included in Appendix 4.4 of the Landmark Village Draft EIR and **Appendix A** of this Final EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

~~0015~~ SUB-16

Jan 25, 2007

RECEIVED
FEB 01 2007

Dear Mr. Lee

Re: Request: General
Request # 06196-51

There is a special request
for you to consider an
application to dedication of
67.0 ac. - [Sub dedication]

will have been reported on of call &
please recognize - [a serious threat to
our environment.]

As a member of the
Sierra Club, a conservationist and long appreciated
member of our Planet - bring you to
be mindful of our commitment to save
all land areas here in LA County

Thank you for your support and efforts in
these matters

Sincerely,

Arlo D. Dicker, Esq. Chair
San Fernando Valley Green
Sierra Club

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E142. Letter from C. Chase?, dated January 25, 2007

Response 1

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 3

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

David Magney Environmental Consulting

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30 January 2007

ENV-13
ENV-13
Subject: VTTM 53108
Date: 01-31-07
Ms. Tae/Armenah

Daniel Fierros
Los Angeles County Dept. of Regional Planning
320 W. Temple Street, Room 1346
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Landmark Village Draft EIR (SP 00-198/VTTM No. 53108/RCUP 200500112/OTP 00196/CUP 00-196)

Dear Mr. Fierros:

David Magney Environmental Consulting (DMEC) is providing these comments on behalf of the Friends of the Santa Clara River, a California nonprofit corporation, and the California Native Plant Society, which is a member organization of the Friends.

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DMEC herein provides comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Newhall Land and Farming Company's proposed Landmark Village project, located along the Santa Clara River just upstream of the Ventura County line. DMEC is focusing its review on the biological resources of the project site and how the proposed project will impact those resources.

2

Issues raised in this letter:

1. Natural Vegetation mischaracterized (e.g. use of term "non-native grassland") and Improper assessment of impacts to natural vegetation;
2. Many locally rare (rare in Los Angeles County) not considered;
3. Mitigation for impacts to rare plants NOT fully mitigatable;
4. Impacts to wetland functions not adequately assessed; and
5. Impacts of pesticide use in suburban areas on biological resources.

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Numerous additional issues need to be raised; however, there is insufficient time without a time extension to discuss them adequately in this letter.

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Issue 1: Natural Vegetation Mischaracterized

The DEIR and Biota Report mischaracterizes the natural vegetation present onsite and the subsequent impact assessment because it uses a seriously outdated classification that has not been used by the resource and regulatory agencies for years now. For example, the DEIR refers to grassland vegetation as "Non-native Grassland", which is both inaccurate and misleading. Anyone not familiar with the nature and ecological importance of grasslands in California is easily misled by the use of the term "Non-native Grassland". Why would anyone want to protect or think Non-native Grassland is important? The California Department of Fish and Game currently uses, and has used for years, the National Vegetation Classification system, which is basically described in the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS's)

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Newhall-LanmarkVillageDEIR_comments-DMEC

Manual of California Vegetation (Manual) (Sawyer & Keeler-Wolf 1995¹). Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf (1995) describes grasslands and herbaceous vegetation based on the dominant species, regardless of the nativity of the dominant species, as was done by in Robert Holland’s “Preliminary Description of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California” (Holland 1986²). The *Manual* follows the standards set forth by a collaboration of federal, international, and state governments and scientists to provide consistency worldwide and nationally as well as be more accurate scientifically. It is for these reasons that the use of the old “Holland” system should not be used, as it is both inaccurate and not consistent with statewide and national, and international, standards. The descriptions of plant communities in the DEIR should be revised and updated to follow the standards adopted by the CDFG and CNPS and the impact assessment revised accordingly.

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It is clear that the grassland/herbaceous plant communities present at the project are much more varied and complex than as described in the DEIR and supporting documents. However, the DEIR takes the position that these habitats are not valuable and impacts to them are less than significant and no mitigation is required. This is untrue. Grassland habitats, regardless of their dominant species composition, are quite valuable as habitat, particularly to birds and small mammals. Annual grassland habitats have been shown to be quite important to birds compared to other plant communities, including perennial grasslands according to Jones & Stokes Associates (1989³). In fact, that study found that bird use of annual grasslands was almost equal to that of perennial grasslands, and both grassland types had higher bird species use (just in numbers of species) than other plant communities in California. This fact was ignored and not assessed in the DEIR.

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Issue 2: Locally Rare Plants Not Considered

A review of the list of plants observed at the project site finds several problems, some of which are easily rectified, and others requiring significant revisions. First, a large number of vascular plants were not fully identified to subspecies or variety, which is necessary to understand which taxon is present, and if that taxon is a rare species meeting the intent and definition of rare under CEQA. Second, no consideration or discussion or assessment is given to species that are rare regionally or within Los Angeles County. DMEC’s preliminary assessment of the species present found several plant taxa that should be considered as significant resources, and assessed accordingly.

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Below is a list of vascular plants that are not fully identified and may be rare in the region and/or Los Angeles County of which some subspecies or varieties are rare:

- Chaenactis glabriuscula* – which variety?
- Chrysothamnus nauseosus* – which subspecies?
- Heterotheca sessiliflora* – which subspecies?
- Lessingia glandulifera* – which variety?
- Stephanomeria exigua* – which subspecies?

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¹ Sawyer, J.O., and T. Keeler-Wolf. 1995. *Manual of California Vegetation*. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, California.
² Holland, R.F. 1986. Preliminary Description of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California. California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California.
³ Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc. 1989. Sliding Towards Extinction: Reassembling the Pieces. Sacramento, California. Commissioned by The Nature Conservancy, San Francisco, California.

Pectocarya linearis – which subspecies?
Plagiobothrys collinus – which variety?
Lepidium virginicum – which variety?
Lonicera subspicata – which variety?
Symphoricarpos – which species?
Atriplex canescens – which subspecies?
Dudleya cymosa – which subspecies?
Astragalus trichopodus – which variety? uncommon in Ventura County (Magney 2007)
Lathyrus vestitus – which subspecies?
Trifolium albopurpureum – which variety?
Trifolium gracilentum – which variety?
Ribes aureum – which variety?
Ribes malvaceum – which variety?
Nemophila menziesii – which variety?
Phacelia cicutaria – which variety? Rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007)
Phacelia ramosissima – which variety?
Stachys ajugoides – which variety?
Camissonia boothii – which subspecies?
Clarkia purpurea – which subspecies?
Oenothera elata – which subspecies?
Leptodactylon californicum – which subspecies?
Rumex salicifolius – which variety?
Calyptridium – which species?
Claytonia parviflora – which subspecies?
Ceanothus tomentosus – which variety?
Galium angustifolium – which subspecies?
Antirrhinum coulterianum – which subspecies?
Castilleja densiflora – which subspecies?
Cordylanthus rigidus – which subspecies?
Linaria canadensis – which subspecies?
Juncus balticus – which variety?
Eragrostis mexicana – which variety?
Scirpus acutus – which variety? Rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007)

If any of these taxa have ten or fewer populations in Los Angeles County, they should be evaluated as potentially locally rare, and losses to one or more populations should be considered significant, and appropriately mitigated.

Below is a list of 55 vascular plants listed in the DEIR or supporting documents that are rare in the region and/or Los Angeles County but were not evaluated as sensitive biological resources pursuant to CEQA:

Juniperus californica – While this species is relatively common in the desert portions of Los Angeles County and southern California, this occurrence on Newhall Ranch represents the southwestern-most occurrence of this species. The limits of a species range, and a disjunct population such as on Newhall Ranch, represents a significant botanical resource that should be assessed.

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Amaranthus palmeri - uncommon in Ventura County (Magney 2007); there are only 11 vouchered records for this species in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007¹), representing 8 populations of which only 2 are extant, plus the Newhall Ranch populations, meaning that this taxon should be considered rare in Los Angeles County.

Amaranthus powellii - uncommon in Ventura County (Magney 2007); rare in Los Angeles County with 7 vouchered populations, all but one of which were made over 80 years ago (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and most are likely extirpated. The Newhall Ranch population is possibly the only extant population and should be treated as rare in Los Angeles County.

Sanicula bipinnata - rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); there are only about 8 extant occurrences of this species in Los Angeles County, with many of the voucher collected found in the Consortium of California Herbaria (2007) from collections made over 60 years ago and are likely extirpated. This species should be treated as a locally rare species in Los Angeles County.

Achyrachaena mollis - rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); rare in Los Angeles County since there are less than 20 historic occurrences in the county with some historical and almost certainly extirpated and recent collection sites/populations are at development sites (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007). This species should be treated as a rare species.

Ambrosia confertiflora – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); of the 8 population historically known in Los Angeles County, the population at the project site is one of only 4 known occurrence in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Baccharis sarothroides – not in Ventura County; the only known population in Los Angeles County is on the project site (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); therefore, it should be treated as a rare species.

Coryza coulteri – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); only 8 collections have been made of this species in Los Angeles County, representing 6 extant populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007). This species should be treated as rare in Los Angeles County.

Gnaphalium leucocephalum/species nova – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); rare in Los Angeles County based only 6 historic populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007), of which some have been extirpated. Based on Dudeck's research on this taxon, *G. leucocephalum* should be treated as an undescribed species, and assessed as a rare species.

Helianthus californicus – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); rare in Los Angeles County with only 3 known populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007). This species should be treated as a rare species.

Pluchea odorata – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); rare in Los Angeles County represented by only about 6 extant occurrences (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); this species should be treated as a rare species.

Pluchea sericea – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented by only 5 extant populations in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Wyethia ovata – could this be misidentified? – *Balsamorhiza deltoidea* occurs in Ventura County and looks similar to *Wyethia ovata*. *Balsamorhiza* is uncommon in Ventura County (Magney 2007) but *W. ovata* is not known from Ventura County. This population represents an extralimital population well below its known elevational range and should be treated as a rare species.

¹ Consortium of California Herbaria. 2007. Database search of California public herbaria 22 January 2007. Jepson Herbarium, University of California, Berkeley. (<http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/>)

Descurainia pinnata ssp. *halictorum* – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by only 5 known extant populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Opuntia basilaris var. *ramosa* – not found in Ventura County; only known occurrence in Los Angeles County; this taxon should be treated as a rare species.

Opuntia californica var. *parkeri* – not found in Ventura County; Newhall Ranch site is the only other known occurrence in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Opuntia Xvaseyi – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); there are only 2 other known populations of this taxon in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and it should be treated as a rare species.

Atriplex serenana var. *serenana* – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented by only 7 populations in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be considered as a rare species.

Atriplex triangularis – uncommon in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by about only 7 extant populations at most (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Cuscuta pentagona – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by about only 8 extant populations at most (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Stillingia linearifolia – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by about only 9 extant populations at most (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Lupinus excubitus – uncommon in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by about only 9 extant populations at most (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Lupinus macrocarpus var. *densiflorus* [*L. densiflorus*] – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by about only 8 extant populations at most (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Vicia hassei – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by about only 8 extant populations at most (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Nemophila parviflora var. *quercifolia* – Only known occurrence in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); not known from Ventura County.

Stachys ajugoides var. *rigida* – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by about 5 populations, all of which are based on vouchers over 60 years old, except 1 (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); this taxon should be treated as a rare species.

Malacothamnus fasciculatus ssp. *laxiflorus* – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by only 6 populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); this taxon should be treated as a rare species.

Clarkia speciosa – not in Ventura County; Newhall Ranch collection represent the only known population in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); this species is rare in Los Angeles County and should be treated as such.

Epilobium brachycarpum – uncommon in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by about 10 extant populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be considered rare.

Orobanche parishii ssp. *parishii* – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented by up to 4 populations in Los Angeles County, 2 of which are on Newhall Ranch (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be considered a rare species.

Eriastrum densifolium ssp. *mohavense* – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by only 3 populations (Consortium of California Herbaria) and should be treated as a rare species.

Phlox gracilis – uncommon in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by about 10 populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Chorizanthe fimbriata – only record for Los Angeles County is on Newhall Ranch with no other known population in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); not in adjacent Ventura County.

Eriogonum viridescens – uncommon in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by about 8 populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Lastarriaea coriacea – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by no more than 10 extant populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Polygonum punctatum – uncommon in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by no more than 8 extant populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Rumex maritimus – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by no more than 8 extant populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Galium nuttallii ssp. *nuttallii* – CNPS List 4, uncommon in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by no more than 8 extant populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Parthenocissus vitacea – Rare in California and in Los Angeles County, not found in adjacent Ventura County; represented in Los Angeles County by no more than 3 extant populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007), all on Newhall Ranch, and should be treated as a rare species.

Cyperus odoratus – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by no more than 8 extant populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Eleocharis rostellata – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by no more than 7 extant populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Scirpus americanus – uncommon in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by no more than 2 extant populations (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Scirpus robustus – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented in Los Angeles County by only one other extant population in the Liebre Mountains (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007) and should be treated as a rare species.

Juncus acutus ssp. *leopoldii* – CNPS List 4; represented by about 10 extant populations in Los Angeles County with about half those on Santa Catalina Island (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); loss of one or more populations of this taxon should be considered a significant impact.

Juncus longistylis – not found in Ventura County; only 2 populations in Los Angeles County other than Newhall Ranch (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); loss of one or more populations of this taxon should be considered a significant impact.

Juncus torreyi – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented by about 7 extant populations in Los Angeles County, including Newhall Ranch (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); loss of one or more populations of this taxon should be considered a significant impact.

Juncus triformis – rare in Los Angeles County; not found in Ventura County; represented by only 1 extant population in Los Angeles County on Newhall Ranch (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); loss of this one Los Angeles County population or individuals of this taxon should be considered a significant impact.

Lemna minuscula – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented by only 6 historic populations in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); loss of one or more populations of this taxon should be considered a significant impact.

Lemna valdiviana – uncommon in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented by only 8 historic populations in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); loss of one or more populations of this taxon should be considered a significant impact.

Brodiaea terrestris ssp. *kernensis* – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented by only 5 historic populations in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); loss of one or more populations of this taxon should be considered a significant impact.

Yucca schidigera – rare in Los Angeles County; not found in Ventura County; represented by only 1 extant population in Los Angeles County on Newhall Ranch (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); loss of this one Los Angeles County population or individuals of this taxon should be considered a significant impact. Is this planted onsite and not native on the ranch?

Panicum capillare – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented by only 9 historic populations in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); loss of one or more populations of this taxon should be considered a significant impact.

Paspalum distichum – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented by only 7 historic populations in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); loss of one or more populations of this taxon should be considered a significant impact.

Sporobolus airoides – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented by only 9 historic populations in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); loss of one or more populations of this taxon should be considered a significant impact.

Vulpia microstachys var. *microstachys* – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented by about 7 historic populations in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); loss of one or more populations of this taxon should be considered a significant impact.

Potamogeton foliosus – rare in Ventura County (Magney 2007); represented by about 10 historic populations in Los Angeles County (Consortium of California Herbaria 2007); loss of one or more populations of this taxon should be considered a significant impact.

The loss of any of these 55 plant taxa should be analyzed for significance. There is no doubt as to their rarity in Los Angeles County, the only area in California in which the County has any jurisdiction, but these plants that are rare in Los Angeles County were not considered in the DEIR as significant biological resources. As is practiced in other jurisdictions, such as Ventura County, the loss of a population of any of these taxa would be considered a significant impact, and appropriate mitigation proposed, if feasible. This was not done in the DEIR, rendering it inadequate in this area.

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Issue 3: Mitigation for Impacts to Rare Plants Not Fully Mitigatable

Below are specific and general comments about the adequacy of the proposed mitigation for rare plants in the DEIR.

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Page 4.4-2, last paragraph, Line 9: “Implementation of measures contained in Specific Plan RMP...would reduce some, but not all, Specific Plan impacts to special-status plant and wildlife species,...”. This basically states that after mitigation measures, impacts to at least some special-status plants will still remain significant.

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Page 4.4-3, Table 4.4-1, Row 4: Table states “It is acknowledged that any loss of plant species listed as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered is considered a significant impact.” This contradicts their “not significant” “conclusion after mitigation” for several plant species in Table 4.4-1. The “conclusion after mitigation” for most of these Rare, Threatened, or Endangered species should at least be potentially significant since the plants are known onsite even though they were supposedly never observed during the Newhall surveys reported on in this EIR. Furthermore, Table 4.4-1 does not include a significance summary for all “observed” special-status plant species discussed in Section 7a.(1) beginning on Page 4.4-29. Table 4.4-1 also does not include a significance summary (i.e. potentially significant) for all “special-status plant species known in the project area” discussed in Section 7a.(2) and included in Table 4.4-4 on Page 4.4-33.

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Page 4.4-33, Paragraph 1, Lines 1-4: When referring to Table 4.4-4, Special-status Plant Species Documented in the Project Area but Not Observed on or Adjacent to the Project Site, the DEIR states, “Given the thoroughness of the survey efforts, it is unlikely that any of the species identified below are present on the project site, though the potential of some of these species to occur on the site in future seasons cannot be entirely ruled out.” Table 4.4-4 provides very general habitat requirements, no elevation requirements, and no species-specific likelihood of occurrence based on whether suitable habitat is present onsite or other known and reported occurrences nearby. To say “it is unlikely that any of the species identified are present on the project site” does not accommodate the potential for any plant species (special-status or otherwise) to inhabit the project site based on specific environmental conditions or requirements, or microhabitat changes. The DEIR needs to provide a specific likelihood of occurrence, at the very least, based on the presence or absence of required habitat onsite, not on the assumption that their

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surveys are thorough enough. Any special-status plant species with a likely potential of occurring onsite, which should have been the case for species such as Nevin’s Barberry, Plummer’s Mariposa Lily, Late-flowering Mariposa Lily, Southern Tarplant, Slender-horned Spineflower, *Dudleya* spp., Davidson’s Bushmallow, etc. A separate impact analysis should have been conducted for each species to assess the potential for significant impacts, to these and similar species, resulting from the proposed project.

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Page 4.4-64, Section 9b.(1)(f), Paragraph 1: Again, 36 special-status plant species with potential of occurring onsite (known or reported nearby) are completely disregarded solely on the basis of the DEIR’s assumption that the floristic surveys conducted onsite are adequate enough to account for every living plant existing onsite or that may exist in the future onsite, and for all propagules that exist dormant in the soil. Again a separate impact analysis should have been conducted for each species to assess the potential for significant impacts to these species resulting from the proposed project.

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Section 9b.(1)(f) (beginning on Page 4.4-64):

Everlasting (undescribed): The level of significance changes from potentially significant to less than significant solely based on the Mitigation Measure JV 4.4-20, which suggests that conducting seasonal surveys prior to construction and, if found, collecting and planting seeds in a receiver site in the preserved open space is adequate enough to reduce the level of significance to a less-than-significant level. This assumption is flawed because:

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- (1) Seasonal surveys are not adequate mitigation. This activity simply locates individuals and populations; however, this activity does not compensate for the potential loss of individuals and/or populations of this species.
- (2) An analysis of the residual impacts to this and other special-status plant species needs to be included in the impact analysis section.
- (3) All mitigation sites for each impacted or potentially impacted special-status plant species needs to be indicated on a map, and needs to be designated on a species-specific basis; therefore, simply seeding the ephemeral drainages of the High Country chaparral habitats to be preserved onsite with salvaged seeds of this *Gnaphalium* will not ensure the success of this species that requires floodplain habitats.
- (4) Since no attempt at avoidance has been made, avoidance measures should be implemented to the maximum extent possible.
- (5) The mitigation ratio for impacts to special-status plant species should be raised to a 10:1 ratio to ensure survival and to better accommodate any residual impacts resulting from the proposed project.
- (6) Seed collection and propagation methods, final mitigation site determination, and a mitigation plan and monitoring program preparation should all be defined in the mitigation measures provided for this and all special-status plant species impacted by the project.

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Slender Mariposa Lily: Since no attempt at avoiding this species onsite has been made, at least 887 aboveground individuals will be lost as a result of the project. Avoidance should be analyzed to a greater extent to minimize impacts to this species to the maximum extent possible. A discussion of Numbers 2, 3, 5, and 6 from the discussion above for Everlasting should be included in the analysis for Slender Mariposa Lily. Mitigation Measure 4.4-19 proposes to plant these 887 bulbs within the “high sustainability” areas of

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the High Country preserve onsite. No mitigation should be conducted with already pristine or high-quality habitats preserved onsite to ensure no additional impacts occur to these areas. Mitigation should only occur in areas that are already somewhat disturbed in an effort to enhance these areas concurrently with special-status plant species mitigation.

Peirson's Morning-glory: No indication as to the number of individuals to be impacted onsite is provided. No impact analysis can even be made without determining this impact number (or at least an estimate). Once the amount of individuals impacted is determined, in order to fully understand the impacts to this species, a Los Angeles County regional distribution analysis needs to be conducted. Stating that this species is common throughout the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area does not begin to demonstrate the range of this species locally or regionally, particularly since there appears to be no attempt to avoid any impacts to this species. Furthermore, to state that the CNPS List 4 status is not considered rare in the statewide perspective does not automatically preclude that no further population studies are warranted, and that this project can impact this species as much as needed with no consequence or mitigation requirements. Recommended Mitigation Measures 4.6-27, 4.6-34, 4.6-35, and 4.6-53 generally state that impacts to this species can be mitigated by (1) reducing grazing in the High Country areas, (2) fencing in impact areas, (3) having biologist to ensure no impacts outside of fenced areas, and (4) conducting seasonal surveys if a subdivision map is proposed, respectively. While potentially reducing the impacts to additional individuals, these mitigation measures do nothing to mitigate for the actual loss of the many individuals and the residual impacts of this species as a result of this project. An analysis of the residual impacts to this and other special-status plant species needs to be included in the impact analysis section. Since no attempt at avoidance has been made, avoidance measures should be implemented to the maximum extent possible.

Southern California Black Walnut: Walnut is treated as the Peirson's Morning-glory is treated based on its status of CNPS List 4. Therefore, much of the discussion above for Peirson's Morning-glory applies to this species as well. The only mitigation measure recommended for impacts to 10 trees of walnut is 4.6-48, which is the Oak Resources Replacement Program, stating that replacement trees shall be planted in conformance with the oak tree ordinance in effect at that time. This mitigation measure simply includes walnut trees in the mitigation of oak trees. Walnut-specific mitigation requirements need to be presented as mitigation for the loss of the 10 walnut trees. The mitigation ratio should be 10:1, specifically, and the mitigation measure should include, at a minimum, seed collection methods and timing, planting methods, the need for a mitigation plan and monitoring program, and a map indicating appropriate mitigation sites. An analysis of the residual impacts to this and other special-status plant species needs to be included in the impact analysis section. Simply because this species is common locally does not mean that impacts to this species will not have any adverse impacts to the continuing existence of this species in the region.

Issue 4: Impacts to Wetland Functions Not Adequately Assessed

First, the DEIR states that URS's wetland delineation was verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on 4 February 2004. This means, that unless there has been a reverification, that delineation is no longer valid as the Corps' verifications are only valid for a period of two (2) years. Furthermore, the floods of January 2005 caused significant changes in many streams and rivers in southern California, which often resulted in expansion of areas under Corps jurisdiction. DMEC believes that the wetland delineation will need to be updated to show current conditions, per Clean Water Act regulations and Corps policy before impacts to jurisdictional waters of the U.S., including wetlands, can be made for this project.

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The DEIR's "(c) Setbacks from Riparian Resources" section starting on page 4.4-60 provides a basic explanation of what the proposed project setbacks are from riparian wetlands along the Santa Clara River; however, there is no evidence that what is proposed is based on any real objective analyses. Rather, what is proposed is more speculation and justification than a true consideration of what and where buffers should be for this project to protect all the wetland functions and biological resources present onsite and downstream.

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Only an objective analysis, starting with baseline conditions, will provide an adequate determination of how wide the buffers need to be to protect wetland functions. The Corps' Hydrogeomorphic approach (HGM) (Smith et al. 1995¹) to determining and measuring wetland functionality is probably the best, and most objective method available to provide an objective assessment of project-related impacts to wetland functions, which can also be very useful in identifying specific actions that can be taken to develop appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for those significant impacts. DMEC has used the HGM approach routinely on projects occurring within or adjacent to riparian wetland habitats, with the results acceptable to the Corps and other regulatory agencies. [Two recent examples can be examined on DMEC's website (Reinke Wetland Assessment (DMEC 2000² – [<http://www.magney.org/pdfs/Reinke%20HGM%20Report.pdf>], and Camarillo Regional Park Wetland Assessment (DMEC 2004³) [<http://www.magney.org/pdfs/CamRegParkHGMReport-final.pdf>]). The HGM approach was recently used by DMEC to determine objectively whether a small development within Ventura County's 100-foot wetland buffer zone would result in significant (10 percent) changes in any of the fourteen wetland functions identified by the HGM riverine models (DMEC 2006⁴). The results of the application of the HGM model on that small project was accepted by the Ventura County Planning Division because of its objectivity, satisfying the County's General Plan policy.

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Issue 5: Impacts of Pesticide Use in Suburban Areas on Biological Resources

Pesticides are known to both bioaccumulate in sediments and animals and cause significant adverse affects on organisms. The DEIR mentions pesticides as an important issue, but inadequately identifies the sources, types, vectors, and sensitive receptors onsite and downstream.

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The DEIR addresses pesticide use in Chapter 4.4 Biota, Section b. Impact Analysis, 2) Indirect Impacts, (b) Landscaping Irrigation and Stormwater Runoff (page 4.4-87). It states that pesticides, fertilizers, and other contaminants in stormwater runoff could adversely impact biological resources in aquatic habitats.

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¹ Smith, R.D., A. Ammann, C. Bartoldus, and M.M. Brinson. 1995. An Approach for Assessing Wetland Functions Using Hydrogeomorphic Classification, Reference Wetlands, and Functional Indices. (Wetlands Research Program Technical Report WRP DE.) Waterways Experiment Station, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

² David Magney Environmental Consulting. 2000. Wetland Functional Assessment of the Reinke Development Mitigation Plan, Thousand Oaks, California. November 2000. (PN 00-0131.) Ojai, California. Prepared for Rudy Reinke, Thousand Oaks, California.

³ David Magney Environmental Consulting. 2004. Wetland Functional Assessment of the Camarillo Regional Park Wetlands and Golf Course Projects, Ventura County, California. June 2004. (PN 02-0121-2.) Ojai, California. Prepared for California State Coastal Conservancy, Oakland, California.

⁴ David Magney Environmental Consulting. 2006. Wetland Functional Assessment of the Gramckow Property Project, Rancho Matilija, California. 15 June 2006. (PN 06-0041.) Ojai, California. Prepared for Ventura County Planning Division, Ventura, California, on behalf of Martin Gramckow, Ojai, California.

The DEIR refers to Project Design Features (PDFs) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) described in the Landmark Village Water Quality Technical Report (LVWQTR)¹ that are expected to minimize the presence of pesticides in runoff. Proposed pesticide management practices include source control, removal with sediments in infiltration basins, and advanced irrigation controls. The potential for legacy pesticides currently existing onsite to move with sediments from erosion in areas where they occur is expected to be reduced due to stabilization of the site by the project.

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According to the State of California², pesticides, fertilizers, and soil from landscaping are among the most common pollutants in urban runoff and stormwater. The LVWQTR presents a discussion of contamination of urban streams by the organophosphate insecticides chlorpyrifos and diazinon (page 102), and points out that their sale and use in urban areas is now prohibited or severely restricted. This can certainly be expected to minimize the potential for contamination from these materials, though it is possible that existing stocks could be used by uninformed residential users to a limited extent. Chlorpyrifos and diazinon have been replaced in large part by pyrethroid insecticides for urban use. There is strong evidence³ that pyrethroids are persistent in the environment, particularly in aquatic sediments, and that they adversely impact aquatic organisms. Neither the DEIR nor the LVWQTR specifically address the potential for pyrethroid contamination.

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The LVWQTR on Page 103 states that “Source control measures such as education programs for owners, occupants, and employees in the proper application, storage, and disposal of pesticides are the most promising strategies for controlling the pesticides that will be used post-development. . . . For common area landscaping in commercial areas, multi-family residential areas, and parks, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program will be incorporated.” DMEC could find no reference in the DEIR or in the LVWQTR to such educational and IPM programs and the parties responsible for implementing them.

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Page 104 of the LVWQTR supporting the DEIR refers to BMPs related to the SUSMP requirements; however, the DEIR lacks any specific mitigation measures that are to be implemented other than a reference to the SUSMP. The DEIR needs to clearly identify the impact, the sensitive resources at risk, and specific measures that will be implemented to avoid, minimize, or compensate for those adverse impacts. For example, there is nothing about educating homeowners or renters about appropriate pesticide use or how to prevent offsite contamination. This needs to be rectified.

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In conclusion, DMEC believes that the DEIR is lacking in several areas, and is sufficient to meet CEQA requirements. The DEIR mischaracterizes and understates the complexity and importance and sensitivity of several plant communities, including grassland habitats. The DEIR does not adequately assess impacts to a large number of rare plants. The DEIR does not provide adequate feasible mitigation for impacts to rare plants. The DEIR does not assess impacts to wetland habitats and/or functions adequately or objectively, and fails to adequately mitigate for those impacts. And, the DEIR fails to address, much less mitigate for, the cumulative impacts to native plant communities and locally rare plants.

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¹GeoSyntec Consultants. September 2006. *Landmark Village Water Quality Technical Report*. (DEIR Appendix 4.3)

² California Environmental Protection Agency and Regional Water Quality Control Board 8. June 2001. *Urban Runoff and Water Pollution*. www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb8

³ Urban Pesticide Pollution Prevention Project. July 2006. *Status Report: Bay Area Municipal Urban Runoff Management Agencies' Pesticide-Related Activities*.

For these reasons, DMEC believes the DEIR must be significantly rewritten and put back out for public review before it can be considered adequate. In its current state, it understates project-related significant impacts and overstates proposed mitigation.

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Respectfully,



David L. Magney
President



Stephen Hoskinson
Environmental Scientist, Licensed Agricultural Pest Control Adviser

cc: Ron Bottorff – Friends of the Santa Clara River
Amanda Jorgenson – California Native Plant Society

E143. Letter from David Magney, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 3

The vegetation mapping was updated in summer 2006, using *The Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program: List of California Terrestrial Communities Recognized by The California Natural Diversity Database* (CDFG 2003). These revisions have been incorporated into the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**. The 2006 data replaces the previous vegetation mapping included in the Landmark Village Draft EIR. All references to “non-native grassland” have been changed in the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, to “California annual grassland” pursuant to *The Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program: List of California Terrestrial Communities Recognized by The California Natural Diversity Database* (CDFG 2003).

The description of California annual grassland remains the same, as these areas are dominated by non-native grasses (e.g., *Bromus* spp. and *Avena* spp.).

Response 4

Please see **Responses 13, 14, and 15**, below.

Response 5

Please see **Responses 16 through 35**, below.

Response 6

Please see **Responses 36 through 41**, below.

Response 7

Please see **Responses 42 through 47**, below.

Response 8

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**.

Response 9

As stated in **Response 3**, above, the vegetation mapping was updated in summer 2006 and all references to “non-native grassland” have been changed in the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, to “California annual grassland” pursuant to *The Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program: List of California Terrestrial Communities Recognized by The California Natural Diversity Database* (CDFG 2003).

In the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, the text related to California Annual Grassland, has been revised as follows:

“Given the altered condition of these areas, and that this habitat type is not considered a sensitive natural community by resource agencies, the loss of non-native grassland would be a less than significant impact. California annual grasslands may support special-status plant and animal species and provide foraging habitat for raptors (birds of prey). Therefore, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR included the loss of this plant community as part of the analysis of the overall loss of wildlife habitat (Wildlife Habitat Loss, below).”

As noted in the description above, California annual grasslands are not considered a sensitive natural community by any resource agencies. Although the impact to this vegetation community was not considered significant, it was included in the Wildlife Habitat Loss section (Section 9(b)(1)(b)) of the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**. This section states that the loss of 938.22 acres of wildlife habitat (48.17 acres of which are California annual grassland – 96 percent of the total California annual grasslands within the project site) “represents a substantial loss of habitat for wildlife species and is considered a significant impact.”

By including the loss of California annual grasslands in the loss of wildlife habitat, and considering this loss a significant impact, the loss of California annual grasslands has been assessed. Mitigation for wildlife habitat loss is accomplished by relying upon the approved mitigation measures from the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR. These mitigation measures include SP 4.6-21 to SP 4.6-27 and SP 4.6-37 to SP 4.6-42. These will preserve the River Corridor, High Country, and Salt Creek areas. These areas collectively include 662.24 acres of California annual grassland.

Response 10

Please see **Responses 3 and 9**, above. The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4 Biota, **Tables 4.4-5 and 4.4-6** (same in Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**), include grassland as habitat for many species, including coastal western whiptail, California horned lark, loggerhead shrike, northern harrier, burrowing owl, merlin, ferruginous hawk, prairie falcon, and pale big-eared bat. In addition, individual descriptions of the coastal western whiptail, California horned lark, loggerhead shrike, and northern harrier (Section 9(b)(1)(h)) include grassland as a habitat type for these species.

Annual grasslands have been assessed consistent with other vegetation communities that are important habitat for wildlife.

Response 11

See **Response 13**, below.

Response 12

See **Response 14**, below.

Response 13

Please see **Table E-1, Plant Subtaxa, Range, and Status**, below, in reference to this response.

From this list of 38 species, 13 have a total of 26 subspecies or varieties that are federally listed as threatened, state listed as rare, and/or list 1-4 CNPS. Of these 26 subspecies and varieties, 15 do not occur in ranges that overlap with the biogeographic area in which the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan site occurs. The ranges of the remaining two – *Lepidium virginicum* var. *robinsonii* and *Atriplex canescens* subsp. *linearis* – do overlap with the biogeographic areas in which the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan site occurs. However, these species were not observed on or near the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan site, including the Landmark Village project area. Given the thoroughness of the survey efforts (see Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota, Table 4.4-3**), it is unlikely that these species are present on site, though the potential of some of these species to occur in future seasons cannot be entirely ruled out. The remaining 25 species on this list have no subspecies/varieties that are federally/state/CNPS-listed and are, thus, not considered sensitive under CEQA.

The species listed in this comment either have no biogeographic overlap with the area in which the project site occurs, are not considered sensitive under CEQA because of their federal/state/CNPS-status, or were determined to not occur on or near the project site after thorough survey efforts. Consequently,

of the vascular plants listed in this comment, no taxon exists on the project site that would be considered a rare species meeting the intent and definition of rare under CEQA.

Table E-1 provides a summary for each of the taxa listed in the comment. **Table E-1** lists the species, subspecies, and/or varieties that occur within California, its range, state and/or federal status, and the CNPS list. Unless otherwise noted, only names accepted by the *Jepson Online Interchange for California Floristics* (Jepson) (2007) are included and biogeographic ranges follow Jepson (2007). Range descriptions in boldface contain the biogeographic area (i.e., Western Transverse Ranges) in which the Newhall project site occurs. Finally, if there is a CNPS listing, **Table E-1** indicates if there is any biogeographic range overlap between the range of the species and the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan site, including the Landmark Village project area.

**Table E-1
Plant Subtaxa, Range, and Status**

Taxon Listed	Subtaxa	Range	Status Federal/ State	CNPS List	County of Los Angeles status	Range Overlap
<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i>	var. <i>glabriuscula</i>	s Sierra Nevada Foothills (SNF), Tehachapi Mountain Area (Teh), Central Western California (CW), Southwestern California (SW) , w edge Desert (D); n Baja California (Baja)	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>heterocarpha</i>	North Coast Ranges (NCoR), SNF, Great Central Valley (GV), CW	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>lanosa</i>	Inner South Coast Ranges (SCoR), South Coast (SCo), Transverse Ranges (TR) , nw edge Sonoran Desert (DSon)	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>megacephala</i>	s SNF, Teh, San Joaquin Valley (SnJV), CW, n SW	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>orcuttiana</i>	SCo; nw Baja	None/ None	1B.1	None	NO range overlap
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	subsp. <i>albicaulis</i>	Northwestern California (NW), Cascade Range (CaR), Sierra Nevada (SN), White and Inyo Mountains (W&I)	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>bernardinus</i>	s SN, TR , n Peninsular Ranges (PR), W&I	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>ceruminosus</i>	Mojave Desert (DMoj)	None/ None	None	None	

Taxon Listed	Subtaxa	Range	Status Federal/ State	CNPS List	County of Los Angeles status	Range Overlap
	subsp. <i>consimilis</i>	SN (e slope), Teh, s Inner SCoR (SCoRI), San Bernardino Mountains (SnBr), PR, Great Basin Floristic Province (GB); to Oregon (OR), Montana (MT), Wyoming (WY), NM (NM), Baja	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>hololeucus</i>	High SN, Teh, Outer SCoR, Western Transverse Ranges (WTR) , East of SN, Desert Mountains (DMtns); to s OR, Utah (UT), n Arizona (AZ)	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>leiospermus</i>	East of SN, DMtns; to UT, n AZ	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>mohavensis</i>	San Francisco Bay Area (SNFrB), Outer SCoR (SCoRO), s SCoRI, TR , DMoj; s Nevada (NV)	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>washoensis</i>	Modoc Plateau (MP); nw NV	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Heterotheca sessiliflora</i>	subsp. <i>bolanderi</i>	c&s North Coast (NCo), n Central Coast (CCo)	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>echioides</i>	c&s SNF, Teh, San Joaquin Valley (SnJV), CW, SCo, TR , PR	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>fastigiata</i>	TR , c PR, San Jacinto Mountains (SnJt)	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>sessiliflora</i>	s CCo, SCoR; Baja	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Lessingia glandulifera</i>	var. <i>glandulifera</i>	SNF, SnJV, SnFrB, SCoR, SCo, TR , PR; n Baja	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>pectinata</i>	CCo, SnFrB, SCoR	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>tomentosa</i>	e PR (Warner's Ranch, San Diego Co.)	None/ None	1B.3	None	NO range overlap
<i>Stephanomeria exigua</i>	subsp. <i>carotifera</i>	CCo, SCoR, WTR	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>coronaria</i>	Klamath Ranges (KR), High SN, Teh, SnJV, CCo, Channel Islands (ChI), TR , GB; to OR, sw Idaho (ID), w NV	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>deanei</i>	SCo, PR; n Baja	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>exigua</i>	GB, D; to Colorado (CO), Texas (TX), Baja	None/ None	None	None	

Taxon Listed	Subtaxa	Range	Status Federal/ State	CNPS List	County of Los Angeles status	Range Overlap
	subsp. <i>macrocarpa</i>	c&s SNF	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Pectocarya linearis</i>	subsp. <i>ferocula</i>	GV, CW, SW , DMoj; Baja; also s S. America	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Plagiobothrys collinus</i>	var. <i>californicus</i>	s SN, s SnJV, CW, SW , nw edge DSon (San Gorgonio Pass); Mexico	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>fulvescens</i>	SCoR, SW , w DSon; AZ, Mexico, Chile	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>gracilis</i>	s SCoR (near San Diego), ChI	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>ursinus</i>	SnBr, SnJV; Mexico	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>	var. <i>medium</i>	NW, CaR, MP; to Washington (WA), se U.S.	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>pubescens</i>	California (except KR, High SN)	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>robinsonii</i>	SW ; Baja	None/ None	1B.2	None	Yes range overlap
	var. <i>virginicum</i>	California (except KR, High SN)	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Lonicera subspicata</i>	var. <i>denudata</i>	n High SN, Teh, CW, SW	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>subspicata</i>	WTR (Santa Ynez Mtns, Santa Barbara Co.)	None/ None	1B.2	None	NO range overlap
<i>Symphoricarpos</i>	<i>albus</i> var. <i>laevigatus</i>	NW, w edge CaR, n SNF, CW, SW ; to Alaska (AK), MT	None/ None	None	None	
	<i>longiflorus</i>	GB, DMtns; to CO, TX	None/ None	None	None	
	<i>mollis</i>	NW, CaR, SN, CW, SW , MP; to British Columbia (B.C), ID, NM	None/ None	None	None	
	<i>rotundifolius</i> var. <i>parishii</i>	s High SN, SW , East of SN, DMtns; NM	None/ None	None	None	
	<i>rotundifolius</i> var. <i>rotundifolius</i>	CaR, SN, GB; to WA, WY, CO, w TX	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	subsp. <i>canescens</i>	High SN (e slope), Teh, SCoRI, SCo, n TR , PR, GB, D	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>linearis</i>	n WTR? [sic], DSon; n Mexico	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Dudleya cymosa</i>	subsp. <i>agourensis</i>	Los Angeles County (Santa Monica Mountains; TR , Santa Monica Mountains region; Agoura Hills) ¹	FT/ None	1B.2	None	Yes range overlap

Taxon Listed	Subtaxa	Range	Status Federal/ State	CNPS List	County of Los Angeles status	Range Overlap
	subsp. <i>costafolia</i>	s High SN	None/ None	1B.2	None	NO range overlap
	subsp. <i>crebrifolia</i>	San Gabriel Mountains (SnGb) (Fish Canyon, Los Angeles Co.)	None/ None	1B.2	None	NO range overlap
	subsp. <i>cymosa</i>	NCoR, CaR, SN, SnFrB; sw OR	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>marcescens</i>	s WTR (Santa Monica Mtns); Topographic quads: Malibu Beach, Newbury Park, Triunfo Pass, Point Dume (CNPS 2007)	FT/ CR	1B.2	None	NO range overlap
	subsp. <i>ovatifolia</i>	s WTR (Santa Monica Mtns); Topographic quads: Santiago Peak, Malibu Beach, Topanga, Triunfo Pass (CNPS 2007)	FT/ None	1B.2	None	NO range overlap
	subsp. <i>paniculata</i>	SnFrB, SCoRI	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>pumila</i>	SCoR, TR	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Astragalus trichopodus</i>	var. <i>lonchus</i>	SCo, n ChI, w PR; Baja	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>phoxus</i>	s SCoR, n SCoR (Santa Barbara, Ventura cos.), WTR , w edge DMoj	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>trichopodus</i>	n half SCo	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Lathyrus vestitus</i>	var. <i>alefeldii</i>	SCo, s ChI, PR	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>ochropetalus</i>	NCo, KR, Outer NCoR	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>vestitus</i>	NCo, NCoR, CW, SW	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Trifolium albopurpureum</i>	var. <i>albopurpureum</i>	California Floristic Province (CA-FP) ; to B.C., Baja	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>dichotomum</i>	NW, c SN, GV, SnFrB, SCoR; to WA	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>olivaceum</i>	Inner NCoR, CaR, n SN, GV, SnFrB	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Trifolium gracilentum</i>	var. <i>gracilentum</i>	CA-FP (except ChI), DMoj; to WA, AZ	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>palmeri</i>	ChI; Baja	None/ None	4.2	None	NO range overlap
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	var. <i>aureum</i>	KR, CaR, High SN, SnJV, GB; to B.C., South Dakota, NM	None/ None	None	None	

Taxon Listed	Subtaxa	Range	Status Federal/ State	CNPS List	County of Los Angeles status	Range Overlap
	var. <i>gracillimum</i>	Inner NCoR, SnFrB, SCoR, SW	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Ribes malvaceum</i>	var. <i>malvaceum</i>	NCoRI, SNF, SnFrB, SCoR, ChI, WTR	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>viridifolium</i>	SCoR, TR , PR	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>	var. <i>atomaria</i>	NW, CCo, SnFrB; OR	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>integrifolia</i>	CCo, SCoR, SW , East of SN, DMoj; Baja	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>menziesii</i>	CA-FP , DMoj	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Phacelia cicutaria</i>	var. <i>cicutaria</i>	SNF, Teh	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>hispida</i>	SCoR, SW , w D	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>hubbyi</i>	n SCo, n ChI (Santa Cruz Island), WTR	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Phacelia ramosissima</i>	var. <i>austrolitoralis</i>	CCo, SCo, n ChI	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>eremophila</i>	High CaR, High SN, Warner Mountains, East of SN; OR, NV	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>latifolia</i>	Teh, SnFrB, SCoR, SCo, TR , PR, n DMtns (Panamint Range)	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>montereyensis</i>	NCo, CCo, n ChI	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>ramosissima</i>	NCo, CCo, n ChI	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>subglabra</i>	High SN, Teh, SnGb, East of SN; to OR, ID	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Stachys ajugoides</i>	var. <i>ajugoides</i>	NW, CW, SW ; to B.C.	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>rigida</i>	California (very uncommon in D); to WA, Baja	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Camissonia boothii</i>	subsp. <i>alyssoides</i>	MP, W&I; to s ID, NV, w UT	None/ None	4.3	None	NO range overlap
	subsp. <i>boothi</i>	East of SN; to WA, nw AZ	None/ None	2.3	None	NO range overlap
	subsp. <i>condensata</i>	D; to s NV, s UT, w Arizona, nw Mexico	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>decorticans</i>	s SNF, Teh, s SnJV, SnFrB, SCoRI, WTR	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>desertorum</i>	s High SN, s East of SN, DMoj	None/ None	None	None	

Taxon Listed	Subtaxa	Range	Status Federal/ State	CNPS List	County of Los Angeles status	Range Overlap
	subsp. <i>intermedia</i>	East of SN, DMtns; NV	None/ None	2.3	None	NO range overlap
<i>Clarkia purpurea</i>	subsp. <i>purpurea</i>	GV, CCo; OR	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>quadrivulnera</i>	CA-FP	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>viminea</i>	CA-FP; OR	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Oenothera elata</i>	subsp. <i>hirsutissima</i>	California; w US, nw Mexico	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>hookeri</i>	CW, SW	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Leptodactylon californicum</i> [=Linanthus californicus] ¹	s SCoR, n&c SW		None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>brevitrichomum</i> ²	Santa Barbara Co. (Santa Ynez Mountains) ³	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>californicum</i> ²	Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles, Ventura counties (In Los Angeles Co: San Gabriel Mtns region ca. 1 mi SE of Newhall; North of Malibu in Santa Monica Mtns, San Gabriel Mountains region: Santa Monica Mtns; on Hwy 39) ³	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>glandulosum</i> ²	Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange San Bernardino counties. (In Los Angeles Co: San Gabriel Mtns; Verdugo Mtns; San Fernando Wash, Mr. Gleason, San Dimas, near Glendora, Miland;s cyn, Angeles Crest Hwy, Arroyo Seco Cyn) ³	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>leptotrichomum</i> ²	Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino counties ³	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>tomentosum</i> ²	San Luis Obispo County ³	None/ None	4.2	None	NO range overlap
<i>Rumex salicifolius</i>	var. <i>lacustris</i>	GB (especially MP); s OR, NV	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>salicifolius</i>	CA-FP, W&I; NV, Baja	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>transitorius</i>	CA-FP (especially NCo, SN, CCo); to AK	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Calyptridium</i>	<i>monandrum</i>	s SN, Teh, s SnJV, SCoRI, SW, East of SN, D; NV, Arizona	None/ None	None	None	

Taxon Listed	Subtaxa	Range	Status Federal/ State	CNPS List	County of Los Angeles status	Range Overlap
	<i>monospermum</i>	KR, High NCoR, CaR, SN, TR , East of SN; s OR, NV, Baja	None/ None	None	None	
	<i>parryi</i> var. <i>hesseae</i>	s SnFrB (Mount Hamilton, Santa Cruz Mtns), n SCoRI	None/ None	3	None	NO range overlap
	<i>parryi</i> var. <i>nevadense</i>	East of SN, n DMtns; w NV	None/ None	None	None	
	<i>parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	s High SN (Fresno, Inyo cos.), TR	None/ None	None	None	
	<i>pulchellum</i>	c SN (s Mariposa, Madera, n Fresno cos.)	FT/ None	1B.1	None	NO range overlap
	<i>pygmaeum</i>	s High SN, SnBr	None/ None	None	None	
	<i>quadripetalum</i>	High NCoR, NCoRI	None/ None	4.3	None	NO range overlap
	<i>roseum</i>	e slope High SN, n East of SN, W&I; to ID, NV	None/ None	None	None	
	<i>umbellatum</i> var. <i>caudiciferum</i>	Shasta County ³	None/ None	None	None	
	<i>umbellatum</i> var. <i>umbellatum</i>	no information. <i>C. umbellatum</i> range: KR, High NCoR, CaR, SN, sw SnFrB(Santa Cruz Mtns), GB; to MT, w WY	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Claytonia parviflora</i>	subsp. <i>grandiflora</i>	SNF, Teh	None/ None	4.2	None	NO range overlap
	subsp. <i>parviflora</i>	CA-FP	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>utahensis</i>	Teh, DMoj	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>viridis</i>	s SN, SCoR, TR , PR, East of SN, DMtns	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Ceanothus tomentosus</i> ⁴		n&c SN, SCo, SbBr, PR; n Baja	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>olivaceus</i> ²	SCo, SnBr, PR, n Baja(Hickman 1993): San Diego Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange counties ³	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>tomentosus</i> ²	Amador, Calaveras counties ¹	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Galium angustifolium</i>	subsp. <i>borregoense</i>	Dson (Palm Canyon, Hellhole Canyon, Pinyon Mtn Valley; San Diego Co.).	None/ CR	1B.3	None	NO range overlap

Taxon Listed	Subtaxa	Range	Status Federal/ State	CNPS List	County of Los Angeles status	Range Overlap
	subsp. <i>foliosum</i>	n ChI	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>gabrielense</i>	SnGb (near San Antonio Canyon; Los Angeles, San Bernardino cos.)	None/ None	4.3	None	NO range overlap
	subsp. <i>gracillimum</i>	DMtns (Providence, Little San Bernardino mtns).	None/ None	4.2	None	NO range overlap
	subsp. <i>jacinticum</i>	w SnJV	None/ None	1B.3	None	NO range overlap
	subsp. <i>nudicaule</i>	San Gabriel Mountains, SnBr	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>onycense</i>	s High SN (Onyx Peak area, e Kern Co.).	None/ None	1B.3	None	NO range overlap
<i>Antirrhinum coulterianum</i> ⁴	s SCoR, SW (except ChI), nw edge DSon; n Baja		None/ None	None	None	
<i>Castilleja densiflora</i>	subsp. <i>densiflora</i>	NCoR, c SNF, SCoR	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>gracilis</i>	SCoR, SW	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>obispoensis</i>	s CCo(San Luis Obispo Co.)	None/ None	1B.2	None	NO range overlap
<i>Cordylanthus rigidus</i>	subsp. <i>brevibracteatus</i>	s High SN (Kern Plateau, Tulare and Kern cos.)	None/ None	4.3	None	NO range overlap
	subsp. <i>littoralis</i>	c CCo(s Monterey Bay and Peninsula),s CCo(w Santa Barbara Co.)	None/ CE	1B.1	None	NO range overlap
	subsp. <i>rigidus</i>	c&s SN, CW(except n SnFrB), WTR	None/ None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>setigerus</i>	SW (except WTR); n Baja	None/ None	None	None	
<i>Linaria canadensis</i> ⁴	NCo, NCoR, SNF, GV, CW, WTR , PR; to se US, adj Canada, S.America				None	
	var. <i>canadensis</i> ²	Santa Cruz County ³	None/ None	None	None	
	var. <i>texana</i> ²	Riverside, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Diego, Ventura, San Bernardino, Humboldt, Orange, Monterey, San Luis Obispo counties (in Los Angeles Co: ChI, SnGb, Verdugo Mtns, Paolos Verde Hills, coastal basin and plains) ³	None/ None	None	None	

Taxon Listed	Subtaxa	Range	Status Federal/ State	CNPS List	County of Los Angeles status	Range Overlap
<i>Juncus balticus</i> ⁴ (highly variable, intergrading complex needing study [Hickman 1993])	California ; to AK, e N.America, S.America, Eurasia		None/None	None	None	
	var. <i>eremicus</i> ⁵	no records; type specimen from Ownes Lake	None/None	None	None	
	var. <i>montanus</i> ⁵	Mono County ³	None/None	None	None	
	var. <i>vallicola</i> ⁶	Shasta County ³	None/None	None	None	
<i>Eragrostis mexicana</i>	subsp. <i>mexicana</i>	SnJV, SCo, WTR , SnBr; to Oklahoma, TX, n S.America	None/None	None	None	
	subsp. <i>virescens</i>	California ; NV, S.America	None/None	None	None	
<i>Scirpus</i> [= <i>Schoenoplectus</i>] <i>acutus</i>	var. <i>acutus</i> ⁷	Lassen, Contra Costa counties ³	None/None	None	None	
	var. <i>occidentalis</i>	California ; temperate N.America	None/None	None	None	

Bold indicates where a species' range overlaps the project site.

CE = California Endangered; CR = California Rare; FT = Federally Threatened

n = north; s = south; e = east; w = west; c = central

¹ species recognized in Hickson (1993) with note that 4 subsp. have been separated from subsp. *californicum* by hair morphology; synonym recognized by Jepson (2007)

² not listed as a distinct subspecies in Hickman (1993); status unresolved in Jepson (2007)

³ Biogeographic range not provided; specific locations from SMASCH (Specimen Management System for California Herbaria) records

⁴ no accepted subspecies (Hickman 1994, Jepson 2007)

⁵ taxonomic or nomenclatural synonym for taxon native to California

⁶ status unresolved

⁷ accepted name for taxon not occurring in California (erroneous reports, misapplication of names, misidentifications, etc.)

The references used in the above table are provided below, are incorporated by reference, and are available for public inspection and review at Impact Sciences, 803 Camarillo Springs Road, Suite A-1, Camarillo, California 93012

CNPS. 2007. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants v7-07a 1-17-07. Online database accessed at <http://cnps.web.aplus.net/cgi-bin/inv/inventory.cgi>. March 20.

Hickman, J.C. 1993. The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California. University of California, Berkeley. 1400 pp.

Jepson Online Interchange for California Floristics. 2007. Online database accessed at <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/interchange.html>, March 19 and 20.

Response 14

See **Response 13**, above.

There is no documentation supporting the presence of ten or fewer populations in Los Angeles County. Because these taxa are not considered locally rare by the County of Los Angeles or sensitive pursuant to CEQA, they are not treated as such in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota.

Response 15

Galium nuttalli ssp. *nuttalli* is not a CNPS-designated species. The comment is incorrect in stating that it is CNPS List 4. Because *Galium nuttalli* ssp. *nuttalli* is not a federally/state/CNPS-listed species, it is not considered sensitive pursuant to CEQA and was not treated as such in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota.

Clarkia speciosa ssp. *immaculata* is CNPS List 1B.1. While it is not clear that this is the ssp. to which the comment refers, *Clarkia speciosa* ssp. *immaculata* is endemic to San Luis Obispo County and would not be in the project area. *Clarkia speciosa* ssp. *speciosa* was considered, but rejected by CNPS and there are no other *C. speciosa* subspecies designated by CNPS. Because there is no potential for any CNPS listed subspecies of *C. speciosa* to occur on the project site, this species was not evaluated as a sensitive biological resource.

Nemophila parviflora var. *quercifolia* is CNPS List 4.3. According to CNPS, it is a cismontane oak woodland, coniferous forest species with a lower elevation range of 700 meters (about 2,300 feet). Its likelihood of occurring on the project site is very low based on a lack of suitable habitat, and because the project site is well below the elevation range of the species (elevations on the project site range from 800 feet to 960 feet above mean sea level). Furthermore, as stated in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, Section 9.b., the significance of proposed project impacts on any given biological resource is determined by evaluating the impact in terms of each of the significance threshold criteria identified in the Draft EIR. These criteria were derived from the *CEQA Guidelines*, particularly Appendix G. Even if *Nemophila parviflora* var. *quercifolia* did occur on the project site, because CNPS List 4 plants are not considered rare from a statewide perspective, are not defined as rare, threatened, or endangered pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act, are not eligible for state listing as threatened or endangered, and because the vulnerability or susceptibility to threats on a statewide basis are considered low at this time (CNPS 2004), the loss of *Nemophila parviflora* var. *quercifolia* would not be considered a substantial adverse effect on a special-status species, nor would it be expected to reduce regional populations of the species to below self-sustaining numbers. Therefore, if *Nemophila parviflora* var. *quercifolia* happens to occur on the project site, impacts would be less than significant.

The only variety of *Potamogeton foliosus* that is designated by CNPS is *Potamogeton foliosus* var. *fibrillosus* – CNPS list 2.3. According to CNPS, this species is: "Known in CA from only one occurrence from Crescent

City. To be expected in Great Basin areas of CA; need information. Endangered in OR. See Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences 17(1):51 (1932) for original description, and Rhodora 75:76 (1973) for revised nomenclature and 76:564-649 (1974) for taxonomic treatment." Pursuant to this explanation, this would not be the variety that could occur in the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area, including the Landmark Village project site. Because there are no other varieties or subspecies of *P. foliosus* designated by CNPS, it is not considered a sensitive species pursuant to CEQA and was not treated as such in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota.

Juncus acutus ssp. *Leopoldii*, which is CNPS List 4.2, is identified in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Table 4.4-4, Special-Status Plant Species Documented in the Project Area but Not Observed on or Adjacent to the Project Site, is known to occur in the project area and was a target species of the focused plant surveys conducted on, and in the vicinity of, the project site. This species was not observed on or adjacent to the project site. Given the thoroughness of the survey efforts (Table 4.4-3), it is unlikely that any of the species identified below are present on the project site, though the potential of some of these species to occur on the site in future seasons cannot be entirely ruled out.

The remaining species on this list are not federally/state/CNPS-listed, and are thus not considered sensitive pursuant to CEQA.

Response 16

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 17

The requested clarification has been made to reflect this comment. Please refer to the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, for the requested revision. Specifically, the Final EIR has been clarified to reflect the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR concluded that implementation of measures contained in the Specific Plan Resource Management Plan and those measures contained in the previously certified Newhall Ranch environmental documentation would reduce direct impacts to special-status plant species to below CEQA thresholds of significance.

Response 18

The statement referred to in the comment in row four of Table 4.4-1 on p. 4.4-3 of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, refers to any loss *prior* to mitigation *if* they would occur within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area. The conclusions reached in the final column of this table are those *after* mitigation if any loss would potentially occur.

It is not clear to what project (the Landmark Village site or the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area) the comment is referring when stating "...since the plants are known onsite..." The "Conclusion After Mitigation" column in Table 4.4-1 refers to the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR, *not* the Landmark Village Draft EIR. None of the plant species listed in this table occur within the Landmark Village project site. Various populations of San Fernando Valley spineflower occur in the vicinity of the project site. Potential indirect impacts on these populations are addressed beginning on p. 4.4-67 of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota.

Response 19

Table 4.4-1 summarizes the impacts to biological resources on the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area site, not on the Landmark Village project site.

Five special-status plant species are known to occur within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area and these five species are addressed: Peirson's morning-glory (*Calystegia peirsonii*), California walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*), slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*) and San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*). Impacts, determination of significance, and identification of mitigation measures for these species are provided in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.

Response 20

Dudek conducted surveys for special-status plants each spring and summer from 2002 through 2006 (see Landmark Village Draft EIR, Appendix 4.4). Table 2 in each of the reports indicates the special-status plant species observed or potential occurring within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, including the Landmark Village project site. The tables include the common and scientific names of the species evaluated, the federal and/or state status, the CNPS status, primary habitat associations, life form, blooming period, and whether the species is present or likely to be present on site based on habitat and soils present on site and known species distribution range. Table 4.4-4 in the Draft EIR represents a summary of information provided in Table 2 of each of the Dudek annual survey reports included in Appendix 4.4 of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 21

Please see **Response 20**, above. Based on the results of surveys conducted from 2002 through 2006, habitat and soils present on site, and known species distribution range, it was concluded that the species listed in Table 4.4-4 in the Draft EIR were not present on site and would not be impacted by the proposed Landmark Village project.

Response 22

Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-20 in the Draft EIR is now Mitigation Measure 4.4-2 in the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**. As noted in Section 4.4 7.a.(1), this species is associated with alluvial terraces and benches along the Santa Clara River. These terraces and benches are constantly in a state of flux due to natural fluvial scour and accretion processes associated with the River Corridor. Because the Landmark Village project will result in a net increase in jurisdictional area along the Santa Clara River, it would actually increase the area of potential habitat for this species. Surveys are needed to establish distribution prior to development. This species' distribution may vary from year-to-year depending on storm events. Therefore, should the species be documented within the project boundary, avoidance measures shall be implemented where feasible to minimize impacts to individual plants; pre-construction surveys and salvage and transplantation, if the species is found, will ensure the potential for persistence of this species along the River Corridor.

Response 23

Please see **Response 22**, above, and Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-2 in the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota** (LV 4.4-20 in the Draft EIR): surveys are needed to establish distribution prior to development as this species' distribution may vary from year-to-year. Should the species be documented within the project boundary, avoidance measures shall be implemented where feasible, and salvage and transplantation will ensure the potential for persistence of this species along the River Corridor.

Response 24

The Landmark Village EIR, Section 4.4, Table 4.4-1, includes an assessment of residual impacts for those special-status plant species that would be impacted by the proposed Landmark Village project. No impacts to the undescribed everlasting are anticipated for the proposed Landmark Village project. However, this species' distribution may vary from year-to-year depending on storm events. Therefore, should the species be documented within the project boundary, avoidance measures shall be implemented where feasible to minimize impacts to individual plants; pre-construction surveys and salvage and transplantation, if the species is found, will ensure the potential for persistence of this species along the River Corridor.

Response 25

The Newhall Ranch Mitigation Feasibility Study, Figure 4, (Dudek 2007) identifies six different locations (total of 559 acres) as suitable areas for slender mariposa lily mitigation. This study is found in **Appendix A** of this Final EIR. In addition, the Landmark Village Slender Mariposa Lily Mitigation and Monitoring

Plan (Dudek 2007) is found in **Appendix A** of this Final EIR. This plan provides a description of the overall transplantation program, the donor and receptor sites, an implementation plan, a maintenance program, a long-term monitoring program, and a description of the success criteria.

Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-3 in the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota** (LV 4.4-19 in the Draft EIR) has been updated to include this report:

LV 4.4-3 The *Draft Landmark Village Slender Mariposa Lily Mitigation and Monitoring Plan* (see Final EIR, **Appendix A**) shall be implemented by the applicant. The plan incorporates the findings of the *Draft Newhall Ranch Mitigation Feasibility Study* (Dudek & Associates 2007; see Final EIR, **Appendix A**). The plan demonstrates the feasibility of replacing the number of individual plants to be removed at a 1:1 ratio and/or enhancing and protecting existing populations of the species. The plan specifies, at a minimum, the following: (1) the location of mitigation sites in protected/preserved areas within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area; (2) methods for harvesting seeds and salvaging and transplantation of individual bulbs/plants to be impacted; (3) site preparation procedures for the mitigation site; (4) a schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the mitigation area; (5) a list of criteria and performance standards by which to measure success of the mitigation site; (6) measures to exclude unauthorized entry into the mitigation areas; and (7) contingency measures in the event that mitigation efforts are not successful. The plan shall be subject to the approval of the County prior to the issuance of a grading permit.

The Landmark Village Conceptual Wetlands Mitigation Plan (Dudek 2007) is found in **Appendix A** in this Final EIR. This plan provides a description of the overall wetlands mitigation program, the proposed permanent and temporary impacts, an implementation plan, a maintenance program, a long-term monitoring program, and a description of the success criteria. This plan includes Parish's big sagebrush in the planting palette. Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-1 has been updated to include this report:

LV 4.4-1 The Landmark Village Conceptual Wetland Mitigation Plan (see Final EIR, **Appendix A**) shall be implemented by the applicant (see also Mitigation Measure 4.6-63). The plan specifies, at a minimum, the following: (1) the location of mitigation sites; (2) the quantity and species of plants to be planted; (3) procedures for creating additional habitat; (4) methods for the removal of non-native plants; (5) a schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the enhancement/restoration area; (6) a list of criteria and performance standards by which to measure success of the mitigation sites; (7) measures to exclude unauthorized entry into the riparian creation/enhancement areas; and (8) contingency measures in the event that mitigation efforts are not successful. The plan provides for the 1:1 replacement of any Southern California black walnut to be removed from the riparian corridor. The plan provides for the mitigation of big sagebrush scrub along the riparian corridor. The plan shall be subject to the approval of CDFG, ACOE, and the County, and approved prior to issuance of the grading permit.

A draft Spineflower Conservation Plan (SCP) is under review by the Corps, USFWS, and CDFG. The SCP is a conservation and management framework to permanently protect and manage a system of preserves

designed to maximize the long-term persistence of the San Fernando Valley spineflower. The Corps, USFWS, and CDFG are reviewing the SCP in the context of a draft EIS/EIR and CCA. Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**. A copy of the current draft SCP is found in the Landmark Village Final EIR, **Appendix A**.

As noted in the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, the undescribed species of everlasting found on the project site is associated with alluvial terraces and benches along the Santa Clara River. These terraces and benches are constantly in a state of flux due to fluvial scour and accretion processes associated with the River Corridor. Because the project will result in a net increase in jurisdictional area along the Santa Clara River, the proposed project would actually increase the area of potential habitat for this species. As this species' distribution may vary from year-to-year depending on storm events, pre-construction surveys and salvage and transplantation will ensure the potential for persistence of this species along the River Corridor. As stated in Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-2 of the Final EIR (previously 4.4-20 in the Draft EIR), should the species be documented within the project boundary, avoidance measures shall be implemented where feasible to minimize impacts to individual plants. As noted in that response, this last species is associated with alluvial terraces and benches along the Santa Clara River, not ephemeral drainages. As noted in Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-2, the location of the receiver sites for seeds/plants will be located within preserved open space areas of Newhall Ranch along the Santa Clara River.

Response 26

As noted in **Response 19**, above, the *Gnaphalium* sp. *nova* is currently being avoided. However, this species' distribution may vary from year-to-year depending on storm events. Therefore, should the species be documented within the project boundary, avoidance measures shall be implemented where feasible to minimize impacts to individual plants; pre-construction surveys and salvage and transplantation, if the species is found, will ensure the potential for persistence of this species along the River Corridor.

Response 27

A scientific basis for a mitigation ratio of 10:1 is not provided in this comment. Mitigation is proposed in accordance with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR.

Response 28

These revisions have been incorporated into the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**. Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-2 has been revised to include additional criteria requirements for the mitigation plan. Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-2 states:

Appropriately timed focused surveys for the undescribed species of *Gnaphalium* (Special-Status Plant Species) shall be conducted by a qualified botanist prior to the commencement of grading/construction activities within suitable habitat (primarily river terraces) of the species to determine if plants have established within potential impacted areas since the time of the 2005 survey. No longer than one year shall elapse between completion of the survey and commencement of construction activities. Should the species be documented within the project boundary, avoidance measures shall be implemented to minimize impacts to individual plants. These measures shall include minor adjustments to the boundaries/location of haul routes and other project features. If, due to project design constraints, avoidance of all plants is not possible, then available methods for salvaging seeds and/or transplantation of individual plants to be impacted will be evaluated and implemented. All seed collection and/or transplantation methods, as well as the location of the receiver site for seeds/plants (assumed to be within preserved open space areas of Newhall Ranch along the Santa Clara River), shall be coordinated and approved by the County prior to the issuance of a grading permit.

Response 29

A total of 16,783 slender mariposa lily plants would be preserved on the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan site, which includes the Landmark Village project area. Residual impacts are addressed in **Table 4.4-1** of the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**. Regarding mitigation sites, seed collection and propagation, and mitigation and monitoring plan preparation, please see the **Response 19**, above.

Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-20 in the Draft EIR is now Mitigation Measure 4.4-2 in the Final EIR. As noted in Section 4.4 7.a.(1), the undescribed species of everlasting found on the project site is associated with alluvial terraces and benches along the Santa Clara River. These terraces and benches are constantly in a state of flux due to fluvial scour and accretion processes associated with the River Corridor. Because the project will result in a net increase in jurisdictional area along the Santa Clara River, the proposed project would actually increase the area of potential habitat for this species. As this species' distribution may vary from year-to-year depending on storm events, pre-construction surveys and salvage and transplantation will ensure the potential for persistence of this species along the River Corridor. As stated in Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-2, should the species be documented within the project boundary, avoidance measures shall be implemented where feasible to minimize impacts to individual plants. A scientific basis for a mitigation ratio of 10:1 is not provided in this comment.

Response 30

While the High Country SMA/SEA 20 and Salt Creek areas are undeveloped, they have been historically disturbed by grazing and other activities (such as sporadic oil drilling) to the extent that enhancement and restoration (via removal of non-native vegetation, planting of native species, etc.) of several vegetation communities would benefit these areas. Areas considered of “high quality” that have not been as disturbed by grazing, oil drilling, erosion, or that are not dominated by non-native vegetation will not be subject to enhancement and/or restoration activities.

Response 31

As described in the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, because of the common occurrence of Peirson’s morning-glory within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area, and because CNPS List 4 plants are not considered rare from a statewide perspective, are not defined as rare, threatened or endangered pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act, are not eligible for state listing as threatened or endangered, and the vulnerability or susceptibility to threats on a statewide basis are considered low at this time (CNPS 2004), the loss of Peirson’s morning-glory would not be considered a substantial adverse effect on a special-status species, nor would it be expected to reduce regional populations of the species to below self-sustaining numbers. Therefore, impacts to Peirson’s morning-glory would be less than significant. This finding is consistent with the findings of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR, which found that impacts to this species would not be significant assuming implementation of Specific Plan Mitigation Measures SP 4.6-27, SP 4.6-34, SP 4.6-35, and SP 4.6-53.

Response 32

See **Response 22** to a letter from Center for Biological Diversity, dated February 20, 2007.

Response 33

Please see **Response 31**, above.

Response 34

Please see **Responses 31, 32 and 33**, above.

Response 35

The Landmark Village project is a component of the greater Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. Implementation of Mitigation Measure SP 4.6-48 would comply with the Specific Plan and the

requirements of Public Resources Code section 21083.4, Oak Woodlands Conservation. A scientific basis for a mitigation ratio of 10:1 is not provided in this comment.

Response 36

The statement in the Draft EIR regarding Corps' verification of the Santa Clara River and Chiquito Canyon Creek, was simply a statement of historical fact. Nevertheless, the Corps approved the 2004 jurisdictional boundaries as a basis for assessing impacts for the draft EIS/EIR currently being prepared for a Section 404(b)(1) Permit for the Santa Clara River and its tributaries within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan boundary, which includes the Landmark Village project site. In addition, prior to any dredge or fill of jurisdictional waters, an application must be filed with the Corps for Section 404(b)(1) Permit authorization to impact jurisdictional areas. At that time, the Corps can accept the 2004 jurisdictional boundaries or request a re-verification of jurisdictional waters.

Response 37

Please see **Response 36**, above. Prior to any dredge or fill of jurisdictional waters, an application must be filed with the Corps for Section 404(b)(1) Permit authorization to impact jurisdictional areas. At that time, the Corps can accept the 2004 jurisdictional boundaries or request a re-verification of jurisdictional waters.

Response 38

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 39

Habitat buffers along the Santa Clara River were analyzed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, subsection 9.b(1)(c). This section cites the Impact Sciences (1997) study that conducted vegetation analyses, focused bird surveys (1,100 field hours), and small mammal trapping (1,200 trap nights) along the Santa Clara River and adjacent uplands. This study collected data for plant species composition, canopy height, shrub/tree density, percent cover and other species-specific criteria in order to define high quality versus low quality upland habitat as the related to wildlife use and diversity. The focused wildlife studies concentrated on riparian bird and small mammal use of high and low quality upland habitat and upland/riparian ecotone and utilized systematic survey methods, including time-area observations, belt-transect counts at different distances parallel to the Santa Clara River, small mammal

trapping, scent stations, and remote cameras. This study thus helped identify the special-status populations at risk and their habitat use patterns along the river corridor. For example, at the western study site about 63 percent of riparian-dependent birds were observed in riparian habitat, 14 percent were in edge habitat, 18 percent were in upland habitat (primarily dense big sagebrush scrub and coastal sage scrub at this site) within 50 feet of the riparian edge, 5 percent were in upland habitat between 50 and 100 feet of the riparian edge, and 1 percent (1 observation) were in upland habitat between 100 and 150 feet from the riparian edge. No riparian-dependent birds were observed beyond 150 feet from the riparian edge. Combined 94 percent of the riparian-dependent bird observations were within 50 feet of the riparian edge (including the riparian habitat) and 99 percent were within 100 feet. Impact Sciences (1997) also cited studies of least Bell's vireo in San Diego County and Santa Barbara County with findings that where the riparian corridor is relatively wide (>100 feet) vireos only foraged within 100 feet of the riparian edge and where the riparian corridor is more narrow (<100 feet) vireos ranged up to 300 feet from the riparian edge. The Impact Sciences study suggests that riparian buffers along the Santa Clara River should range from a minimum of 100 to 150 feet in width, depending on the quality of the upland habitat (a larger buffer width required if the upland habitat is of low quality). Thus, habitat enhancement in areas where the buffer is more narrow could compensate for the smaller buffer. In addition, Impact Sciences recommended wall at the edge of development attenuate noise and lighting, and discourage human intrusion.

It also should be noted that a minimum of 100 feet of high quality upland habitat from the edge of riparian habitat is consistent with CDFG (Northern California-North Coast [Region 1]) buffer criteria for avoiding significant impacts to riparian habitats adjacent to urban development (CDFG 2001). For developing these buffer criteria, CDFG states that "Department biologists have relied on scientific research and literature and professional experience to develop the following recommendations to protect the public's fish, wildlife and native plant resources." For example, CDFG recommended a 75-foot buffer from the outside edge of the riparian habitat for the Sacramento River, a 50-foot buffer for main tributaries, and a 25-foot buffer for secondary tributaries. CDFG also states that "[i]f development restrictions related to mandatory requirements do not allow a project to completely avoid the area of the buffer zone outside the riparian vegetation, the project proponent may average the setback distance along the riparian habitat for the length of the project." Therefore, there is some flexibility in the minimum buffer width as long as the average width criteria are met.

Before addressing buffer issues for the Landmark Village project, it is important to understand that the buffer between the Santa Clara River and development was addressed and heavily debated during the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan environmental review and approval process. Prior to final Specific Plan approval, the County Board of Supervisors required that the Specific Plan design be revised to

incorporate a 100-foot-wide setback (top of bank stabilization to residential, commercial, mixed use development) to protect riparian habitat and special-status species within the River Corridor SMA/SEA 23 boundaries. This setback is in addition to an average buffer width of 100 feet from the top of bank stabilization to existing riparian resources. This finding was arrived at after evaluating the potential impacts of the proposed land uses along the entire length of the River (consistent with the Kelly and Rotenberry recommendations), coupled with the existing habitat protection and enhancement provisions contained in the Specific Plan's Resource Management Plan and Design Guidelines. The overall buffer area is comprised of several components: (1) the Salt Creek wildlife corridor connection and the High Country half-mile-wide buffer at the westerly end of the Specific Plan on the south side of the River; (2) native upland habitats in the Open Area along the south side of the River; (3) disturbed areas in the River corridor that will be restored or enhanced as riparian habitat; (4) buried bank stabilization that will be revegetated with native riparian and upland plant species; and (5) landscaped open space areas such as community parks, the Regional River Trail, and community trails.

In approving the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan and Conditional Use Permit No. 94-087-(5), the Board of Supervisors found that the Specific Plan contained sufficient natural vegetative cover and open space to buffer critical resources in the River Corridor SMA/SEA 23 from the development shown in the Specific Plan. The Board of Supervisors further found that the Specific Plan incorporated extensive buffer area to protect critical resources within the Santa Clara River. The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan's adopted Resource Management Plan requires a minimum 100-foot setback adjacent to the Santa Clara River between the top river-side of the bank stabilization and development within certain specified land use designations (including those of the Landmark Village project site) unless through Planning Director review, in consultation with the County staff biologist, it is determined that a lesser buffer would adequately protect the riparian resources within the River Corridor SMA/SEA 23, or that a 100-foot-wide setback is infeasible for physical infrastructure planning.

This buffer analysis does not presume that indirect effects on sensitive biological resources in the River Corridor will not potentially occur as a result of development. In combination with the 100-foot buffer, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan's Resource Management Plan provides standards by which biological resources will be managed during construction and for the life of the community, including provisions for: (1) restoration and enhancement of disturbed areas; (2) restrictions on pedestrian and vehicular access to the river corridor; (3) design standards for transition areas between development and the river; (4) conveyance of conservation easements; and (5) preparation of a financial plan and the long-term management of the riparian resources by the Center for Natural Lands Management.

The Landmark Village project would maintain a 100-foot setback between top of bank and proposed residential, mixed-used and commercial development, and an average 100-foot buffer between top of

bank and toe of slope (e.g., riparian resources). Based on the site-specific analysis conducted in the Draft EIR, the Landmark Village buffer is consistent with the approved Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. However, as noted above, designation of the 100-foot-wide setback does not imply no potential for indirect effects. Specific to the Landmark Village project, potential long-term indirect effects are analyzed in Section 9.b(2) of the Draft EIR, including increases in: (1) pesticides, herbicides and pollutants; (2) lighting and glare impacts on wildlife species; (3) non-native plant and wildlife species; and (4) human activity and domestic pets. Project Design Features (PDFs) and mitigation measures to reduce these potential indirect impacts are also discussed in the EIR.

PDFs to address urban runoff from irrigation and stormwater include site design, source control, treatment control and hydromodification control Best Management Practices (BMPs). Stormwater runoff from all urban areas within the Proposed Project will be routed to bioretention areas, vegetated swales, and/or extended detention basin treatment controls BMPs. The effectiveness of these PDFs to maintain water quality in the Santa Clara River was analyzed by GeoSyntec Consultants.¹

The mitigation measures to address the other listed potential indirect effects include “Previously Incorporated Measures” from the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR and additional “Measures Recommended by EIR.” Significant impacts related to buffers and edge effects and mitigation measures to reduce the level of impact include:

- Restriction of Wildlife Habitat Linkages – mitigated by previously incorporated measures SP 4.6-18 and SP 4.6-58.
- Increased Light and Glare – mitigated by previously incorporated measure SP 4.6-56.
- Increase in Populations of Non-native Plant and Wildlife Species – mitigated by the Landmark EIR LV 4.4-28 and LV4.4-31.
- Increased Human and Domestic Animal Presence Within SMA/SEA 234 – mitigated by previously incorporated measures SP 4.6-17 through SP 4.6-19 and Landmark EIR LV 4.4-32 through LV 4.4-34.

Response 40

See **Response 39**, above.

Response 41

See **Response 39**, above.

¹ GeoSyntec Consultants. September 2006. Landmark Village Water Quality Technical Report (Appendix 4.3).

Response 42

The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.3, Water Quality, and Appendix 4.3 analyze the potential impacts on water quality due to pesticides. Bioaccumulation of pesticides can be of concern where past farming practices involved the application of persistent organochlorine pesticides. Legacy pesticides Chlordane, Dieldrin, DDT, and Toxaphene are of particular concern, as TMDLs have been established for these pesticides in the Santa Clara River estuary, approximately 40 miles downstream of the project and this reach of the river. Historical pesticides should no longer be discharged in the watershed except in association with erosion of sediments to which these pollutants may have adhered in the past. Site development involves the import of nearly 6 million cubic yards of dirt from non-agricultural areas, as well as required remedial grading, which will stabilize soils and prevent their transport from the project site, actually reducing the potential in the post-development condition for discharge of sediments to which historical pesticides may have adsorbed in pre-development conditions.

In the post-developed condition, pesticides will be applied to common landscaped areas and residential lawns and gardens. Pesticides that have been commonly found in urban streams include the organophosphate pesticides chlorpyrifos and diazinon (Katznelson and Mumley, 1997). However, only 0 to 13 percent of the samples in the Los Angeles County database had detectable levels of diazinon (depending on the land use), while levels of chlorpyrifos were below detection limits for all land uses in all samples taken between 1994 and 2000 (Los Angeles County, 2000). Other pesticides presented in the database were seldom measured above detection limits. Furthermore, these data represent flows from areas without treatment controls, unlike the proposed Landmark Village project, which does incorporate treatment control PDFs.

Diazinon and chlorpyrifos are two pesticides of concern due to their potential toxicity in receiving waters. The USEPA has banned all indoor uses of diazinon in 2002 and stopped all sales for all outdoor non-agricultural use in 2003 (USEPA, June 2002). With no agricultural uses planned for the proposed project, diazinon would not be used at the proposed project site. The USEPA is also phasing out all indoor and outdoor residential uses of chlorpyrifos, and has stopped all non-residential uses where children may be exposed. Use of chlorpyrifos in the proposed project area is not expected, with the possible exception of emergency fire ant eradications until such time as reasonable alternative products are available, and only with appropriate application practices in accordance with the golf course and landscape pesticide management program.

An effective combination of sediment and erosion controls, including one or more of the following BMPs, adjusted depending on construction site, weather and construction stage conditions, will control legacy pesticides, if any, adhered to sediment during the construction phase of the project:

1. Erosion Control (BMPs numbered EC-3 through EC-7 and WE-1 in the Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook - Construction (CASQA 2003))
 - Physical stabilization through hydraulic mulch, soil binders, straw mulch, bonded fiber matrices, and erosion control blankets (i.e., rolled erosion control products).
 - Limiting the area and duration of exposure of disturbed soils.
 - Soil roughening of graded areas (through track walking, scarifying, sheepsfoot rolling, or imprinting) to slow runoff, enhance infiltration, and reduce erosion.
 - Vegetation stabilization through temporary seeding to establish interim vegetation.
 - Wind erosion (dust) control through the application of water or other dust palliatives as necessary to prevent and alleviate dust nuisance.
2. Sediment Control
 - Perimeter protection to prevent discharges through silt fences, fiber rolls, gravel bag berms, sand bag barriers, and straw bale barriers (SE-1, 5, 6, 8 and 9).
 - Storm drain inlet protection (SE-10).
 - Resource (Environmentally Sensitive Area) protection through silt fences, fiber rolls, gravel bag berms, sand bag barriers, and straw bale barriers (SE-1, 5, 6, 8, and 9).
 - Sediment capture through sediment traps, storm drain inlet protection, and sediment basins (SE-3, 10, and 2).
 - Velocity reduction through check dams, sediment basins, and outlet protection/velocity dissipation devices (SE-2, 4, and 10).
 - Reduction in off-site sediment tracking through stabilized construction entrance/exit, construction road stabilization, and entrance /exit tire wash (TE-1, 2 and 3).

Response 43

The comment restates information contained in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 44

Please see **Response 42**, above.

Response 45

Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's actions eliminated most urban diazinon uses by the end of 2004, phasing out diazinon may have increased reliance on alternative pesticides and encouraged new pesticides to enter the marketplace. The San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board commissioned a study, *Insecticide Market Trends and Potential Water Quality Implications*, to evaluate pesticide use trends as they relate to water quality. In 2003, on the basis of current and projected

pesticide use and possible water quality risks, the report considered the pesticide alternatives of potential concern for water quality to be pyrethrins; pyrethroids (bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, cypermethrin, deltamethrin, esfenvalerate, and permethrin); carbaryl; malathion; and imidacloprid (SFBRWQCB, 2003). A more recent study also identified lambda cyhalothrin (a pyrethroid) and fipronil among pesticides of interest (SFEP, 2005).²

The water quality risks posed by a pesticide relate to the quantity of the pesticide used, its runoff characteristics, and its relative toxicity in water and sediment. As urban diazinon applications are phased out, the use of some alternatives may inadvertently pose new water quality risks. Given what is known about alternative pesticide use trends, pyrethroids may be the alternatives that pose the greatest concerns for water quality (SFBRWQCB, 2005).³ Although pyrethroids tend to be toxic to *Ceriodaphnia dubia* test organisms at concentrations in water comparable to diazinon, pyrethroids do not dissolve well in water but instead adhere well to surfaces, including particles in the environment (SFBRWQCB, 2005). At equilibrium, pyrethroid concentrations in sediment are reported to be about 3,000 times greater than dissolved concentrations in water (SFBRWQCB, 2005). Thus, BMPs targeting reductions and removal of sediment loads will be effective to reduce and remove pyrethroids as well. Based on the incorporation of the source control measures discussed in **Response 3** to letter from California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, dated January 22, 2007, and treatment control BMPs that will effectively remove sediment and associated pesticides, potential post-development impacts associated with pesticides are expected to be less than significant.

Response 46

As discussed in Section 4.4, Biota, p. 4.4-90, the education program and the Integrated Pest Management Plan will be developed by the project applicant and will be implemented by the homeowners and commercial property associations pursuant to covenants, conditions, and restrictions running with the land conveyed to those associations. Pursuant to County of Los Angeles guidelines for maintenance of public parks, all publicly maintained parks will be subject to an Integrated Pest Management Plan developed pursuant to County guidelines.

² San Francisco Estuary Project (SFEP) 2005a. Pesticides in Urban Surface Water, Urban Pesticide Use Trends Annual Report 2005, prepared by TDC Environmental, March 2005. This report is incorporated by this reference and available for public review and inspection at Impact Sciences, Inc., 803 Camarillo Springs Road, Suite A-1, Camarillo, California 93012.

³ San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFBRWQCB), 2005. Diazinon and Pesticide-Related Toxicity in Bay Area Urban Creeks. Water Quality Attainment Strategy and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Proposed Basin Plan Amendment and Staff Report. California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region. November 9, 2005. This report is incorporated by this reference and available for public review and inspection at Impact Sciences, Inc., 803 Camarillo Springs Road, Suite A-1, Camarillo, California 93012.

Response 47

All of these measures, including education of residents about pesticide use and prevention of pollution, are identified in the Draft EIR, Section 4.3, and Section 5 of Appendix 4.3 as Project Design Features, or PDFs, of the project. PDFs for surface water quality and hydrologic impacts include site design, source control, treatment control, and hydromodification control BMPs that will be incorporated into the project and are considered a part of the project. These PDFs are listed in the 3rd column of Table 4.3-12. Further, numerous erosion and sediment control, and construction material BMPs will be employed during the construction phase to ensure that there are not significant impacts to water quality. Please see also **Responses 6 and 8**, to letter from California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, dated January 22, 2007, for a discussion of PDFs and BMPs.

Response 48

The Landmark Village Draft EIR accurately and adequately identifies and analyzes the project's potential impacts on water quality and biota, and mandates appropriate mitigation measures to address those impacts in compliance with the requirements of CEQA.

Response 49

The comment summarizes previous comments made above. Please see responses provided above for information responsive to this comment.

Response 50

Please see **Response 49**, above.

Response 51

Please see **Response 49**, above.

Response 52

The comment expresses the opinion that the Landmark Village Draft EIR must be rewritten and recirculated before it is considered adequate. The environmental consultant, Impact Sciences, Inc., has revisited the Landmark Village Draft EIR in response to this comment and does not concur that recirculation is required. Nonetheless, 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.

186

RECEIVED
JAN 30 2007
Doc SUB-11

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept
320 W. Temple St
Los Angeles, CAL 90013
SUBJECT: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

We urge you to oppose this Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5). This project is a bad idea. Not only will it destroy pristine wildlife and farming areas and the Santa Clara River, but also it will create terrible traffic jams and more air pollution problems.

Please do the following:

1. Extend the comment period to 120 days.
2. An EIS study on the Santa Clara River needs to be completed and then released before any project can be done. This study must be presented to the public so we can comment on your direction.
3. Oppose any building in significant ecological areas as well as opposing destroying 67 oaks.
4. Global warming must be addressed and mitigated before any project can be approved. The impacts on global warming are important.

We urge you to say No to the Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5).

Thank you,

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Daniel Raskin
 18350 Los Alamos St
 Northridge, CAL 91326
 Florence Raskin
 18350 Los Alamos St
 Northridge CA 91326

E144. Letter from Darri & Florence Raskin, dated January 2007

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

The comment urges the Planning Commission to oppose building in significant ecological areas. The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

The comment also addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and

Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

2/16

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept
320 W. Temple St
Los Angeles, CAL 90013
SUBJECT: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)


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4. Global warming must be addressed and mitigated before any project can be approved. The impacts on global warming are important.

We urge you to say No to the Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5).

Thank you,


 William Ruyter
 15916 Sunburst St.
 North Hills, Ca. 91343

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E145. Letter from William Pogiter, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

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Response 6

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Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

3/6

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept
320 W. Temple St
Los Angeles, CAL 90013
SUBJECT: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

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4. Global warming must be addressed and mitigated before any project can be approved. The impacts on global warming are important.

We urge you to say No to the Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5).

Thank you,

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<input type="checkbox"/>	7

B. Raskin G.H. 91344
B. RASKIN
— VOTER —

E146. Letter from B. Raskin, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

The comment urges the Planning Commission to oppose building in significant ecological areas. The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

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Response 6

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies;** **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources;** and

Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

496

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept
320 W. Temple St
Los Angeles, CAL 90013
SUBJECT: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

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We urge you to say No to the Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5).
Thank you,

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*W.A. Coonfield
Martha S. Coonfield
18442 Los Alamos St
Northridge, CA 91326*

E147. Letter from W.A. Coonfield, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

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Response 6

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and

Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

5/1

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept
320 W. Temple St
Los Angeles, CAL 90013
SUBJECT: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

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4. Global warming must be addressed and mitigated before any project can be approved. The impacts on global warming are important.

We urge you to say No to the Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5).

Thank you,

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Fel Fack

16906 SAN JOSE ST.
GRANADA HILLS, CA. 91344

Ben Fack Granada Hills

Denise Fackin
6894 Chapman Pl
Moorpark CA 93021

Andrew Fackin
16906 San Jose St
Granada Hills Ca. 91344

Beatrice Fackin 16906 San Jose St. Granada Hills, CA
91344

E148. Letter from Ed Raskin and family, dated January 30, 2007

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

The comment urges the Planning Commission to oppose building in significant ecological areas. The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

The comment also addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies;** **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources;** and

Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

6/6

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept
320 W. Temple St
Los Angeles, CAL 90013
SUBJECT: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

We urge you to oppose this Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5). This project is a bad idea. Not only will it destroy pristine wildlife and farming areas and the Santa Clara River, but also it will create terrible traffic jams and more air pollution problems.

Please do the following:

1. Extend the comment period to 120 days.
2. An EIS study on the Santa Clara River needs to be completed and then released before any project can be done. This study must be presented to the public so we can comment on your direction.
3. Oppose any building in significant ecological areas as well as opposing destroying 67 oaks.
4. Global warming must be addressed and mitigated before any project can be approved. The impacts on global warming are important.

We urge you to say No to the Landmark Village Project No 00-196-(5).
Thank you,

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Shirley Galat
Judy Galat
5108 Beeman Ave
North Hollywood, CA 91608

Vesomcarbuardodo
6610 Aurora St CA, 91304
Reseda

Colleen Selfridge
16914 San Jose St.
Granada Hills, Ca. 91344

Laura A. Selfridge
16914 SAN JOSE ST.
GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344

Shirley Ruben
19131 Lyman St.
Tarzana, CA 91335

E149. Letter from Shirley Galat and multiple signatures (no date)

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

The comment urges the Planning Commission to oppose building in significant ecological areas. The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

The comment also addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies;** **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources;** and

Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.



When Lewis and Clark explored the West, as many as 100,000 grizzly bears roamed the western half of the United States. Today, there are fewer than 1,000 grizzlies in the same vast area.



Doc #
SUB-10

Re: Newhall Ranch,
Landmark Village Project
No. 00-196-(5)

DO NOT APPROVE THE PROJECT before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been completed/released because this may change the configuration of the project.

Ms/ Susan Tae
Los Angeles County
Regional Planning Dep
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles CA 90013

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I oppose the destruction of 67 oaks.

RECEIVED
JAN 31 2007

2

Photo: © Daniel Fox
Recycled Paper

[Handwritten signature]

E150. Letter from B. Rowan, dated January 31, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 2

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, p. 4.4-36 and pp. 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

The comment also expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

SUB-24

Ruiz, Rosie

From: ramos58@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2007 7:14 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Abel Ramos
Saugus

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E151. Letter from Abel Ramos, dated January 31, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

SUB-25

Ruiz, Rosie

From: gosco@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2007 11:11 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

kristyn gray
valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E152. Letter from Kristyn Gray, dated January 31, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

SUB-26

Ruiz, Rosie

From: wfst123@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2007 7:51 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will generate thousands of new jobs within the Santa Clarita Valley

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Like many of my neighbors, I view working near home as a win/win: less time commuting, more time at home, less fuel used and less smog created. The Newhall Ranch community plan can help make this ideal life situation a reality for thousands of Southern California residents.

As proposed, Newhall Ranch would create business and career opportunities through new commercial, retail and office destinations. In all, the plan could help bring thousands of new jobs to the region. Combined with the new employment opportunities Newhall Land is creating in its community of Valencia, more and more of the Valley's residents will be able to work close to home.

The almost 21,000 homes within Newhall Ranch will also help to attract employers and their jobs to the region. These homes can be a significant drawing card as business owners look to locate their operations in areas providing a wealth of talented employees nearby.

The smart way to accommodate growth is to bring jobs and homes together in one community. Newhall Ranch does this and I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

jesenia Mendoza
castaic

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E153. Letter from Jesenia Mendoza, dated January 31, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

SUB-19

Ruiz, Rosie

From: jo2ludo@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2007 8:06 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Ludovico
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E154. Letter from Benjamin Ludovico, dated January 31, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

SUB 20

Ruiz, Rosie

From: c.monfore@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2007 11:24 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Cristine Monfore
Stevenson Ranch

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

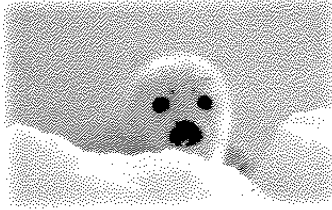
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E155. Letter from Cristine Monfore, dated January 31, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Doc # SUB-8



Ms. Andrea Gutman
10511 Mahoney Dr
Sunland CA 91040-1215

RECEIVED
JAN 31 2007

We are writing to register our concern re:
Fossil Ranch Landmark Village Project.
00-196-(5)

This project should be of major concern as
it would impact highways already overbur-
dened with volumes of truck as well as
automobile traffic. In addition, the destruction
of numerous ecological resources such as
Oak Trees and air quality should be investi-
gated fully before proceeding further. At least a
suspension in the comment period should be
allowed as well as a delay that would allow the
completion of the EIS on the Santa Clara River
having visited this location recently, we believe

2003 Member
International Fund
for Animal Welfare

the river is a vital resource that should be
reserved - undisturbed by the pollution from any
adjacent influences. Sincerely, Andrea + James Gutman
© IFAW David White

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E156. Letter from Andrea and James Gutman, dated January 31, 2007

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

The comment addresses the impact of the project on highways. Traffic generated by the project received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 air quality impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, as stated in Section 4.9, Air Quality, pp. 4.9-1 through 4.9-88. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 6

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 7

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Doc#
SUB-4

Fierros, Daniel

From: Rod Kaufman [rodkaufman@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2007 3:05 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Newhall Ranch Landmark Village Project

Dear Ms Tae,

I am emailing you regarding the above, #00-196-(5).

Please extend the comment period to 120 days. Please do not approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration.

I am opposed to buliding what will amount to urban sprawl in a ecologically sensitive area. I don't want to see 67 oak trees felled to create more urban sprawl. I am requesting that impacts to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be approved.

Thank you,
Rod L Kaufman
27959 Glade Ct
Castaic Ca 91384

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2/8/2007

E157. Letter from Rod Kaufman, dated February 1, 2007

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 3

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 4

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 5

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

~~USE IT~~
SUB-2

Fierros, Daniel

From: Linda Sivertsen [lcharmed@mac.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2007 6:31 AM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: one voter's opinion

Dear Susan,

I live in Santa Clarita and take my morning walks along the L.A. River. Having lived in NM on many acres of wild land, this area--this tiny part of wilderness in the suburbs--makes my family and me so happy. I feel so connected to the earth and to nature on these walks. Please do everything you can to halt the Newhall Ranch project. I can't imagine the sadness that will result of losing this wild land. Not to mention the great injustice of ignoring that project's part in worsening global warming.

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Thank you for all you do,

Linda Sivertsen

E158. Letter from Linda Silvertsen, dated February 1, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 3

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 4

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Please see **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 5

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

SUB-21

Ruiz, Rosie

From: debrajean01@earthlink.net
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2007 9:37 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Debbie de Courson
Stevenson Ranch

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E159. Letter from Debbie de Courson, dated February 1, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

SUB.22

Ruiz, Rosie

From: lopez716@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2007 9:04 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Davey Lopez
Santa Clarita

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E160. Letter from Davey Lopez, dated February 1, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

SUB-23

Ruiz, Rosie

From: bryangood@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2007 10:43 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Bryan Good
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E161. Letter from Bryan Good, dated February 1, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

~~Doc#~~
SUB-5

Fierros, Daniel

sub-5

From: nancy winters [newinters@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2007 10:23 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: please save the Santa Clara River

Please extend the comment period to 120 days re. the Newhall Ranch Landmark Village Project, No. 00-196-(5).

Do not approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration.

I oppose building in a Significant Ecological Area and the destruction of 67 oak trees!!! We need trees more than we need urban sprawl!! Please don't destroy the trees! How can you possibly approve things that cause more pollution and traffic while destroying things that help create clean air?!

Please address the impacts to global warming and mitigate before the project is approved.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Nancy Winters
Hermosa Beach, CA

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Search for grocery stores. Find gratitude. Turn a simple search into something more.
http://click4thecause.live.com/search/charity/default.aspx?source=hmemtagline_gratitude&FORM=WLMTAG

E162. Letter from Nancy Winters, dated February 2, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 3

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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. However, because the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 5

Please see **Response 3**, above.

Response 6

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 7

Please see **Topical Response 6:** Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7:** Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8:** Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 8

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Doc#
SUR-6

Fierros, Daniel

From: celeste brite eyes [greyceleste@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2007 8:00 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Cc: ron.silverman@sierraclub.org
Subject: Newhall Ranch Project.

Dear Susan Tae:

I hope this letter finds you well.

I cherish our beautiful state and would like the leave our precious natural heritage to our children and great-grandchildren. We cannot allow developers to further ruin our land. I am appalled that a developer has re-armed himself with financial backing to attempt to develop a project plan to ruin Los Angeles County's very last wild river. This is unacceptable. I am making a loud loud protest to stop this degradation of our environment, including saving our air, our atmosphere, our indiginous plant life, (67 oaks will be cut down) and of course, the water.

1. Please extend the comment period to 120 days.
2. Do NOT approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration.
3. I am protesting and OPPOSING building in a Significant Ecological Area
4. I am protesting and OPPOSING destroying 67 oak trees.
5. I am demanding that impact to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be approved.

Please respond to this letter.
Do not let archeologists scratch their heads and say " what were they thinking?" when they unearth the record in the future!

Sincerely, Celeste Dye
643 Maltman Ave #101
Los Angeles CA 90026
(323)828 8892
greyceleste@yahoo.com

Please don't let the

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Access over 1 million songs - [Yahoo! Music Unlimited](#).

2/8/2007

E163. Letter from Celeste Dye, dated February 5, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 4

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 5

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 6

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 7

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 8

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 9

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 10

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 11

Please see **Response 10**, above.

Doc#
SUB-7

Fierros, Daniel

From: James Starkweather [cometa60@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2007 4:20 PM
To: stae@planning.lacounty.gov
Subject: Santa Clara River

I strongly urge that you carefully look at all of the information on this proposed major development. You need to extend the comment period to at least 120 days. All reports on this development should be presented including the EIS on the Santa Clara River. Destruction of habitat including oaks should be opposed. Development needs to recognize its consequences on the environment including pollution and traffic congestion. Regards, Jim Starkweather, 15370 Weddington St. #119, Sherman Oaks, Ca 91411-3826

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2/8/2007

E164. Letter from James Starkweather, dated February 5, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 3

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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. However, because the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 5

The comment addresses traffic and air quality, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, and Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Doc#
SUB-12

Ruiz, Rosie

From: tonyglewis@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2007 10:47 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch is well-planned and environmentally sensitive

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

Census figures tell us the Santa Clarita Valley will continue to grow for many years. Newhall Ranch shows us how we can grow - intelligently and beautifully - thanks to years of careful planning and Newhall Land's use of smart planning techniques. I've found the plan effectively balances the region's need for new homes, jobs, retail and recreation opportunities, while preserving more than half of the property as a nature preserve.

For these reasons, along with Newhall Land's strong track record of building quality and balanced communities in Valencia, I encourage you to recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Tony Lewis
Valencia

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E165. Letter from Tony Lewis, dated February 5, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Doc# SV8-9 2/5/09

Re: Newhall Ranch Landmark Village Project No. 00-196(S)

Air pollution + traffic congestion - on I-5 + surface streets - are negatively impacting life in the Santa Clara Valley already.

1

More sprawl will only add to the problem which is already serious. The Santa Clara River must be saved for future generations.

2

Development in this significant Ecological AREA - cutting down oaks, etc. should be opposed. Global warming is real.

3

Sincerely Karen Aguilar

4

E166. Letter from Karen Aguilar, dated February 5, 2007

Response 1

The comment addresses traffic and air quality, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, as stated in Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, and Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required.

The comment also expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Doc#
SUB-12
SUB-13

Ruiz, Rosie

From: tztr@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2007 9:03 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Theresa Rutherford
Canyon Country

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E167. Letter from Theresa Rutherford, dated February 5, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Doc #
SUB-14

Ruiz, Rosie

From: clpaul@socal.rr.com
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2007 7:52 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Courtney Kang
Stevenson Ranch

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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E168. Letter from Courtney Kang, dated February 5, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Doc #
SUB-15

Ruiz, Rosie

From: cobarrubias100@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2007 7:35 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Maria Elisa Cobarruibas
Bell Gardens

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

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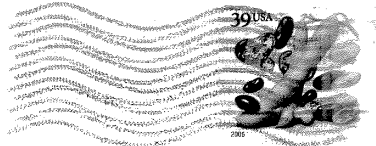
E169. Letter from Maria Elisa Cobarruibas, dated February 5, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Mr Richard F Docter
17162 Sunburst St
Northridge, CA 91325

SANTA CLARITA
LOS ANGELES, CA 91310
09 FEB 2007 PM
10 FEB 2007 PM 9 L



SUB-38

Ms Susan Jae
T. O. P. B. ...

2-8-07

RECEIVED
FEB 15 2007

Dear Ms. Jae,

I would like to add my voice to those requesting a delay in the approval of the Newhall Ranch plan until the EIR on the Santa Clara River has been completed.

Seeking a regional plan to save L.A. County's last wild river and the surrounding acreage from irreversible harm, time must be allowed for maximum community input and all the facts to be on the table. It is unthinkable

to plan such a project in a significant ecological area. Anyone who has driven through this beautiful area must acknowledge that runaway development will destroy this premier site which should be the heritage for future generations.

Sincerely yours,
Richard Docter

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E170. Letter from Shirley Doctor, dated February 8, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Response 4

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Hello Ms. Tae, 2-8-07

Hope The machine can read your extremely long address - I want to go on record as opposing The urban sprawl housing project on Newhall Ranch. You better check those "new" sources of H₂O carefully - I can anticipate major traffic problems/congestion I drive 14 to Palmdale & know how crowded that is. We know our "globe" is warming, especially due to trucks & gas guzzling cars.

Please hold your approval at least until the EIS on the River has been completed. You may change your mind on destroying a significant ecological area. Look forward to your comments -

Sincerely
Dorothy Geisler

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E171. Letter from Dorothy Geisler, dated February 8, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 3

The comment addresses water supply/service, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 traffic issues, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Air quality impacts with regard to health issues are addressed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, pp. 4.9-36 and 4.9-37.

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 6

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 7

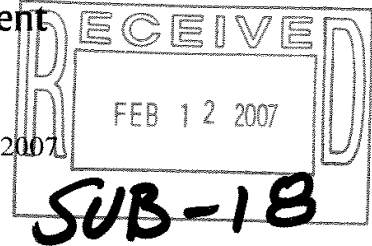
The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 8

Please see **Response 7**, above.

\$CV Clean Money for Better Government
25439 Via Macarena
Valencia, CA 91322

February 8, 2007



Editor
The Signal
Valencia, CA

Dear Sir;

With the alarming news this weekend that global warming is a fact and that it is caused by human (read Corporate) activity, it is vital that developments like Newhall Ranch be rethought. This massive development (21,000 homes) will further increase air pollution, traffic gridlock and demands on our threatened water supply here in Santa Clarita. It will increase our local cancer and asthma rates and put unfair demands on Santa Clarita taxpayers to shoulder the burden for the increased infrastructure needs. City Council and Supervisor Antonovich must recognize that every decision made may seem insignificant at the time but when added up spells destruction of our planet.

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For years Corporate interests and their political lackeys have ignored, marginalized and discredited the environmental community's warning that their greed, lack of vision and plundering of our resources could only result in catastrophe. But as long as Corporations own our government; local, state and national, we will see half-measures and lip service to pressing environmental, health and social welfare needs. We need our leaders to make tough decisions. To say NO to special interests and start acting responsibly.

The solution is Public Campaign Financing (Clean Money) which will be re-introduced in the Assembly this session. Corporate interests - maximum profit, cheap labor, new markets, are incompatible with the people's interest - clean air and water, health care, Social Security, living wage jobs, a decent quality of life, a guarantee that our leaders are representing us and not the top 1%, etc. Clean Money will allow politicians to represent the people's interest and not those whose values rest in their bottom line.

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What a terrible legacy we are leaving our children and grandchildren; a dying planet, a widening gap between the super rich and the rest of us, decaying infrastructure, low wage jobs, all because BIG MONEY controls government. Newhall Ranch is but another example of this travesty.

Sincerely,

Carole Lutness
Carole Lutness, Chair
SCV Clean Money for Better Government

E172. Letter from Carole Lutness, dated February 8, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 2

The comment addresses air quality, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses traffic impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 water supply, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Air quality impacts with regard to health issues are addressed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, pp. 4.9-36 and 4.9-37.

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 6

The comment raises economic, social, or political issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment. 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 required.

Response 7

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 8

The comment raises economic, social, or political issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment. 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 required.

*Doct#
SUB-1*

Fierros, Daniel

From: Tae, Susan
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2007 10:38 PM
To: Fierros, Daniel
Subject: FW: Santa Clara River

From: LDWEBBO@aol.com [mailto:LDWEBBO@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2007 9:39 AM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Santa Clara River

Feb. 8, 2007

Reference: Newhall Ranch Landmark Village Project

TO: The Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.

The very large 21, 000 unit complex will become another spike in the grave for the Santa Clara River. We in the Antelope Valley (near the River's starting point) see this development working its way along the River and ultimately destroying the entire watershed. Their needs to be a comprehensive study made of the entire River, before this piecemeal distruction continues. The CEQA process requires a cumulative study be made. I am requesting this from the LA County Planning Dept. for the Santa Clara River and watershed

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Sincerely,

Dean Webb,
1000 E. Caperton,
Lancaster, 93535

eMail < ldwebbo@aol.com >

2/12/2007

E173. Letter from Dean Webb, dated February 8, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment requests that a cumulative watershed study be completed. A cumulative Santa Clarita watershed study has been prepared and is found in **Appendix A** of this Final EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Katherine Squires
26800 Espuma Dr.
Saugus, CA 91350
(661) 755-0878

RECEIVED
FEB 13 2007
ENV-7

Daniel Fierros
County of LA, Dept. of Regional Planning,
Impact Analysis Section
Room 1348
320 West Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

February 10, 2007

Dear Mr. Fierros,

I am extremely concerned about the proposed Newhall Ranch Project. This proposed development will bring 357,000 additional car trips a day onto our freeways and surface streets and increase air pollution which is already some of the worst in the nation.

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There are the numerous environmental concerns as well. The proposed development is in an area prone to extreme tectonic activity (on the same rate as that which created the Himalaya Mountains). The site is bordered on the south by layers of rock that are actually upside down due to the intense pressure and movement in that area. The site is prone to landslides. Consider the horrifying aftermath of a major earthquake on the people that could potentially reside in the proposed 21,000 units.

3

Consider also the Tatavium Indians whose artifacts have been found on the site. In the Environmental Impact Report it was stated by Newhall Land that the Tatavium are extinct. The tribe is alive and well. If "errors" such as this can occur in the EIR I have to wonder what other "mistakes" were made in drafting this document.

4

It is obvious that more research on the area needs to be done. Unfortunately, research by independent experts (in many fields of study) has been hampered by Newhall Land's long-tradition of limiting any research that might jeopardize their development plans.

5

The proposed project would encroach on the floodplain of the last major wild river in Southern California and would permanently transform the habitat of numerous endangered species. A notable example is the California condor (the United States most famous endangered bird species). The endangered least Bell's vireo, the endangered unarmored threespine stickleback, the arroyo toad, and the least tern also reside in the area.

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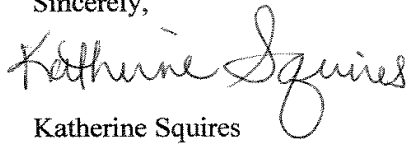
8

This development is proposed for an area noted for its biodiversity and tectonic activity. None of these concerns have been well addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

9

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Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Katherine Squires in cursive script.

Katherine Squires

E174. Letter from Katherine Squires, dated February 10, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan was approved in May 2003. That approval is not subject to review. The review at this time is of the Landmark Village portion of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. The Landmark Village project would generate 41,900 average daily trips. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses tectonic activity, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.1, Geotechnical and Soil Resources. Although portions of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan site are prone to landslides, the Landmark Village site is relatively flat and, therefore, landslides are not expected.

Response 4

The comment highlights statements made in the technical report prepared for the Landmark Village Draft EIR. The comment is correct in that this statement is inaccurate. First, to rectify this inaccuracy, several steps have been undertaken. The preparer of the cultural report, W&S consultants, has apologized to the Tataviam Band for this inaccurate statement in a letter dated February 15, 2007. Additionally, W&S has amended the Landmark Village Cultural Resources Report to remove this language and replaced it with language that reflects the existence of the Tataviam Band as documented by the Ethnographic Overview of the Angeles National Forest, Tataviam and San Gabriel Mountain Serrano Ethnohistory (2004).

The project applicant has worked with the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians on other projects in the Santa Clarita Valley. The project applicant values their relationship with the Tataviam Band, and will continue to consult and work with the Tataviam Band during build-out of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan.

Response 5

The comment expresses an opinion. The comment provides no specifics as to precisely what research is needed. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 6

The comment addresses the floodplain, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.2, Hydrology. In addition, please refer to Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications, p. 4.5-42, which states that: "The entire Landmark Village Project, inclusive of the utility corridor and burrow site, would permanently impact approximately 0.78 acres of land under ACOE jurisdiction within the Santa Clara River, as well as 0.60 acres of tributaries to the Santa Clara River." The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment suggests that encroachment in the floodplain would permanently transform the habitat of numerous endangered species. This moderate encroachment would not create significant impacts to the unarmored threespine stickleback, least Bell's vireo, southwestern arroyo toad, southwestern willow flycatcher, and the California red-legged frog, as discussed in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications.

Response 8

The comment addresses different species of birds and animals, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

In addition, please see **Appendix A** of this Final EIR, which addresses the California condor. Please see **Response 7**, above, with regards to impacts to the least Bell's vireo, and unarmored threespine stickleback. Section 4.4, Biota, also discusses impacts to the arroyo toad and the least tern.

Response 9

The comment indicates that the area is known for biodiversity and tectonic activity, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and Section 4.1, Geotechnical and Soil Resources. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 10

The comment contends that the issues of biodiversity and tectonic activity have not been addressed. The environmental consultant, Impact Sciences, Inc., does not concur with this unsubstantiated opinion. The materials included in the Draft EIR appendices are extensive and provide substantial documentation supporting the Landmark Village Draft EIR findings. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Doc #
ENV - 2

Fierros, Daniel

From: Tae, Susan
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2007 1:18 AM
To: Fierros, Daniel
Subject: FW: Newhall Ranch Development

-----Original Message-----

From: Katherine M Squires [mailto:katherine.m.squires@csun.edu]
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2007 7:36 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Newhall Ranch Development

I am extremely concerned about the proposed Newhall Ranch Project. This proposed development will bring 357,000 additional car trips a day onto our freeways and surface streets and increase air pollution which is already some of the worst in the nation.

1
2

There are the numerous environmental concerns as well. The proposed development is in an area prone to extreme tectonic activity (on the same rate as that which created the Himalaya Mountains). The site is bordered on the south by layers of rock that are actually upside down due to the intense pressure and movement in that area. The site is prone to landslides. Consider the horrifying aftermath of a major earthquake on the people that could potentially reside in the proposed 21,000 units.

3

Consider also the Tatavium Indians whose artifacts have been found on the site. In the Environmental Impact Report it was stated by Newhall Land that the Tatavium are extinct. The tribe is alive and well. If "errors" such as this can occur in the EIR I have to wonder what other "mistakes" were made in drafting this document.

4

It is obvious that more research on the area needs to be done. Unfortunately, research by independent experts (in many fields of study) has been hampered by Newhall Land's long-tradition of limiting any research that might jeopardize their development plans.

5

The proposed project would encroach on the floodplain of the last major wild river in Southern California and would permanently transform the habitat of numerous endangered species. A notable example is the California condor (the United States most famous endangered bird species). The endangered least Bell's vireo, the endangered unarmored threespine stickleback, the arroyo toad, and the least tern also reside in the area.

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This development is proposed for an area noted for its biodiversity and tectonic activity. None of these concerns have been well addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

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Sincerely,
Katherine Squires
26800 Espuma Dr.
Saugus, CA 91350
(661) 755-0878

E175. Letter from Katherine Squires, dated February 11, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Response 1** to letter from Katherine Squires, dated February 10, 2007.

Response 2

Please see **Response 2** to letter from Katherine Squires, dated February 10, 2007.

Response 3

Please see **Response 3** to letter from Katherine Squires, dated February 10, 2007.

Response 4

Please see **Response 4** to letter from Katherine Squires, dated February 10, 2007.

Response 5

Please see **Response 5** to letter from Katherine Squires, dated February 10, 2007.

Response 6

Please see **Response 6** to letter from Katherine Squires, dated February 10, 2007.

Response 7

Please see **Response 7** to letter from Katherine Squires, dated February 10, 2007.

Response 8

Please see **Response 8** to letter from Katherine Squires, dated February 10, 2007.

Response 9

Please see **Response 9** to letter from Katherine Squires, dated February 10, 2007.

Response 10

Please see **Response 10** to letter from Katherine Squires, dated February 10, 2007.

~~Doc#~~ ENV-4

Fierros, Daniel

From: Tae, Susan
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2007 7:13 PM
To: Fierros, Daniel
Subject: FW: santa clara river

Unsure if this was included with the original

Thanks,
Susie Tae, AICP
Land Divisions Section
(213) 974-6433

Please note new e-mail address: stae@planning.lacounty.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Dinda Evans [mailto:dindamcp4@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2007 4:06 AM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: santa clara river

Please help us save the Santa Clara River! - Hearing Jan 31st

Many of you have been on our bus trips along the Santa Clara River, Los Angeles County's last wild river and seen the site of the Newhall Ranch project or you have seen our big Santa Clara River picture. The Newhall Ranch project is proposed immediately adjacent to the river out Hwy. 126, west of the I-5 in a pristine wildland and farming area. Everyone talked about how beautiful and special this area is. In 2003, the Sierra Club, along with 14 groups and agencies, won an important decision against the 21,000 unit specific plan based on its lack of an identified water source. The developer returned with new sources and the project plan was approved. Now each tract map must be reviewed for approval.

The EIR for the first 1,444-unit phase was released over the holidays (of course). It will have severe impacts to Significant Ecological Area 23, the Santa Clara River and its biology, cut down 67 oaks, and of course create major traffic and air pollution problems.

In an era of global warming, we cannot continue to approve automobile based sprawl housing. We must encourage the County to re-think its landuse policies and not approve projects such as this.

get these points across:

Please extend the comment period to 120 days Do not approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration Oppose building in a Significant Ecological Area Oppose destruction of 67 oaks Request that impacts to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be approved.

dinda evans

Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around <http://mail.yahoo.com>

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E176. Letter from Dinda Evans, dated January 9, 2007

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses water supply, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 restates information contained in the Draft EIR, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 5

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR. In addition, please see **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**.

Response 6

Impacts to SEA 23 were addressed in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 7

The comment addresses the Santa Clara River and its biology, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 9

The comment addresses traffic issues, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The Draft EIR concluded that, with mitigation, impacts to traffic would be less-than-significant. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 10

The comment addresses air quality impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 11

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

The comment also expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 12

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 13

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 14

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 15

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 16

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 17

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies;** **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources;** and

Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

SUB-27

RECEIVED
FEB 14 2007

Santa Clarita, CA
February 12, 2007

Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept
320 W. Temple St
Los Angeles, CA

Attention: Ms. Susan Tae

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

Ms. Tae,

Global Warming is more than just an idea, and its time is well past due. We, on every level, must adjust our thinking about how we grow. We must proceed with caution by approving the above named project only after the Federal EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released and completed. This study may change the size and shape of the Project.

1

2

We must consider how the increased traffic in the area created by this building will affect Global Warming, and more immediately, the air quality of this valley. Already, the Santa Clarita Valley is said to have a serious air quality problem, our funnel shape defined as it is, by the I-5 and the 14 Freeways.

3

4

I am personally hoping the Federal EIS will limit building in one of the last truly beautiful wild scenes, already named a Significant Ecological Area. I am hoping it will preserve sixty seven oak trees. They can never be replaced.

5

6

Sincerely,

Barbara Cogswell

E177. Letter from Barbara Cogswell, dated February 12, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

The comment also expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 2**: EIS/EIR Project.

Response 3

The comment discusses increased traffic in the area that, according to the comment, will affect global warming. The subject of traffic and its impacts received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. For information responsive to the global warming comment, please refer to **Response 1**, above.

Response 4

The comment addresses air quality impacts in the Santa Clarita Valley. Air quality impacts are discussed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. As discussed on page 4.0-14, the Draft EIR states that:

- Future development would not cause violations of the federal annual average PM10 standard, but could cause possible violations of the state standard.
- The overwhelming contribution of pollution transport to the Santa Clarita Valley comes from the San Fernando Valley and metropolitan Los Angeles. The major daytime wind vectors are from the south and upwind emission source areas. Additionally, field studies have confirmed the prevalent transport route through the Newhall Pass by tracing the northward movement of inert tracer gases released in Metropolitan Los Angeles areas. As an example, Santa Clarita is a relatively small contributor to the total emissions of the key pollutants in both Los Angeles county and the Basin as a whole. The report indicates that across the board, the emissions are typically less than three percent of the County total and 2 percent of the basin total.

The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 6

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Feb. 12, 2007

RECEIVED
FEB 14 2007

SUB-28

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

To Ms. Susan Tae, Los County Regional Planning Dept.

Dear Ms. Tae,

I am opposed to the Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project for the following reasons: It will have severe impacts to Significant Ecological Area No.23, the Santa Clara River and its biology, and will also cut down 67 oaks, and create major traffic and air pollution problems. In this era of global warming we cannot continue to approve automobile based sprawl Housing. We must encourage the county to rethink its land use policies and not approve projects such as this.

The site of the Newhall Ranch is on the Santa Clara River, the last wild river in Los Angeles County. It is a pristine wild land and farming area. California is losing too many of its wild areas.

I ask you to extend the comment period to 120 days. Do not approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released. I oppose building in a significant Ecological Area. I oppose the destruction of 67 Oaks. I request that the impacts to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project is approved.

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Sincerely, Willis Simms, 6251

Jumilla Ave.,

Woodland Hills, California 91367

E178. Letter from Willis Simms, dated February 12, 2007

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

Impacts to the River Corridor/Special Management Area/SEA 23 were addressed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 traffic congestion, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The Draft EIR concluded that, with mitigation, impacts to traffic would be less-than-significant. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses air quality impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

The comment also expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 7

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 8

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 9

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 10

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 11

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is

required. 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 12

Please see **Topical Response 6:** Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7:** Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8:** Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Fierros, Daniel

From: Tae, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2007 9:30 AM
To: Fierros, Daniel
Subject: FW: Re. Newhall Ranch Landmark Village Project

ENIV-6

-----Original Message-----

From: James Tejani [mailto:jtejani@usa.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2007 8:02 AM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Re. Newhall Ranch Landmark Village Project

Ms. Tae,

I am writing to urge the planning department not to rush in approving the Newhall Ranch Landmark Village Project because of the threat the current project (according to the EIR) will pose to the Santa Clara River, LA County's last free-flowing and unpaved river. LA taxpayers are about to foot the bill for an expensive partial renovation on the LA river to mitigate damage done by its development. This underscores the need for long-term, sustainable planning with regard to the Santa Clara River and planning that involves all stakeholders.

I urge you 1) to extend the period for comment to 120 days; 2) to not approve the project before an EIS on the Santa Clara River is completed.

James Tejani
Long Beach, CA

[Redacted]

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E179. Letter from James Tejani, dated February 13, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment raises economic, social, or political issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment resulting from the proposed Landmark Village project. 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 required.

Response 3

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 required.

Response 4

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 5

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Fierros, Daniel

From: Tae, Susan
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2007 5:27 PM
To: Fierros, Daniel
Subject: FW: Santa Clara River

SUB - 29

From: EdSimpson [mailto:edsimpson@dslextreme.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2007 8:36 AM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Santa Clara River

We are supporting the environmentalists who request extension of the comments period to 120 days.

We strongly urge there be an EIS and no decision is made until the documents are released.

Save the trees! No loss of the oaks!

In this overcrowded state all open space is vital and "significant". However, any development that does take place must exclude areas deemed important. Whether species are endangered or not, maximum habitat must be preserved.

Thank you.

Edward L. Simpson

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2/21/2007

E180. Letter from Edward Simpson, dated February 15, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 5

Please see **Response 4**, above.

Response 6

The comment suggests maximum habitat be persevered whether species are endangered or not. Habitat and associated species are discussed in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

FEB 16, 2007

DEAR MS. TAE

RECEIVED SUB-33
FEB 20 2007

I'M WRITING TO OPPOSE THE VAST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE SANTA CLARITA RIVER. CIVILIZATION CREEPING INTO THE WILD IS INEVITABLE BUT, IT CAN BE DONE INTELLIGENTLY WITHOUT ABSOLUTELY, DRASTICALLY, IMPACTING THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT AS THIS PLAN WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DO. PLEASE CONSIDER REDUCING THE IMPACT ON THE SANTA CLARITA RIVER BED BY REDUCING THE SIZE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT SIGNIFICANTLY.

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THANK YOU,
 David H. Krug
 30421 HIDDEN VALLEY CT.
 CASTAIC, CA. 91384
 661-775-9877

E181. Letter from David King?, dated February 16, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

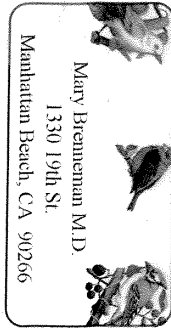
Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment suggests reducing the impact of the project on the Santa Clara River by reducing the size of the project. The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 5.0, Alternatives, proposes a cluster alternative, which would eliminate development of the westernmost 106 acres of the project site and would reduce development by 507 dwelling units along with 828,000 square feet of commercial uses.

SUB-34



A note from Mary Brenneman M.D.
1330 19th St.
Dr. Mary Brenneman Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

2-18-'07

Dear Ms Susan Tale

PLEASE:

1 EXTEND COMMENT PERIOD
TO 120 DAYS

1

2 DON'T APPROVE PROJECT
BEFORE THE EIS ON
SANTA CLARA RIVER
HAS BEE COMPLETED

2

3 OPPOSE BUILDING IN
SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGIC AREA

3

4 OPPOSE DESTRICT^N 67 OAKS

4

5 REQUEST IMPACTS TO GLOBAL
WARMING- BE MITIGATED BEFORE
APPROVAL Mary Brenneman

5

Trust in the LORD with all your heart
...and He will direct your path
Proverbs 3:5,6 (NIV)

LOS ANGELES CA 90001
18 FEB 2007 PM 12 T



Ms Susan Tale

L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.

320 W. Temple St.

L.A., Ca. 90013

90013-90013

POSTNET barcode

E182. Letter from Mary Brenneman M.D., dated February 18, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 3

The comment requests that the Planning Commission oppose building in the Significant Ecological Area. The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

ENV-14

Barbara Wampole
28006 San Martinez Grande Road
Castaic, CA 91384-2306
661-257-3036
Vice chair, Friends of the Santa Clara River

February 19, 2007

Mr. Daniel Fierros
County of LA Regional Planning Department
Impact Analysis Section
320 West Temple Street Rm. 1348
LA, CA 90012
FAX 213-626-0434

RE: Comments on the DEIR for Landmark Village, Newhall Ranch

Attached are a photo from LA Co Public Works of the project area after a flood event
3/4/1983

1

Dear Mr. Fierros,

Thank you Chair, and commissioners, for your attention to my comments.
I have resided in the Santa Clara River watershed for 35 years and am the vice chair of
Friends of the Santa Clara River.

2

Initially, I would like to say that I need more time to comment on this project. I
respectfully ask that the commission extend the deadline for comments.

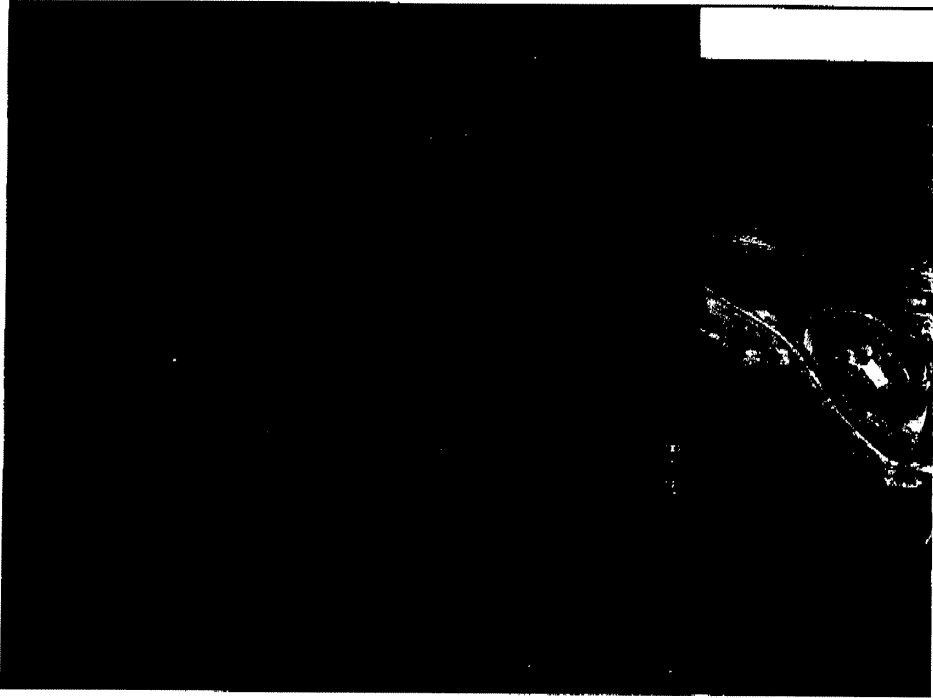
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Any amendment of the Specific Plan concerns Friends of the Santa Clara River.
We believe that there are still concerns with the Specific Plan and the comment period
does not offer sufficient time to review this amendment, nor allow time to address the
Specific Plan itself, which now significantly different from the Specific Plan approved by
LA County. There has been significant new information related to the natural resources
on the project site since the studies were done for the DEIR and subsequent documents.

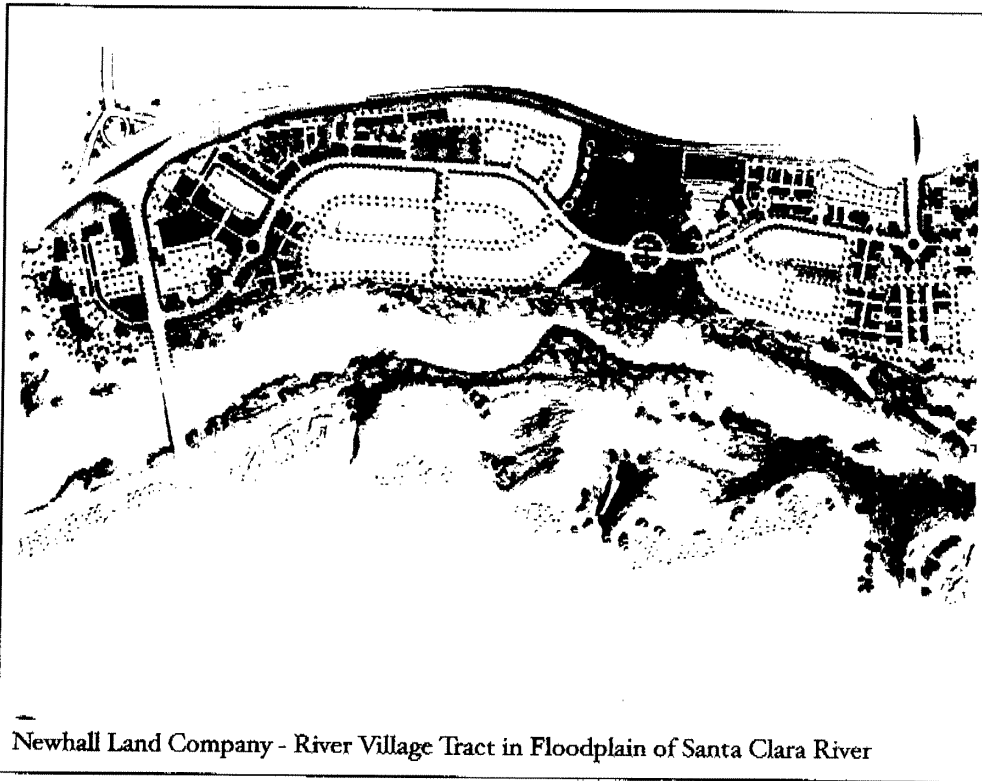
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Los Angeles County Public Works aerial photo of 1993 flooding River Village area



Newhall Land Company - River Village Tract in Floodplain of Santa Clara River

We continue to be disturbed by the records on the impact of flooding on this particular site, as viewed in photographs as seen in LA Co Public Work's photographs.
We do not believe that buried bank stabilization, nor elevating the site will reduce the impacts to the river's function, nor the habitat to an acceptable level.

7

8

Chiquita Canyon Landfill continues to be a challenging impact on the existing residents, and a serious challenge to the quality of life and health of future residents. The pollution plume identified in the ground water in the 1990s persists in eluding full analysis. [Simply living in close proximity to landfill hazards needs fuller analysis.] The farm water quality needs to be tested and fully reviewed.

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You might appreciate our frustration as public participants here, in light of how long it has taken to address the following issue;
In 1917 Alexander Graham Bell observed, "Coal and oil are strictly limited in quantity, We can take coal out of a mine, but we can never put it back. We are spendthrifts in the matter of fuel and are using our capital for our running expenses. What shall we do when we have no more coal or oil?" And what would happen if all the fossil fuels being burned continued to fill the air with pollutants? Bell wrote, "I am inclined to think we would have a sort of greenhouse effect The net result is that the green house becomes a hot-house."

12

We do not come before you with frivolous concerns. We face grave challenges due to resource consumption, and natural resource identification on this project site.

13

We can only hope we have the time and protections in place to plan for things that have been ignored for most of a century. We thank you for your patience and attention.
Sincerely,

Barbara Wampole
Vice chair
Friends of the Santa Clara River



E183. Letter from Barbara Wampole, dated February 19, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 3

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 4

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 5

The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan project was approved in May 2003. That approval is not subject to review. The review at this time is of the Landmark Village portion of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area. 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 contends that there is significant new information to the natural resources on the project site, but provides no support or examples of such information. The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 7

The comment indicates concerns regarding flooding on the Landmark Village project site. In response, the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.2, Hydrology, p. 4.2-1, states, “[a]pproximately 169 acres of the

Landmark Village tract map site would be elevated above the capital floodplain (the remaining portions of the tract map site are already above the capital floodplain) and, therefore, none of the improvements proposed on the tract map site would be subject to flood hazard from the river or other drainages.”

Response 8

The comment expresses a disbelief that buried bank stabilization, or elevating the site, will reduce impacts to the river's function or habitat to an acceptable level. The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 9

The comment states that the Chiquita Canyon Landfill impacts existing residents and will challenge the quality of life and health of future residents. The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.20, Environmental Safety, pp. 4.21-30 and 4.21-31, state that “[i]mpacts to the groundwater table beneath the landfill site are unlikely for two reasons. First, the landfill is lined with clay, synthetic fabric, or other types of liners to prevent materials from entering ground or surface waters. Second, the facility is located in an assumed gross-gradient location relative to the regional groundwater flow direction. Therefore, the potential environmental impact from this property is low.” In addition, in response to comments regarding the plume, the County assumes that the comment is referring to perchlorate. Please see **Topical Response 1: Perchlorate Treatment Update** for further responsive information.

Response 10

Please see **Response 9**, above.

Response 11

The comment suggests that farm water quality needs to be fully tested and reviewed. The groundwater has been tested and the testing results are summarized in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.3, Water Quality, and Section 4.10, Water Service, pp. 4.10-64 and 4.10-65. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 12

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 13

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: gkwebb@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2007 12:39 PM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

SUB-31
RECEIVED
FEB 20 2007

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

1

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Geoff Webberley
Palmdale

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E184. Letter from Geoff Webberly, dated February 19, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: tontra@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2007 8:41 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

RECEIVED
FEB 20 2007
SUB-32
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Tracy Sciarrino
Saugus

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

1

E185. Letter from Tracy Scarrino, dated February 19, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Fierros, Daniel

From: Thomas Barron [barron@imageg.com]
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2007 10:33 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: LANDMARK VILLAGE - Cody Hitt comments
Attachments: LANDMARK VILLAGE comments-Cody Hitt.pdf

ENV-19

19/02/2007

Cody Hitt
25346 Avenida Cappela
Valencia, CA 91355

My name is Cody Hitt, I'm 13 years old. Last year just before Halloween I was hit by a truck while I was riding my bike with my parents in Santa Clarita. I was on the shoulder of a road with no bike lane or sidewalk. I spent several days in the hospital, first at Henry Mayo and then at UCLA in intensive care. Why do we keep putting up houses and roads but no place for bikes? The bike path is nice but you can't get to a lot of places on it. Everyone talks about pollution from cars and my family would rather ride their bikes but my Mom is too scared to let me ride on the roads with her and my Dad.

My dad took me to Beales cut which is so grown over you can hardly walk through it. I thought it would be a good place for a bike path so we could preserve the history of Beales cut and have a safe place to ride our bikes from this valley to the other valley.

Sincerely,

Cody Hitt



2/21/2007

19/02/2007

Cody Hitt
25346 Avenida Cappela
Valencia, CA 91355

My name is Cody Hitt, I'm 13 years old. Last year just before Halloween I was hit by a truck while I was riding my bike with my parents in Santa Clarita. I was on the shoulder of a road with no bike lane or sidewalk. I spent several days in the hospital, first at Henry Mayo and then at UCLA in intensive care. Why do we keep putting up houses and roads but no place for bikes? The bike path is nice but you can't get to a lot of places on it. Everyone talks about pollution from cars and my family would rather ride their bikes but my Mom is too scared to let me ride on the roads with her and my Dad.

My dad took me to Beales cut which is so grown over you can hardly walk through it. I thought it would be a good place for a bike path so we could preserve the history of Beales cut and have a safe place to ride our bikes from this valley to the other valley.

Sincerely,

Cody Hitt

E186. Letter from Cody Hitt, dated February 19, 2007

Response 1

The comment suggests an interconnected bike path from valley-to-valley. Bike trails that traverse the Santa Clarita Valley, both existing and proposed, are discussed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.16, Parks and Recreation.

Fierros, Daniel

From: Dan & Gina Nordenstrom [norcondev@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2007 5:00 PM
To: Meneses, Frank; Fierros, Daniel
Cc: Michael D. Antonovich; Tae, Susan; McCarthy, Paul; Paul Novak
Subject: Landmark Village
Attachments: Pubwkslet-VV.doc; PNovak1-17-07.doc; NewhallRanchlet-Sup Antonovich.doc

ENV-17

February 20, 2007

Mr. Daniel Fierros
 Department of Regional Planning
 County of Los Angeles
 320 W. Temple St.
 Los Angeles, Ca 90012

RE: Landmark Village
 County Project No. 00-196
 Tentative Tract Map No. TR53108
 RCUP-CP00-196/ROAK-0T00-196
 RPA-SP00-196/RPA-LP00-196
 RCUP-T200500112/RHWY-HR00-196/RPA-PA00-196
 State Clearinghouse No. 2004021002

Dear Mr. Fierros:

We wish to include this letter and all attachments in the public comment period to be considered in the public hearing dated February 28, 2007 for the above-referenced project.

	1
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Per the letter from Department of Public Works dated January 23, 2007 from Donald L. Wolfe and John Kelley (attached), it is stated that "the master sewer area study, however, does not require Newhall Land and Farming to ensure the new water reclamation plant is sized to intercept any flows from the Val Verde community." This determination seem flawed in the respect that Val Verde has been a "related project" per our agreement with Newhall Land and Farming Co. dated July 9, 1998 and should have always been considered in the building of the reclamation plant accommodations and capacity.

	2
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We know for a fact that the Newhall Ranch Sanitation District formed on July 26, 2006 is fully aware of the Val Verde/Newhall Ranch agreement.

	3
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We have always assumed that the capacity of the plant would be determined by the amount of gallons going through the lines feeding it! How can a plant be designed or built knowing that "x" amount of sewage will be flowing to it and not be designed accordingly? "The Bridge to Nowhere?"

	4
--	---

2/21/2007

Mr. Daniel Fierros
Page 2.
February 20, 2007

We need to resolve this matter prior to the County of Los Angeles approval of this Newhall Ranch Sanitation District reclamation plant being built as proposed as L.A. County will then become the administrator of the facility. Any probable litigation would be the burden of the County at that time, instead of Newhall Ranch.

5

We thank you for your time.

6

Daniel & Gina Nordenstrom
29128 Justamere Ave.
Val Verde, Ca 91384
661/ 257-0641

C: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
Paul Novak
Paul McCarthy
Frank Menses
Susie Tae

2/21/2007



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

806 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone (626) 458-5100
www.ladpw.org

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

January 23, 2007

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO FILE: **LD-0**
A2289

Mr. Dan Nordenstrom
29128 Justamere Avenue
Val Verde, CA 91384

Dear Mr. Nordenstrom:

NEWHALL RANCH DEVELOPMENT

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich forwarded your recent e-mail to Public Works for our investigation and response.

As you know, the Newhall Ranch Environmental Impact Report (EIR) certified in 2003, evaluated the environmental impacts of the proposed water reclamation plant and sewerage collection facilities. The EIR also contained a mitigation measure which required the formation of a new County sanitation district for the Newhall Specific Plan area. The new district, namely, the Newhall Ranch Sanitation District of Los Angeles County, was formed on July 26, 2006.

As part of the plan approval process, we are currently reviewing a master sewer area study prepared for the Newhall Ranch development. The master sewer area study identifies the need to construct a trunk sewer line within San Martinez-Chiquito Canyon Road to the tract boundary with the Val Verde community. The proposed trunk line will possess adequate capacity for future discharge from your community upon annexation to the recently formed Newhall Ranch Sanitation District of Los Angeles County. The master sewer area study, however, does not require Newhall Land and Farming to ensure the new water reclamation plant is sized to intercept any flows from the Val Verde community. This is consistent with the agreement between the Val Verde community and Newhall Land, which you provided.

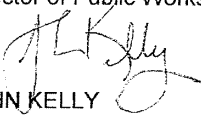
Therefore, in response to your request, we are confirming that a trunk line will be constructed and will provide adequate capacity for future discharge from the Val Verde community upon annexation to the Newhall Ranch Sanitation District of Los Angeles County.

Mr. Dan Nordenstrom
January 23, 2007
Page 2

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Dennis Hunter at (626) 458-4900 or Mr. Steven Sheridan at (626) 458-7151.

Very truly yours,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Director of Public Works


JOHN KELLY
Deputy Director

SDS:la
P:\dpub\ADMIN\MEMOS\A2289.doc

cc: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich (Paul Novak)

Dan & Gina Nordenstrom

From: "Dan & Gina Nordenstrom" <norcondev@earthlink.net>
To: "Mike Antonovich" <fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us>; "Paul Novak" <PNovak@iacbos.org>
Cc: "Rob Gilmore" <rgilmore@newhall.com>; "Glenn Adamick" <gadamick@newhall.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2007 8:59 AM
Subject: Newhall Ranch agreement

Paul –

In reference to your email from 1/9 in regards to Newhall Ranch and forwarding our letter to Don Wolfe and staff, we haven't received anything from them as of yet. As you are aware, time is of the essence to confirm our agreement and mitigations with Newhall Ranch regarding the sewers and reclamation plant.

The community is of the opinion that the County will protect Val Verde's interests regarding the "good faith" agreement we made with Newhall in 1998. The verbal statements made at the signing of the agreement verified that the County would demand that the systems would be complete. ("Oversized sewer lines which are tributary to the Newhall Ranch Reclamation Plant, Newhall Ranch agrees to fund the costs of oversizing the above sewer lines." – Section 6A of the agreement). The sewer flow would be estimated by the appropriate County department and would not be of any concern or additional cost to our residents.

We would like to assist Newhall Ranch in starting their first phase of this project, but must demand that this extremely important issue regarding the reclamation plant must first be resolved to our satisfaction. Glenn Adamick and Rob Gilmore at Newhall Land have committed to reviewing our concerns and stated that they would get back to us later this week with their findings.

The idea of annexing Val Verde into the plant at an appropriate time is no problem and we understand that part of process. We also understand that we would have to pay individually as homeowners to bring the sewer line from Lincoln into Val Verde for our individual hook-ups.

However, if we had known that there would be any costs involved to the individual residents to become part of the reclamation plant (any annexation fees); we would have mitigated those at the same time we made the agreement. To bring this to light now, years after the fact is problematic to us. The people that signed this agreement did so in good faith, we were not engineers or professionals and were relying on the County and Newhall to deal with Val Verde in an honest and fair manner. Please give us a call back at home this morning or email me with a time that we can reach you as soon as possible. Thanks, Dan & Gina Nordenstrom
Home phone – 661/ 257-0641

January 4, 2007

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
5th District, Board of Supervisors
500 W. Temple St.
Room 869
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

Dear Mike,

Happy New Year and we are sending our wishes for the best of health and happiness to you and your family.

Mike, I have met with the community members (as well as other residents) who originally signed the "Agreement between Val Verde Civic Association and Newhall Ranch Company in regard to the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan" dated July 9, 1998 (copy attached). All but 2 of the original signers are still residents of Val Verde. All have voiced concern regarding the upcoming January 31, 2007 Regional Planning Commission meeting referencing the first Newhall Ranch "Landmark Village" development to be approved.

Before any approvals are given, we (the residents of Val Verde) would like confirmation in writing from either the County or Lennar or both that Lennar will provide adequate sizing of the sewer lines and reclamation plant to handle the future growth in Val Verde. Since the Castaic Area Standards District has been established, after many long years of hard work by our residents, the Castaic Area Town Council and Andy Malakates and his staff, we want to make sure that Lennar bases their figures on the CSD requirements (7,500 sq. ft. lots with 5,000 sq. ft. lots that were grandfathered into the CSD) and our future growth. When we signed the document with Newhall Land, the Standards District had not been completed and so the wording is vague. Simply over sizing the sewer line and not allowing capacity for the present homes and proposed future growth (approximately 1,200 ± homes) at the reclamation plant would be like building a "bridge to nowhere". It is imperative that the agreed upon sewer system is adequate for our present needs and the future quantity of homes here in Val Verde.

We have faith that the spirit of the agreement was always to assist Val Verde in our growth and future development as good neighbors. Considering that this is the "first" phase or debut of the Newhall Ranch project, we sincerely hope that all promises and agreements will be kept. We did not create a blockade to this development, but were fair in our mitigations from the onset of this project. We also feel that as the first community to accept the Newhall Ranch development that we should be the first to be able to utilize the "tie-in" to this important service and not have to wait for later development. Being that our present and potential 1,200 homes is approximately 6% of the size of the entire Newhall Ranch development, we strongly feel that our request must be recognized and the agreement that was entered into with good faith must be complied with, without any procrastination.

Mike, as always we appreciate your time and efforts, as well as the efforts and assistance of your staff and the other County departments and staff in assisting us in obtaining the written documentation and verification from Lennar with regard to the Newhall Ranch Sanitation District. We want to ensure that all parties are fully aware of our concerns and the need to clarify and define, in writing, the parameters of the sewer district for Val Verde (based on the CSD), prior to any approval by the Regional Planning Commission at the January 31st meeting.

Please send all documentation via email and/or hard copy to me for distribution to all concerned Val Verde residents.

Thank you,

Dan Nordenstrom
29128 Justamere Ave.
Val Verde, Ca 91384
661/ 257-0641
norcondev@earthlink.net

C: Paul Novak, 5th District Land Use Deputy
Rob Gilmore, Newhall Land & Farming Co.

Attachment – VVCA-Newhall Land agreement (pdf. File)

E187. Letter from Dan & Gina Nordenstrom, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

This comment makes reference to an attached letter from John Kelly, Deputy Director, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, dated January 23, 2007. The letter refers to the applicant's agreement with the Val Verde Civic Association (see Specific Plan, May 2003, Volume II, Section 7.6). The applicant has confirmed that it will continue to abide by commitments made to the Val Verde community in that agreement. Presently, Val Verde is not within the Newhall Ranch County Sanitation District boundary; and, therefore, the Board and operator of the Newhall Ranch Water Reclamation Plant (likely Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts) will need to authorize any annexation requests from the Val Verde community at a future time.

Response 3

The comment raises factual issues that do not relate to the adequacy or content of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. No further response is required. 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

Please see **Response 3**, above.

Response 5

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 6

Please see **Response 5**, above.

Fierros, Daniel

From: Snowy Dodson [snowy.dodson@csun.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2007 9:04 AM
To: Fierros, Daniel
Subject: Landmark Village comments fax

Mr. Fierros - I am double checking that you received the Landmark Village comments that I faxed to you from the Calif. Native Plant Society. Please let me know that you got them as today is the deadline. Thank you

Snowy Dodson
CSUN Library
18111 Nordhoff St.
Northridge, CA 91330
818-677-6298

What doesn't kill you will make you stronger



1

2

E188. Letter from Snowdy Dodson, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

Comments from the California Native Plant Society were received on February 19, 2007. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Fierros, Daniel

From: Tae, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2007 11:43 PM
To: Fierros, Daniel
Subject: FW: LANDMARK VILLAGE - Additional Comments

Sub-30

From: Thomas Barron [mailto:barron@imageg.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2007 11:39 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: LANDMARK VILLAGE - Additional Comments

Thomas Barron
28006 San Martinez Grande Canyon Road
Castaic, Ca 91384

News:
Feb 2, 2007

THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC) with scientists from 112 nations and the United States, issues its account of what is now the unequivocal science of climate change. Its purpose: to remove contentious and uncertain findings, and nail down the basic narrative of climate change in a way that stifles the squawking of the sceptics and puts the squeeze on governments still looking for excuses for inaction.
<http://www.ipcc.ch>

1

The County of Los Angeles must NOW TAKE ACTION TO LIMIT THE IMPACTS ON THE CLIMATE of Newhall Ranch and the Landmark Village.

*Alternative transportation such as Metrolink and bike trails MUST BE PROVIDED from the beginning - not at some indeterminate future

2

*Structures should be required to be built "green" with LOW ENERGY consumption.

3

*Landscaping and amenities should limited to those with MINIMUM WATER NEEDS

4

*TAX Credits for local EMPLOYMENT could be issued to encourage a favorable "Jobs to Housing" ratio

5

*Mandatory recycling programs should be instituted

6

*WIND GENERATION, SOLAR POWER incentives should be added and permitted.

7

*The applicant should provide DETAILED PROJECTIONS of the ENERGY NEEDS of the project before approval.

8

Regards,
--TMB

2/21/2007

E189. Letter from Thomas Barron, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 2

The comment suggests that the project look at alternative forms of transportation such as Metrolink and that bike trails be provided. Please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 1.0, Project Description, which illustrates that the Metrolink right-of-way has been reserved on the Landmark Village site. Bike trails also are provided on the Landmark Village project site and are discussed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.16, Parks and Recreation. For further responsive information, please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 3

The comment suggests that structures should be built “green.” The project applicant has prepared a Sustainability summary that is responsive to this comment. The Sustainability summary is found in **Appendix F** of this Final EIR.

Response 4

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required. For Further responsive information, please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change And Its Effects On California Water Supplies**.

Response 5

The comment raises economic, social, or political issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment. 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 required.

Response 6

The comment addresses mandatory recycling programs, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.12, Solid Waste Services. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

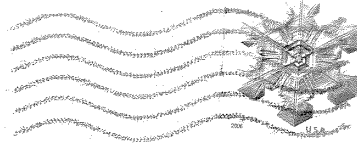
Response 8

The comment suggests that the applicant provide detailed energy projections. This topic received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.19, Utilities. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.



Celia Lamborn
20305 Gresham St.
Winnetka, CA 91306

SANTA CLARITA
CA 91374
15 FEB 2007 PM



Ms. Susan Jae SUB-35
L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.

Ms. Susan Jae SUB-35
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
370 W. Temple St.
L.A. 90013

RECEIVED
FEB 20 2007

Dear Ms. Jae:

I thought we were not going to have a Newhall Ranch
Project, and now I read that there is another develop-
ment in the offing, Landwats Village Project #00-196(5).

We do not need any more developments in or around
Los Angeles. Nobody can deny any more in a reasonable
time, and no one wants houses all over the hills, the
valleys and the creeks! There are the water, the
pollution considerations, congestion and crowding.

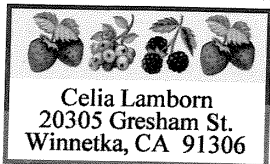
I hope you will not give any encouragement
and will extend the comment period to 120 days.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Celia Lamborn

Family - 8 others



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

E190. Letter from Celia Lamborn, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan project was approved in May 2003. That approval is not subject to review. The review at this time is of the Landmark Village portion of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment suggests that structures should be built “green.” The project applicant has prepared a Sustainability summary that is responsive to this comment. The Sustainability summary is found in **Appendix F** of this Final EIR.

Response 4

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 5

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 6

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

SUB-36

re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village
Project No. 00-196-(5)

Dear Ms Tae,

I read in the Southern Sierra about the
development plans near the Santa Clara River.

I urge you to extend the comment period to
120 days, do not approve the project before
the EIS has been released.

I oppose building in a Significant Ecological Area &
the destruction of 67 oaks. Please address
the impacts to global warming that this
project will make. Thank you.

Jack Rowe

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E191. Letter from Leah Ross, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 3

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 4

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 5

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

February, 2007

Long Beach,
California

RECEIVED
FEB 20 2007

SUB-37

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, California 90013

Dear Ms. Susan Tae:

I greet you respectfully. Since we have but one last wild river, it behooves all of us to preserve its legacy. The proposed Newhall Ranch project could prove to be detrimental to its current unimpeded existence. That whole river area is endowed with a stunning wildland that is also a farming area.

Many of us involved in the preservation of our wildlands' areas believed that in 2003 a concurring decision was made. Then the Sierra Club and 14 other groups and agencies won the accord that denies a 2,000 unit specific plan. This was due to the non-assigned water source. Now the

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development has provided other sources and thus has garnered approval for the project plan. However, each tract map must still be reviewed prior to its approval.

This project will severely impact Significant Ecological Area 23, the Santa Clara River, and its biology. It will also see the disappearance of 67 oak trees, and cause major traffic (new) that will in turn create air pollution problems. Global warming teaches us we cannot condone automobile based housing tracts sprawling all our former wildlands. Our County must be held to a rethinking of land use policy in order to avoid such a project as this.

Therefore, it is imperative to augment the comment period

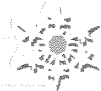
to 120 days. Please, we implore you to not approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been completed and subsequently released. Its content may alter the configuration of the project. Moreover, we emphatically oppose building in a significant ecological area. Those precious 67 oaks need to be preserved.

Finally, we request that impacts ^{from} global warming be addressed and mitigated prior to any project's approval.

Thank you for your anticipated support in this vital manner.

Sincerely,

Janeice V. McConnell
Return:



Janeice McConnell
837 E Luray St.
Long Beach, CA 90807-1015

E192. Letter from Janeice McConnell, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 3

The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan project was approved in May 2003. That approval is not subject to review. The review at this time is of the Landmark Village portion of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

Please see **Response 3**, above.

Response 5

The comment restates information contained in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 6

Please see **Response 5**, above. The comment restates information contained in the Draft EIR, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 7

The comment addresses the Santa Clara River and its biology, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 9

The comment suggests that the project will create traffic and air quality impacts, both of which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, and Section 4.9, Air Quality. The Draft EIR concludes that with mitigation, impacts to traffic would be less than significant. However, the Draft EIR also concludes that impacts to air quality would be significant and unavoidable. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 10

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 11

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 12

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 13

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 14

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 15

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 16

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 17

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

From: Bigbadmean@aol.com [mailto:Bigbadmean@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2007 9:19 AM
To: Zoning LDCC
Subject: Los Angeles Daily News - Birds face man-made threats

To: LA County Planning Department:

I am forwarding you a very recent article in hopes that take this into consideration as development continues to threaten the bio-diversity of the Santa Clara River valley. It's important for all of us to recognize and appreciate this area before it is too late. If these projects continue to be approved and built without protecting the resources they will be gone. Sadly future generations will never see what a natural river system and connecting habitat is within LA County. Instead they will only read about such a wonderful diversity. We know that we did the wrong thing when we paved over the LA River. We shouldn't allow greed and bad planning to allow us to the same thing to the last living river in LA County - the Santa Clara River. The Santa Clara River is home to all the species that have lost forever in other regional watersheds. What a shame it would be to lose this last bit of our historical wetlands and species teetering on the brink of disaster. The Santa Clara River is being hemmed in, no longer visible unless sitting in traffic on a bridge over it in many places in Santa Clarita. This is no way to treat the last living river. What will future generations feel about the decisions we make today?

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Further, with global warming finally recognized it is important to understand in totality the impacts that these sprawling projects will on our air quality and quality of life.

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Even the City of Santa Clarita has disagreed with Newhall Lands projected traffic patterns and wrote in a letter that they were not correct.

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The truth is that over 50% of employed citizens of Santa Clarita have to travel to the San Fernando Valley and beyond for employment in order to make their mortgages.

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The majority of jobs being created appear to be lower paying jobs that actually now increases traffic coming into the Santa Clarita Valley. This is not good planning.

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Each one of the new developments that require people to continue to work in San Fernando Valley and beyond contributes to our continuing degradation of air quality. Each car now having to travel further to and from work.

6

Yet, Newhall continues to state that their projects are not impacting air quality, that the air quality related to ozone is coming from other areas and ending up in the Santa Clarita valley late in the afternoons, as the plume spreads. To say that these increased traffic patterns do not degrade our air quality, do not contribute to ozone pollution is dishonest at best.

7

Please consider our children that live and play in Santa Clarita and other areas of LA County that continue to suffer from ozone pollution. Please consider future generations and the possibility of saving the last living river in our region. The Steelhead trout, the endangered unarmored three-spine stickleback fish, the arroyo toad, red legged frog, western pond turtles, etc., will never again call the LA River home and yet they sit vulnerable to the threats of continued and proposed developments. I care and I hope that you do to.

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Here is an article that was published this past Sunday.

9

Sincerely,
Teresa Savaikie

Valley's birds face man-made threat
BY JUDY O'ROURKE
Staff Writer

SANTA CLARITA - Bird counts for many common species nationwide - including several found in Santa Clarita - have shrunk by more than half in the past three decades, according to findings released recently.

As home tracts multiply and their non-native landscapes edge out grassy plains, the birds are left high and dry, naturalists say.

"The decline of these bird species are essentially telling us what we already knew, that in a short period of time - years rather than decades - the distinctive 'California' landscape of oak savannas and swaying cottonwoods we associate with the Santa Clara River valley will be lost," said Dan Cooper, a conservation biologist and environmental consultant. "And with it, the unique natural communities with which we share this place."

Pooling research collected over 40 years, the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Geological Survey have concluded many common bird populations are plummeting as development and commerce increase and natural habitats disappear.

Because populations vary with migration the joint study includes data from Audubon's Christmas Bird Counts - which include tallies in Santa Clarita - and the geological agency's annual breeding survey.

Declines are marked statewide since 1967 in more than two dozen species, according to Audubon California.

Continues on page 2

BIRDS:
Development poses
An increasing threat
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Santa Clarita has long provided key habitats for at least four of those.

No. 8 on Audubon's California list is the loggerhead shrike, whose population has declined by 76 percent statewide.

"That's a pretty huge decline," said Copper. The Santa Clara River valley is one of the last strongholds for loggerhead shrikes in Los Angeles County,".

Cooper said the birds frequent areas eyed for major developments, such as Newhall Ranch, a 21,000-home project planned by The Newhall Land and Farming Company, west of Valencia and stretching to the Ventura County line.

The final environmental impact report is under way for the Landmark Village, the first phase of the project.

While such projects donate acreage for open space, the commodity of open space is not interchangeable for birds. Terrain matters, Cooper says. The development provides two open space areas but it's a small swath compared to the lost habitat.

"They need flat grassland or agricultural land or hills, they don't live in rugged backcountry," he said. "Shrikes are adapted to living on flat areas where they can sit up on perches to scan for their prey."

Shrikes eat large insects such as katydids and beetles and small birds, mammals and lizards - as big as they can carry.

Audubon California and three local chapters of the group are asking Newhall to widen the buffer between zones and common areas with native grasses, wildflowers, and plants.

"It would be a great step in the right direction," said Kris Ohlenkamp, president of the Audubon's San Fernando Valley chapter, which includes Santa Clarita.

The lark sparrow, No. 9 on Audubon's list, is a 68% decline statewide, has long been fond of rolling hills in Stevenson Ranch's oak savannah, a prime spot for development.

Cooper says Santa Clarita is the last refuge in the coastal slope of Los Angeles County for the horned lark - a state species of special concern, which ranks No. 2 on the list, with a decline of 84 percent statewide.

The birds prefer flat, valley bottom lowlands along the river.

"There are just a few wintering groups left in Santa Clarita and probably fewer than 10 nesting pairs of that bird - it's sort of teetering on the brink in that area," Cooper said.

Areas set aside to protect the species have been mostly rugged hills and canyons, where the horned lark simply cannot live, he said.

The Western meadowlark, No. 14 on the state list with a 60 percent decline, and the American pipit, No. 19 with a 55 percent dip, are grassland species that frequent Santa Clarita.

Some local school kids formed a special bond in May with the killdeer, No. 16 on the list, facing a 59% decline. The birds sometimes resort to laying eggs in parking lots, school yards and backyards because home tracts encroach on their habitat.

Randy Weber's six-grade class at Tesoro del Valle Elementary School in Valencia spotted two camouflaged killdeer eggs on the campus field. The kids were enamored of the species after a pupil from another class brought a stranded killdeer chick to Weber's room weeks earlier - Weber, an Audubon member is known campus wide as the go-to bird expert.

The eggs later were found to be missing but mother birds often lay four eggs, so Weber's 32 students mobilized in a flash, cordoning off a 75 foot radius around the sitting with red cones linked by caution tape to protect the nest.

"Birds are cooler than you think," said Antonia Fanelli, whose take on birds did a 180 after the real life lesson.

Not on the list but also in decline is the grasshopper sparrow, whose call mimics the name sake bug. The species has been founding near the roughly 1700 Northlake project planned in Castaic, in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

The 670-acre development is east of Interstate 5, west of Castaic Lake State Recreation Area and north of Ridge Route Road.

"That's one of the few known nesting locations for grasshopper sparrows in Los Angeles County," Cooper said. "As these developments go in we're going to lose those populations."

Ohlenkamp says the city of Santa Clarita could help batters by putting a halt to cultivating water-guzzling grasses in trees in city parks.

“Central Park is a classic example of this old-fashioned ideal,” he said. “High maintenance, expensive, sterile lawns are not what wildlife needs, and I don’t believe what people want.”

He recalled sightings last year of burrowing owls, lark sparrows and horned larks adjacent to the park in a small unplanted field.

“Unfortunately there was not enough of this natural space for them to stay and breed,” he said. “What a shame.”

As shopping malls, home tracts and industrial parks continue to occupy wildlands that once provided unique features for bird species, the birds are being pushed farther and farther away from their comfort zone.”

“The question becomes, how much development can occur before things like shrikes and horned larks are gone forever from Santa Clarita?” Cooper said. “That day appears to be quickly approaching.

E193. Letter from Teresa Savaikie, dated June 26, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 3

The City of Santa Clarita provided comments to the Draft EIR. The comment letter submitted by the City of Santa Clarita did not take issue with projected traffic patterns discussed and analyzed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 4

The comment expresses an opinion that is not supported by data. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 5

Please see **Response 4**, above.

Response 6

Please see **Response 4**, above. The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Nonetheless, as is evidenced below, Landmark Village, as with all of Newhall Ranch, incorporates the components of a sustainable or smart growth community.

- **Mix of Land Uses.** Landmark Village, along with the other villages in Newhall Ranch, will include a broad range of housing types, including affordable housing, along with commercial, office, and public facilities. As to Landmark Village, a diverse range of 1,444 homes (308 single-family and 1,136 multi-family units) would be provided. To minimize and shorten vehicle trips, most homes will be within walking distances to the Landmark Village community's commercial and mixed-use areas, elementary school site, community park, and trail system. Finally, Landmark Village is located adjacent to the Valencia Commerce Center, one of the largest employment centers in the Santa Clarita Valley. Bike and pedestrian trails within Newhall Ranch and Landmark Village will connect to trails within the Valencia Commerce Center.
- **Provision of Jobs.** A portion of Newhall Ranch's projected 19,000 new jobs would be offered through Landmark Village's mixed-use and commercial areas. Newhall Ranch is adjacent to the existing Valencia Gateway (which includes the Valencia Commerce Center), which presently provides 50,000 jobs. Other development within Valencia Gateway will create an additional 30,000 jobs. When completed, the job centers in Newhall Ranch and Valencia will have resulted in the creation of approximately 100,000 jobs in the Santa Clarita Valley. A balanced jobs-housing base is a critical component to a sustainable community because it allows people to work close to home and minimizes vehicle miles traveled.
- **Locating of Residential Uses in Close Proximity to Commercial Services/Public Spaces.** Nearly 60 percent of the residential units in Newhall Ranch will be located within walking distance of village or commercial centers. This is clearly documented by the Landmark Village land plan. Residents within Landmark Village will be able to utilize paseos/trails and/or the Santa Clara River Regional Trail to walk to commercial centers, private recreational facilities, the elementary school and a community park. As stated above, this traditional neighborhood design minimizes vehicle trips.
- **Provision of Transit and Light Rail Right-of-Way.** Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will be part of the Santa Clarita Transit system and will pay its fair share for transit service to the community. Transit improvements within Newhall Ranch will include a park-and-ride lot, a future transit station, transfer station, bus stops, and preservation of light rail right-of-way. Landmark Village will include a total of five bus stops, a park-and-ride lot, and the preservation of light rail right-of-way along SR-126. The provision of transit and the accommodation of light rail encourage residents to rely less on vehicular travel.
- **Open Space, Recreation, and Preservation of Sensitive Resource Areas.** Newhall Ranch, of which Landmark Village is a part, includes the preservation of the High Country, Salt Creek Corridor and the Santa Clara River and internal open areas—a total of nearly 7,800 acres. A total of three community parks (Landmark includes the first) and up to ten neighborhood parks will be provided as part of Newhall Ranch. Finally, private recreation facilities will be provided throughout the entire Ranch providing additional recreational opportunities to residents. In short, Landmark Village's design connects jobs, retail, schools, parks, and recreation facilities with the community's trail system to promote walking and biking while minimizing vehicle trips.
- **Hierarchy of Trails.** Newhall Ranch will include over 50 miles of trails to encourage pedestrian mobility. Landmark Village includes a 2-mile extension of the Santa Clara River trail, with direct

connections to residential, commercial, and park uses, and various paseos including the paseo running along "A" Street or the Landmark Village Spine Road. This design also is intended to minimize vehicle trips.

- **Reducing Impermeable Surfaces.** To curtail urban runoff and maximize groundwater recharge, Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will utilize open/soft bottom channels, smaller street sections, where possible, increased native landscape areas, and non-structural water quality treatment improvements.
- **Water Conservation and Re-Use.** Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will utilize native, drought-tolerant plants in the community's landscaping, use recycled water for irrigation, and evapotranspiration controllers (i.e., weather-sensitive sprinklers) to reduce potable water demand and runoff.
- **Traffic/Transportation Improvements.** Landmark Village's traffic circulation plan, which is consistent with all of Newhall Ranch, minimizes vehicle trips and reduces GHG emissions through the design of internal roads in conjunction with homes, school site, commercial areas, and trail system. Transit is included in the traditional neighborhood design, and it includes a park-and-ride lot and bus stops. Additionally, a 5-mile right-of-way for a potential Metrolink light rail extension is accommodated along SR-126. Trails and bike paths leading to close-to-home jobs, neighborhood-serving retail, and the school encourage residents to reduce vehicle miles traveled. The applicant also has committed to fund \$300 million in roadway improvements in the Santa Clarita Valley in conjunction with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, including Landmark Village, to improve traffic movement and circulation.

Additionally, the applicant has prepared a sustainability summary that highlights many of the points above as well as identifies green building measures.

Response 7

The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, acknowledges that emissions of CO, VOC, NO_x, and PM₁₀ would exceed SCAQMD thresholds at buildout. However, it should be noted that studies prepared by the SCAQMD and others indicate that the vast majority of the air pollution in the Santa Clarita Valley is transported into the Santa Clarita Valley from other areas of the Los Angeles Basin, and is not generated by mobile sources or development in the Santa Clarita Valley itself.

Response 8

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 9

Please see **Response 8**, above.

Bette Simons
4020 Stone Cyn Ave
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
February 19, 2007

Susan Tae
L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St
L.A. CA 90013

Dear Susan Tae,

To cut down 67 oaks, threaten L.A. County's last wild river and to increase traffic and air pollution with the Newhall Ranch project is outrageous.

Please address the impact of this threat to the Santa Clara River and oppose approving this project without releasing, or before releasing, the Environmental Impact Statement.

Be well remembered.

Sincerely,
Bette Simons

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E194. Letter from Bette Simons, dated February 19, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

The comment also addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

The comment addresses the Santa Clara River and its biology, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 4

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

22845 Lonora Dr.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
February 20, 2007

Susan Tae
L.a. Co. Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Ms. Tae,

Please do not approve Newhall Ranch's project on the Santa Clara River before the Environmental Impact Statement has been released.

Do not allow building in a Significant Ecological Area or the destruction of 67 oaks.

Please see that impacts on global warming are addressed and mitigated before the project can be approved.

This project will create 357,000 more traffic trips per day.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth G. McMahon

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E195. Letter from Elizabeth McMahon, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 2

The comment requests that the Planning Commission oppose building in the Significant Ecological Area. The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

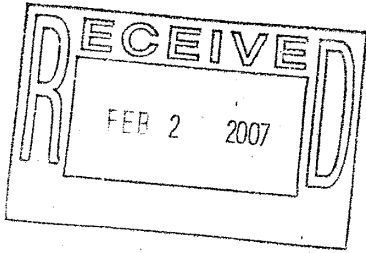
Response 5

The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan project was approved in 2003. The approval is not subject to review. The review at this time is the Landmark Village portion of Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. The Landmark Village project would generate 41,900 average daily trips. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 6

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

February 20, 2007



GAYLE DUFOR
4725 San Sebastian DR
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Ms. Tae,

Please help us save the Santa Clara River. As a member of the Sierra Club here in Los Angeles, I am writing to you out of great concern concerning the proposed development by the Newhall Ranch. Cutting down 67 oak trees for a huge housing project next to the last major wild river in Southern California shows an absolute disregard for the ecological impact of such an idea.

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The Newhall Ranch has been very successful up until now creating a city of housing development. Now, they should stop and realize that this destructive sprawl in that area has its limits.

Thank you for your concern on this matter.

Sincerely yours,
Gayle Dufour

E196. Letter from Gayle Dufour, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 2

The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan project was approved in May 2003. That approval is not subject to review. The review at this time is of the Landmark Village portion of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area. 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 addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 5

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 6

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

2.20.07

To Susan Yae,

I'm writing out of concern for the future of the Santa Clara River.

1

Please do not approve the project before the Environmental Impact Statement on the Santa Clara River has been released and/or completed as this may change the project config.

2

I oppose, and hope you will too, building in a significant ecological area.

3

I also oppose the destruction of 67 oaks.

4

I request impacts to global warming be addressed & mitigated before the project can be approved.

5

Sincerely,

Laurel Neiswander

LAUREL NEISWANDER
7133 TOSHOMA AVE.
MARTINEZ, CA 94526

laurel@neisinteriors.com

E197. Letter from Laurel Neiswander, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 3

The comment requests that the Planning Commission oppose building in the Significant Ecological Area (SEA). It should be noted that none of the residential, recreational, commercial or mixed-use structures would be located within the SEA. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Betty Schaar
P.O. Box 8152
Northridge, Ca. 9132

Feb. 20, 2007

Dear Ms. TQE:

RE: Santa Clara River

Please do not approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released.

1

Please oppose building in a Significant Ecological Area.

2

I oppose destroying 67 oak trees. They are our California heritage!!

3

Also please be sure that impacts to Global Warming be addressed & adequately dealt with before the project can be approved.

4

I would like the Santa Clara River to be left in as natural a state as possible.

5

Sincerely,
Betty L. Schaar

E198. Letter from Betty Schnaar, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 2

The comment requests that the Planning Commission oppose building in the Significant Ecological Area. The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 5

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Dinda Klein
5210 Zetach Ave # 216
Encino, CA 91316

February 20, 2007

Susan Yae,
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept
320 West Temple St
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Ms Yae,

I am writing to you re: Santa Clara River.

The Santa Clara River is Los Angeles County's
last wild river. I hope that you will oppose
Newhall Ranch's project. This proposed development
will have a severe impact to SEA area 23,
the Santa Clara River, and its Biology. It will
cut down 67 oaks and create major traffic &
air pollution problems.

The project, when fully built will create
another 357,000 traffic traps per day on our
roads and freeways.

Please consider the impacts of Global
warming, and try to mitigate these problems
before approval of such a large project.

Thank you for your consideration
Dinda Klein

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E199. Letter from Linda Kleen, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 3

Impacts to SEA 23 were addressed in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

The comment addresses the Santa Clara River and its biology, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses traffic issues, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The Draft EIR concluded that, with mitigation, impacts to traffic would be less than significant. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment addresses air quality impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 Newhall Ranch Specific Plan project was approved in 2003. The approval is not subject to review. The review at this time is the Landmark Village portion of Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. The Landmark Village project would generate 41,900 average daily trips. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 9

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 10

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

2-20-07

Dear Mr. Lee

I am against building so many homes in such an environmentally sensitive area.

Please do not approve the project before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released as this may change the project configuration.

I oppose the destruction of the 67 oak trees.

Thanks for your consideration

Elaine Ingram
6709 CALHOUN AVE
VAN NUYS, CA 91405

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E200. Letter from Elaine Trogman, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

2/20/07

To Whom It May Concern

" What is man without the beasts.
 If all the beasts were gone, man
 would die from a great loneliness
 of spirit. For whatever happens
 to the beasts, soon happens to
 man. all things are connected"^y
 Chief Seattle

1

Please save our last wild
river for wildlife!

2

Alan Pollack, M.D.
 6006 Cubao Ave
 Woodland Hills, CA
 91367

E201. Letter from Alan Pollack, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Susan Jae,

Please help save the Santa Clara River.

Please don't approve the project

Oppose building in a significant ecological area.

Oppose destruction of 67 oaks.

Request the impacts to global warming be addressed.

1

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Sincerely,

Ken Platner

E202. Letter from Ken Platner

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 3

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Beals, Charles
6611 McLerran Ave.
Lake Balboa, CA 91466

February 20, 2007

Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional
Planning Department

Dear Ms. Tae:

I am writing to urge you to not approve the Newhall Ranch Project before the Environmental Impact Statement on the Santa Clara River has been completed and released.

1

I also oppose building in a Significant Ecological Area and I oppose the destruction of 67 oak trees that would be effected.

2

3

I request that impacts to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the Project is approved.

4

Sincerely,
Charles Beals

E203. Letter from Charles Beals, dated February 20, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 2

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

To Whom it may Concern,

Pollution is a danger to any environment. With the building of new houses, which is neither wanted or needed, there will be an increased amount of pollution, as well as many more disturbances that are needed in the area. Santa Clara, & the area around there, is a high activity full of disturbance and danger to the environment. In building these houses, this will only increase the disturbance that is impossible to get rid of.

1

I oppose the destruction of 67 oaks, which may house many species that are currently threatened & endangered. It is a selfish & unneeded destruction of the environment.

2

Why not use & sell the houses & condos that are already built & empty, instead of building in areas that need not have houses? Instead of building needlessly, build & construct helpful things.

3

Think about the environment first & wait for the release of the Environmental Impact Statement. I don't know if this would change your mind, but please consider a change. Thank you.

4

5

Sincerely,
Wyndee A. Haley

E204. Letter from Wyndee Haley

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 4

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 5

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Dan McCrory
PO Box 16461
11 Hollywood, CA 91615

Susan Tice
LA County Regional Planning Dept.
300 W. Temple St.
LA, CA 90013

Ms Tice,

I'm writing to express my concern over the proposed development the Newhall Ranch project. The impact of the area around the Santa Clara River will be significant and detrimental. The E.I.R. clearly shows that increased traffic and air pollution will result from this development, creating another 357,000 traffic trips per day. I also oppose the destruction of 67 thriving oak trees for this project.

Please consider the issues of global warming that even the Bush administration has now started to address. I appreciate your consideration and attention to these issues.

Sincerely
Dan McCrory

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E205. Letter from Dan McCroy

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 3

The comment addresses traffic and air quality issues, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, in Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, and Section 4.9, Air Quality. The Draft EIR concluded that traffic/access impact would be mitigated to a less than significant level, while impacts to air quality would remain significant and unavoidable. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan project was approved in 2003. The approval is not subject to review. The review at this time is the Landmark Village portion of Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. The Landmark Village project would generate 41,900 average daily trips. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 6

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Feb. 21, 2007

Dear Ms. Tal,

I am writing you with concerns I have regarding the Newhall Ranch project. I am against building in a significant ecological area that would turn the floodplain of the Santa Clara River into a city of tract homes, roads, shopping centers, schools, etc. I oppose the idea of destroying native oak trees that are a vital part of the biological community and the carbon/oxygen cycle needed to offset global warming. I think it is a bad idea to divert, alter, or destroy streams, tributaries or flood plains of our last wild rivers in Southern California. This housing development would create major traffic and air pollution problems. Please do all you can to protect one of our last wild places for survival of the biodiversity crucial to our planet's health. When it's gone, it's gone forever.

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Thank you,

Kathleen Blair Grantham
 11209 Dempsey Ave.
 Granada Hills, California 91344

E206. Letter from Kathleen Grantham, dated February 21, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 3

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 5

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 6

The comment addresses traffic and air quality issues, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, in Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, and Section 4.9, Air Quality. The Draft EIR concluded that traffic/access impact would be mitigated to a less than significant level, while impacts to air quality would remain significant and unavoidable. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and,

therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

2/21/07

S. Garcia
7500 Lasaine Ave.
Van Nuys CA 91406

Susan Jae
LA County Regional
Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
LA CA 90013

Dear Ms. Tae,

As a "native" of Southern California, I am very proud of the many natural resources that surround us. I want my baby to be as enthusiastic & supportive of nature as I am... it belongs to all of us. I am concerned about the Santa Clara River, our county's last wild river, and I am hoping that the project for development will not be approved. I strongly oppose the destruction of the oaks, and I am saddened that so many people underestimate their importance.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

-Sincerely : Ms. Sylvia Garcia

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E207. Letter from Sylvia Garcia, dated February 21, 2007

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 3

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 6

Please see **Response 1**, above.

24427 Eilat St.
Woodland Hills, Ca
February 21, 2007

Susan Talc
LA City Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St. L.A. Ca. 90013

Greeting

Please do not approve the proposed Newhall Ranch development before an environmental impact Statement on the Santa Clara River has been released and completed.

1

I also oppose this project because it will create major traffic problems, major air pollution problems, the traffic alone adding another projected 357,000 traffic outings per day.

2

3

Sincerely yours
Stephen E. Rudolph

E208. Letter from Stephen [illegible], dated February 21, 2007

Response 1

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 2

The comment addresses traffic and air quality issues, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, in Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, and Section 4.9, Air Quality. The Draft EIR concluded that traffic/access impact would be mitigated to a less than significant level, while impacts to air quality would remain significant and unavoidable. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 Newhall Ranch Specific Plan project was approved in 2003. The approval is not subject to review. The review at this time is the Landmark Village portion of Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. The Landmark Village project would generate 41,900 average daily trips. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

SUB-40

Tae, Susan

From: Tom Barron [tom@imageg.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2007 4:56 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: LANDMARK - NEWHALL - more comments, NewsWater Availability

Tom Barron
28006 San Martinez Grande Canyon Road
Castaic, California
91384

NEWS FLASH: THE NEWHALL RANCH IS NOT ABLE TO PROMISE ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY GOING FORWARD

1

Heard on NPR today:

Low Water Levels on Colorado River

[Listen](#)

by Elizabeth Shogren

All Things Considered, February 21, 2007 · Water levels are so low on the Colorado River that Lake Mead, the huge reservoir created by Hoover Dam, is at a 40-year low. Marinas are having to move long distances to find deep water for their boat slips. A new report from the National Research Council says it's likely to get worse. The report's authors concluded that climate change likely will further reduce the river's flow and water supplies. Farms and homeowners in much of the West rely on Colorado River water. The report's authors say the region needs to rethink how it divvies up the water from the river.

2

2/21/2007

E209. Letter from Thomas Barron, dated February 21, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Ruiz, Rosie

From: aamontilla@ca.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2007 8:00 AM
To: Ruiz, Rosie
Cc: fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Newhall Ranch will be a great place to live, work and play

SUB-41

Dear Chair Esther L. Valadez and members of the Planning Commission:

I look forward to the opportunity to purchase a home in the new masterplanned hometown of Newhall Ranch by Newhall Land, and I am writing to show my support for the plan.

From the information I have reviewed, the plan would offer a variety of much-needed new homes - from condominiums to traditional single-family homes to large estates. In addition, Newhall Ranch would include community features I am looking for; such as neighborhood parks, new schools, nature trails and nearby shops. And with more than 19,000 new jobs, many Newhall Ranch residents would enjoy the luxury of working close to home.

1

Please recommend approval for Landmark Village and the subsequent villages of Newhall Ranch.

Sincerely,

Alfonso Montilla
VALENCIA

CC:
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich

E210. Letter from Alfonso Montilla, dated February 22, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the project. 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.

Tae, Susan

From: Thomas Barron [barron@imageg.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2007 10:57 PM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: LANDMARK VILLAGE - Metrolink Comments

Thomas Barron
28006 San Martinez Grande Canyon Road
Castaic, Ca 91384

The Newhall Ranch Master Plan incorporates a RIGHT OF WAY for a Metrolink Track and Station, but is not predicated on their timely construction. Thus LANDMARK VILLAGE will be another typical "landlocked" subdivision unless you REQUIRE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAIN LINE NOW.

1

You may know that there was historically RAIL TRANSPORTATION to the site for decades until the mid seventies. This rail line was the key link between Los Angeles and Ventura until a bypass tunnel was dug taking traffic through the San Fernando Valley. When the tracks were turned over by Southern Pacific, Newhall Land had a vendor running trains in conjunction with the Indian Dunes filming location. The cities of Fillmore and Piru in Ventura County have improved their tracks creating a themed Heritage Valley with community amenities built around the Fillmore & Western Railway Co.

2

In Santa Clarita, ironically, the Valencia Auto Mall, including one of the largest HUMMER DEALERSHIPS is atop what was the rail corridor. The old railway bridge is slated to become part of the bike path, but again, this is disconnected from the properties West of I5.

Why shouldn't the train go in now?

3

The momentum to build west of I5 has been assured by your previous approvals; Newhall / Lennar is a "premiere" vendor and the Counties own statistics show explosive growth in this area. Unless the tracks are RESTORED NOW you are inviting further delays in the future; as the urban build-out takes hold of the precious real estate required the costs to the community will climb to astronomical levels.

4

5

Regards,
--TMB

2/28/2007

E211. Letter from Thomas Barron, dated February 27, 2007

Response 1

Right-of-way has been set aside for light rail on the Landmark Village project site. However, the County of Ventura does not have legal jurisdiction over the construction of the light rail project. It is subject to state and federal (assuming federal funds are used) jurisdiction.

Response 2

The comment provides background information, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

Please see **Response 3**, above.

Response 5

Please see **Response 4** above.

Thomas Barron
28006 San Martinez Grande Canyon Road
Castaic, Ca 91384

Good morning Commissioners, thank you for this opportunity to contribute testimony for your consideration of the specifics of the PROPOSED Landmark Village plan.

1

I have lived for the past 35 years on the immediate border of the project area, and have participated in the consideration of the Newhall Ranch Plan since its inception. I have given public comment in the past and have attended hearings including the Supervisors Hearing in which the Specific Plan was approved, as well as traveling to Kern County for the court case.

2

I have reviewed the document submitted to you today in electronic form and have listened this morning to the request that we not "REHASH" the issues that have been settled, so I will try to limit my testimony today to the subjects of TRANSPORTATION and AIR QUALITY.

3

My work, like so many of the residents in our area, is outside the area and commuting is part of my life. I have passed by the project area for years and years and always reflect on how my neighbors who settled the area, took the street car from FLOWER STREET and then by TRAIN from Union Station to the nearby CASTAIC JUNCTION station. When I moved in in the earlier seventies, the Freight trains still ran to Ventura and we could hear their whistles in the distance.

4

This rail line was destroyed by FLOOD, and the Newhall Company bought up the right of way and removed the tracks that traveled the length of what is now the project area. Filmore and Piru have kept a portion of that track alive, and in fact have "branded" their communities around trains as "Heritage Valley."

In the plan before you there is provision for rail but it is not a certainty that is actually going to be restored in a timely manner. **Why not require the construction of the rail to PROCEED or be concurrent with the build-out of Landmark Village?**

5

Like the commissioner, who is also a commuter down I5, we are all very concerned with TRAFFIC. The applicant addresses the TRAFFIC issue in a number of documents, but it really comes down to the basic assumption that the JOBS TO WORK ratio analysis is correct. Supervisor Yaraslovsky stated in the approval hearing that even he didn't believe this. The maps show millions of feet of industrial space between this project and Town Center and the implicit representation is that the residents will work there, having commuted the short

6

distance across the Bridge at Castaic Creek down Hwy 126, and that their use of other community resources is off-peak and less impactful.

6

I am an avid cyclist and am currently the President of the Santa Clarita Velo Bicycle Club whose many members use the bike trails and the roads throughout the area. It is not uncommon for our members to put in more than 100 miles a week in both individual and group rides; we are intimately familiar with the traffic issues "on the ground" and our club has been working with the City of Santa Clarita and Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition to establish trails and bike lanes. Unfortunately we are having to compete directly with the increased traffic flow in these plans, which obviously puts priority on automobiles.

7

I have the unique opportunity to reduce my impact on the environment by BICYCLE COMMUTING past the project four days a week. It is a very beautiful ride, along a wide shoulder with a terrific view down into the Santa Clara River floodplain. Unfortunately the many trucks of CHIQUITO CANYON LANDFILL and the new traffic on WOLCOTT WAY in addition to the high speed of the roadway is a concern and DANGER to cyclists. The Santa Clarita Velo frequently takes group rides down 126 on the weekend and this often a topic at our meetings.

AIR QUALITY, especially OZONE is a major concern to cyclists. The plan contains documentation of the appropriately named "carbon monoxide non attainment area" The EIR continues the argument that the principal cause is "out of the area" sources; thus any additional impacts from the project are incidental.

8

I would ask the commissioners to require more specific definition of the mitigations outlined, especially a proper bicycle circulation plan. Now its too vague, for the importance of placed on it by the applicant. (Such as in the document:)

2.0 Environmental and regulatory setting
page-31 Goal 5.11: consider air quality ... ensure consistency and minimize conflicts
Analysis: "network of pedestrian and bicycle trails that would provide for local travel by a combination of transportation modes, including bicycles, walking...

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What else is new?; well the President of the United States has identified GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE as a NATIONAL concern. Our Governor is driving a Hydrogen vehicle. Isn't this County required to re-examine the mitigations in light of this important Global Issue? **Why not require that Landmark Village be Carbon Neutral as suggested by Vice President Gore's "Inconvenient Truth."**

10

Thank You,
--TMB

11

E212. Letter from Thomas Barron

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

The comment provides background information, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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. Because the comment does not raise an environmental issue regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Response 4

The comment provides background information, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 5

Right-of-way has been set aside for light rail on the Landmark Village project site. However, the County of Ventura does not have legal jurisdiction over the construction of the light rail project. It is subject to state and federal (assuming federal funds are used) jurisdiction.

Response 6

The comment addresses the overall Newhall Ranch Specific Plan project, which is not the focus of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. The Landmark Village Draft EIR focuses upon the impacts of the project and not of the entire Newhall Ranch Specific Plan.

Response 7

Please see the Landmark Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, Figures 1.0-19, Landmark Village Portion of Specific Plan Master Trails Plan, and Figure 1.0-20, Landmark Village Trails Plan, which depict the trails (including bicycle) that are included in the proposed project.

Response 8

The comment addresses air quality issues, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The Draft EIR concluded that impacts to air quality would remain significant and unavoidable. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 9

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 10

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 11

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

33710 Shallow Creek Rd.
Agua Dulce, CA 91390
661 268-0267

RECEIVED
MAR 05 2007
AH-11

Miss Susan Tae
Dept. of Regional Planning
County of Los Angeles
Regional Planning Dept.
Room 1348
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

SUBJECT: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

Gentlemen:

The Santa Clara River is the only watershed left in Southern California, and we would like to see it preserved in its natural state, not only for aesthetic and ecological reasons but for moral reasons. As long-time residents of the Santa Clarita Valley region, we urgently request that:

- You not approve the project before the Federal EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration
- Oppose building in a Significant Ecological Area
- Oppose destruction of 67 precious oaks trees
- Request that impacts to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be considered for approval.

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Sincerely,

Gail and George MacDonald

cc: Supervisor Michael Antonovich

E213. Letter from Gail and George MacDonald

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 3

The comment urges the Planning Commission to oppose building in Significant Ecological Areas (SEA). The comment is noted. It should be noted that none of the residential, recreational, commercial or mixed-use structures are located within the SEA. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 4

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

RECEIVED
MAR 05 2007

AH-10

January 28, 2007
11970 Montana Ave. # 206
Los Angeles, CA 90049
esmarty21@verizon.net

Re: Newhall Ranch Landmark
Village Project No. 00-196-5

Ms. Susan Tea
Los Angeles County
Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Ms. Tae:

I am aware that many people wish to relocate here because Southern California has such a wonderful climate. This, of course, means that we will need more housing. But just giving blank approval for thousands of new homes, such as this project, does an injustice not only to the new homeowners by reducing their quality of life, but just as importantly, to the environment. Sprawling suburbia, with no plans for park areas or replacement of mature trees, causes me to ask that this project not be approved unless the project includes replacing all those 67 oak trees and plans for retaining the ecological environment and beauty of the area.

Instead of marginalizing the Santa Clara River, a good plan would include surrounding the river within a park-like setting for both the old and new homeowners to enjoy the area.

Our daughter and her family moved to Santa Clarita to enjoy living in the suburbs, out of the density of city living. If the county allows builders to crowd in too many houses in one area, this causes major traffic problems and too much pollution. This is a beautiful part of the county and should remain beautiful and with fresh air.

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Sincerely,

Esther Kaplinsky *Martin Kaplinsky*
Esther and Martin Kaplinsky

E214. Letter from Esther and Martin Kaplinsky, dated January 28, 2007

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 3

The Landmark Village project's proposed parkland Quimby Act and County regulations for the provision of parkland. Please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.16, Park and Recreation, for a thorough discussion of the parkland provided by the project.

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 5

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 6

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 7

Please see **Response 1**, above.



CENTER FOR CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

Headquarters • 4399 N. Santa Anita Ave., Ste. 205, • El Monte, CA 91731
TEL. 626-444-8355 • FAX 626-444-8173

RECEIVED
MAR 07 2007

March 6, 2007

David Fieros
Department of Regional Planning
Impact Analysis Section, Room 1348
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Re: **Public Records Act (FOIA) Request Concerning
Development Disposition Agreement or Owner Participation Agreement
For the Landmark Village County Project #00-196
Tentative Tract Map No. TR53108**

Dear Mr. Fieros:

The Center for Contract Compliance is a joint labor-management committee established pursuant to the Labor Management Cooperation Act of 1978. The Center is concerned with maintaining a level playing field for contractors and workers on public works jobs. The Center routinely monitors bids, awards, and construction activities to ascertain compliance. The Center works closely with awarding agencies, enforcement agencies, contractors, and other interested parties to achieve these goals.

This is a formal request to obtain a copy of the **Development Disposition Agreement or the Owner Participation Agreement** for the Landmark Village County Project #00-196, Tentative Tract Map No. TR53108. This request is being made pursuant to the California Public Records Act, Government Code Section 6250 seq. et.

Thank you for your assistance and time in expediting this request. If you have any questions, please call me at (626) 444-8355.

Sincerely,

Paul Valdovinos
Field Investigator

1

D30. Letter from Center for Contract Compliance, dated March 6, 2007

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (see, *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

The comment is noted, but it should be pointed out that this letter constitutes a Public Records Act request rather than a public comment on the adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. It should also be pointed out that there is no "Development Disposition Agreement or Owner Participation Agreement" associated with the proposed Landmark Village project or tentative tract map; and, therefore, there are no documents responsive to this request. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.



3435 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 320
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1904

(213) 387-4287 phone
(213) 387-5383 fax
www.angeles.sierraclub.org

3-14-07

Daniel Fierros/ Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RECEIVED
MAR 15 2007

AH 16

Re: Landmark Village DEIR and all entitlements
Please copy to all commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

The Sierra Club continues to respectfully request that the County grant an extension of the official review period so that all comments may be included in the FEIR and circulated to commentors. We intend to submit comments on several other sections of the DEIR, but have not completed our review.

1

At this time, we submit only the following comments on the issue of biology and SEA 23 in addition to those previously submitted on water supply and ammonium perchlorate pollution.

2

Biology

The biology section incorrectly tries to defer many issues to the Specific Plan. The Specific Plan did not examine tract map specific impacts, which must now be disclosed, addressed and mitigated.

3

We have found several inconsistencies and areas of inadequate prior research in the Biota section (section 4.4) of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Landmark Village phase of the proposed Newhall Ranch development west of Santa Clarita (Project No. 00-196 / Tract Map No. 53108 / Landmark Village; hereafter "DEIR"). These concerns are listed below.

4

= The mountain lion (*Felis concolor browni*) is one of the few large keystone predators in the Newhall Ranch area. The DEIR makes it clear that this species' habitat will be destroyed by the proposed development. However, only extremely limited mitigation measures are proposed (ie. SP 4.6-21, 43, 53), measures which are not tailored to this specific species. A large species of incredible significance to the ecosystem would require an extensive relocation program, the details of which should be included in the DEIR.

5

= Many federally endangered and threatened species are noted in the DEIR; however, a particularly well-known species, the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), has been omitted. This species should be listed as a potential inhabitant of the Newhall Ranch area. That the California condor has been overlooked leads me to believe that other important species could also have been left out. This suggests poor survey technique or insufficient surveys.

6



- | | |
|--|----|
| • Will development around the Santa Clarita River prevent wildlife from accessing river water? Will tributaries of the river be diverted underground or otherwise made inaccessible to wildlife? This issue and its impacts on wildlife should be clarified. | 7 |
| • The wildlife surveys were disproportionately focused on reptiles, birds and mammals. Invertebrate surveys were limited to a few focused surveys aimed at only three species of butterfly (the Monarch, San Emigdio blue, and Quino checkerspot butterflies). More extensive invertebrate surveys should be performed. | 8 |
| • Species of fungus were completely omitted from the surveys and the DEIR. | 9 |
| • The bird surveys seem insufficient, since only one person performed them, and since they were only performed in the morning. Morning surveys can easily overlook species that are active during the day and at night. | 10 |
| • Fish surveys were also limited, as they were performed only from March to June in a single year, and not even within the project site. | 11 |
| • Mitigation measures focused on endangered and threatened species. Though these species do warrant extra attention, species which are now considered “common” are also vulnerable to development. Such common species can become endangered or threatened as a result of development. This fact needs to be addressed. | 12 |
| • Large mammals, which are often key predators in an ecosystem, are abundant at agricultural margins and riparian woodlands, both of which will be destroyed through the proposed development. Though riparian habitat restoration was mentioned, nothing was said about the habitats currently created through agricultural activities. | 13 |
| • The agricultural plant community is not “natural,” and thus is not considered in the mitigation measures section of the DEIR. However, many species of wildlife depend on this plant community; their outlook should be addressed. | 14 |
| • Mitigation measures concerning oaks only involve planting of new oaks and not preservation of current stands of oaks. However, the planting of new individuals does not replace the habitat loss that will occur with the proposed development. The report seems to suggest that planting new oaks will provide immediate habitat replacement for the species that depend on oaks; this is not the case. | 15 |
| • Supplemental irrigation is briefly mentioned as one aspect of riparian habitat restoration. The reason for this is unclear: will the newly created riparian habitat be for the benefit of people (as a park), or wildlife? How is supplemental irrigation necessary? | 16 |
| • Wildfire prevention is listed as a mitigation measure; however, there are many species of plant which depend upon fire to reproduce. Are such species present on the site, and if so, how will their survival be insured? | 17 |
| • How will the planting/introduction of fire retardant species disrupt the ecosystem? | 18 |
| | 19 |
| | 20 |

- The mitigation measures section (section 10) includes many vague statements with regards to the preservation of specific wildlife species. For example, it is often stated that further surveys will be performed before construction begins, and if certain species are discovered, mitigation measures will be developed and undertaken. Surveys have already been performed in the area, and species of special concern have been found. Mitigation measures should already be specified and should be outlined in section 10. 21
 - Mitigation measures often include the postponement of construction if nests are found on the site. How much time will birds be given to vacate the area? What will happen if the birds (or other animals) do not leave? I would recommend not planning the first stages of construction (i.e. clearing of wild areas) during nesting season. 22
 - Mitigation measures for bats involve halting construction until bats have fledged. As with birds, how much time will the bats be given to leave? What will happen if the bats remain in the area for an extended period of time? 23
 - Mitigation measures for bats involve halting construction until bats have fledged. As with birds, how much time will the bats be given to leave? What will happen if the bats remain in the area for an extended period of time? 24
 - LV 4.4-11 states that a landscaping plan will include “native, non-invasive species,” as well as a “list of invasive plant species prohibited from being planted on the project site.” Does this mean that some invasive plant species *will* be allowed? This paragraph is unclear. 25
 - For many species listed in Table 4.4-1, such as the California horned lizard (genus *Phrynosoma*) mitigation measures are extremely vague or extremely general. Such species require mitigation measures tailored to the specific species. 26
 - For the fish species that are mentioned, mitigation measures are described twice. The first mention states that mitigation will involve capturing the fish and holding them in tanks until construction is complete, at which time the fish will be released back into the capture site. The second mention of mitigation states that fish will be captured and released downstream of the construction site. This discrepancy should be eliminated. 27
 - If fish are to be released downstream of the construction sites, how will it be insured that they do not suffer from the pollution that will be caused by construction? 28
 - Mitigation for the Arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) involves the halting of construction if toads are found in the project site. The DEIR does not specify what will occur after this decision is made. 29
 - Mitigation measures for reptiles involve capture and relocation. Where will the animals be released? 30
 - Mitigation measures for the American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), the San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*), and the San Diego desert woodrat (genus *Neotoma*) involve capture and relocation. Where will the animals be released? 31
- Failure to include the Biota Report or the SEATAC minutes in the EIR**
- The Sierra Club has focused for many years on protection of the County of Los Angeles’ 64 designated Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs). As a condition of addressing litigation over impacts to Significant Ecological Areas, the County of Los Angeles agreed to hire a County biologist to review projects that would affect SEAs. The SEA Technical Advisory Commission, made of volunteer biologists, experts in their fields, was also set up to review impacts to SEAs in projects and make recommendations regarding endangered species protection in those areas. 32

In previous EIRs both the minutes of these meetings with the SEATAC recommendations and the biota report that was presented to them were included in the appendices for public review and review by the Planning Commissions. This EIR contains neither the commissions' recommendations, the biota report, nor the meeting minutes. We believe that those materials should have been provided in the EIR and circulated to the public. We request that this information be provided to all commentors. We have attached the minutes of the SEATAC meetings, but were unable to obtain a copy of the biota report from the Regional Planning Department biologist.

33

We concur with the recommendations of the County's SEATAC biologists for this project and request that they be included as conditions of approval and mitigation for project impacts.

34

Source of Water Supply Disclosed to SEATAC is Incosistant with the Source of Supply in the EIR

The minutes of the SEATAC meetings all indicate that the source of water for the Landmark project will be the Valencia Water Co.'s connection in the Commerce Center. In contrast, the source of supply in the EIR, released after the SEATAC review was completed, states that the water will come from ground water on the project site. This new source of water supply could materially affect wildlife, its ability to access water and affect analysis of water quality impacts to wildlife. This change might have resulted in different or additional recommendations by this Commission. We therefore request that SEATAC have the opportunity to review their recommendations in light of this new information.

35

Impacts to the Santa Clara River

We concur with other parties in respect to the downstream bank protection. The downstream bank protection on the south bank should not be included as part of the Project Description. As the EIR indicates, it is a mitigation measure for the project's impacts. But when those impacts are analyzed, it turns out that they are localized and less than significant. One mile of bank protection that will clearly serve future development is not proportionate to the impacts disclosed in the EIR. The bank protection component should be removed from the project description and evaluated as a mitigation measure. Because the bank stabilization will itself result in significant temporary and permanent impacts to riparian vegetation, less damaging and more proportionate mitigation should be considered for the project's localized impacts, if such impacts are significant at all.

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We believe that a larger buffer zone along the river is required to ensure the long-term sustainability of the habitat and endangered species that exist in this area. The cumulative impacts on the river and its tributaries must also be addressed.

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Federal Army Corps Permit and State Streambed Alternation permit EIR/EIS should proceed this approval

The EIR/EIS for required permits affecting the Santa Clara River should precede any County entitlement approval. Impacts identified and mitigated for these federal and state permits may very well affect the design of the project before you. Therefore, the Army Corps/, DFG EIS/EIR should be completed first, mitigation measures adopted, and special permit conditions approved, before this project is approved so that any changes required may be incorporated in the plan before you due to potential required changes.

41

Also, in recent high water events, buried bank stabilization failed in several areas of Santa Clarita covered by the Natural River Management Plan. Failed buried bank stabilization was then replaced with concrete riprap. This issue is an example of why the EIR/EIS for the Federal 404 Permit should be completed before this project is approved.

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Closing Comments

These comments pertain only to the issues of biology and the Santa Clara River. We previously submitted comments on the issue of water supply and water quality. We hope to provide you with additional comments on geology, air pollution and traffic

44

Sincerely,

JENNIFER ROBINSON

Jennifer Robinson
Conservation Coordinator
Angeles Chapter.
Rachel Yakimura, Research Assistant

Significant Ecological Area Technical Advisory Commission minutes attached

Exhibit 1

9

SEATAC REPORT AND COMMENTS

PROJECT CUP 00-196/VTTM 53108

SEATAC MEETING DATE AUGUST 1, 2005, ITEM 2

Biota Report Prepared by Impact Sciences, Incorporated, Dated July 2005

Initial SEATAC Meeting for Biota Report

PROPOSED PROJECT CUP 00-196/VTTM 53108 – An application to subdivide the subject property into 418 lots, to include a maximum of 1,444 residential units, a maximum of 1,353,000 square feet of non-residential mixed-used space, an elementary school, a community park, three private recreational facilities, open space and river trail uses. Off-site improvements include buried bank stabilization and the Long Canyon Road Bridge to be developed in conjunction with the tract development. Two borrow sites (one located south of the Santa Clara River and the other north of State Route 126 of unspecified acreage) and possible haul routes will be located outside of the tract map boundary but within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area. The domestic water system will be connected to existing facilities within the Valencia Commerce Center to the northeast). The proposed project site is partially within the Santa Clara River SEA (SEA 23) and is the first phase of the Riverwood Village Planning Area development of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, located north of the Santa Clara River, west of Interstate 5 and south of State Route 126, between the intersection of Chiquito Canyon Road and Castaic Creek.

SEA DESCRIPTION: Soledad Canyon and the Santa Clara River (SEA No. 23) possess several populations of the unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*). This species was formerly found in the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana Rivers, but is now restricted to the Santa Clara River and San Francisquito Canyon. For these reasons and due to threats to its habitat, the fish species has been placed on the state and federal endangered species lists. In the Santa Clara River, the unarmored threespine stickleback is limited to permanent streams and pools from the mouth of San Francisquito Canyon west to the Ventura-Los Angeles County line, and from near Lang Station east to Arrastre Canyon.

The reason the unarmored threespine stickleback has been able to survive in the Santa Clara River is that its remaining habitat has been relatively undisturbed. The Santa Clara River is unique in being the only major river draining the San Gabriel Mountains that has not been extensively channelized. The vegetation consists of fresh water marsh, coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, and riparian woodland communities. The broad wash association is unlike that found in steeper mountain canyons, and is increasingly rare in Los Angeles County. The trees serve as habitat for many raptorial bird species. The red-shouldered hawk is restricted to woodland communities, and the species is becoming increasingly uncommon in southern California due to habitat destruction. The National Audubon Society and others have expressed concern for the hawk's welfare.

The primary concern for the survival of the unarmored threespine stickleback is the loss of suitable habitat. The species requires clean, free-flowing, perennial streams and ponds surrounded by native vegetation. Intermittent areas connecting perennial streams are also important during the wet season when surface water is present. The natural vegetation and stream course slow heavy runoff during the rainy season, decrease destruction and siltation of habitat in downstream areas, and provide habitat for stickleback migration between populations.

**SEATAC COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROJECT CUP 00-196/VTTM
53108:**

1. Review the document for consistent use of terms such as ‘project,’ ‘site,’ ‘on-site,’ ‘off-site,’ *et cetera*. The descriptions of the scope of the report given on page three and the project area on page 9 are unclear.
2. Clarify the necessity of the various bank-stabilization methodologies presented in Figures 6 and 7.
3. Organize Table 2 systematically; herps and birds are shuffled and a superficial scan of the table may lend the impression that amphibians are not covered; Mitigation Measures must be proposed for cumulative biological impacts.
4. Table 5: the discussion of survey methods for fish suggests that on-site surveys have not been conducted; assume that unarmored three-spine stickleback is present in the Santa Clara River above Piru Creek any time surface water is flowing.
5. Section 6.1.14 and elsewhere, as appropriate: the variety of Great Basin sagebrush present on site is likely to be *Artemisia tridentata* var. *parishii*. Revise the identification accordingly throughout the document. The presence of this taxon is noteworthy and SEATAC recommends mitigation for losses to this taxon.
6. Figure 12: provide polygons for relevant open space areas.
7. Page 53, first paragraph: the discussion of mitigation is inappropriate in this section; avoid indecisive language (e.g. “...often can be partially or largely mitigated...”).
8. Figure 13 is very conceptual and lacks practical information; revise the base map to provide a better context for potential movement pathways.
9. Provide a discussion of the trapping methodologies used for rodent surveys.
10. Soil cement shall not be used in the bank stabilization design; ungrouted rip-rap is preferred. Accommodations for streambed braiding and tributary flow must be a part of the drainage plan for the project; this type of complexity helps stickleback escape stochastic hazards.
11. There are many steep canyons within the project area that may support jurisdictional areas not present on the jurisdictional areas map; confirm the completeness of the jurisdictional delineation.
12. Expand section 6.2; discuss habitats used by the various wildlife species.
13. Section 8 – provide references to movement studies for known wildlife movement.
14. Clarify the term ‘major drainage’ in the Resource Management Plan.
15. Provide information on the release characteristics referred to in the discussion of the County Sanitation District Facilities Plan on pages 126 and 127.
16. Increased base flow in the Santa Clara River must be avoided to maintain dry conditions down stream; reclaimed water may be sequestered during the dry season and released later in the year. Address impacts of potential flow increases in the Santa Clara River.

ACTION TAKEN: Review of the current version of the Biota Report will be continued at a future SEATAC meeting. Prepare a table of impacted vegetation types for review at that meeting.
Further SEATAC review of the project will be required subsequent to completion of the current review. A revised Biota Report addressing the above SEATAC comments and recommendations will be requested

SEATAC REPORT AND COMMENTS

PROJECT CUP 00-196/VTTM 53108

SEATAC MEETING DATE SEPTEMBER 12, 2005, ITEM 3

Biota Report Prepared by Impact Sciences, Incorporated, Dated July 2005

First Continuation from August 1, 2005 of Initial SEATAC review for Biota Report

PROPOSED PROJECT CUP 00-196/VTTM 53108 – An application to subdivide the subject property into 418 lots, to include a maximum of 1,444 residential units, a maximum of 1,353,000 square feet of non-residential mixed-use space, an elementary school, a community park, three private recreational facilities, open space and river trail uses. Off-site improvements include buried bank stabilization and the Long Canyon Road Bridge to be developed in conjunction with the tract development. Two borrow sites, one located south of the Santa Clara River (215 acres) and the other north of State Route 126 (120 acres), and haul routes will be located outside of the tract map boundary but within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area. The domestic water system will be connected to existing facilities within the Valencia Commerce Center to the northeast). The proposed project site is partially within the Santa Clara River SEA (SEA 23) and is the first phase of the Riverwood Village Planning Area development of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, located north of the Santa Clara River, west of Interstate 5 and south of State Route 126, between the intersection of Chiquito Canyon Road and Castaic Creek.

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SEATAC COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROJECT CUP 00-196/VTTM 53108 (Note: comments for the September 12, 2005 SEATAC meeting begin with Section 10 of the Biota Report):

1. Page 79, second paragraph: include a linkages map, incorporating the corridors discussed in this paragraph.
2. Provide details on the quantity, type and quality of coastal sage scrub to be retained in the High Country SMA. Adequacy of mitigation for losses of habitats within the project site will be based on functional similarity of preserved and impacted habitats.
3. Use of the High Country SMA as a mitigation area must incorporate accounting of impacts and mitigation. SEATAC disagrees with the assumption that the Specific Plan EIR provides adequate mitigation for habitat losses; the Tract Map EIR must address the mitigation required, and if mitigation areas as delineated in the Specific Plan EIR are used, an accounting of “mitigation credits” must be made and kept up to date.
4. Mitigation Measure 4.6-43 is inadequate due to the phrase “may be used;” Mitigation Measures beyond 4.6-80 are not included in the MMP provided with the report.
5. Page 86, first paragraph: vegetation rehabilitation/replacement is unlikely to provide full mitigation for losses of wildlife habitat.
6. Page 87, third and fourth paragraphs: provide more specificity in the discussion of setbacks from riparian resources. Details are needed as to the requirements of species likely to occur on the project site. A minimum buffer of 100 ft. may not be suitable for some species. Provide a reference for the “previous studies” noted in the fourth paragraph.
7. Figure 16: include a grading overlay to provide context.
8. Page 92, third paragraph: include a statement that impacts to 887 individual slender mariposa lilies is likely to be an underestimate.
9. Page 98 and 99: mitigation is needed for losses of general habitat values beyond nesting resources to sensitive birds, and “Bio-2, Wildlife Habitat Loss” will apply to all of the bird species.
10. Page 102: the May 13, 2005 rule concerning the critical habitat designation for arroyo toad is not final; include details of the management of releases from Castaic Lake and possible consequences in the discussion of western spadefoot toad and other sensitive fish and amphibian species.
11. Page 113 – 115: provide details of sampling methodology for water quality monitoring; explain why selenium and mercury are not of concern in the Santa Clara River watershed.
12. Page 116, third paragraph: include a mitigation measure to prohibit irrigation of perimeter landscaping.
13. Page 117, last paragraph: indicate what BMPs will be used to achieve the mitigation for construction and grading impacts.
14. Page 118, second paragraph: provide details as to where least Bell’s vireo and arroyo toad occur within Castaic Creek.
15. Page 119 – 128: the depth of discussions is inconsistent among the projects; provide an equivalent level of detail for each.

16. Page 143: Mitigation Measure 4.6-81 does not provide mitigation for any impacts; Mitigation measure 4.6-83 needs further detail: provide information on seasonal restrictions to mitigation activities and methodology on how fish are to be cleared.
17. Page 144: revise Mitigation Measure to state that 1/8-inch mesh will be used, rather than ¼-inch.
18. Page 146: Include language in Mitigation Measure 4.6-91 to require locally indigenous species in the landscaping plan.

ACTION TAKEN: Review of the current version of the Biota Report will be continued at a future SEATAC meeting.

Further SEATAC review of the project will be required subsequent to completion of the current review. A revised Biota Report addressing the above, previous and forthcoming SEATAC comments and recommendations will be requested.

SEATAC REPORT AND COMMENTS

PROJECT CUP 00-196/VTTM 53108

SEATAC MEETING DATE OCTOBER 3, 2005, ITEM 2

Biota Report Prepared by Impact Sciences, Incorporated, Dated July 2005

Second Continuation from August 1, and September 12, 2005 of Initial SEATAC review of Biota Report

PROPOSED PROJECT CUP 00-196/VTTM 53108 – An application to subdivide the subject property into 418 lots, to include a maximum of 1,444 residential units, a maximum of 1,353,000 square feet of non-residential mixed-use space, an elementary school, a community park, three private recreational facilities, open space and river trail uses. Off-site improvements include buried bank stabilization and the Long Canyon Road Bridge to be developed in conjunction with the tract development. Two borrow sites, one located south of the Santa Clara River (215 acres) and the other north of State Route 126 (120 acres), and haul routes will be located outside of the tract map boundary but within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area. The domestic water system will be connected to existing facilities within the Valencia Commerce Center to the northeast). The proposed project site is partially within the Santa Clara River SEA (SEA 23) and is the first phase of the Riverwood Village Planning Area development of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, located north of the Santa Clara River, west of Interstate 5 and south of State Route 126, between the intersection of Chiquito Canyon Road and Castaic Creek.

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The reason the unarmored threespine stickleback has been able to survive in the Santa Clara River is that its remaining habitat has been relatively undisturbed. The Santa Clara River is unique in being the only major river draining the San Gabriel Mountains that has not been extensively channelized. The vegetation consists of fresh water marsh, coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, and riparian woodland communities. The broad wash association is unlike that found in steeper mountain canyons, and is increasingly rare in Los Angeles County. The trees serve as habitat for many raptorial bird species. The red-shouldered hawk is restricted to woodland communities, and the species is becoming increasingly uncommon in southern California due to habitat destruction. The National Audubon Society and others have expressed concern for the hawk's welfare.

The primary concern for the survival of the unarmored threespine stickleback is the loss of suitable habitat. The species requires clean, free-flowing, perennial streams and ponds surrounded by native vegetation. Intermittent areas connecting perennial streams are also important during the wet season when surface water is present. The natural vegetation and stream course slow heavy runoff during the rainy season, decrease destruction and siltation of habitat in downstream areas, and provide habitat for stickleback migration between populations.

SEATAC COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROJECT CUP 00-196/VTTM 53108 (Note: comments for the October 3, 2005 SEATAC meeting are limited to Volume III of the Biota Report):

1. The revised Biota Report must provide a better accounting of impacts at the project site and mitigations in the High Country.
2. Water quality and hydrology, including intermittency of flows, in the river and tributaries must be maintained to ensure long term sustainability of biological resources.
3. Arroyo toad habitat is present, and populations may have been blown out by large releases from Castaic Lake. Proper management of flows from Castaic may permit reintroduction of arroyo toad.
4. Maps on pages 334 and 337 of Volume III are not clear and legends/captions are confusing.
5. Griffin (1999) reports a high level of use by arroyo toads of agricultural fields as aestivation sites. There is good potential for high-value, low-cost aestivation habitat restoration within the project site. Include clearance surveys for arroyo toad within agricultural fields as a mitigation measure.
6. SEATAC reiterates their concern that buried bank stabilization must be rough-sided.
7. SEATAC requests a field trip to see the sites of proposed buried bank stabilization.

ACTION TAKEN: Further SEATAC review of the project is required; prepare a revised Biota Report addressing the SEATAC comments and recommendations detailed above and in the minutes of the August 1 and September 12, 2005 minutes.

SEATAC REPORT AND COMMENTS

CUP 00-196/VTTM 53108 – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT and VESTING TENTATIVE TRACT MAP

SEATAC MEETING DATE DECEMBER 5, 2005, ITEM 2

Revised Biota Report prepared by Impact Sciences, Incorporated, Dated November, 2005

Previous SEATAC Meetings for Biota Report August 1, September 12, and October 3, 2005.

PROPOSED PROJECT CUP 00-196/VTTM 53108 – An application to subdivide the subject property into 418 lots, to include a maximum of 1,444 residential units, a maximum of 1,353,000 square feet of non-residential mixed-use space, an elementary school, a community park, three private recreational facilities, open space and river trail uses. Off-site improvements include buried bank stabilization and the Long Canyon Road Bridge to be developed in conjunction with the tract development. Two borrow sites, one located south of the Santa Clara River (215 acres) and the other north of State Route 126 (120 acres), and haul routes will be located outside of the tract map boundary but within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area. The domestic water system will be connected to existing facilities within the Valencia Commerce Center to the northeast). The proposed project site is partially within the Santa Clara River SEA (SEA 23) and is the first phase of the Riverwood Village Planning Area development of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, located north of the Santa Clara River, west of Interstate 5 and south of State Route 126, between the intersection of Chiquito Canyon Road and Castaic Creek.

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**SEATAC COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROJECT 00-196/VTTM
53108:**

1. The hydrological assessments are too presumptive; a more in-depth analysis of hydrology is needed.
2. The maintenance of roughness in flow within the Santa Clara River is the biggest biological issue for this project, as channel roughness is the driving force behind encouraging heterogeneity in habitats within the floodplain. Bank stabilization designs that have been presented to SEATAC are fundamentally smooth-sided. Given the fact that they will be buried, they may be expected to remain unexposed in the short term; nevertheless, buried banks will be exposed with time (as other buried bank structures have been exposed in the region within several years of their emplacement), and a genuinely long-term approach to maintaining roughness of flow must be incorporated in the overall project design. This roughness may be accommodated at the banks or within the channel itself and may be facilitated through the use of large rip-rap in the overburden used to bury the stabilization or through the use of A-Jacks or similar interlocking modular units.
3. SEATAC is skeptical that otherwise mitigable impacts of this project are being improperly referred back to the Specific Plan which did not adequately address such impacts. The table on page 149 needs to be qualified in terms of what mitigations are possible in regard to habitat impacts and which are not. A fuller discussion of overriding considerations relative to the Specific Plan is needed to properly understand which impacts of Landmark village may justifiably require mitigation.
4. Provide information on ACOE and CDFG requirements for the project through the pending master permit so that SEATAC can have a context in which to view the mitigation responsibilities of the County (including mitigation for impacts to spineflower and water quality).
5. References to flooding as an 'infrequent' event minimize its ecological importance. Infrequent events may be extremely important in determining the future course of ecological developments.
6. An aggressive invasive species management plan is needed.

ACTION TAKEN: Further SEATAC review is required; incorporate the above SEATAC comments in the Biota Report.

SEATAC REPORT AND COMMENTS

CUP 00-196/VTTM 53108 – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT and VESTING TENTATIVE TRACT MAP

SEATAC MEETING DATE JANUARY 9, 2006, ITEM 2

Revised Biota Report prepared by Impact Sciences, Incorporated, Dated November, 2005

Previous SEATAC meeting for Revised Biota Report December 5, 2005.

PROPOSED PROJECT CUP 00-196/VTTM 53108 – An application to subdivide the subject property into 418 lots, to include a maximum of 1,444 residential units, a maximum of 1,353,000 square feet of non-residential mixed-use space, an elementary school, a community park, three private recreational facilities, open space and river trail uses. Off-site improvements include buried bank stabilization and the Long Canyon Road Bridge to be developed in conjunction with the tract development. Two borrow sites, one located south of the Santa Clara River (215 acres) and the other north of State Route 126 (120 acres), and haul routes will be located outside of the tract map boundary but within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area. The domestic water system will be connected to existing facilities within the Valencia Commerce Center to the northeast. The proposed project site is partially within the Santa Clara River SEA (SEA 23) and is the first phase of the Riverwood Village Planning Area development of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, located north of the Santa Clara River, west of Interstate 5 and south of State Route 126, between the intersection of Chiquito Canyon Road and Castaic Creek.

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**SEATAC COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROJECT 00-196/VTTM
53108:**

1. The High Country dedication shall be made prior to the issuance of the grading permit for Landmark Village, rather than subsequent to recordation of the 2,500th unit, as originally proposed in the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan.
2. Monitoring reports submitted to the County as part of the Mitigation/Monitoring Program shall also be submitted to SEATAC members for their review and comment.

ACTION TAKEN: No further SEATAC review of the Biota report is required; incorporate the above SEATAC comments in the Draft EIR.

D31. Letter from Sierra Club, dated March 14, 2007

Response 1

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended for the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**.

Response 2

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 3

The comment states that the Landmark Village EIR's biology section defers several unspecified issues "to the Specific Plan," which "did not examine tract map specific impacts." The Landmark Village EIR's biota section does not defer issues in the previously approved Specific Plan. Nonetheless, 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 5

The comment addresses mountain lion, and calls for a relocation program. The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, address the mountain lion relative to the Landmark Village project. Based on the habitat requirements of the mountain lion, the project does not necessitate a relocation program for the mountain lion. In addition, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area, including the 1,517-acre adjacent Salt Creek area, provides significant permanently protected open areas that constitute habitat for the mountain lion, even with development of the Specific Plan. These permanently protected open areas also alleviate the need for a mountain lion relocation program.

Response 6

The comment states that the California condor has been omitted from the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Please see the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, for information responsive to the California condor. In addition, Bloom Biological, Inc. performed extensive avian surveys in 2007,

including the California condor. Please see **Appendix A** of this Final EIR for Bloom Biological's "Summary of Late Winter and Spring Surveys with Focus on the California Condor" (July 2007), and Bloom Biological's "Report on Interim Late Winter and Spring Survey of Raptors and Special-Status Bird Species" (June 2007). As stated in the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, the project site is approximately 25 miles from the closest known condor nest, but is within the normal flight range of several pair of condors and all of the single, non-mated individuals (Bloom 2007). The project site has no suitable nesting or roosting habitat. Additionally, in large part because of limited prey and reduced wind and thermals, the Landmark Village project area does not contain the essential elements that define suitable California condor habitat (Snyder and Snyder 2000; Bloom pers. obs.). As such, the species may fly over the site but is not expected to utilize on-site habitats.

Response 7

The comment asks whether development around the Santa Clara River will prevent wildlife from accessing river water. No, wildlife access to the river will not be prevented due to development. The biological resource conservation strategy for the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, including Landmark Village, has focused on conservation, management, and mitigation efforts primarily in two significant Specific Management Areas and their connection, including the Santa Clara River corridor (see Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, pp. 4.4-117 through 4.4-119). As stated in the Final EIR, p. 4.4-119, "[a] critical component of the open area system within the Newhall Ranch property and in the region is the connection between the High Country and the River Corridor along Salt Creek. The corridor will provide continuity between the habitats and the wildlife populations within the property, as well as forming a permanent regional linkage between the Santa Clara River and the Santa Susana Mountains. Salt Creek is the most appropriate location for such a wildlife corridor connection because of several distinguishing characteristics. These include (1) provision of a direct link between the two major open areas; (2) less disturbance than any of the other potential connections; (3) it is bound through most of its length by open area on the north side and, therefore, will not be surrounded by development in the future; (4) it is the only drainage that would provide more than a discontinuous, narrow connection; (5) it includes both upland and riparian vegetation through most of the corridor; and (6) it is topographically isolated from areas of development on Newhall Ranch."

Importantly, the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, addresses wildlife habitat linkages, particularly with respect to the Santa Clara River. As stated in revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, p. 4.4-76, "[t]he proposed project design would preserve the integrity of the Santa Clara River as a wildlife movement corridor and minimize impacts on local and regional wildlife movement by maintaining nearly all of the Santa Clara River as open space. The Specific Plan RMP includes measures (Mitigation Measures 4.6-1 to 4.6-26) that will minimize impacts to riparian vegetation and replace any vegetation temporarily or permanently

removed. Therefore, the riparian vegetation that will be removed as a result of project implementation will not substantially affect the long-term ability of resident and non-resident species to use the river as a movement corridor.”

Response 8

The comment questions whether tributaries of the river would be diverted underground or otherwise be made inaccessible to wildlife. The Landmark Village project does not underground or “pipe” any of the major tributaries in its vicinity (e.g., Chiquito Creek, San Martinez Grande, Long Canyon, Castaic Creek); and, therefore, they are accessible to wildlife, even with development of the Landmark Village project site.

Response 9

The comment states that the wildlife surveys “disproportionately” focus on reptiles, birds, and mammals. The comment expresses the opinions of the Sierra Club, which 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 10

The comment requests “more extensive invertebrate surveys.” The type, scope, and extent of the surveys conducted on Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, were based on consultations with expert biologists. Such determinations were based on the habitat requirements and habitat suitability found within the entire Specific Plan area. In addition, invertebrate surveys were conducted. The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area was surveyed for a total 32-person days. The survey area included the Landmark Village project site (inclusive of the tract map). The primary focus of the surveys was to determine the presence or absence of San Emigdio blue butterfly, quino checkerspot butterfly, and their associated host plants. A general butterfly inventory also was conducted (see Draft EIR, Appendix 4.4, “Compliance Biology and Bruyera, Results of Butterfly Surveys on the Newhall Ranch Project Site”). In addition, the habitat requirements and suitability of special-status butterfly species were assessed, and it was determined that such species were not expected or rarely occurring within the Specific Plan area (see Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, pp. 4.4-52-53).

Response 11

The comment states that species of fungus were omitted from the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Special-status plants include those species that are state or federally-listed as rare, threatened or endangered; federal candidates for listing; species proposed for state or federal listing; or species included on Lists 1, 2, 3, or 4 of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of

California (CNPS Inventory). Based on a review of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) and CNPS databases and the survey reports prepared for the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area and the Landmark Village project site, no special-status fungi were identified as occurring in the region. Therefore, no species of fungus were included in the surveys conducted. In addition, the comment does not identify any species of fungus considered rare, threatened, endangered, or special-status; and, therefore, no further response can be provided or is required.

Response 12

The comment states that bird surveys “seem insufficient.” Bird surveys were extensive. Please see, for example, Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, Table 4.4-3, pp. 4.4-13 through 4.4-17, for a detailed summary of the surveys conducted by biologists qualified and/or permitted to conduct such surveys on the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, including the Landmark Village project site.

Response 13

The comment states that fish surveys were limited. As stated in the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, focused surveys have been conducted for unarmored threespine stickleback and other special-status fish species in the portion of the Santa Clara River from near its confluence with Castaic Creek, east (upstream) approximately 7.2 miles.

In addition, the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications, addressed potential significant effects of the project on threatened or endangered aquatic species inhabiting the Newhall Ranch reach of the Santa Clara River, from the Castaic Creek confluence through the boundary of the proposed Landmark Village project. This analysis was supported by a technical report prepared by ENTRIX, Inc., entitled, “Focused Special-Status Aquatic Species Assessment – Santa Clara River,” dated October 6, 2006 (see Draft EIR, Appendix 4.5). This report focused on potential impacts to unarmored three-spine stickleback, arroyo toad, and California red-legged frog as these species are listed as Threatened or Endangered under the federal and state Endangered Species Act. The report also addressed potential impacts to southwestern pond turtle and two-striped garter snake designated by the state as “species of concern.” The focus of the ENTRIX report was on potential impacts to the habitat of the above species resulting from alterations to local hydrology and corresponding habitat areas through implementation of the project (e.g., bank protection, bridge, bridge abutments, etc.).

Response 14

The comment states that species considered “common” are vulnerable to development and need to be addressed. The methodology utilized in evaluating the natural resources found or potentially occurring

on the Landmark Village project site is explained in the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, pp. 4.4-12 through 4.4-17. In addition, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, addressed representative common wildlife species (i.e., those not provided a sensitivity status by regulatory agencies) that were observed on the Landmark Village project site during the field surveys. A complete list of such species observed or potentially occurring on the project site is provided in the Landmark Village Final EIR, **Appendix A** (SEATAC Biota Report, Appendix D).

Response 15

The comment expresses opinions regarding agricultural areas and riparian woodlands. These topics were the subject of extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and the Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis; therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 16

The comment raises concerns over the use of agricultural areas by wildlife. The Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, Tables 4.4-5 through 4.4-7, discusses the habitat requirements for several rare special-status wildlife species in the region (e.g., northern harrier, merlin, California horned lark, ferruginous hawk, prairie falcon) and identifies agricultural areas and grasslands as habitat for these species. The discussion of impacts on several special-status wildlife species acknowledges the loss of agricultural land as habitat for those species (e.g., northern harrier, p. 4.4-74; California horned lark, p. 4.4-75). In addition, the Final EIR, on p. 4.4-70, discusses wildlife habitat and includes the loss of agricultural land as part of the overall net loss of habitat for wildlife.

Response 17

The comment is generally critical of mitigation measures concerning oak trees; however, no specificity is provided regarding a specific section in the Landmark Village Draft EIR that is of concern. The Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, provides a pertinent discussion of the project's impacts on oak resources. The Draft EIR provides, on p. 4.4-82 through 4.4-83, as follows:

“As previously discussed (**heading 7.b., Oaks**), CLATO protects any species in the genus *Quercus* that is at least 8 inches in diameter or has a combined trunk circumference of any two trunks of at least 38 inches (12 inches in diameter), as measured 4.5 feet above the mean natural grade. A heritage oak, as defined by CLATO, is an oak tree that measures 36 inches or more in diameter as measured 4.5 feet above natural ground, or any oak of 36 inches or greater in diameter having a significant historical or cultural importance to

the community. CLATO requires that all potential impacts to oak trees be preceded by an application to the County that includes a detailed oak tree report and that loss of or damage to protected oaks be mitigated at a minimum 2:1 ratio.

Based on the proposed grading plan, 4.45 acres of coast live oak woodland would be removed (this includes approximately 10 “heritage” and 57 non-heritage oak trees). An additional 14 oak trees (including 3 “heritage” and 11 non-heritage oak trees) may be subjected to damage (i.e., impacts from operations occurring within the protective zone of the tree). A total of 120 oak trees occur within 200 feet from the grading limit line and will not be removed or subjected to damage. Given the biological value of oak woodlands, and that the project would result in the removal or impacts to oak trees, the loss of oak woodland and protected oak trees is considered a significant impact under CLATO.

Public Resources Code Section 21083.4 addresses oak woodlands conservation, and contains provisions for counties to mitigate impacts to oak woodlands that would be significant under CEQA. Section 21083.4 provides for several mitigation alternatives that can be implemented to mitigate significant impacts on oak woodlands. Among the options are the preservation of oak woodlands under conservation easements and the planting of oak trees to replace those lost or damaged.

As discussed in the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, 2.6 Resource Management Plan, an estimated 13,660 oak trees would be protected within the SMA, particularly in the High Country SMA. Further, as discussed in the *Draft Newhall Ranch Mitigation Feasibility Study* (Dudek 2007), Dudek has identified the opportunity of creating 11 acres of coast live oak woodland and planting an additional 189 oak trees within the High Country SMA and Salt Creek Area (see Final EIR, **Appendix A**). Oak trees would be planted in these areas such that a minimum of 4.45 acres of oak woodland would be enhanced and/or created. The actual number of trees to be planted would be that number necessary to comply with the requirements stipulated in the Oak Tree Permit issued by the County pursuant to CLATO and CEQA acres of oak woodland. Compliance with the permit conditions and implementation of Specific Plan Mitigation Measure 4.6-48, as well as proposed **Mitigation Measures LV 4.4-4** and **LV 4.4-5** (see **heading 10., Project Mitigation Measures**) would reduce impacts to oak trees and oak woodland habitat to below a level of significance. These measures would also meet the requirements of Section 21083.4. The finding that impacts to protected oaks can be reduced to below a level of significance with mitigation is consistent with the findings of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR.”

Response 18

The comment addresses the supplemental irrigation associated with riparian habitat restoration. The supplemental irrigation is the means of assuring effectiveness of riparian habitat restoration. It is part of the adopted mitigation program for the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, including the Landmark Village project.

Response 19

The comment addresses wildfire prevention and plant species dependent upon fire to reproduce. Most of the fuel modification zone for the Landmark Village project occurs within agricultural areas and will not result in additional impacts to native vegetation. Native vegetation, including that which may benefit from occasional fire, such as coastal scrub, occurs in areas that will remain susceptible to wildfires in the area.

Response 20

The question asks how the planting/introduction of fire retardant species would disrupt the ecosystem. There would be no disruption to the ecosystem. Most of the fuel modification zone for the Landmark Village project occurs within agricultural areas and will not result in additional impacts to native vegetation. The fuel modification zone for structures adjacent to the Santa Clara River will extend approximately 100 feet from the structure into the utility trail corridor. Consequently, the fuel modification zone will not encroach upon the riparian corridor or the adjacent upland habitat buffer. The Resource Management Plan provides for the long-term management of the River Corridor SMA/SEA 23. In order to enhance the habitat value of plant communities that require fuel modification, fire retardant plant species containing habitat value may be planted within the fuel modification zone. Typical plant species suitable for fuel modification zones are indicated in Specific Plan Table 2.6-5 of the Resource Management Plan.

Response 21

The comment expresses opinions concerning the mitigation measures set forth in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4. Specifically, the comment expresses concern over the “vagueness” of unspecified mitigation measures. The Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, contains an extensive discussion of the mitigation program for the Landmark Village project. The mitigation consists of an assessment of the protected lands within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area; and it identifies the previously adopted mitigation measures that are part of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, of which Landmark Village is a part. In this respect, there are over 80 such mitigation measures. In addition, to further reduce the magnitude of impacts of biological resources that would result from project implementation, the EIR recommends and incorporates 34 additional mitigation measures specific to Landmark Village.

Response 22

The comment addresses mitigation measures associated with nesting birds. The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Fish & Game Code protect active nests of native bird species. (See, 16 U.S.C. sections

703 through 712; see also, Fish & Game Code sections 3503, 3513.) Therefore, any construction-related loss of active nests of common bird species would conflict with these federal and state laws. Implementation of proposed Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-24 would ensure compliance with state and federal laws protecting active bird nests.

Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-24 in the Final EIR (LV 4.4-8 in the Draft EIR) states that, “[i]f active nests are found, clearing and construction within 300 feet of the nest (500 feet for raptors) shall be postponed or halted, at the discretion of the biologist, until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting.” Once the birds have been determined by the biologist to have fledged and no longer be dependent on the nest, if they persist in an area where vegetation clearing and construction activities are required, the biologist will flush birds from habitat prior to vegetation clearing to ensure that they are not injured. If non-breeding birds persist in habitat adjacent to construction activities, no further action is required.

Response 23

The comment recommends not planning the first stages of construction during the nesting season. This request is not feasible and is unnecessary. Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-24 in the Final EIR (LV 4.4-8 in the Draft EIR) includes provisions for pre-construction and pre-grading nest surveys to be conducted to locate active nests of native bird species that potentially would be impacted by construction/grading. If such nests are found, measures are included, such as establishing an appropriate setback from active nests and monitoring by a qualified biologist, that will ensure that the adults, young, or eggs will not be harmed. Specifically, Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-24 states that, “If active nests are found, clearing and construction within 300 feet of the nest (500 feet for raptors) shall be postponed or halted, at the discretion of the biologist, until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting.”

Response 24

The comment addresses mitigation measures for bats. Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-27 in the Final EIR (LV 4.4-10 in the Draft EIR) describes specific actions to be implemented to avoid impacts to special-status bat species. Specifically, it states that, “[i]f active maternity roosts are found, construction within 200 feet shall be postponed or halted, at the discretion of the biological monitor, until the roost is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist.” Once the bats have been determined by the biologist to have fledged and no longer be dependent on the roost, if they persist in an area where vegetation clearing and construction activities are required, the biologist will flush bats from habitat prior

to vegetation clearing to ensure that they are not injured. If non-breeding bats persist in habitat adjacent to construction activities no further action is required.

Response 25

The comment asks whether invasive plant species will be allowed as part of the landscaping plan. The landscaping plan will not allow the use of invasive plant species.

Response 26

The comment states that mitigation for certain specified species is “extremely vague or extremely general.” The comment appears to misstate the information presented in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. Specifically, the comment has referenced Table 4.4-1, and has claimed that the discussion of mitigation measures in that table is vague and too general. Table 4.4-1 is meant to be a summary table describing the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan's impacts on sensitive biological resources, the previously adopted mitigation measures, and the prior conclusions reached in the certified Newhall Ranch environmental documentation concerning the significance of such impacts after mitigation. It is not intended to fully describe each of the adopted mitigation measures set forth in the certified Newhall Ranch environmental documentation. For a detailed description of those adopted measures as they relate to the Landmark Village project, please refer to the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, at pp. 4.4-117 through 4.4-150.

Response 27

The comment notes a discrepancy with respect to mitigation for fish species. This discrepancy has been corrected in the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.

Response 28

The comment assumes that fish will “suffer from . . . pollution that will be caused by construction.” However, the Landmark Village Draft EIR does not conclude that fish species will be significantly impacted or harmed from unspecified pollution caused by construction. As such, no further response can be provided or is necessary.

Response 29

The comment questions mitigation for arroyo toad and asks what will occur if construction is halted due to the presence of arroyo toad. First, recent comprehensive arroyo toad surveys conducted by Bloom Biological in 2007, confirm the absence of arroyo toad adults, juveniles, eggs, or larvae on or in the

vicinity of the Landmark Village project site. Daytime and nighttime surveys were conducted (see Final EIR, **Appendix A** [Bloom Summary of Southwestern Arroyo Toad Surveys]). Second, if arroyo toad are found on the project site during the construction phase, the mitigation (e.g., Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-20) requires the toad to be relocated to other suitable habitat outside of the construction disturbance zone.

Response 30

The comment asks where reptiles would be released if captured and relocated as part of the mitigation program. As stated in Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-22 in the Final EIR (LV 4.4-9 in the Draft EIR), “[a] pre-ground disturbance survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist (subject to approval by the County) within 14 days [of] any disturbance activities in all areas on the project site containing suitable habitat for coast horned lizard, silvery legless lizard, coastal western whiptail, rosy boa, San Bernardino ringneck snake, and coast patch-nosed snake. If any of these species are observed within the disturbance zone, they shall be relocated to a suitable area outside of the disturbance zone. Results of the surveys and relocation efforts shall be provided to CDFG and the County. Collection and relocation of animals shall only occur with the proper scientific collection and handling permits.” Relocation will be done in habitat deemed suitable for the particular species within open space of the Specific Plan area. The High Country SMA, Salt Creek area, and River Corridor could all provide potential habitat for relocation.

Response 31

The comment asks where badger and other wildlife would be released if captured and relocated as part of the mitigation program. As stated in Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-26 in the Final EIR (LV 4.4-9 in the Draft EIR), “[a] pre-ground disturbance survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist (subject to approval by the County) within 14 days [of] any disturbance activities in all areas on the project site containing suitable habitat for American badger, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit and San Diego desert woodrat. If any of these species are observed within the disturbance zone, they shall be relocated to a suitable area outside of the disturbance zone. Results of the surveys and relocation efforts shall be provided to CDFG and the County. Collection and relocation of animals shall only occur with the proper scientific collection and handling permits.”

Relocation will be done in habitat deemed suitable for the particular species within open space of the Specific Plan area. For American badger and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, this would include grassland, coastal scrub, and chaparral vegetation. For San Diego desert woodrat, suitable microhabitat structure would be required, such as rocky or brushy areas and cactus patches, as close to the point of

capture as possible without risking exposure to indirect impacts. The High Country SMA, Salt Creek area, and River Corridor could all provide potential habitat for relocation of these species.

Response 32

The comment provides background information, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 33

The comment requests that the SEATAC Biota Report and related minutes be made a part of the Landmark Village EIR. The Final EIR, **Appendix A**, includes the SEATAC Biota Report and the SEATAC comments and recommendations.

Response 34

The comment states that Sierra Club concurs with the recommendations of SEATAC, and requests that such recommendations be included as conditions of approval and mitigation for project impacts. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 35

The comment questions the source of water supply, based on SEATAC meeting minutes. The comment does not present correct information. There is no “new” source of water for the proposed project. The project's water source remains the same: Landmark will use local groundwater and recycled water from local water reclamation plants to meet its potable and non-potable water demand. Please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service, pp. 4.10-1 through 4.10-3.

Response 36

Please see **Responses 3, 4, and 5** to letter from Center for Biological Diversity, dated February 20, 2007.

Response 37

Please see **Response 36**, above.

Response 38

Please see **Response 36**, above.

Response 39

Please see **Response 4** to letter from Heal the Bay, dated January 22, 2007.

Response 40

Please see **Response 14** to letter from Wild Heritage Planners, dated January 31, 2007.

Response 41

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 42

Please see **Responses 2, 4, and 10** to letter from Friends of the Santa Clara River, dated January 21, 2007.

Response 43

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 44

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

McCarthy
Tran

AH-19

March 28, 2007

RECEIVED
MAR 28 2007

AH-19
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF

COPIES: EACH COMMISSIONER

Meneses
Alexanian
Tae
Jemite

Attention Commissioners
Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission

During the February 28, 2007 meeting of the Commission, at the conclusion of the hearing regarding Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village (Project No. 00-196-5), Commissioner Modugno directed staff to consult with Audubon, Sierra Club, SCOPE etal to address environmental concerns while proceeding with the final EIR/EIS.

1

As of this date the Planning Department staff has not contacted either of the parties mentioned above and has not responded to any of our attempts to contact them. Furthermore, the official posted minutes of that meeting have entirely omitted that staff directive.

2

In light of the fact that we now have irrefutable physical evidence that disproves some of the applicants claims, it would be nice to be able to provide that information and be assured that you would actually receive it.

3

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from someone soon.

4

Sincerely,

Kris Ohlenkamp

Kris Ohlenkamp
President
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
Kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net
(818) 225-8348
2367 Old Topanga Canyon Road
Topanga, CA 90290

D32. Letter from San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, dated March 28, 2007

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (see, *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

Please see County of Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission February 28, 2007 transcript minutes, p. 81, outlining the specific direction directed by Commissioner Modugno:

“Now, I would like to have . . . the motion . . . to have the interested parties [at] least the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club and SCOPE or organizations who have had people come—testify notified of the date that that hearing will take place. If there are interested parties, please pass your name on to staff so that you can also be notified because we don't want to do this in a vacuum. We want all—those of you who are interested to be able to see that component of it. While the hearing is closed, there is still an opportunity of communicating with staff, there's an opportunity to communicate with the applicant. And there will be on going dialogue back and forth between the applicant, staff and subdivision committee because until we take our final action, all of that input and materials that is there is part and parcel with the entirety of this case and becomes parts of the piece.”

As shown above, Commissioner Modugno did not direct staff to consult with various environmental groups, rather he noted the opportunity for groups to continue to communicate with staff and with the applicant and indicated that these interested groups would be notified of the date that Landmark Village returns to the Regional Planning Commission.

Response 2

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Response 3

The comment contends that there is evidence that disproves the project applicant's claims, but does not provide any such evidence as an attachment to the comment letter. The comment expresses opinions, which 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 4

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

West Ranch Town Council

25876 The Old Road #213 Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381

A-H-5

Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning
320 W. Temple Street
13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Ms. Susie Tae, AICP

April 2, 2007

RE: Tentative Tract Map 53108 (Landmark Village- Newhall Ranch Specific Plan)

Dear Ms. Tae:

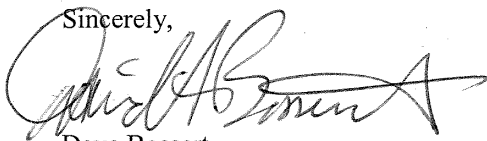
At our recent meeting on March 7, 2007, the West Ranch Town Council voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Landmark Village project to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

In making this recommendation we evaluated the impacts of the project against its benefits. We concluded that the benefits associated with Landmark Village and Newhall Ranch clearly offset any impacts. We consider Landmark Village to be the type of development that the County should consider for the Santa Clarita Valley as it contains the integral elements of a "smart managed growth" community.

The inclusion of a community park, elementary school, fire station, transit improvements and trails (including two miles of the Santa Clara River Trail) as well as its proximity to jobs will clearly benefit the future residents of Landmark as well as existing residents within the Santa Clarita Valley. We also appreciate to Newhall Land for keeping the Council up to date on the Landmark community through numerous presentations over the last 18 months; they have displayed good corporate citizenship in our community.

We want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the project. If you have any questions regarding this letter please feel to contact me at (818) 460-8761.

Sincerely,



Dave Bossert
President, West Ranch Town Council

cc: Members of the West Ranch Town Council
Paul Novak, Planning Deputy, 5th District
Bruce McClendon, Director of Regional Planning
Glenn Adamick, Newhall Land

1

D33. Letter from West Ranch Town Council, dated April 2, 2007

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (see, *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

The comment expresses support for the Landmark Village project, and will be included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed project.



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Angeles Chapter

AH-7

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www.angeles.sierraclub.org

4-13-07

LA County Regional Planning Commission
Attn: Susan Tae, Planner
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Additional Comments on Landmark/Newhall Ranch Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
Re: Soils, Geology and Geotechnical

Dear Commissioners and Ms. Tae:

This review is an analysis of the soils, geologic and geotechnical portion of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Newhall Ranch development identified as "Landmark Village." The EIR appears comprehensive with some exceptions. Specific concerns identified in the EIR apparently common to EIRs in general were:

1

- Local Fault Rupture
- Seismic Ground Shaking,
- Ground failure: Liquefaction
- Landslides/Mudslides¹
- Expansive Soils

In context of other EIRs used as a standard against which to measure the comprehensiveness of the Newhall Ranch EIR, ("Newhall") some deficiencies appear to be present. It is true that Newhall identified the same concerns, by category, as the standard EIRs, but failed to provide in-depth information that is both necessary and germane to a comprehensive evaluation. Specifically, soil type and seismic activity in the geographical area where the Landmark Village project is being planned, appears to have been given brief and cursory treatment.

2

In section 4.1 of Newhall, "Geotechnical and Soil Resources," page 4.1-1, the first paragraph states that there are "no active faults" near the site. However there are numerous faults situated near and under the Newhall area. Image 1 is a fault map² clearly showing a fault line running under Newhall. Two quadrangles are not shown between the Newhall and Fillmore quadrangles on the map. Rather than indicating the lack of seismic concern in these areas, the lack of data indicates seismic mapping in these two quadrangles has not yet been conducted. Landmark Village is located in the Val Verde quadrangle. The lack of data in this area makes it easy for land developers to minimize seismic concerns regarding development here. In otherwords, it is possible that the potential for seismic activity to negatively impact Landmark Village has been underestimated.

3

¹ Landslides are not a concern because the land is truly flat as pictured in Image 4
² California Geological Survey, California Dept. of Conservation



Reinforcing the concern that seismic activity in the area needs more investigating is the solid information about the San Gabriel Fault³ which runs only two miles north of the Newhall development. This section of the San Gabriel Fault has not been active for nearly 1,000 years, however this does not mean that an earthquake cannot occur on it. The San Gabriel Fault is a primarily right-lateral, strike-slip fault. Refer to image 2⁴, a map showing where an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.01 or greater has an 80% chance of occurring in the Newhall area within the next 30 years.

4

It is clear that because Landmark Village is located in a (potentially) seismically active area, property owners should expect an earthquake sometime in the course of their ownership. If the underlying soil is dry and firm, there should not be too much of a concern about catastrophic damage to single-family dwellings or similar structures. However, this does not appear to be the case for the Newhall area.

5

The surficial soils underlying the Landmark Village development area are clayey alluvium. This type of soil is expansive when wet. It contracts when dry. This fact alone is of concern regarding heaving and movement of structures situated on such soils, irrespective of seismic activity. Additionally, we know that the area is within the boundaries of the Santa Clarita River flood plain. The soils will continue to be moist, perpetuating instability no matter how well top layers are compacted.

6

Given this unstable land profile, structures atop it are likely to be disrupted and displaced even in the absence of an earthquake. When the potential for earthquakes are factored in, it is clear that geologic concerns regarding development of Landmark Village are not trivial.

7

There are further concerns. Image 3⁵ is a soil liquefaction/land slippage map that shows -- outlined in green -- areas where soil liquefaction is a substantial hazard in the event of an earthquake. In the Newhall EIR (page 4.1-1), concerns of liquefaction and hydroconsolidation are trivialized. However, immediately after, the EIR notes that clayey, rich bedding and weak soils could later be a problem without proper mitigation. This is accurate but it contradicts the previous statement! Clayey material fits the description of expansive soils. Even without the occurrence of an earthquake, liquefaction can occur resulting in the shifting of soil, which may not only disturb housing structures but road-works including the proposed freeway as well.

8

It has been explained that this is a flood plain with hydro-absorbent soils that expand when wet. Even though the body of water that would otherwise run through the area has been diverted, ground water will continue to (slowly) percolate through. This brings up a new hazard that was not addressed: Mitigation to block moisture from entering structures via evaporation. Impermeable barriers are required to block excess moisture from entering the structures. Failure to do so will foster conditions conducive to growth of (toxic) mould. Thus, improper mitigation of a geologic concern is likely to lead to a human health concern. Note that "toxic-tort" lawsuits have been advanced and won throughout the United States precisely because of mould growth resulting from poor foundation sealing. Mould growth, human health impact and need for remedial measures is known, for example in Stevenson Ranch⁶, a development within the same geographical area as Landmark Village.

9

10

From the foregoing, I conclude that the Newhall EIR has inadequately investigated geological factors that impact the project. Secondary risks as identified in this review should receive attention in far greater detail than has been given to-date. In particular, the following should be examined:

11

³ A portion of the San Andreas Fault which is produced the 1994 Northridge Earthquake

⁴ Source: USGS

⁵ California Dept. of Conservation

⁶ Personal communication, Jay L. Stern, 3 April 2007

- Hazards of construction in a flood plain 11
- Mitigation of moisture seeping into structures 12
- Concern due to toxic mould 13
- Examination of seismic risk 14
- Heaving/consolidating soils 15
- Availability of environmental hazard insurance 16
- Soil liquefaction 17

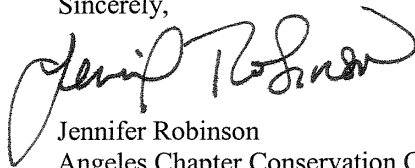
Finally, it needs to be remembered that latitude 34° 32' 49'' N, longitude 118° 30' 45'' W are not only the coordinates of Newhall, but of the site of the St. Francis Dam. It was nearly 80 years ago that the newly constructed dam collapsed killing over 600 people and ravaging the land with debris. The dam straddled an earthquake fault and was constructed atop clayey alluvium.

18

We recommend that, in addition to disclosing these impacts in the EIR, the Commission should require disclosure of them in the buyer's real estate contract, so that new owners will be fully aware of the potential geological and seismic drawbacks they may encounter.

19

Sincerely,



Jennifer Robinson
Angeles Chapter Conservation Coordinator

Jamie Sterns, Research Analyst

Image 1

1997

FAULT-RUPTURE HAZARD ZONES IN CALIFORNIA

15

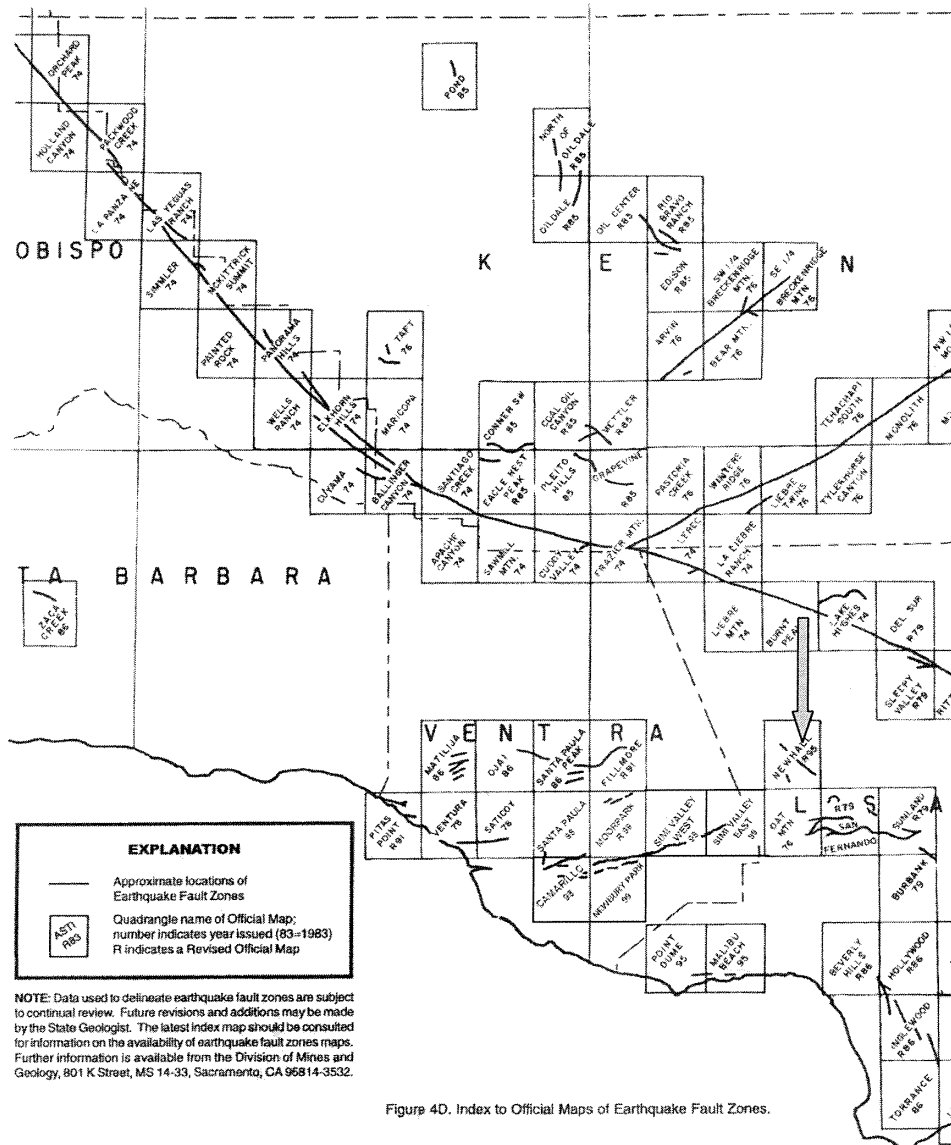


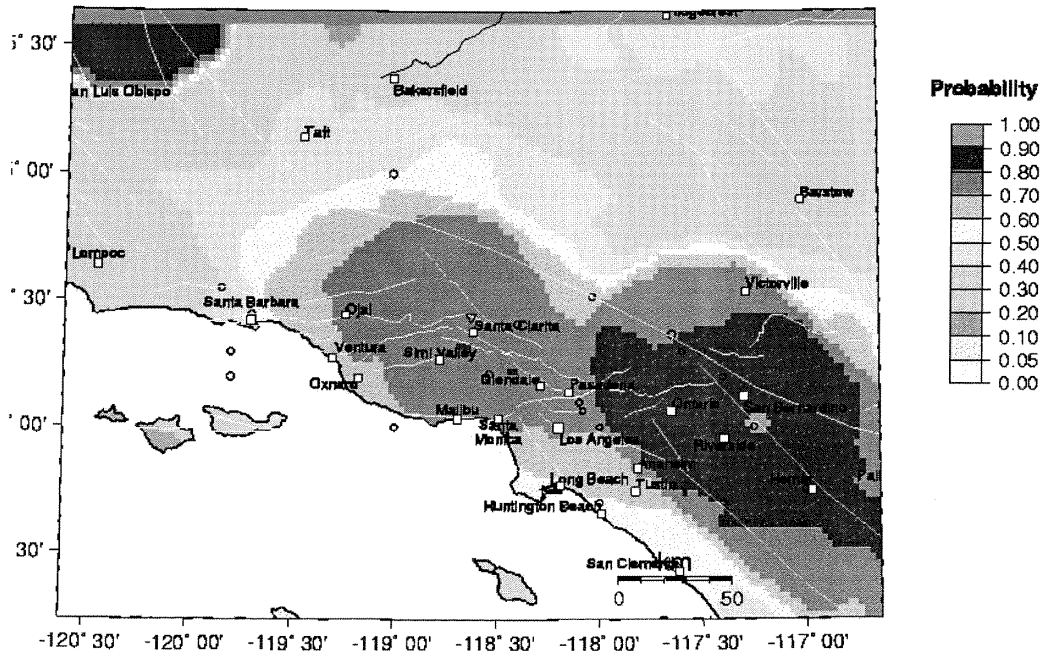
Figure 4D. Index to Official Maps of Earthquake Fault Zones.

Image 2

Probability of earthquake with $M \geq 6.01$ within 30 years & 50 km

U.S. Geological Survey PSHA Model

Site: SANTA CLARITA CA



Apr 508.17 Earthquake probabilities from USGS 2002 PSHA, 50 km maximum horizontal distance. Site of interest: triangle. Fault traces are white; rivers blue. Epicenters $M \geq 6.0$ circles.



Image 4



D34. Letter from Sierra Club, dated April 13, 2007

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

The comment addresses soil type and seismic activity, both of which received analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.1, Geotechnical and Soil Resources, pp. 4.1-6 through 4.1-18. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.1, Geotechnical and Soil Resources, pp. 4.1-13 and 4.1-14, discusses the fact that no known faults exist on the project site and acknowledges the closest faults to the borrow sites for the project as follows:

“No active or potentially active faults have been recognized on either the Landmark Village tract map site or the off-site grading locations on published maps or during site investigations by the project geotechnical engineer (Seward). Because no faults are known to exist, no restricted use areas for faulting are currently recommended for the proposed Landmark Village project.

The Del Valle Fault traverses in a northwest direction across the western utility corridor segment. This Fault Zone is well exposed as a steeply southwest-dipping, 0.75-inch thick, clayey gouge zone with minor sub parallel faults disrupting the surrounding bedrock....”

“Review of published geologic maps, Alquist-Priolo Maps, and the Los Angeles County Safety Element indicates that no active or potentially active faults have been previously recognized on the tract map site. Furthermore, the project geologist (Seward) observed no evidence of surface faulting or past ground rupture during investigations.

Neither the Adobe Canyon borrow site, nor the Chiquito Canyon grading site, lies within any of the state’s Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones. The Los Angeles County Seismic Safety Element does not show any faults at either of the locations. Regional geologic maps do not show any active faults (i.e., faults demonstrated to be active in the last 11,000 years) located on or trending towards these locations. No evidence of active faulting or ground rupture was observed on either of the two sites during reconnaissance field mapping and limited subsurface explorations. The closest known active fault (surface trace) to the Adobe Canyon borrow site is the San Gabriel Fault, located approximately 4.7 miles to the northeast. The closest known active fault (surface trace) to

the Chiquito Canyon grading site is also the San Gabriel Fault, located approximately 3.5 miles to the northeast.

The County's Seismic Safety Element identifies the Del Valle Fault as potentially active. However, there is no known direct evidence of Holocene activity on the Del Valle Fault; therefore, the fault is not within an Alquist-Priolo special studies zone."

Response 4

The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.1, Geotechnical and Soil Resources, p. 4.1-21, acknowledges that while there are no earthquake faults on the project site, the site is subject to ground shaking: "There are no active faults on or in immediate proximity to the Landmark Village tract map site; however, the proposed project would be subject to ground shaking in the event of an earthquake that would result from regional fault activity."

Response 5

Please see **Response 4**, above. The Landmark Village site has a very low potential for liquefaction as discussed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.1, Geotechnical and Soil Resources, p. 4.1-21:

"Liquefaction is the process in which water-saturated, usually loose-to-moderately dense, fine-to-medium sands temporarily lose strength due to strong ground motion and behave as a viscous fluid. The results of the liquefaction assessment for the tract map site indicate that some relatively thin liquefaction-prone zones locally exist at the site at isolated depth intervals. However, more important than the identification of zones of potential liquefaction are the settlements caused by seismic excitation. Even though some thin deposits appear to be liquefiable, the potential seismically-induced settlements in subsurface soils at the Landmark Village tract map site are small. The maximum cumulative calculated settlement is 1.4 inch and differential settlements are expected to be no greater than 0.9 inch in a distance of 30 feet. Certified compacted fill from proposed removals and recompaction, as shown on Figure 4.1-1, is anticipated to attenuate any minor settlements beneath the fill due to bridging effects. Due to the low magnitude of estimated conservative earthquake-induced total and differential settlements, and the proposed recompacted layers, potential impacts associated with liquefaction and seismically induced settlement are considered less than significant."

Response 6

Please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.1, Geotechnical and Soil Resources, pp. 4.1-10 and 4.1-11, which discusses each of the soils found on the site, and which are summarized as having coarse sand with cobbles and boulders, silty sands, clays with sand, and clay. The basis for the Draft EIR's analysis of geotechnical and soil-related issues consists of technical reports and analyses prepared by Allen E. Seward Engineering Geology, Inc. (Seward). Both Seward and R.T. Frankian & Associates were

the geotechnical consultants that formed the geologic and geotechnical reconnaissance and reporting associated with the entire Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. The technical reports prepared by Seward specific to the Landmark Village project site are found in Appendix 4.1 of the Draft EIR. These reports evaluate existing geologic, soil, and geotechnical conditions, identify potentially significant geologic, soil and geotechnical impacts, and identify mitigation measures to reduce the impacts to below a level of significance. The extensive mitigation measures applicable to the Landmark Village project are found in the Draft EIR, at p. 4.1-28 through 4.1-50. The mitigation measures include provisions for foundations and footings (e.g., Mitigation Measures LV 4.1-58 and 4.1-59). There are also mitigation measures specific to expansive soils (e.g., Mitigation Measure 4.1-65), and seismic considerations (e.g., Mitigation Measures LV 4.1-50 through 4.1-52).

Response 7

Please see **Response 5**, above.

Response 8

The comment claims that the EIR is contradictory with respect to liquefaction issues. The environmental consultant, Impact Sciences, Inc., does not concur with this comment. For further information responsive to this comment, please see **Response 5**, above.

Response 9

All structures built on the Landmark Village project site will be constructed to Unified Building Code (UBC) standards, which takes into consideration moisture impacts. If structures are not built to UBC standards, a certificate of occupancy cannot be issued and no residency would be allowed. Consequently, it is speculative to conclude that toxic mold would be present at the project site.

Response 10

Please see **Response 9**, above. Seventy-five geologic mitigation measures have been proposed for the Landmark Village project site, along with requirements by the County to comply with the Uniform Building Code. Consequently, based upon the data presented in the Draft EIR, Section 4.1, Geotechnical and Soil Resources, the County finds that all geologic concerns have been adequately mitigated, including potential future claims associated with mold.

Response 11

The comment concludes that secondary risk geotechnical factors should be examined in more detail such as hazards of construction in a floodplain. Impacts associated with construction in a floodway are discussed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.2, Hydrology, pp. 4.2-29 and 4.2-32. The Landmark Village Draft EIR also concludes that because the Landmark Village tract map site would be elevated above the capital floodplain none of the improvements proposed on the tract map site would be subject to flood hazard from the river or other nearby drainages.

Response 12

Please see **Responses 9** and **10**, above.

Response 13

Please see **Responses 9** and **10**, above.

Response 14

Please see **Responses 2** and **3**, above.

Response 15

It is unclear as to exactly what is referenced regarding the context and terminology of "heaving/consolidating soils." We assume that this terminology refers to lateral spreading and dynamic compaction and differential material response, which directly refers to seismically-induced settlement and permanent movement of poorly consolidated materials. The potential impacts of lateral spreading and dynamic compaction and differential materials response is discussed in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.1, Geotechnical and Soil Resources, pp 4.1-22 and 4.1-23.

Response 16

The comment raises economic, social, or political issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment. 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 required.

Response 17

Please see **Response 5**, above.

Response 18

The comment provides background information, but does not raise an environmental issue regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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 19

The County believes that all of the potential impacts outlined in the comment letter have been addressed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.1, Geotechnical and Soil Resources; and, therefore, no further analysis or disclosure is required.

Disclosure of potential geotechnical impacts in buyers' real estate contracts raises legal, economic, and social issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment. 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, or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

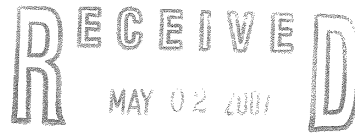


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5-1-07

AH-8



Attn: Susan Tae/ Daniel Fierros
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Landmark Village/Newhall Ranch Tract Map #53108 and all other requested entitlements

Comments on the Air Quality

Dear Ms Tae and Mr. Fierros:

The Sierra Club submits these comments in reliance on Commission Modugno's statement at the 2-28-07 hearing "Because until we take our final action, all of that input of materials that is there is part and parcel with the entirety of this case, and becomes part of the case." We believe the air quality section is incomplete and request that the following changes be made.

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Introduction

Air Quality is an important issue in the Santa Clarita Valley because we already have some of the worst air pollution in the nation. Global warming is occurring as carbon dioxide (CO2) and other green house gas emissions rise, creating serious changes to our local weather patterns that will affect water supply, agriculture, wildlife and the occurrence of wildfires throughout the state of California. Locally, these effects may be devastating and must be addressed. Reduction of these gases and air pollution in general has become a national mandate. They must be addressed with a twofold plan to 1) find alternate sources of clean energy and 2) to change land use patterns to those that will reduce greenhouse gas generation. Urban sprawl, auto-reliant projects such as the Landmark project are prime examples of a high emission generating landuse. Emission reductions and alternatives must be incorporated in such projects if we are ever to reduce local air pollution.

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US Supreme Court Decision

In April of this year the US Supreme Court ruled in a case (*Massachusetts v. EPA*) that the EPA can and should regulate greenhouse gases. In the majority opinion, the Court ruled that carbon dioxide and other global warming pollutants meet the definition of "air

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pollutant[s]" under the plain language of the Clean Air Act (CAA). This ruling, in and of itself, does not compel EPA to issue regulations limiting the emissions of global warming pollutants. However, the CAA states that EPA "shall regulate" any air pollutant "reasonably anticipated" to endanger "public health or welfare," which includes effects upon climate or weather." The Court's secondary ruling compels EPA to follow the CAA provision that states that EPA "shall regulate" any air pollutant that it determines is reasonably anticipated to pose a danger to public health or welfare.

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Since the DEIR already has the mobile source data, generally the main source for evaluating greenhouse gas emissions, it would not be difficult to perform a calculation for greenhouse gas emissions and include it in a re-circulated air quality section of the DEIR. We believe such disclosure is required by CEQA and must be provided in the DEIR.

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Evaluation

The DEIR states that maximum regional annual average PM10 is projected to come from Newhall Ranch. Page 4.9-23 of the DEIR states that the basin exceeded federal standards for O3, PM10, and PM2.5 on 58 days in 2001. In 2001, 9 out of 10 locations in the nation that exceeded the 1-hour federal standard for O3 were in the basin. Page 4.9-36 states that mobile sources [automobiles, etc.] are the major contributors to CO (98%), NOx (89%), SOx (58%), and VOC (64%) in the basin. Stationary and area sources are the major contributors to PM10 (86%) and PM2.5 (70%) emissions.

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Page 4.9-2: states that it is not possible to reduce the CO, VOC, NOx or PM10 emissions to bellow the SCAQMDs thresholds during construction or during operation. PM2.5 is not even mentioned although Santa Clarita has also posted some of the highest pollution in the nation in this category. And the DEIR also admits that the project will be emitting unavoidably high levels of pollutants into the air during both construction and operation of the project. But then it obfuscates and minimizes this finding with a confusing and out of date interpretation of the Air Quality Handbook, stating that cumulative air quality impacts would not be significant based on the SCAQMDs Air Quality Handbook. It is counterintuitive and incorrect to imply that adding 357,000 trips per day (specific plan at build out) or even just the approximate 41,884 trips per day generated by the residential and commercial buildout of this tract (see page 4.7-28 for traffic generation, according to the DEIR¹), that there will be no cumulative impacts to air quality in Santa Clarita. This statement should be corrected. This interpretation does not comply with CEQA.

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On page 4.9- 3 of the report tries to offset the pollution by highlighting the reduction in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for employees of the new facilities, but this reduction is not enough to offset the operational air pollution. Further, estimates of bus ridership and public access to rail transportation is speculative at best. The VTM seem to be underestimated (see footnote 1), a calculation that must be revised to accurately predict air quality impacts.

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¹ It should be noted that both CalTrans and the City of Santa Clarita have submitted correspondence suggesting that the trip generation figures are substantially understated.

Page 4.9-9 states that “currently”², the ARB has designated the Basin as an extreme non-attainment area for ozone (O₃) with the 1 hour standard, a non-attainment area for PM₁₀, attainment for CO and sulfates, unclassified for hydrogen sulfide, and attainment or unclassified for NO₂, SO₂, Pb and visibility reducing particles. No designation exists for vinyl chloride. There is no indication of the non-attainment for PM_{2.5}. ***Avoidance of the PM_{2.5} issue constitutes a failure to disclose on the part of this DEIR.***

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Failure to Evaluate and disclose PM_{2.5} pollution generated by this project

Page 4.9-13 states that the development will be subject to SCAQMD Rules and Regulations, however, the DEIR does comply with the most recent regulations regarding PM_{2.5}. These rules were approved in October of 2006, before the DEIR was released and are readily and easily available on the AQMD website. Footnotes in the DEIR indicate discussions with the SCAQMD occurred in 2006 during the period that this rule was being developed, so we do not understand why this information would not have been included in the DEIR.

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Instead the DEIR states:

"No model to predict emissions of PM_{2.5} from future development project exists and the SCAQMD has not established emission-based threshold of significance for PM_{2.5} at the time of this writing. Because no model is currently available to assess potential PM_{2.5} impacts from new land development projects, they cannot be assessed separately from the impacts of PM₁₀ emissions as a whole. However, because PM_{2.5} is a subset of PM₁₀, as described above, the project's PM_{2.5} emissions are inherently calculated along with PM₁₀ emissions" (Page 8, Air Quality Section 4.9).

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The calculation method is fairly simple, one may merely use the appendix of the pollution records to isolate the different type of particulate emissions and use a fraction to convert them into PM_{2.5}, then re-total them. This calculation is time consuming but not overly complicated. Even though PM_{2.5} levels are "inherently calculated" with PM₁₀ levels, the ratios are totally different, and both particulates affect human health in different ways (hence, the EPA labeled them both criteria pollutants). ***Therefore this failure must be corrected in a re-circulated air quality section.***

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Page 4.9-14 states that southern winds blow pollution into the Santa Clarita Valley from Los Angeles and that there is very little contribution from the valley itself. However the report from which the DEIR cites this fact actually states about 50% of the air pollution is generated on days when this wind is blowing by pollution generated in the SCV. The DEIR does not discuss pollution generated on days when a southerly wind is NOT blowing. This evaluation should be completed so that mitigation recommendations can be made.

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² We are not sure to what date this infers, since the DEIR makes citation dated from 2003 to 2006, but does not include Rules and Regulations promulgated in 2006 prior to its release.

Throughout the DEIR, many references indicated that the project would be reducing VMT whenever possible. It never gave a quantifiable amount of VMT reduction, but rather just that it would always be reduced as much as possible. It is probably true that most people who move into Landmark Village will already have jobs or not work in the new commercial developments, but that is impossible to say for sure. However, such an overestimation would make their calculations of the VMT inaccurate. Concern over inaccurate traffic generation data that indicates a reduced number of VMT was expressed both in comment letters from the City of Santa Clarita and from CalTrans. We concur with this concern and ask that traffic generation data and the resulting air pollution data be revised upwards to reflect the true traffic and air pollution generated by this project.

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Page 4.9- 52 states that construction emissions would exceed one or more of the SCAQMD's construction thresholds of significance during all but one of the construction subphases. When thresholds are violated, they range anywhere from twice the threshold to over ten times the threshold. Mitigation efforts are required and are discussed later in the EIR, but are not sufficient to reduce the air pollution below critical levels.

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Page 4.9- 52 appears to contain a disclosure error. The emission level for NOx during weeks 221-220 in Table 4.9-17: Estimated Unmitigated Construction Emissions is reported as 374.61 lbs/day, which exceeds the threshold of 100.00 lbs/day. However, the Table says this does NOT exceed the threshold. This needs to be corrected.

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The Sierra Club is especially concern about air quality impacts to sensitive receptors, i.e., children and schools. Page 4.9-56 states that the impact of the project on local residential receptors exceeds SCAQMD thresholds for PM10 and NO2. The impact of the project on local workplace receptors exceeds SCAQMD thresholds for PM10 and NO2. The impact of the project on local sensitive receptors exceeds SCAQMD thresholds for PM10. It is unclear in the document whether these vales are only for the construction emissions. If this is so, then these same impact values are not calculated for the operational impacts, which needs to be corrected.

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Page 4.9-58 states that for point source emissions, the EIR assumes that all dry cleaning establishments would send the clothes to preexisting off-site locations to be cleaned; therefore assuming that no cleaning would be done on site so no permit would be required. However, many dry cleaning establishments do cleaning on site, and unless the development is conditioned to not such places to operate, they must take into account the possibility that an on site dry cleaning business may occupy the commercial area of the site. These establishments release harmful chemicals, and must be regulated. Page 84 states that no on-site dry cleaning operations will be permitted within Landmark Village, and the required project condition cited in the body of the DEIR. This needs to be made clear on page 58 as well.

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Inadequate or Incorrect Identification of Mitigation Calculations and Measures

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Page 4.9-1 states that most air quality standards will not be met, and that most would exceed SCAQMD thresholds. A list of mitigation measures are included in this chapter beginning on page 4.9-69. However, the list is prefaced with the statement:

“..shall implement the following if found applicable and feasible.”

That statement provides an opportunity to avoid **any** mitigation merely by stating that it is not feasible. Further, some of the proposed measures are obviously unenforceable such as the measures proposed for commercial uses beginning on page 4.9-72. It is not enough to simply state that levels are exceeded and list possible remedies, the DEIR must describe action to remedy the pollution. The mitigation measures must be real and enforceable and be concretely stated for this subdivision so that the public has some idea what the County has actually required the applicant to do to mitigate the air pollution.

Page 4.9- 45 further states that Landmark Village is required to implement the mitigation measures from the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR (May 2003) which would directly and indirectly reduce the project’s air emissions. No specific data on the predicted amount of reduction were given.

Page 4.9-45/46 states that bus turn-ins will be included to promote public transit. Who will provide the bus service? How will such service be guaranteed, since it is to be counted as reducing VMT? These pages also state that land will be set aside for Metrolink rail right-of-way and a park and ride and/or train station. However, the rail extension is part of a long-term plan, with no dates or goals given for its completion. The right of way through the City of Santa Clarita to the Metrolink is no longer available. Since the rail service would provide the largest decrease in individual automobile traffic, this does not seem to be a substantial mitigation effort. From the perspective of someone only reading the EIR, they would think that Newhall was planning to add light rail support within five years. The DEIR includes the train in its VMT estimates and air pollution reduction as part of their long-term plan.

In Appendix 4.9c3 (the calculations), no specific references could be found for trains, let alone the destination of such trains. Since the train line has yet to be built to the project site the DEIR may not have included it in their calculations. If they did, then they incorporated it into their reduction in auto travel without flagging it as a reduction based on train service. However, these calculations were part of a computer algorithm, so it is impossible to know for sure. This issue should be clarified.

Page 4.9-81 states that: Landmark Village (LV) mitigation efforts for construction include using aqueous fuel, which reduces NOx emissions by 14% and PM10 emissions by 63%. However, this only applies to vehicle exhaust. While this has a significant impact on the NOx emission level, it only adds 23 weeks SCAQMD threshold attainment. Also, this barely has any impact on PM10 emissions, reducing emissions from 100-180 lbs/day in the first three subphases. Considering the first three subphases are all over 6,860 lbs/day of emissions, this is not a significant reduction. Additional mitigation measures would be necessary to lower PM10 emissions to acceptable levels and bring more subphases of NOx emissions within threshold levels.

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Page 4.9-82 appears to contain a significant error. The DEIR states that “VOC exceedances would be reduced from 51 months to less than 2 months”, yet then goes on to say “construction emission thresholds for VOC, NOx, and PM10 emissions would still be exceeded for approximately 48, 90, and 11 months, respectively.” Unless these are typos, both of these statements are blatantly incorrect, according to Table 4.9-25: Estimated Mitigated Construction Emissions. These errors must be corrected in a re-circulated document.

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On Page 4.9- 83, the emission level for NOx during weeks 221-220 in Table 4.9-25: Estimated Mitigated Construction Emissions is reported as 173.21 lbs/day, which exceeds the threshold of 100.00 lbs/day. However, the Table says this does NOT exceed the threshold. This statement needs to be corrected.

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Also on 4.9- 83, Table 4.9-25 Estimated Mitigated Construction Emissions does not accurately portray the amount of mitigation occurring. According to the percentages of emissions reduced given on pages 70, 81, and 82, independent calculations did not seem to establish the same results published in Table 4.9-25: Estimated Mitigated Construction Emissions. While most of the independently calculated values were close to the published values, some of them were drastically inaccurate. Upon checking Appendix 4.9, which is supposed to contain the calculations, only additional tables were given detailing the specific types of emissions giving off the pollutants and what specific mitigation efforts had been done. However, the totals on these tables do not match Table 4.9-25 for the most part, and no calculations were given, so it is impossible to double check the work. The re-circulated document should identify how these figures were derived, and why they don’t match independent calculations or their own tables in the appendix.

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Page 88 states that certain significant unavoidable impacts do exist. The project’s construction related emissions of VOC, NOx, and PM10, and operation-related emissions of CO, VOC, and NOx are considered significant and unavoidable at this time with current technology. (Again, PM2.5 is not calculated or disclosed as required by law). However, the DEIR states that because the project shows a one percent per year reduction in project emissions of CO, VOC, NOx, SOx, and PM10 in compliance with 2003 AQMP, the project would not contribute significant cumulative impacts according to SCAQMD. Since the DEIR consultants must be aware the AQMD is in the process of changing this policy, (if they haven’t already done so) and said policy does NOT conform to the CEQA definition of significant cumulative impacts, it is deceptive to make such statements without a strong clarification that this policy does not comply with state law.

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Conclusion

The air quality section of the Landmark Village Draft EIR is incomplete, often inaccurate, and needs revision and additional data in several areas. Also, identification and quantification of mitigation measures must be presented in order for the document to comply with CEQA. We request that the problems identified above analyzing the specific values of the pollution be corrected. While the operational emissions data seems

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to be correct, the construction emissions data does not match independent analysis nor does it match its own included calculations in Appendix 4.9. Without knowing the original methods used to derive these figures, it is difficult to verify the data and make sure it is valid. The methodology used should be included in the FEIR. Since the construction emissions are claimed to be some of the largest emissions of the project, this is an area that needs much more investigation before the final EIR is filed.

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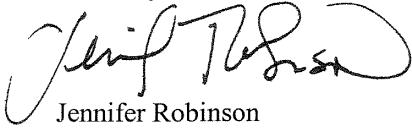
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Thank-you for your time. We look forward to reviewing the Final EIR.

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Sincerely,



Jennifer Robinson
Conservation Coordinator

Karl Fielding, Research Analyst

D35. Letter from Sierra Club, dated May 1, 2007

Response 1

The comment restates Commissioner Modugno's statement that all documents and correspondence submitted to the County, as lead agency, become part of the Landmark Village matter until the Planning Commission takes final action. The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment claims that the air quality section is incomplete and requests certain changes. This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses local air quality in the Santa Clarita Valley as well as global warming. With respect to air quality in the Santa Clarita Valley, the comment restates information contained in the Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, but does not address or question the content of the EIR. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required. As for the comments on global warming and related impacts, please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information.

In addition, as evidenced below, Landmark Village, as with all of Newhall Ranch, incorporates the components of a sustainable or smart growth community.

- **Mix of Land Uses.** Landmark Village, along with the other villages in Newhall Ranch, will include a broad range of housing types, including affordable housing, along with commercial, office, and public facilities. As to Landmark Village, a diverse range of 1,444 homes (308 single-family and 1,136 multi-family units) would be provided. To minimize and shorten vehicle trips, most homes will be within walking distances to the Landmark Village community's commercial and mixed-use areas, elementary school site, community park, and trail system. Finally, Landmark Village is located adjacent to the Valencia Commerce Center, one of the largest employment centers in the Santa Clarita Valley. Bike and pedestrian trails within Newhall Ranch and Landmark Village will connect to trails within the Valencia Commerce Center.
- **Provision of Jobs.** A portion of Newhall Ranch's projected 19,000 new jobs would be offered through Landmark Village's mixed-use and commercial areas. Newhall Ranch is adjacent to the

existing Valencia Gateway (which includes the Valencia Commerce Center), which presently provides 50,000 jobs. Other development within Valencia Gateway will create an additional 30,000 jobs. When completed, the job centers in Newhall Ranch and Valencia will have resulted in the creation of approximately 100,000 jobs in the Santa Clarita Valley. A balanced jobs-housing base is a critical component to a sustainable community because it allows people to work close to home and minimizes vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

- **Locating of Residential Uses in Close Proximity to Commercial Services/Public Spaces.** Nearly 60 percent of the residential units in Newhall Ranch will be located within walking distance of village or commercial centers. This is clearly documented by the Landmark Village land plan. Residents within Landmark Village will be able to utilize paseos/trails and/or the Santa Clara River Regional Trail to walk to commercial centers, private recreational facilities, the elementary school and a community park. As stated above, this traditional neighborhood design minimizes vehicle trips.
- **Provision of Transit and Light Rail Right-of-Way.** Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will be part of the Santa Clarita Transit system and will pay its fair share for transit service to the community. Transit improvements within Newhall Ranch will include a park-and-ride lot, a future transit station, transfer station, bus stops, and preservation of light rail right-of-way. Landmark Village will include a total of five bus stops, a park-and-ride lot, and the preservation of light rail right-of-way along SR-126. The provision of transit and the accommodation of light rail encourage residents to rely less on vehicular travel.
- **Open Space, Recreation, and Preservation of Sensitive Resource Areas.** Newhall Ranch, of which Landmark Village is a part, includes the preservation of the High Country, Salt Creek Corridor and the Santa Clara River and internal open areas – a total of nearly 7,800 acres. A total of three community parks (Landmark includes the first) and up to ten neighborhood parks will be provided as part of Newhall Ranch. Finally, private recreation facilities will be provided throughout the entire Ranch providing additional recreational opportunities to residents. In short, Landmark Village’s design connects jobs, retail, schools, parks, and recreation facilities with the community’s trail system to promote walking and biking while minimizing vehicle trips.
- **Hierarchy of Trails.** Newhall Ranch will include over 50 miles of trails to encourage pedestrian mobility. Landmark Village includes a 2-mile extension of the Santa Clara River trail, with direct connections to residential, commercial, and park uses, and various paseos including the paseo running along “A” Street or the Landmark Village Spine Road. This design also is intended to minimize vehicle trips.
- **Reducing Impermeable Surfaces.** To curtail urban runoff and maximize groundwater recharge, Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will utilize open/soft bottom channels, smaller street sections, where possible, increased native landscape areas, and non-structural water quality treatment improvements.
- **Water Conservation and Re-Use.** Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will utilize native, drought-tolerant plants in the community’s landscaping, use recycled water for irrigation, and evapotranspiration controllers (i.e., weather-sensitive sprinklers) to reduce potable water demand and runoff.

- **Traffic/Transportation Improvements.** Landmark Village’s traffic circulation plan, which is consistent with all of Newhall Ranch, minimizes vehicle trips and reduces greenhouse gas emissions through the design of internal roads in conjunction with homes, school site, commercial areas, and trail system. Transit is included in the traditional neighborhood design, and it includes a park-and-ride lot and bus stops. Additionally, a 5-mile right-of-way for a potential Metrolink light rail extension is accommodated along SR-126. Trails and bike paths leading to close-to-home jobs, neighborhood-serving retail, and the school encourage residents to reduce VMT. The applicant also has committed to fund \$300 million in roadway improvements in the Santa Clarita Valley in conjunction with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, including Landmark Village, to improve traffic movement and circulation.

The project applicant also has prepared a “Sustainability Summary” for Landmark Village that identifies the above project design features and includes green building measures. Please see **Appendix F** of this Final EIR for this summary.

Response 4

The comment addresses the need for clean alternative sources of energy and changes in land use patterns to reduce greenhouse gas generation. Please see **Response 3**, above.

Response 5

The comment cites the proposed project as an example of “urban sprawl,” which contains high-emission generating land use.

In further response to comments concerning urban “sprawl,” the County wishes to clarify that the planning of Newhall Ranch does not implicate such issues; on the contrary, Newhall Ranch has been situated and designed to promote smart growth planning principles. Newhall Ranch is immediately adjacent to existing infrastructure, major transportation corridors, a major employment center, and is within an established region identified for urban growth by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). It is surrounded on its southern and eastern boundaries by urban areas, including the City of Santa Clarita, and the communities of Stevenson Ranch and Westridge, with a combined population of over 250,000 people. The Magic Mountain Theme Park is also located along Newhall Ranch's eastern boundary. SR-126 bisects its northern boundary. Directly adjacent to the north is the Castaic community and the Valencia Gateway, currently home to over 60,000 jobs. Valencia Gateway is the primary employment center for northern Los Angeles County and represents almost 80 percent of local employment.

Additionally, Newhall Ranch will dedicate to the public approximately 6,000 acres of property that is now privately owned, including portions of the Santa Clara River, representing more than half of its 12,000 acres. This dedication to a public Joint Powers Authority comes with an endowment to restore

and enhance habitat. Wildlife corridors are preserved. An additional 1,500 acres of property in Ventura County that is not part of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, but is adjacent to its western boundary, will be preserved as well. Over 80 percent of the oak trees on Newhall Ranch will be preserved, along with 64 acres of San Fernando Valley Spineflower preserves, which were deeded to the state in advance of approval.

The planning for Newhall Ranch has gone through a detailed public review and approval process for well over a decade. Many public and environmental groups have commented on that planning effort and, today, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan is approved and in the implementation stages.

With respect to the project's greenhouse gas emissions, please see **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 6

The comment suggests that emission reductions and alternatives must be incorporated into the project to reduce local air pollution. The Draft Landmark Village EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, includes mitigation measures to reduce air pollutant emissions, and Section 5.0, Alternatives, evaluates a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project.

Response 7

The comment refers to the Supreme Court's decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, and provides background information concerning that court decision, but does not raise an issue over the content or adequacy of the Draft EIR. In addition, the Supreme Court's recent decision is addressed in the Final EIR in **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions And Global Climate Change**.

Response 8

The comment suggests that greenhouse gas emissions should be estimated. Please see **Response 3**, above. In addition, although both the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the California Climate Action Registry have published protocols for estimating greenhouse gas emissions from particular processes, neither SCAQMD nor the California Air Resources Board has developed guidelines for the preparation of greenhouse gas emission inventories for CEQA purposes. As questions such as, which emissions to consider as "new" are critical to the preparation of an inventory, absent such guidance, this response does not quantify greenhouse gas emissions from the proposed Landmark Village project.

Response 9

The comment notes statements regarding ambient air quality and relative sources of emissions in the South Coast Air Basin from the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment restates information contained in the Draft EIR, but does not raise an issue over the content or adequacy of the Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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 10

The comment notes a statement in the Landmark Village Draft EIR regarding the inability of the proposed project to reduce its CO, VOC, NO_x, and PM₁₀ construction or operational emissions to less than the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) thresholds of significance. The comment restates information contained in the Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, but does not raise an issue over the content or adequacy of the Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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 11

The comment suggests that fine particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}) is not mentioned in the Landmark Village Draft EIR. PM_{2.5} is discussed throughout Section 4.9, Air Quality, of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. In particular, the PM_{2.5} concentrations in the South Coast Air Basin and in the Santa Clarita area are shown in Tables 4.9-8, 4.9-9, and 4.9-16, respectively. The comment regarding Santa Clarita posting some of the highest pollution in the nation appears to be opinion as no facts have been provided to support such a statement. Nonetheless, 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 12

The comment notes that the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, indicates the project will emit unavoidable levels of pollutants during construction and operations. The comment restates information contained in the Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, but does not raise an issue over the content or adequacy of the Draft EIR. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 13

The comment states that the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, minimizes cumulative air quality impacts by stating that they would not be significant based on methods prescribed in the SCAQMD's *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*. Cumulative air quality impacts would be less than significant using methodology from the 1993 *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*. It is acknowledged that the SCAQMD is in the process of developing an *Air Quality Analysis Guidance Handbook* to replace the 1993 *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*. However, at the time of this writing, the guidance handbook has not been completed or adopted. While the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, relied upon the 1993 document for guidance, the Draft EIR, at p. 4.9-87, nonetheless, made the following finding that the project would result in significant and unavoidable air quality impacts for O₃ (VOC and NO_x as O₃ precursors), PM₁₀, and CO (Los Angeles County) because the South Coast Air Basin was in nonattainment for these pollutants at the time the Draft EIR was published:

“Even though the project shows at least a one percent per year reduction in project emissions of CO, VOC, NO_x, and PM₁₀, and likely a similar reduction in SO_x emissions, and even though the project is consistent with 2003 AQMP, as a conservative and ‘worst-case’ approach, the project does increase emissions in an air basin, which is in nonattainment for O₃ (VOC and NO_x as O₃ precursors), PM₁₀, and CO (Los Angeles County). Therefore, the project is considered to result in *significant* adverse cumulative air quality impacts.” (Emphasis added.)

This same finding also was made in the Draft EIR, Section 4.9, p. 4.9-88, in the summary of the Landmark Village project's significant unavoidable cumulative impacts.

Response 14

The comment states that it is counterintuitive and incorrect to imply that there would be “no cumulative impacts to air quality in Santa Clarita.” The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, does not state that there will be no cumulative air quality impacts in Santa Clarita. The Draft EIR also makes it clear that the Landmark Village project would result in significant and unavoidable air quality impacts for O₃ (VOC and NO_x as O₃ precursors), PM₁₀, and CO (Los Angeles County) as noted in **Response 13**, above.

Response 15

The comment states that the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, tries to off-set the emissions from the project due to a reduction in the VMT by employees of new facilities. The emissions were estimated using the URBEMIS2002 land use and air emission model (recommended by the SCAQMD) and trip generation rates provided in the traffic report for the project. No adjustment was made for these VMT.

The comment is also referencing p. 4.9-3 of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. On that page, a summary is provided of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR findings as they relate to the Specific Plan's construction and operational emissions, which were considered significant and unavoidable. The discussion was provided for background purposes only. It does not attempt to "offset" air quality impacts with the reduction in VMT.

Response 16

The comment states that bus ridership and public access to rail transportation is speculative at best. There is no way to guarantee that individuals would ride buses to and from and within Newhall Ranch; however, transit ridership would be encouraged because the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, including Landmark Village, is required to provide infrastructure for bus transit service and public access to rail transportation. Specifically, when the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan was adopted and the Program EIR was certified, it included mitigation measures that require:

- On-site or off-site bus stops (e.g., bus turnouts, passenger benches, and shelters) (Mitigation Measures SP 4.10-9 c., ab, and be.)
- Shuttles to major rail transit stations and multi-modal centers (Mitigation Measures SP 4.10-9 f., ah, and bj.)
- Contribution to regional transit systems (e.g., right-of-way, capital improvements, etc.) (Mitigation Measures SP 4.10-9 g., ai, and bk.)
- Retail facilities or special event centers to offer travel incentives such as discounts on purchases for transit riders (Mitigation Measure SP 4.10-9 y.)

Therefore, with provision of bus service infrastructure, shuttles to major rail transit centers or multi-modal stations, contributions to regional transit systems, and incentives for transit riders, public access to rail transportation would not be speculative, and transit ridership would be strongly encouraged and highly likely. Nonetheless, the mitigated estimated operational emissions reflect emission reduction percentages provided in the SCAQMD's *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* rather than an estimate of the ability of public transit to reduce trip generation.

Response 17

The comment states that the VMT seem to be underestimated and that the calculation must be revised to accurately predict air quality impacts, and also references letters from Caltrans and the City of Santa Clarita regarding trip generation. The VMT used to calculate air emissions is based on the trip generation from the traffic study for the Landmark Village project and trip lengths that are incorporated into the URBEMIS2002 land use and air emissions estimation model. The comment does not support the opinion

that the VMT used for the project are underestimated. The trip generation rates used by the project are from the City of Santa Clarita traffic model and the vehicle trip generation estimates for the project were based on the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) *Trip Generation Manual*, which is one of the most widely accepted trip generation rate sources, as well as local conditions. Use of ITE trip generation rates for the project are shown in Table 4.7-9, Project Trip Generation and Trip Rate Summary, of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access.

In addition, in connection with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan environmental documentation, it was previously asserted that the internal capture rate of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan appeared to be “overstated.” The final environmental documentation (Final Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR, Volume III, November 24, 1997, pp. TR-34 -36) included “Topical Response 7.” In that response, the County provided supporting data for the EIR’s forecast of the Specific Plan’s internal capture of project-generated traffic. All such issues were considered and debated, and the County’s Board of Supervisors elected to approve the Specific Plan and related project-approvals and to certify the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR. Based upon that prior analysis, the County believes that the internal capture of project-generated traffic is supported by the Landmark Village Draft EIR and the previously certified Newhall Ranch environmental documentation.

Response 18

The comment notes the status of the South Coast Air Basin with respect to the California Ambient Air Quality Standards. This portion of the comment restates information contained in the Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, but does not address or question the content of the EIR. The comment also points out that the status of the South Coast Air Basin with respect to the California Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM_{2.5} was omitted. The South Coast Air Basin is designated by the California Air Resources Board as a nonattainment area for PM_{2.5}. This correction has been made on p. 4.9-9 in the Final EIR. Please refer to the Final EIR **Section 3.0, Revised Draft EIR Pages**, for the requested revision.

In addition, the comment refers to the status of hydrogen sulfide and vinyl chloride, but these constituents are not relevant to the Landmark Village project site. First, the project does not include any mining, milling, smelting, landfills, sewer plants, or cement manufacturing, which are the sources of vinyl chloride emissions. Second, the project does not involve mining, refining, manufacturing or decomposition of organic matter, the sources for hydrogen sulfide emissions. The focus of the EIR’s air quality evaluation was on the criteria pollutants for which federal and state standards have been promulgated and that are most relevant to air quality in the South Coast Basin.

Response 19

The comment indicates that while the Landmark Village Draft EIR states the proposed project will be subject to SCAQMD rules and regulations, the Draft EIR does not comply with a “rule” adopted in October 2006 regarding PM_{2.5}. First, the “rule” being referred to is in actuality the thresholds of significance for PM_{2.5}, which were approved by the District Governing Board on October 6, 2006. As with other thresholds of significance approved by the Governing Board, the new thresholds for PM_{2.5} are not a rule, but rather, guidance. The SCAQMD recommends thresholds, as well as methodologies, for lead agencies to use in their analysis. Lead agencies are free to choose whether to follow the District’s recommendations. Second, while the PM_{2.5} thresholds were approved on October 6, 2006, six weeks prior to the release of the Landmark Village Draft EIR on November 20, 2006, the SCAQMD staff stated that they would begin to make comments regarding analysis with respect the PM_{2.5} thresholds on CEQA documents starting in January 2007.^a Furthermore, this issue was not raised by the SCAQMD in response to the Notice of Preparation, which was released in January 2004. Also, Section 15126.2 of the State *CEQA Guidelines* states, “the lead agency should normally limit its examination to changes in the existing physical conditions in the affected area as they exist at the time the notice of preparation is published.” The SCAQMD’s PM_{2.5} thresholds were not approved until well after the Notice of Preparation was published. The County Department of Regional Planning, understanding that the new thresholds would be phased in for documents currently in preparation, followed the SCAQMD guidance and did not require this additional analysis to be prepared.

Response 20

The comment restates information contained in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, but does not raise an issue over the content or adequacy of the Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 21

The comment suggests that the estimation of PM_{2.5} is “fairly simple.” The comment expresses the opinions of the Sierra Club. Based on the analysis reflected in **Response 19**, above, there is no rule requiring the project's PM_{2.5} emissions to be calculated.

^a South Coast Air Quality Management District, Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 Significance Thresholds and Calculation Methodology. [Online] December 5, 2006. <http://aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/PM2_5/PM2_5.html>

Response 22

The comment provides other reasons that the commentator thinks that PM_{2.5} emissions should have been evaluated. The comment agrees that PM_{2.5} emissions are inherently calculated with the PM₁₀, as PM_{2.5} is a subset of PM₁₀ as stated in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality; thus, no further response is required. It is unclear what the commentator meant by “the ratios are totally different.” While it is agreed that PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ affect human health in different ways (although both primarily affect respiratory functions), this would not be a reason for conducting separate evaluations of the two forms of particulate matter. Estimating emissions and comparing them to their respective thresholds of significance does not address the differences in their health effects. Furthermore, the reasons that PM_{2.5} emissions and associated impacts were not evaluated in the Draft EIR are explained in **Response 19**, above.

Response 23

The comment expresses the opinions of the Sierra Club. The reasons that PM_{2.5} emissions and associated impacts were not evaluated in the Draft EIR are explained in **Response 19**, above.

Response 24

The comment suggests SCAQMD’s subregional study of the Santa Clarita Valley states that about 50 percent of the air pollution in the Santa Clarita Valley when the wind is blowing from the south is generated in the Valley. A review of the SCAQMD’s subregional study of the Santa Clarita Valley did not disclose this, or a similar, statement. Nonetheless, a key finding of the study was that ozone and PM₁₀ levels in the Santa Clarita Valley are dominated by transport from the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles and that Santa Clarita emissions contribute about two percent to local ozone impact and about 10 percent to the annual average observed PM₁₀ concentrations.

Response 25

The comment states that the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, does not discuss air pollution in the Santa Clarita Valley under certain meteorological conditions (i.e., when a southerly wind is not blowing) and that this evaluation should be completed so that mitigation recommendations can be made. The discussion of the SCAQMD’s subregional study of the Santa Clarita Valley in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, was simply meant to aid in the discussion of local air quality conditions and contributing factors. The discussion was intended only to summarize the key findings of the study. However, the subregional study does indicate “that on weak or local transport days, Santa

Clarita was simulated to attain the federal [ozone ambient air quality] standard.”^b The study further reports that “average” transport conditions, when moderate to strong sea breezes blow through the Santa Clara River Valley and from the south through Newhall Pass, occur most of the time (66 percent), while “local” transport conditions, when calm to weak offshore winds blow, and “weak” transport conditions, when light onshore winds blow, occur six and 20 percent of the time, respectively. Thus, the study found that under the less common wind conditions accompanied by lower transport of air pollutants from outside the Santa Clarita Valley, the impacts on ozone levels in the Santa Clarita Valley would be lower than when prevailing southerly winds are blowing. Because this study was not intended to evaluate project-specific impacts (specifically, the impacts of the Landmark Village or the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan), no mitigation measures are required.

Response 26

The comment implies that reductions in VMT were not quantified. The statements to potential reductions in VMT due to the design of the Landmark Village project and the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan were qualitative and not quantitative. No adjustments of trips or VMT were made, except to the extent that such reductions are reflected in the SCAQMD’s estimates of the degree of mitigation as indicated in its *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*. These reductions were used to estimate the mitigated operational emissions. In these cases, the VMT was not reduced, but rather the emissions associated with mobile sources are adjusted by a certain percentage to reflect the benefits of the mitigation measure.

Response 27

The comment suggests that it is not possible to estimate the reductions in VMT due to project residents working in the new commercial development associated with the project. As stated in **Response 26**, above, no specific reductions were taken to reflect the potential reduction in VMT.

Response 28

The comment refers to questions regarding traffic generation data expressed in letters from the City of Santa Clarita and Caltrans. Please see **Response 17**, above, for information responsive to this comment.

^b South Coast Air Quality Management District, Santa Clarita Subregional Analysis. November 2004. [Online] <<http://www.aqmd.gov/ej/pdf/santaclaritasubregionalanalysis.pdf>>

Response 29

The comment concurs with questions regarding traffic generation data expressed in letters from the City of Santa Clarita and Caltrans and requests that the traffic generation and air emissions be adjusted upward. Please see **Response 28**, above. The operational air emissions reflect the results of the traffic analysis for the project (see Appendix 4.7 of the Draft EIR and the assumptions in the URBEMIS2002 land use and air emissions model).

Response 30

The comment restates information contained in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, regarding construction emissions and the inability of the mitigation measures to reduce the levels to less than the SCAQMD's significance thresholds, but does not raise an issue over the content or adequacy of the Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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 31

The comment states that a conclusion regarding the significance of the construction emissions shown in Table 4.9-17 of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, is incorrect. This has been revised in the Final EIR. This does not raise a new environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA, because the construction emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) were found to be significant and unavoidable. Please refer to the Final EIR **Section 3.0, Revised Draft EIR Pages** for the requested revisions.

Response 32

The comment restates information contained in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, regarding construction emissions and the impacts to sensitive, residential, and workplace receptors. 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 regarding the content of the Draft Landmark Village EIR, no further response is required.

Response 33

The comment suggests that the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, is unclear whether the localized significance thresholds analysis applies only to construction emissions. The Draft EIR clearly states on p. 4.9-53 that this analysis is intended to "analyze ambient PM₁₀, NO₂, and CO concentrations (fugitive dust and motor vehicle and equipment exhaust) due to *construction* of the

proposed project on ambient air quality concentrations in the vicinity of the construction site.” (Emphasis added.)

Response 34

The comment suggests that the localized significance thresholds analysis should also be performed for the operation of the proposed project in addition to its construction phase. The SCAQMD’s *Final Localized Significance Threshold Methodology* recommends that operational impact be evaluated for the following sources:

“The primary emissions from operational activities include, but are not limited to NO_x and CO combustion emissions from stationary sources and/or on-site mobile equipment. Some operational activities may also include fugitive PM₁₀ dust generating activities such as aggregate operations or earthmoving activities at landfills. Off-site mobile emissions from the project should NOT be included in the emissions compared to the LSTs [localized significance thresholds].”^c

The primary sources of operational emissions of NO_x, CO, and PM₁₀ from the Landmark Village project are motor vehicles and dispersed area sources, such as residential fuel combustion. Furthermore, many of the motor vehicles would travel beyond the Landmark Village project site. There would be no substantive stationary sources on the project site for which dispersing modeling to determine ambient air quality impacts for comparison with the localized significance threshold would be appropriate. 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 35

The comment states that the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, must clearly state that no on-site dry cleaning operations will be permitted within Landmark Village. Mitigation Measure LV 4.9-5 ensures that no on-site dry cleaning operations would occur. This measure states, “Any dry cleaners proposing to locate on site shall utilize the services of off-site cleaning operations at already SCAQMD-permitted locations. No on-site dry cleaning operations shall be permitted within Landmark Village.”

It should be noted that new dry cleaning establishments are not permitted to use harmful chemicals under SCAQMD Rule 1421. Rule 1421, as amended in 2002, phases out the use of perchloroethylene (perc) by the year 2020. Effective January 1, 2003, any new dry cleaning business or any facility in the

^c South Coast Air Quality Management District, *Final Localized Significance Threshold Methodology*, June 2003.

SCAQMD adding an additional machine must use a non-perc technology. Dry cleaners can continue to operate one perc machine until 2020 under the following conditions:

- Dry cleaners must comply with AQMD's Rule 1402, which limits the lifetime cancer risk from a facility to no more than 25 in 1 million;
- By November 1, 2007, all dry cleaners using perc must have state-of-the-art air pollution controls; and
- By July 1, 2004, facilities with the oldest and highest-emitting equipment (there are less than 20 in the region) must convert to dry cleaning machines with state-of-the-art air pollution controls.

Therefore, even if the Specific Plan permitted on-site dry cleaning operations (which it would not), the operations would not release harmful chemicals.

Response 36

The comment refers to the list of mitigation measures beginning on Landmark Village Draft EIR, p. 4.9-69, many of which includes the statement that the measures shall be implemented "if found applicable and feasible." The commentator is referring to mitigation measures SP 4.10-6, 4.10-7, and 4.10-9, which are from the previously certified Final Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR. The complete statement in the measures states that the measures listed shall be implemented if found applicable and feasible *for the subdivision under review in subsequent program EIRs*. This statement remains valid. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 37

The comment states that the statement, "shall implement the following if found applicable and feasible," would provide an opportunity to avoid *any* mitigation merely by stating that it is not feasible. As noted in **Response 36**, above, the mitigation states that measures shall be implemented if they are found applicable and feasible *for the subdivision under review*. Therefore, if the project EIR for a subdivision under the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan finds that a measure listed in SP 4.10-6, 4.10-7, and/or 4.10-9 is applicable to the proposed subdivision, then that measure shall be implemented. Section 21002 of the Public Resources Code states that "public agencies should not approve projects as proposed if there are ... feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of such projects." Therefore, if the measures listed in SP 4.10-6, 4.10-7, and 4.10-9 are applicable and feasible for the Landmark Village project, they are required to be implemented.

Response 38

The comment states the opinion that some of the proposed measures in Section 4.9 are “obviously unenforceable such as the measures proposed for commercial uses beginning on p. 4.9-72.” The comment is referring to mitigation measure SP 4.10-9, which addresses mobile source operational emissions. The comment does not state which measures are considered “obviously unenforceable” or why they would be unenforceable. Therefore, it is not possible to provide an adequate response to this comment. Nonetheless, 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 or question the content of the Draft Landmark Village EIR, no further response is required.

Response 39

The comment states that the mitigation measures must be real and enforceable “and be concretely stated for this subdivision.” The measures listed in Section 4.9 are real (they are recommended in the SCAQMD *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* and/or were included in the previously certified Final Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR). They will become enforceable through adoption of the mitigation monitoring plan, which was included in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 8.0. The measures will be enforced through plan check, field verification, receipt of letters of verification, and other means by County or County-appointed staff. For mitigation involving site improvements (e.g., double pane windows, lighting controls) occupancy permits would be issued after field verification that the mitigation measures are in place. The reader is encouraged to review the mitigation monitoring plan to verify that the measures are enforceable.

Response 40

The comment states that no specific data on the predicted amount of reduction were given for implementing the mitigation measures from the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR. These reductions are included in Table 4.9-25, Estimated Mitigated Construction Emissions, and Table 4.9-26, Operational Emissions Reductions (the Estimated Emissions Reductions Efficiencies spreadsheets are found in Appendix 4.9).

Response 41

The comment asks who will provide the bus service to Landmark Village. As stated in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, p. 4.9-45, the project study area is served by the Santa Clarita Transit (SCT) system, which is operated by the City of Santa Clarita, and which serves the Santa Clarita

Valley. SCT currently operates one fixed-route transit line (Route 2) near the project site, and it is expected the SCT would serve the project site with this route and/or a new route.

Response 42

The comment asks how bus service will be guaranteed since it is to be counted as reducing VMT. As stated in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, p. 4.9-5, and in **Response 41**, above, SCT currently operates one fixed-route transit line (Route 2) near the project site. The route passes the project site via SR-126 and provides service to the greater Val Verde and Commerce Center areas. Route 2 begins in Val Verde and ends near Whites Canyon Road. The route passes the project site via SR-126. Therefore, bus service is already available to the project site.

SCT is a public transportation system that is funded by federal and state funding, sales tax, developer mitigation fees, and transit revenue (farebox). Bus routes throughout the Valley are determined based on a coordinated effort between SCT and the local jurisdictions it serves. Expanded service to Landmark Village would be coordinated between SCT, Los Angeles County, and the project applicant, and funded by available resources to which the project applicant and the project occupants would contribute through payment of fees and taxes.

While bus service to the project site would reduce the project's VMT, no reduction in VMT is assumed in the operational air emissions calculations in the Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality.

Response 43

The comment states that the Metrolink extension to and through the project site is part of a long-term plan, with no dates or goals given for its completion. The comment restates information contained in the Draft EIR, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 44

The comment states that the right-of-way through the City of Santa Clarita to Metrolink is no longer available. The comment provides no supporting documentation of this statement. 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 45

The comment states that the use of rail service, which would provide for a decrease in automobile traffic, does not seem to be a substantial mitigation measure. The comment expresses the opinion of the commentator; however, use of rail transit by project occupants is not identified as a mitigation measure in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. While rail service to the project site would reduce the project's VMT and trip generation, no reduction in VMT or trip generation is assumed in the operational air emissions calculations in Section 4.9 of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. 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 or question the content of the Draft Landmark Village EIR, no further response is required.

Response 46

The comment states that the Landmark Village Draft EIR implies that Newhall is planning to add light rail support within five years. The comment expresses an opinion, which is not supported by any statement made in the Landmark Village Draft EIR. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 47

The comment states that the Landmark Village Draft EIR includes the train in its VMT estimates and air pollution reduction. This statement is incorrect. While rail service to the project site would reduce the project's VMT, no reduction in VMT is assumed in the operational air emissions calculations in Section 4.9 of the Draft EIR.

Response 48

The comment states that there is no reference to trains in Appendix 4.9. The future potential for train service at the project site is not assumed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, or in the VMT or trip generation calculations for the proposed development (see **Response 47**, above).

Response 49

Using aqueous fuel does not result in a significant reduction in air emissions during construction. The comment restates information contained in the Draft Landmark Village EIR, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 50

The comment suggests that additional mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce the construction emissions of PM₁₀ and NO_x to levels below the SCAQMD significance thresholds. The State *CEQA Guidelines* require only that a Draft EIR “describe feasible measures which could minimize significant adverse impacts.” (*CEQA Guidelines* §15126.4.) CEQA does not require that significant impacts be fully mitigated, provided the County, as the lead agency, follows the appropriate CEQA procedures when approving a project (e.g., adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations).

Response 51

The comment points out a typographical, but not significant, error on p. 4.9-82 of the Draft EIR. The text in the Final EIR has been revised as follows (deletions are indicated by strike-throughs, and additions are indicated by underlined text):

Although substantial mitigation is recommended for the project’s construction-related emissions, Mitigation Measures LV 4.9-2 and 4.9-3 are based on technology unproven on a large scale and which may be infeasible. However, if these mitigation measures are found feasible at the time of construction, the project’s construction-related CO, VOC, NO_x, and PM₁₀ emissions would be reduced substantially, as shown in Table 4.9-25, Estimated Mitigated Construction Emissions. In particular, with implementation of these mitigation measures, if feasible, ~~would reduce CO emissions to less than significant, and the period of VOC exceedances would be reduced from 51 months to less than 2 months.~~ However, even with the implementation of these mitigation measures, if feasible, construction emission thresholds for VOC, NO_x, and PM₁₀ emissions would still be exceeded for approximately 48, ~~48 90~~, and 11 months, respectively. As a result, construction air quality impacts are considered significant.

Please refer to the Final EIR **Section 3.0, Revised Draft EIR Pages**, for the requested revisions.

Response 52

The comment states that NO_x emissions for weeks 221 to 235 in Table 4.9-25 exceed the threshold of significance. This is correct. **Table 4.9-25** in the Final EIR has been revised accordingly. Please refer to the Final EIR **Section 3.0, Revised Draft EIR Pages**, for the requested revisions.

Response 53

The comment indicates that independent calculations of the effectiveness of construction and operational mitigation measures (apparently, by the commentator) did not match those in the Draft EIR. These independent calculations were not provided, so the reason for the alleged discrepancy cannot be resolved.

Response 54

The comment indicates that the supporting calculations of the mitigated construction emissions were not found in Appendix 4.9 and that they do not match the values shown in Table 4.9-25 of the Draft EIR. The values in Appendix 4.9c were compared to the values in Table 4.9-25. The emissions shown in Appendix 4.9c for Weeks 1 through 19, Weeks 20 through 39, and Weeks 40 through 46 were incorrect. Appendix 4.9c has been revised and the revised data is included in **Appendix C** of this Final EIR. Additional details regarding the calculation of the mitigated emissions have been provided in the Final EIR.

Response 55

The comment restates information contained in the Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. 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 regarding the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required. The comment also reiterates that PM_{2.5} emissions were not calculated. See **Response 19**, above.

Response 56

The comment states that, because SCAQMD is changing its policy regarding cumulative air quality impact analyses, it is deceptive for the Draft EIR to state that the project would not contribute to a significant cumulative air quality impact using the 1993 *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* methodology (i.e., mitigation would reduce emissions by one percent per year and the project is in compliance with the 2003 Air Quality Management Plan). The cumulative impact analysis in Section 4.9 of the Draft Landmark Village EIR was prepared in conformance with the current methodology available from the SCAQMD (i.e., the 1993 *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*). Using this methodology, the proposed project would not contribute to a significant cumulative air quality impact. However, as stated in Section 4.9, the Draft Landmark Village EIR still concludes that the project would have significance cumulative air quality impacts:

“Even though the project shows at least a one percent per year reduction in project emissions of CO, VOC, NO_x, and PM₁₀, and likely a similar reduction in SO_x emissions,

and even though the project is consistent with 2003 AQMP, as a conservative and 'worst-case' approach, the project does increase emissions in an air basin, which is in nonattainment for O₃ (VOC and NO_x as O₃ precursors), PM₁₀, and CO (Los Angeles County). Therefore, the project is considered to result in significant adverse cumulative air quality impacts."

Therefore, despite the use of the 1993 *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* methodology, the Draft EIR concludes the cumulative air quality impacts would be unavoidably significant. Please refer to **Response 13** above for additional discussion.

Response 57

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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, based upon the Landmark Village Draft EIR, the environmental consultant, Impact Sciences, Inc., does not concur with the opinion expressed in this comment.

Response 58

The comment states that mitigation measures must be identified and quantified. The Draft Landmark Village EIR includes mitigation measure measures for the construction and operational emissions. To the extent that the effectiveness of the mitigation measure can be estimated, the mitigation emissions were quantified.

Response 59

The comment requests that the problems raised in the comments be corrected. Specific corrections have been made in the Final EIR as appropriate. Please see **Responses 18, 31, 51, 52, and 54** above.

Response 60

The comment states that the construction emissions do not match the commentator's independent analysis. The results of the independent analysis were not provided for review. Please see **Responses 53 and 54** above.

Response 61

The comment suggests that the methods used to estimate the emissions be included in the Final EIR. The methods used Draft Landmark Village EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality, are standard methods used by air quality professionals, including but not limited to the URBEMIS2002 land use and air emission estimation model, the Industrial Source Complex – Short Term (ISCST3) air quality dispersion model, and the

SCAQMD's *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*. The methods used are well documented in the Draft Landmark Village Draft EIR and Appendix 4.9c.

Response 62

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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, the environmental consultant, Impact Sciences, Inc., does not concur with this opinion.

Response 63

The comment is noted. No further response is required given the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

From: Barbara Wampole [mailto:barbara@wampole.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2007 11:26 AM
To: Fierros, Daniel
Subject: NRDC Report: In Hot Water (for submission in Landmark Village public comments)

Dear Mr. Fierros,
Re: Landmark Village; Newhall Ranch Comments

The attached NRDC Report is of considerable concern to Friends of the Santa Clara River and the other environmental organizations that have commented on this project.

We would like to request that the Planning Staff review this NRDC study; In Hot Water- Water Management Strategies to Weather the Effects fo Global Warming.

Below you will find the site link, and press release of July 10, 2007 which will give you a sense of what the report covers.

Thank you for your attention to this report.

Sincerely,
Barbara Wampole, Vice Chair
Friends of the Santa Clara River

1

<http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/hotwater/contents.asp>

In Hot Water
Water Management Strategies to Weather the Effects of Global Warming

Drought and dry conditions withering the western United States are likely to persist and intensify, jeopardizing the region's water supply and water quality, compromising the health of rivers and lakes, and increasing the risk of flooding for Western communities. As stewards of these scarce resources, water managers can lead the response to the effects of global warming on water in the West. This NRDC report breaks new ground by analyzing the effects of global warming on a full range of water management tools and offering recommendations to meet the challenge. As the hotter, drier weather already afflicting the region becomes more common, officials responsible for keeping the taps flowing will need to take bold measures now, including conservation and efficiency, and supporting measures to control and reduce global warming in the future.

[Main page](#) | [Archive](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press contact: Craig Noble at 415-875-6100 (office) or 415-601-8235 (mobile)
If you are not a member of the press, please write to us at nrdcinfo@nrdc.org or see our [contact page](#)

Water Officials Warned: Get Used to Drought, Says New Climate Report

Conservation, Efficient Water Use Will be Most Important Future Water Supply

SAN FRANCISCO (July 10, 2007) - The drought and dry conditions currently gripping half the country are a taste of things to come, according to a new report by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) assessing the effects of global warming on water supplies in the West. The researchers say that as the hotter, drier weather already afflicting the region becomes the norm, officials responsible for keeping the taps flowing will need bold measures to improve conservation and efficiency. But drastic steps can be avoided if managers begin preparing now, the report says.

"Global warming will make it harder for farms and cities to find water," said Barry Nelson, study co-author and co-director of NRDC's western water project. "The latest global warming science is clear: drought-like conditions are likely to increase. This means that conservation and water use efficiency will become our most important sources of new water supply."

Concern over droughts and global warming is increasing across the West. Over the past eight years, the Colorado River, which supplies water to parts of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, has received just over half its average flow. Southern California is experiencing its driest year on record. The Department of Water Resources predicts that every river in the southern Sierra Nevada will receive less than half of normal runoff this year.

Nelson said global warming can reduce water supply in several ways. In some regions, altered weather patterns may simply cause less precipitation, but the total amount is only half the story. It also matters whether precipitation falls as rain or snow. In most of the West, mountain snowpack is a natural reservoir that gradually supplies water when it's needed during spring and summer. Warmer temperatures may cause winter precipitation to fall as rain, instead of snow, reducing this water supply. Finally, hotter summer temperatures will cause more water to evaporate out of watersheds, rivers and reservoirs.

"Whether you're turning on the tap in Los Angeles, irrigating a crop in Colorado, fishing for salmon on the Columbia River or rafting down the Grand Canyon, there will likely be less water," said Nelson. "Global warming will affect water supply for everyone in the West."

The NRDC report breaks new ground by analyzing the effects of global warming on a full range of water management tools and offering comprehensive recommendations to help meet the challenge. Conservation tops the list of proven water supply solutions. For example, water use in the City of Los Angeles has remained steady for 30 years despite dramatic population growth thanks to investments such as low flow showerheads and toilets. The city can save even more water through programs promoting drought tolerant landscaping.

"Half of all urban water is used on lawns and landscapes, so there's even more opportunity to create new supply through conservation," said Nelson. "It's common sense to choose plants that are naturally adapted to arid climates and to use cutting-edge irrigation technology. Drought tolerant landscapes are not only beautiful, they're easier and less costly to maintain. And as a result of warming temperatures, landscape conservation is likely to be even more effective in the future."

The report calls on regions to work much more closely together, developing cooperative solutions to meet their water needs and providing other important benefits. For example, groundwater de-salters in California's Chino basin produce water supplies, while cleaning up contaminated underground aquifers. Urban stormwater retention programs designed to reduce flooding and pollution can also provide water supplies.

The report highlights wastewater recycling as another promising solution. Increasingly, water managers, led by Southern California water agencies, are investing in landscape, industrial and other re-use of treated wastewater. Wastewater recycling will be even more important in the future because it will not be affected by global warming.

The report suggests that traditional approaches - old-fashioned dams, diversions and groundwater pumping - are likely to perform more poorly in the future. Although these were primary strategies for supplying water in the West during most of the past century, they will likely be less effective in a warmer, drier climate.

"Increasingly, traditional dams are no longer realistic or financially feasible solutions," said Nelson. "The thousands of dams across the West have already captured most of the water. There are so few rivers left, and the cost of building dams is so high that the result is very expensive water. And global warming is likely to reduce the potential water supplies from new dams even further. Whether you examine water supply strategies from a business, environmental or global warming perspective, water conservation and recycling are going to be the smart investments in the future."

The report also says that global warming will fundamentally alter our rivers and streams. "Fish and wildlife will be harmed by changes to their habitat, including increased temperature, degraded water quality and reduced water flow," said Monty Schmitt, NRDC staff scientist and report co-author.

Finally, the report concludes that:

* Global warming may increase the risk of floods, which means water strategies must include ways to keep people and property out of harm's way.

* Water agencies should join other leaders in calling for aggressive measures to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping pollution.

* The faster we act now, the more control we will have over our future in the face of global warming.

The full report, [In Hot Water: Water Management Strategies to Weather the Effects of Global Warming](#), is available online.

The Natural Resources Defense Council is a national, nonprofit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. Founded in 1970, NRDC has 1.2 million members and online activists, served from offices in New York, Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Beijing.

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When you drink the water, remember the spring / Chinese Proverb

July 2007

In Hot Water

Water Management Strategies to Weather the Effects of Global Warming

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About NRDC

The Natural Resources Defense Council is an international nonprofit environmental organization with more than 1.2 million members and online activists. Since 1970, our lawyers, scientists, and other environmental specialists have worked to protect the world's natural resources, public health, and the environment. NRDC has offices in New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, the Midwest, and Beijing. Visit us at www.nrdc.org.

About the Water Policy Program

The Water Policy Program at the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, University of California, Santa Barbara, advances the theory and practice of water management. Contact: Wilkinson@es.ucsb.edu

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This report also received substantial input and review from a number of individuals. Their participation contributed to the quality of the report and its recommendations. We acknowledge that they may not necessarily endorse all of the report recommendations, which are solely those of NRDC.

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Foreword

The effects of global warming on the health of the planet has been a topic of discussion for decades. However, only recently have the potential impacts of climate change on Western communities become a focus for water resource scientists, planners, and managers. In the American southwest, the severe drought on the Colorado River that began in 2000 served as a wakeup call to water utility managers regarding the possible implications of global warming. Those implications are sobering.

During the last century, long-range forecasts of population growth and water demands in the West have often been underestimated. Add to this fact the reality that stable and reliable water supplies in the West are, for the most part, already allocated. In this age of scarce water supplies, the prospect of climate change should serve as a catalyst for paradigm shifts in the way we manage water. Long-term climate change is adding even more uncertainty to the already difficult task of water resource planning and management.

To respond to the challenges posed by climate change, water managers will need to reevaluate their assumptions concerning storage and use of existing supplies, the amount of water expected to be available in the future, and how scarce or limited supplies should be shared among competing interests. Continued scientific study and dialogue will be of paramount importance to this effort, not only in terms of providing data to help individual utilities manage their respective situations, but also

to facilitate the development of practical local, regional, and national policies.

With this in mind, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Desert Research Institute, and Southern Nevada Water Authority co-sponsored a 2005 conference entitled “Urban Water Supplies and Climate Change in the West.” The objectives of the conference were threefold: to educate participants about the most recent studies of climate change and potential water supply impacts; to increase understanding and facilitate dialogue between water scientists and water managers; and to discuss options for addressing the potential impacts of climate change on water supplies. The presentations and discussion at that conference led to this report.

It is clear that global warming is occurring, particularly in the West. In general, temperatures are increasing. Scientists predict that this will likely lead to more runoff from rain, less alpine snow pack, larger winter streamflows, and hotter, drier summers. Communities are likely

to face more flooding and more frequent drought. As the West experiences earlier snowmelts and warmer, rainier winters, rivers and streams will be altered. Natural recharge to groundwater basins could decrease.

To cope with these changes effectively, water utilities will need to act quickly to develop diverse and flexible water resource portfolios that will allow them to reduce demands and adapt their supplies to changing climatic and hydrological conditions. However, from a regional and national perspective, perhaps the most important goal for water utilities will be to pursue increased cooperation and collaboration. In the past, models of water resource planning have emphasized competition for water resources. However, as communities throughout the West become more dependent upon each other to manage available resources, and as these resources prove to be interconnected in a myriad of ways, this competitive model of resource allocation is no longer prudent. Without open, collaborative dialogue among utilities and other

stakeholders, competition for scarce water resources will only result in conflict, stalemate, and shortages.

The accompanying report and recommendations, and the conference that led to them, represent a first step toward addressing some of these difficult long-term issues. This report summarizes the broad potential water management impacts of climate change, the many existing climate-related activities of water managers around the West, and a full range of recommendations for water managers and staff to consider as they incorporate global warming into the planning and management of their agencies.

As the drought on the Colorado River has shown us in the West, even seemingly “permanent” water resources are susceptible to climatic variability. The time to prepare is now.

Patricia Mulroy
General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority

Executive Summary

The world's climate is warming—by an average of 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit in the past century. Unless current trends are reversed, global warming pollution is projected to keep increasing rapidly, raising temperatures by as much as 11.5 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of this century and compromising our water supply, flood management systems, and aquatic ecosystems. Experts predict that rising temperatures will lead to less alpine snowpack, earlier and larger peak streamflows, potential reductions in total streamflows, greater evaporative losses, declining ecosystem health, sea level rise, more extreme weather events—including both floods and droughts—and hotter, drier summers. We're already seeing evidence of these trends around the West.

Water managers—including water districts and local, state, and federal agencies with water-related resource management responsibilities—play a key role in Western communities by identifying potential water-related problems and pointing the way to solutions. As stewards of one of the West's most valuable—and scarce—resources, water managers can lead the response to ongoing climate changes and help stave off further damage.

WATER MANAGEMENT IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Global warming presents challenges regarding water supply, water quality, ecosystem protection, and flood

management—issues that water managers face every day. NRDC has created a blueprint for action, including a set of specific strategies water managers and other decision makers can use as they incorporate climate change issues into management decisions.

Action 1: Evaluate the Vulnerability of Water Systems to Global Warming Impacts

- **Conduct agency assessments of climate change impacts on water supply.** Assessments should analyze water supply and other impacts from projected climate change effects, including reductions of snow pack and earlier



peak streamflows, as well as from projected increases in temperature, which may result in greater environmental protection requirements and higher urban and agricultural water demand.

• **Work with other water managers to evaluate regional vulnerability.** Regional analyses can help water managers understand the common challenges they face and lay the groundwork for cooperative responses. They are especially important for water agencies in large watersheds and regions facing similar climate change–related challenges.

Action 2: Develop Response Strategies to Reduce Future Impacts of Global Warming

■ **Consider the impact of climate change on future water management tools.** Water management tools will be affected significantly—but not equally—by climate change. In general, climate change will make increases in efficiency more effective and reduce the yields from traditional surface storage and diversion projects. The table on the next page shows which water management tools will be most helpful in a climate-altered world.

■ **Put conservation first.** Increased investments in water efficiency represent a sound and basic “no regrets” water management approach to future climate change impacts.

Cost-effective water conservation investments can generate significant benefits for water supplies and aquatic ecosystems, as well as reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

■ **Incorporate climate and energy issues into statewide water planning.** State-level planning efforts should incorporate climate change vulnerability analyses, global warming impacts on management tools, and the energy implications of water management decisions.

■ **Consider integrated regional water management strategies.** Water managers should carefully consider an integrated regional water management approach to climate change response. A robust climate change response strategy should include:

- Analysis of potential climate impacts on existing systems, as well as future water supply strategies
- Multiple benefits (e.g., supply, water quality, energy, flood management, and ecosystem benefits)
- An examination of unique regional conditions
- Potential partners to assist in financing and implementation (e.g., energy, stormwater, wastewater, and land use agencies)
- Institutional strengths and responsibilities

The Impacts of Climate Change on Water Management

Global warming is not an issue that we can afford to address with a “wait and see” approach. We must take action immediately or we are at risk of irreversibly damaging some of the West’s precious water resources:

- For every rise of one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) in the West, researchers predict that snow levels will retreat upward by 500 feet in elevation.
- Extreme weather events such as floods and large storms could increase in size and frequency, straining the limits of flood control systems and exposing some floodplains and low-lying coastal regions to damage reminiscent of Hurricane Katrina.
- The IPCC projects that sea level will rise by 7 to 23 inches by 2100, affecting water supplies, eroding wetlands, diminishing coastal protection from storms, and exposing residents to severe flood damage. This projection assumes no acceleration of ice melt in Greenland or Antarctica. A new study, published after the deadline for consideration by the IPCC, projects that sea levels will rise by 20 to 55 inches this century based on recent observations.
- The stability of levees in the San Francisco Bay-Delta, which provides a portion of the water supply for more than 20 million Californians, will be threatened by rising sea levels.
- Higher temperatures will decrease salmon, trout, and other fish habitat, thereby increasing conflicts over water resources. Scientists estimate that up to 38 percent of locations currently suitable for coldwater fish could become too warm to provide habitat by 2090.

- A full range of potential water supply and demand strategies
- A full range of flood management options
- “Efficiency first” investments
- A clear “with and without” project analysis for major infrastructure investments
- Stronger, enforceable environmental protections, such as flow and temperature requirements for protected species

- Economic analysis and “beneficiary pays” financing
- Clear objectives and performance standards
- Educating the public and decision makers about climate change

■ **Collaborate with energy utilities.** Water conservation generates substantial water and energy savings, and thus reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Water agencies should work with local energy utilities to develop joint programs, such as rebate offers, to encourage customers to conserve water and energy.

■ **Consider climate change when making commitments about future water deliveries.** In particular, agencies should avoid promising increased water deliveries based solely on current hydrology, without consideration of future climatic conditions.

■ **Factor in flood management.** For agencies with flood management responsibilities, an awareness of climate change should be integrated into future management decisions. Managers should investigate opportunities such as the reoperation of existing facilities, floodplain restoration, groundwater recharge, and flood-compatible agriculture. To reduce future damage, floodplains should be managed with an awareness that they will be inundated more frequently. This suggests placing an increased emphasis on land use issues.

■ **Protect and restore aquatic ecosystems.** Degraded aquatic ecosystems result in the loss of species and create endangered species conflicts. Healthy aquatic ecosystems will be more resistant to climate impacts, help reduce conflicts, and provide other benefits to water quality, recreation, and flood protection.

Action 3: Prevent Future Impacts by Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

■ **Support policies including mandatory caps on emissions.** The IPCC found with at least 90 percent certainty that the current global warming trend is caused primarily by greenhouse gas emissions—particularly carbon dioxide—released through the burning of fossil fuels. Enforcing a mandatory national cap on the pollution that causes global warming is the single most important step in controlling and reducing the future impacts of global warming. While caps would be most effective at the federal level, local, state, and regional initiatives are also important tools in the face of federal inaction.

Table ES-1: Performance of Water Management Strategies After Considering Global Warming Effects

More effective	Not affected	Less effective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape conservation • Conservation rate structures • Agricultural water conservation • Water marketing • Urban stormwater management • Saltwater groundwater intrusion barriers to protect coastal aquifers • Water system reoperation • Interagency collaboration and integrated water management strategies • Floodplain management • Watershed restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater recycling • Interior water conservation • Groundwater cleanup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional river diversions • Traditional groundwater pumping • Traditional surface storage facilities • Ocean water desalination*

*Given existing energy requirements.

■ **Take action at the district level.** Water agencies should develop programs to reduce their energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. A thorough understanding of the energy implications of water management decisions can lead to a range of options for achieving this goal. (NRDC’s 2004 report *Energy Down the Drain* explores this relationship in detail.)

Action 4: Increase Awareness of Global Warming and Water Impacts

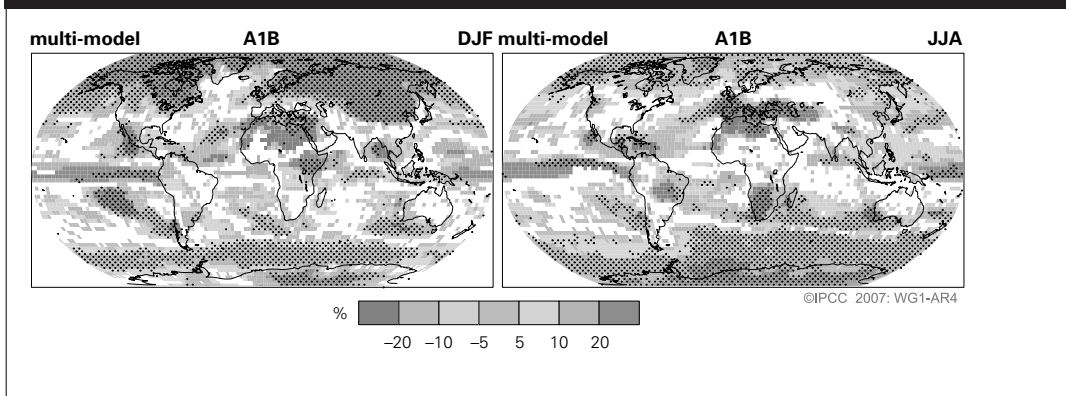
■ **Educate customers and decision makers.** Global warming is not just an environmental concern—it affects the future of all Western communities, particularly through water-related issues. Addressing the impacts

of climate change on water management will require increased awareness and involvement by water district customers and decision makers, including elected officials.

■ **Raise public awareness.** Given the global nature of climate change and the need for far-reaching actions to address its causes, raising public awareness is essential to encouraging effective action. Water managers can play an important role in increasing awareness of global warming and the need to take action. Outreach can take the form of advertisements, media outreach, discussions with business groups, conferences, community forums, and more.

Western communities look to water managers for leadership on water issues. With global warming changing

Figure ES-1: Projected Patterns of Precipitation Changes for Period 2090-2099, relative to 1980-1999



Source: IPCC 2007: WG1-AR4

the way we think about water in the American West and around the globe, water managers and other decision makers must lead the way in ensuring that our drinking water supply is safe, that our communities are protected from floods, and that our aquatic ecosystems support healthy fish and wildlife populations. The time to prepare is now.

HIGHLIGHTS OF EFFORTS TO INCORPORATE CLIMATE CHANGE INTO WATER MANAGEMENT

Across the West, water agencies and other water managers have begun taking action to address the challenges presented by climate change. Here are a few highlights of those efforts.

Evaluating the Vulnerability of Water Systems to Global Warming Impacts

- Many Western communities, including Seattle, Portland, Denver, the San Francisco Bay Area, and water districts in the Sierra Nevada foothills have undertaken analyses of potential impacts to their existing water systems.
- New Mexico and California have released statewide vulnerability analyses.
- In 2005, the American Water Works Association Research Foundation released *Climate Change and Water Resources: A Primer for Municipal Water Providers*.

Implementing Response Strategies to Reduce Future Impacts

- Denver Water has decided to dramatically accelerate its long-range water conservation program, partially in response to potential impacts from global warming.
- California's Department of Water Resources has issued multiple reports regarding climate impacts, including *Progress on Incorporating Climate Change into Management of California's Water Resources*.
- Southern California's Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority has created a national model for integrated regional water management, producing far-reaching water supply, water quality, energy, and climate benefits.

Preventing Future Impacts by Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- In California, three water agencies—the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, and the Marin Municipal Water District—supported AB 32, which Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law in September 2006, creating the nation's first state-level mandatory cap on greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Santa Clara County Water District has helped to create a public/private partnership called Sustainable Silicon Valley, which is working to reduce the emission of global warming gases and other pollutants.
- The Bay Area's East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) has joined the California Climate Action Registry to report its greenhouse gas emissions, earning the district a "Green Power Leadership" award from the Environmental Protection Agency. Since EBMUD joined the registry, more than a dozen California water agencies have joined as well as Seattle Public Utilities and the Salt River Project.
- The Marin Municipal Water District has joined the Cities for Climate Protection campaign, uniting with dozens of other Western cities that run municipal water utilities to create a strategic agenda to reduce global warming.

Increasing Public and Decision Maker Awareness

- The Santa Clara Valley Water District has added a discussion of global warming to its website, stating that "The reality of global warming and climate change is the most significant long-term threat to water resources management in Silicon Valley."
- In January 2007, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission convened a Water Utility Climate Change Summit attended by more than 150 water managers and other stakeholders. The conference received significant media coverage.

Chapter 1

An Overview of Major Scientific Findings on Climate Change

All elements of water systems, from watershed catchment areas to reservoirs and conveyance systems to wastewater treatment, will likely be affected by climate change and variability.¹ Rising temperatures, a greater proportion of annual precipitation falling in the form of rain instead of snow, altered streamflow timing, reduced snowpack, increased evaporation and transpiration, greater risk of fires, and a sea level rise—all effects of climate change—will require changes in how our current water systems are managed. And with virtually every major water supply source in the West already overallocated beyond its physical and/or legal capacity to be sustained, the consequences could be significant for Western water supply, water quality, and aquatic ecosystems.

There is broad scientific agreement that climate change is occurring, that emissions of heat-trapping pollution are the primary cause, and that the resulting climate change and variability pose significant dangers to our environment, our health, and our economy.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report released in 2007 found, with at least 90 percent certainty, that human activities are causing global warming.² This comprehensive review confirms and lends even greater confidence to the conclusions of the U.S. National Research Council's (NRC) Committee on the Science of Climate Change 2001 report, *Climate Change Science: An Analysis of Some Key Questions*, which found that greenhouse gases are accumulating in the earth's atmosphere as a result of human activities, causing surface air temperatures and subsurface

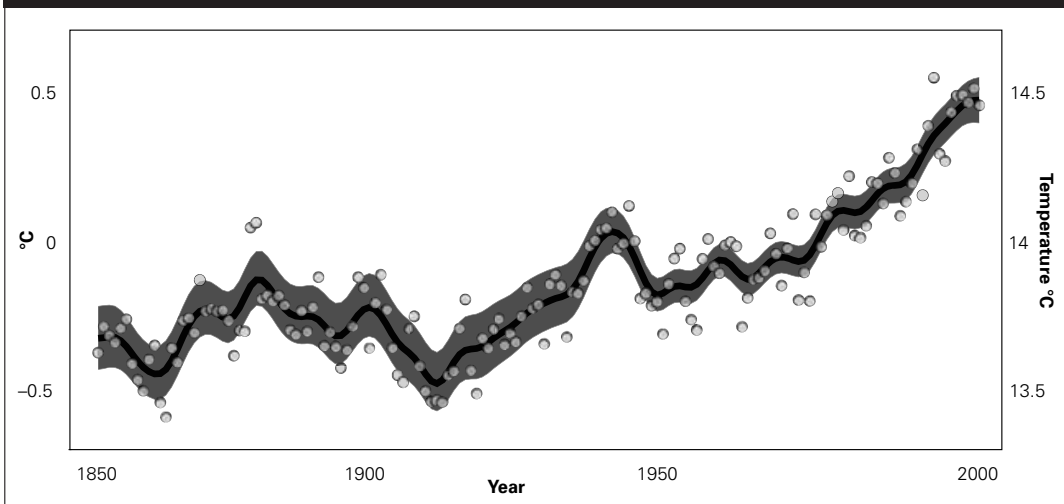
ocean temperatures to rise. Temperatures are, in fact, rising.³ It also found that the combustion of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas) is the major source of greenhouse gas emissions (see Figures 1-1 and 1-2).

The IPCC in 2007 projected that the rate of warming over the 21st century—up to 11.5 degrees Fahrenheit—would be much greater than the changes observed during the 20th century. The IPCC projects the following changes as a result of increased temperatures:

- more frequent hot extremes, heat waves, and heavy precipitation events
- more intense hurricanes and typhoons
- decreases in snow cover, glaciers, ice caps, and sea ice

1 Natural Resources Defense Council

Figure 1-1: Changes in Global Average Temperatures, 1850-2000



Source: IPCC 2007: WG1-AR4

Global Warming Basics

The basic dynamic of global warming is that the earth's temperature is largely regulated by gases that trap heat in the earth's atmosphere. This so-called greenhouse effect allows the earth's temperature to be in the range at which all life on earth has evolved. Increased concentrations of specific gases increase the heat-trapping ability of the atmosphere and are responsible for increasing temperatures. The composition of the earth's atmosphere is particularly important, because certain gases (including water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, halocarbons, ozone, and nitrous oxide) absorb heat radiated from the earth's surface. Changes in the composition of the atmosphere alter the intensity of the greenhouse effect.

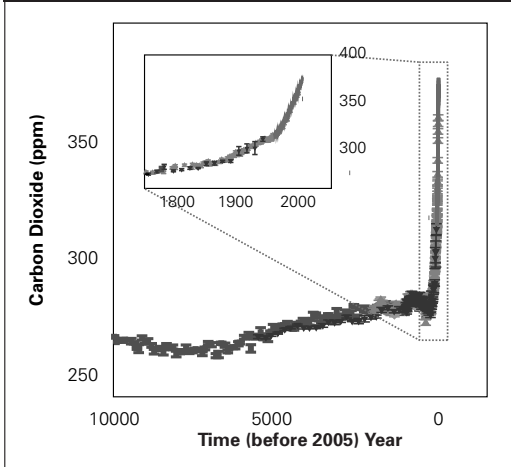
Although natural variability in climate occurs, it is now clear that human activities have been causing most of the global warming since the mid-20th century. We are exerting a major and growing influence on some of the key factors that govern climate by changing the composition of the atmosphere and by modifying the land surface. The concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) has risen about

30 percent since the late 1800s. The concentration of CO₂ is now higher than it has been in for at least the last 650,000 years. This increase is the result of the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas and the destruction of forests around the world to provide space for agriculture and other human activities. Rising concentrations of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases are intensifying earth's natural greenhouse effect. Projections of population growth and energy use indicate that, on our current course, the CO₂ concentration will continue to rise, likely reaching between two and three times late-19th-century levels by 2100. This dramatic doubling or tripling will have occurred in the space of about 200 years.

Sources: National Assessment Synthesis Team, 2001. *Climate Change Impacts on the United States, report for the United States Global Change Research Program*. Cambridge University Press, p.12. <http://prod.gcrio.org/nationalassessment/>.

Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis: Summary for Policymakers. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, p.4.

Figure 1-2: Changes in Atmospheric Concentrations of Carbon Dioxide from Ice Core and Modern Data



Source: IPCC 4 Summary for Policy Makers, p. 3

- a rise in global mean sea level of 7 to 23 inches (this projection does not include accelerated ice-sheet melting and other factors)⁴

Recent studies indicate that the range of possible sea level rise may be even greater. A report in *Science* magazine projects a 20- to 55-inch rise in sea levels over the 21st century, based upon recent observations.⁵ This study was published after the deadline for consideration for the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report.

Changes caused by a warming climate will not necessarily occur in a steady and predictable fashion. A recent report from the NRC, *Abrupt Climate Change: Inevitable Surprises*, shows that some major and widespread climatic changes have occurred with startling speed. The study notes that abrupt changes were most common when the earth's climate was being heated most rapidly, conclud-

ing that "greenhouse warming and other human alterations of the earth system may increase the possibility of large, abrupt, and unwelcome regional or global climatic events."⁶

Although difficult to predict or plan for, climatic shifts—gradual or dramatic—are among the scenarios that water managers must consider in future modeling and planning. Fortunately, some in the water management community are actively engaged in the analysis of climate change impacts and are undertaking analyses of water system vulnerabilities to future climate change effects. For example, in 2005, the American Water Works Association Research Foundation (AWWARF) and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) released a report entitled *Climate Change and Water Resources: A Primer for Municipal Water Providers*, and in July 2006 the California Department of Water Resources released *Progress on Incorporating Climate Change into Management of California's Water Resources*.^{7,8} It is clear that water managers will have to adapt to changing climate conditions.

"The water supply for any utility will depend on the quantity and timing of local and regional precipitation, both of which may change with global climate change... Climate change is an additional source of uncertainty that will become increasingly relevant to water resource managers in the 21st century. Just as with any other source of uncertainty, best practice requires understanding as much as possible about the changes that can occur and their implications for operation and management of the utility."

Source: Kathleen Miller and David Yates, *Climate Change and Water Resources: A Primer for Municipal Water Providers* (AWWARF 2006).

Chapter 2

How Climate Change Will Affect Western Water Supply and Management

The snow and ice of western mountain ranges are the lifeblood of water supply and storage in the western United States; their melting snowpack feeds rivers that provide that area of the country with as much as 75 percent of its water supply.¹ An elaborate system of reservoirs, aqueducts, pumping plants, treatment facilities, and other engineered facilities moves the West's water supply from two principal sources: (1) surface water, which is often stored in reservoirs and (2) groundwater.

This water supply infrastructure, matched by an even more elaborate set of laws and policies that govern water use and rights, was designed and engineered for timing and magnitudes of runoff based on our understanding of past hydrological conditions, including temperature, precipitation, and snowmelt patterns.

Climate change and variability will affect the timing, amounts, and form of precipitation, in turn, affecting all elements of water systems from watershed catchment areas to reservoirs, conveyance systems, and wastewater treatment plants.² These systems are already stressed today. Overdraft and contamination of groundwater sources have reduced the availability of groundwater supplies in many areas. Saltwater intrusion in coastal aquifers is a problem in many areas. Climate change has the potential to exacerbate these situations, requiring increased attention from water managers. Extreme events such as droughts and major flood events are particularly challenging for water managers. Climate modeling indicates that these kinds of extreme events are likely to become

more frequent and intense in the future. In fact, there is strong evidence that wildfires, precipitation patterns, and

Figure 2-1: Total Surface and Groundwater Withdrawals by U.S. County



The Western United States withdraws more water than any other region in the nation. The changes to hydrology and water supply that are likely to be caused by global warming threaten to have serious implications for western water management. Source: USGS 2004

“Climate change has the potential of affecting a wide variety of water resource elements. These range from water supply, hydroelectric power, sea level rise, more intense precipitation events, water use, and a number of miscellaneous items which include water temperature changes.”

Source: Maurice Roos, California’s state hydrologist in draft materials prepared for the California Energy Commission for the Public Interest Research Program (PIER) on Climate Change.

snowmelt are already being influenced by anthropogenic climate change.³

CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS WILL RESHAPE WATER SUPPLY IN THE WEST

As the U.S. National Assessment water sector report summarizes, “More than 20 years of research and more than 1,000 peer-reviewed scientific papers have firmly established that a greenhouse warming will alter the supply and demand for water, the quality of water, and the health and functioning of aquatic ecosystems.”⁴ The most significant impacts of global warming on water management—rising temperatures, increasing proportions of annual precipitation in the form of rainfall, disrupted streamflow timing, altered snowpack conditions, increased evaporation and transpiration, greater risk of fires, and sea level rise—are discussed in more detail in the following sections.

Rising Temperatures Could Mean Earlier Snowmelts and Outflows

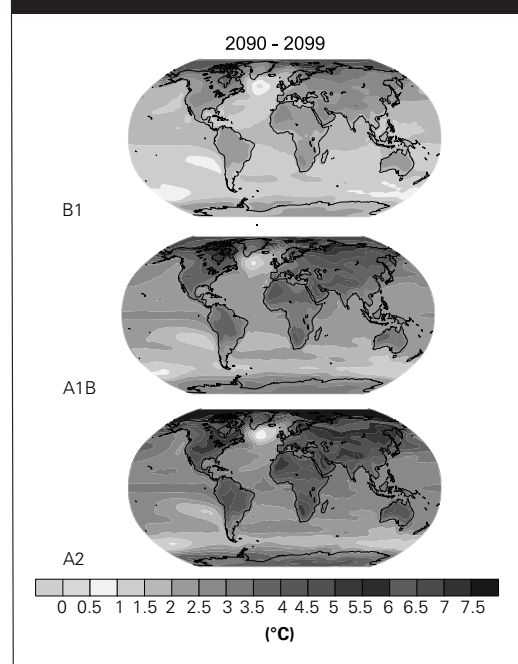
The IPCC 2007 report found that “11 of the last 12 years (1995 to 2006) rank among the 12 warmest years... since 1850”.⁵ Climate models also consistently indicate a warmer future for the U.S. West (see Figure 2-2). Evidence of warming trends is already being seen in winter temperatures in the Sierra Nevada, which rose by almost 2 degrees Celsius (4 degrees Fahrenheit) during the second half of the 20th century. Trends toward earlier snowmelt and runoff to the San Francisco Bay-Delta over the same period have also been detected.⁶ Water managers are particularly concerned with the mid-range elevation levels where snow shifts to rain under warmer conditions, thereby changing the snow storage. Research is also in-

dicating earlier melting and spring flows, as described in more detail in a later section.

Greater Extremes in Precipitation Will Challenge Flood Control and Water Storage

Climatologists expect that global average precipitation will increase, however, some areas will become wetter while others will become drier. In addition, the timing, location, and form (rain versus snow) will likely differ from historical norms. Studies have found an average increase in precipitation in the continental United States of about 10 percent over the last century. The intensity of precipitation has increased for very heavy and extreme precipitation days, with most of the increase in the highest annual one-day precipitation events. Plots of global and U.S. precipitation changes over roughly the past century reveal considerable variation by region. Such findings have serious implications for flood control as well as water supply storage.⁷

Figure 2-2: Projections of Surface Temperature Changes for Late 21st Century



Source: *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Scientific Basis: Summary for Policymakers*. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Although there is uncertainty regarding how climate change will affect regional precipitation patterns throughout the American West, several analyses indicate that the Southwest may be drier and that high latitudes may be wetter in the future. For example, a 2007 National Research Council report on Colorado River basin hydrology concluded, “Over the next 10–40 years, there is a tendency in the results of climate model superensembles to forecast slightly increased annual precipitation in the Northwestern United States by about ten percent above current values and to forecast slightly decreased annual precipitation in the Southwestern United States by less than ten percent below current values, with relatively little change in annual precipitation amounts forecast for the headwaters regions of the Colorado River.”⁸ Potential changes in precipitation patterns will have far reaching implications for water managers, par-

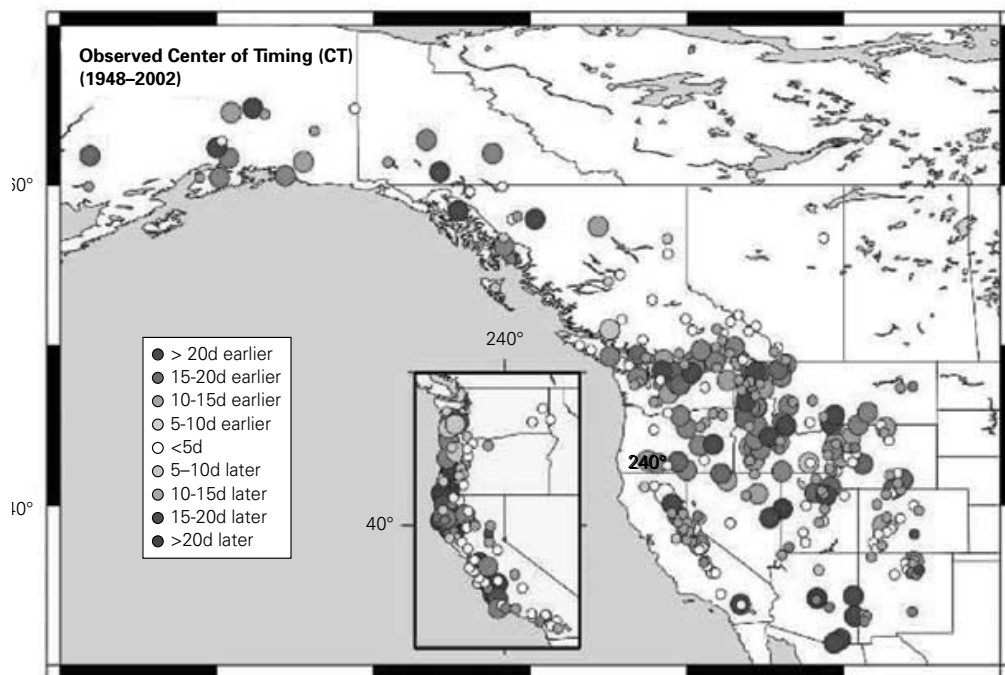
ticularly in oversubscribed river basins—which includes most rivers in the West.

Reduced Snowpack and Earlier Snowmelt Disrupt Streamflows

In the West, streamflow is often strongly influenced by runoff from melting winter snowpacks. Streamflow is characterized by timing, magnitude, frequency, and duration of water flows, all of which are affected by climate change. Water management strategies for supply and flood control are therefore highly attuned to streamflow timing, making any changes in streamflow timing a critical management issue.

Recent studies indicate that changes have already occurred in snowmelt and spring runoff throughout the western region of North America. The United States Geological Survey (USGS), which has been measuring

Figure 2-3: Accelerated Runoff in the West, 1948-2002



Spring runoff in the West, measured in terms of center of timing—the date at which 50% of annual runoff is reached—now occurs 1–4 weeks earlier than 50 years ago.

Source: Steward, Iris T., Daniel R. Cayan, Michael D. Dettinger, April 2005. “Changes toward Earlier Streamflow Timing across Western North America”. *Journal of Climate*. http://meteora.ucsd.edu/cap/pdf/files/stewart_timing.pdf

streamflows and spring runoff since the late 19th century, observes that “both measures indicate that flows in many western streams arrive a week to almost 3 weeks earlier now than they did in the middle of the 20th century. The largest changes have been identified in the Pacific Northwest, but the trends also are present in the Sierra Nevada of California, in the Rocky Mountains, and in parts of British Columbia and southern Alaska.”⁹ Figure 2-3 shows accelerated spring runoff across the West for the latter half of the 20th century.

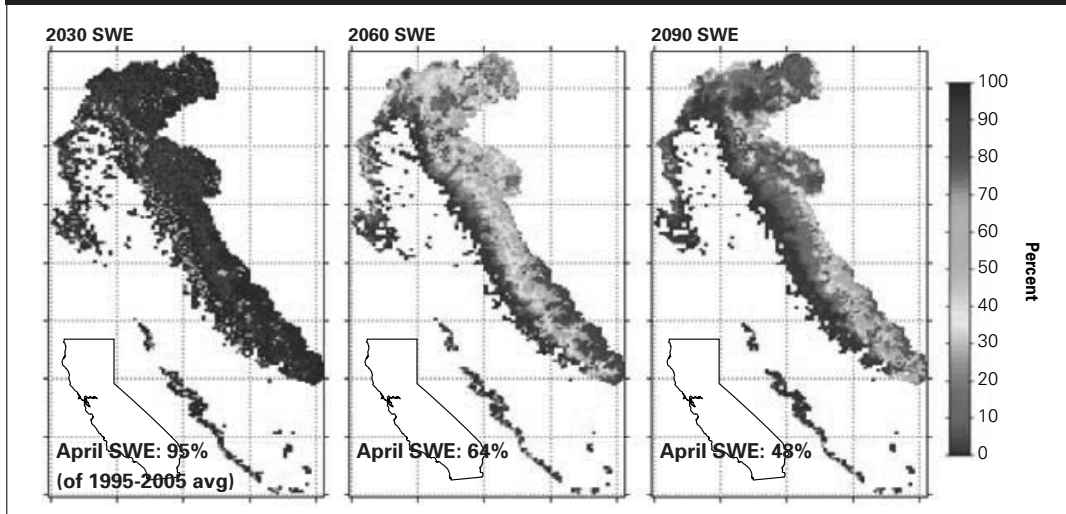
Water agencies have found the same changes in streamflow when analyzing climate changes impacts upon their water systems. For example, Seattle Public Utilities sponsored a study by University of Washington’s Climate Impact Group (CIG) to examine global warming’s potential effects on Seattle’s water system. Their modeling indicates an average decrease in combined inflow volumes to its two primary water sources, the Cedar and Tolt Reservoirs, of approximately 6 percent per decade through 2040—totaling about 5,000 acre-feet by 2040 when compared to historical record.¹⁰

Other recent studies indicate that both early snowmelt and diminished snowpack in the West may be related to increased temperatures due to global warming.¹¹ Runoff indexes for both the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers in California, for example, show a marked decline in flows during the critical April to July period over the past

century. And researchers have shown that for most of the second half of the 1900s, snowmelt-generated runoff came increasingly early in the water year in many basins in California.¹² A declining fraction of the annual runoff was occurring during the months of April to June in middle-elevation basins, while an increasing fraction was occurring earlier in the water year, particularly in March.¹³ Other studies have reached similar findings of increasing winter and spring floods under conditions in which rain falls on snow.¹⁴

Future changes in snowpack are a cause for concern. One study projected that snow levels will retreat 500 feet in elevation in California for every rise of one degree Celsius.¹⁵ Figure 2-4 shows projections for snowpack impacts in California through the 21st century. An analysis by Peter Gleick published in the journal *Water Resources Research* examined the potential for shifts in runoff in California due to increased temperature.¹⁶ For the study, Gleick used a water-balance model developed for the Sacramento Basin. He based his climate change scenarios on increases in average monthly temperature of 2 and 4 degrees Celsius (4 and 7 degrees Fahrenheit) and changes in precipitation of +/-10 and 20 percent. The study found that summer runoff decreased in all scenarios, whereas winter runoff rose in all those scenarios in which precipitation was kept constant or increased. With an increase in temperature of 4 degrees Celsius (7 degrees

Figure 2-4: Evolution of Average Annual Snow Water Equivalent as a Percentage of Average 1995-2005 Values



Source: Knowles, N. and Dan Cayan. Potential effects of global warming on the Sacramento/San Joaquin watershed and the San Francisco estuary. September 28, 2002. *Geophysical Research Letters*. Vol. 29, No. 18.

Fahrenheit) and an increase in precipitation of 20 percent, the winter runoff rose by 75 percent and the summer runoff decreased by 49 percent.

Increased Evapotranspiration Reduces Total Streamflows

Although there is still significant uncertainty regarding how climate change will affect precipitation patterns in the West, a significant body of analysis suggests that total streamflows in the future will be reduced in comparison with historical levels. This change has powerful implications for water managers.

Increased temperatures are expected to lead to increased evaporation and transpiration, which will increase water loss from standing water and decrease soil moisture levels. A seminal study by Gleick and Nash of the Colorado River basin demonstrated the crucial role evapotranspiration plays in water availability. The authors found that with no change in precipitation, a 2 degree Celsius increase in temperature would reduce mean annual runoff by 4 to 12 percent and that the reduction in runoff for a 4 degree Celsius increase would be between 9 and 21 percent. The authors concluded that if temperature rose by 4 degree Celsius, precipitation would need to jump by nearly 20 percent to maintain historical runoff levels.¹⁷

In 2007, the National Research Council reached similar conclusions in a review of the science regarding hydrologic variability in the Colorado River basin. The investigation included analyses of historical hydrology and likely future variability, as a result of climate change. The report projects that future reductions in total Colorado River streamflow are likely:

“This body of research collectively points to a future in which warmer conditions across the Colorado River region are likely to contribute to reductions in snowpack, an earlier peak in spring snowmelt, higher rates of evapotranspiration, reduced late spring and summer flows and a reduction in annual runoff and streamflow.”¹⁸

This projected reduction in total runoff is anticipated as a result of increased losses to evapotranspiration. Specifically, “(h)igher temperatures will cause higher evaporative losses from snowpack, surface reservoirs, irrigated land and land cover surfaces across the river basin.”¹⁹

The report discusses the significance of this change from a policy perspective. “Any future decreases in Colorado River streamflow, driven primarily by increasing temperatures, would be especially troubling because the quantity of water allocations under the Law of the River already exceeds the amount of mean annual Colorado River flows.”²⁰

Other efforts have also projected potential decreases in total streamflows. For example, analysis by the California Climate Change Center in 2006 found that climate change could lead to significant reductions in total reservoir inflows and total Delta inflows. Approximately two-thirds of model runs revealed likely reductions in total inflows for major northern California reservoirs, with maximum projected reductions of approximately 12 percent.²¹ It is important to note that this analysis does not clearly separate the factors anticipated to cause this reduction.

Potential reductions in total streamflows have far-reaching implications for water managers. This is particularly true because, in many cases, additional water

Table 2-1: Predicted Changes in California’s Reservoir and Delta Inflows in 2050 with Climate Change

	Lake Shasta			Folsom Lake			Total Delta Inflows		
	Annual Avg. Inflow (TAF)	Change From Base (TAF)	Change From Base (%)	Annual Avg. Inflow (TAF)	Change From Base (TAF)	Change From Base (%)	Annual Avg. Inflow (TAF)	Change From Base (TAF)	Change From Base (%)
Base	5492			2670			20850		
GFDL A2	5442	-51	-1%	2355	-315	-11.80%	20258	-592	-3%
PCM A2	5177	-315	-5.70%	2410	-260	-9.70%	19939	-911	-4%
GFDL B1	5601	109	2.00%	2368	-302	-11.30%	20071	-778	-4%
PCM B1	5854	362	6.60%	2829	159	6.00%	21789	939	5%

Data derived from Chapter 4 of California Department of Water Resources, Progress on Incorporating Climate Change into Management of California’s Water Resources. Technical Memorandum Report. July 2006.

development could be designed to capture flows that are not captured by the current infrastructure. If future average streamflows are lower, it suggests that this infrastructure could be wasted—designed to capture flows that may not be there in the future.

A Warmer Climate Increases the Risk of Fires

Fire is already a serious concern in the West. Where wildlands meet development, fire poses a particular danger to life and property. But fire also provides important benefits and is a necessary process in the West's ecosystems. Many plants actually depend on periodic fire cycles to maintain health and some plants require fire for seed germination. Whether a benefit to the ecosystem or a threat to property, fire can have serious water supply impacts in terms of reduced downstream water quality and loss of reservoir storage capacity due to sedimentation.²²

Studies show that earlier loss of snowpack will lead to increased stress on vegetation, reduced summer soil moisture, and, therefore, increased threat of fire, particularly in the arid West. There is strong evidence from research at Scripps Institute that this is already occurring in the western United States.²³ Two primary ways for climate change and variability to increase the threat of fire are: an oscillation between periods of increased precipitation and periods of drought—as projected in some climate scenarios—could increase fuel loads and create extreme fire conditions, and; warmer temperatures and consequent low moisture content in soils and fuel could create increased fire risk. Heat waves and high winds would exacerbate these conditions. Frank Davis at University of California Santa Barbara notes that “fire behavior models predict a sharp increase in both ignition and fire spread under warmer temperatures combined with lower humidities and drier fuels.”²⁴

A particularly interesting finding from the Southwest Regional Assessment is the relationship of climate to fire cycles evident in the tree-ring record.²⁵ Reconstruction from tree-ring data of wildfire occurrence in the Southwest reveals simultaneous changes occurring after 1700 that reflect climate impacts to wildfire patterns over interannual to centennial time scales.²⁶ Research by Swetnam et al. highlights the importance of understanding how lag times between climatic events and vegetation response influence subsequent fire patterns.²⁷ These lag times have important implications for long-range fire hazard forecasting and ecosystem management. For example, based on a 300-year

record of climate and fire derived from tree-ring analysis, a pattern of one or more wetter-than-normal El Niño winters in the Southwest, followed by a drier-than-normal La Niña winter, establishes preconditions for unusually large and intense wildfires.²⁸ Further, certain kinds of episodic ecological disturbances, such as insect outbreaks, may be traceable to patterns in climatic variability.²⁹

Sea Level Rise Threatens Water Supply, Water Quality and Wetlands

Global warming drives two primary mechanisms of sea level rise: thermal expansion of seawater as the oceans warm, and; melting of mountain glaciers and massive bodies of polar ice—particularly the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report projects that sea levels will rise by 7 to 23 inches by the year 2100—a consequence that brings profound implications for water resources in the West.³⁰ This estimate does not account for the accelerated melting of the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets.

The melting of ice sheets brings the largest potential rise in total sea levels, as their complete melting would result in a 70-meter increase in global sea levels.³¹

A great deal of uncertainty exists regarding ice sheet dynamics and the limitations of current modeling. For example, a NASA/University of Kansas study published in the March 24, 2006 issue of *Science* by Jonathan Overpeck and co-authors, estimated that the last time Arctic temperatures were as high as those projected for the 21st century (about 125,000 years ago), sea levels was 4 to 6 meters higher than it is today.³² It is difficult to estimate how long it would take for sea level to rise this much, University of Texas researchers determined that the Greenland ice sheet is currently melting three times faster than during the previous five years, underscoring the already accelerating rates of ice sheet melting.³³ Although uncertainties exist in forecasting the rate of ice sheet melting, acceleration in sea level rise is real, bringing serious implications for coastal land and water supply.

On the West coast, sea level rise presents potentially severe impacts. For example, for the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, global warming impacts will compromise ecosystem health, water supply, and water quality (see “The Rising Costs of Rising Sea Level”). Sea level rise could also affect water supply by causing wetland erosion and surface water and

The Rising Costs of Rising Sea Level

The predicted increase in physical damage to the coastal structures and coastal erosion associated with sea level rise inundation will have significant and far-reaching costs. The IPCC Third Assessment Report estimates that in the case of a 0.5-meter sea level rise, the financial costs of cumulative flooding impacts to U.S. coastal property would reach at least \$20 billion to \$150 billion. Storm surges and floods have the potential to breach levees, leading to massive economic and social costs—as seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. These costs must be considered when evaluating the reliability of future water supply projects, particularly those that include the building of storage facilities and physical ocean barriers, such as levees.

Source: Burkett, V., J.O. Codignotto, D.L. Forbes, N. Mimura, R.J. Beamish, V. Ittekkot. "Coastal Zones and Marine Ecosystems" in *Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*, James J. McCarthy, Osvaldo F. Canziani, Neil A. Leary, David J. Dokken, Kasey S. White, eds. Contribution of Working Group II to the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 881 p.

groundwater salination. The inundation of wetlands induced by climate change could weaken their critical role as a natural water filtration system.³⁴ In addition, inundation due to sea level rise will increase salinity intrusion into coastal aquifers.³⁵

CLIMATE CHANGE WILL AFFECT FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Flood management has been the cause of growing concern—and cost—throughout the United States, particularly in the West as floodplains are urbanized. According to data from the National Weather Service, from 1955 to 2003 the average annual cost of flood damages combined for California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and Montana has been more than \$332 million in today's dollars.³⁶ However, for the period between 1994 and 2003 the annual average was almost \$930 million per year—an increase reflecting the growing severity of a situation that will only be made worse by the effects of climate change.

In the West, the majority of the annual precipitation occurs in the winter and early spring. That timing creates

a tension between flood control and water supply. Most large reservoirs serve a dual purpose: providing flood protection during the wet months and water supply during the rest of the year. In order to provide flood protection, reservoirs must keep a percentage of their total storage capacity empty in the event that space is needed to capture high flows and prevent flooding downstream. But as the end of the wet season nears, water managers must balance the risk need to maintain sufficient storage space in their reservoirs for flood protection against the risk of leaving too much storage space and not filling reservoirs with water that will be needed during the dry season.

Scientists indicate that climate change will exacerbate the problem of flooding by increasing the frequency and magnitude of large storms, which in turn will cause an increase in the size and frequency of flood events. The increasing cost of flood damages and potential loss of life will put more pressure on water managers to provide greater flood protection. At the same time, changing climate conditions (decreased snowpack, earlier runoff, larger peak events, etc.) will make predicting and maximizing water supply more difficult. Water managers should be prepared to respond to these new challenges by improving floodplain management, and considering the reoperation of existing reservoirs and other water supply infrastructure.

Walking the Tightrope: Managing Dams for Water Supply and Flood Protection

Even under normal circumstances, maximizing water supplies is complicated by the inherent unpredictability of weather. To walk this tightrope, water managers work throughout the spring with snowpack data, and often aided

"Intensification of the hydrological cycle could make reservoir management more challenging, since there is often a tradeoff between storing water for dry-period use and evacuating reservoirs prior to the onset of the flood season to protect downstream communities. It may become more difficult to meet delivery requirements during prolonged periods between reservoir refilling without also increasing the risk of flooding."

Source: Climate Change and Water Resources, AWWARF

by computer models, to assess likely runoff into storage facilities. However this is an imprecise science at best because forecasting seasonal weather patterns for even a few weeks, let alone a month or two, is highly uncertain. The changes in snowpack and precipitation patterns related to

global warming will make maximizing water supplies without increasing the risks of flooding even more challenging.

Despite some increases in winter precipitation, much of the mountainous West has experienced declines in spring snowpack over the past 50 years. According to two studies by climate scientists at the University of

The Other New Orleans: California's Delta and Sea Level Rise

Sea level rise has the potential to be among the most visible, harmful, and costly impacts of climate change. A rising sea level presents particular challenges for low-lying urban areas. California's San Francisco Bay-Delta provides an important example of the potential water supply impacts of climate-driven sea level rise.

The Delta represents the upper tidal reach of San Francisco Bay, the largest estuary on the western coast of the Americas. The Delta's watershed includes 40 percent of the state.

The Delta is a significant surface water source and the state's largest riverine ecosystem—a resource of enormous environmental and economic value.

More than 20 million people rely on it for a portion of their water supply; water for Central Valley farms, parts of the San Francisco Bay Area, and Southern California is diverted by massive water pumps in the Southern Delta. And although most of the 1,000-square-mile tule marsh that was once the Delta has been converted to farmland, the Delta still plays a critical role in supporting the biggest salmon run south of the Columbia River. Every winter its islands fill with swans, geese, and sandhill cranes. The hundreds of miles of channels that wind through dozens of leveed agricultural islands are a Mecca for boaters, windsurfers, and anglers. Four-hundred-thousand Californians live in Delta communities. The Delta is also crisscrossed by infrastructure, including power lines, and highways.

The Achilles heel of the San Francisco Bay-Delta may be the confluence of three factors: subsidence, sea level rise, and high levels of water diversions. When the Delta's light peat soils are farmed, they blow away, compact, and oxidize, causing the elevation of these farmlands to fall. Today, thousands of acres of Delta islands are 20 feet or

more below sea level. It's not uncommon to stand on Delta farmland and look up at a boat 20 feet overhead as it sails by on the other side of a levee. In parts of the Delta, subsidence is continuing at 1 to 3 inches per year.

A recent study by Jeffrey Mount of the University of California at Davis and Bob Twiss of the University of California at Berkeley found that the Delta's

future is threatened by several factors: ongoing subsidence, shaky century-old levees, floods, earthquakes, and sea level rise. Mount and Twiss estimated that the Delta has a 64 percent chance of a catastrophic failure of multiple Delta levees by 2050. Such a failure would threaten the Delta's residents, farms, and infrastructure.

If many islands were to flood simultaneously, particularly during the summer when less fresh water flows from the rivers that feed the Delta, it could draw salty San Francisco Bay water into the Delta, threatening important water supplies. The economic impacts of such a catastrophic failure could be widespread and long lasting. The failure of New Orleans' levees has awakened California water users and agencies to the long-term risks to stability of the Delta. Of all of the challenges facing the San Francisco Bay-Delta, sea level rise may be the most critical. There are more than 1,100 miles of Delta levees, many of which are in poor repair. Improving and raising all of these levees several feet may be financially infeasible.



Sources: U.S. Geological Survey, "Delta Subsidence in California," April 2000. <http://science.calwater.ca.gov/pdf/fs00500.pdf>.

Mount, Jeffrey, UC Davis, and Bob Twiss, UC Berkeley. "Subsidence, Sea Level Rise and Seismicity in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, Vol. 3, No. 1, March 2005.

“Models project that increasing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases result in changes in frequency, intensity and duration of extreme events, such as more hot days, heat waves, heavy precipitation events and fewer cold days. Many of these projected changes would lead to increased risks of floods and droughts in many regions...”

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), *Climate Change 2001: Synthesis Report, Summary for Policymakers*

Washington and the University of Colorado, snowpack has decreased by 15 to 75 percent in parts of Oregon, western Washington, northern California and the northern Rockies, mainly because of climate change.³⁷ Increased temperatures cause a greater percentage of wintertime precipitation to fall as rain instead of snow.³⁸ The resulting reduction in snowpack causes a drop in the total amount of spring snowmelt runoff. The snowpack that does form is melting earlier in the year, further exacerbating changes in stream hydrology.³⁹

The magnitude and frequency of larger high flow events are predicted to increase under climate change for two primary reasons. The first is related to the decrease in snowpack. Several 2002 climate change studies found that in California, peak streamflow occurred up to two months earlier in the year due to a decrease in the number of freezing days in the season, a drop in snowpack, and an increase in early snow melt.⁴⁰ The studies also showed that such changes “suggest that 50 percent of the season runoff will have occurred early in the year for many snow melt driven watersheds in the West, and the resulting early snow melt implies higher streamflow increases and an increased likelihood of more flood events in future years.”⁴¹

A second factor causing higher peak flows is the basic relationship among temperature, evaporation rates, and the amount of moisture in the atmosphere. Climate models show that the warming of the earth’s surface increases evaporation and the amount of water vapor in the atmosphere. Increases in water vapor, a primary factor in providing moisture for rain, will mean heavier precipitation during storm events. The USGS modeled the effects of climate change on increased storm intensity and found that the risk of a 100-year flood event will grow larger in the 21st century. Instead of a 1 percent chance that in any year there will be a 100-year flood event, the likelihood in a single year could become as high as one in seventeen.⁴²

CLIMATE CHANGE WILL AFFECT WATER QUALITY

Changes in precipitation, flow, and temperature associated with climate change will likely exacerbate water quality problems. Changes in precipitation affect water quantity, flow rates, and flow timing.⁴³ Decreased flows can exacerbate the effect of temperature increases, raise the concentration of pollutants, increase residence time of pollutants, and heighten salinity levels in arid regions.⁴⁴

On the one hand, higher water flows can dilute point-source pollutants, drive up loadings from non-point source pollutants, and reduce the residence time for contaminants. Higher flows can also increase the export of pollutants to coastal wetlands and deltas.⁴⁵ In addition, higher flows can cause higher turbidity in lakes, which reduces the light penetration crucial to the health of aquatic life.⁴⁶ On the other hand, where surface flows decline, erosion rates and sediment transport may drop, and lake clarity may improve but this may increase the concentration of pollutants.

The effect of climate change on water quality will also be felt at our beaches, as the rate of beach closures will likely go up. In recent years, beaches have been closed repeatedly because of unhealthy levels of bacteria and other contaminants in the water.⁴⁷ The primary cause of these high bacterial levels is runoff from storms. Rain that is channeled into storm drains and backed up into sewage systems flushes bacteria, feces, pesticides and pollutants such as motor oil and trash into coastal waters. The increase in severe storm events predicted by global warming models is likely to mean more polluted runoff in a climate-altered future.

Finally, as discussed earlier, climate change is likely to increase fire risks in much of the West. This increase in burning in western watersheds has the potential to increase downstream fire-related sedimentation and other water quality problems. For example, heavy rainfall in Colorado in 1996, following the 12,000-acre Buffalo Creek fire, deposited 600,000 cubic yards of sediment into a Denver Water storage facility in the Upper South Platte River basin.⁴⁸ This amounted to more than 13 years of average siltation in just a few days. Such events may be larger and more frequent with climate change.

“Aquatic and wetland ecosystems are very vulnerable to climate change. The metabolic rates of organisms and the overall productivity of ecosystems are directly regulated by temperature. Projected increases in temperature are expected to disrupt present patterns of plant and animal distribution in aquatic ecosystems. Changes in precipitation and runoff modify the amount and quality of habitat for aquatic organisms, and thus, they indirectly influence ecosystem productivity and diversity.”

Source: Pew Center on Global Climate Change, *Aquatic Ecosystems and Global Climate Change: Potential Impacts on Inland Freshwater and Coastal Wetland Ecosystems in the United States*, 2002.

CLIMATE CHANGE WILL AFFECT AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

The United States is home to more than 800 fish species and thousands of aquatic invertebrates and insects found nowhere else.⁴⁹ The extinction rate for freshwater species in this country equals or exceeds that of other ecosystems.⁵⁰ The aquatic ecosystems found within our streams, lakes, and wetlands have been negatively affected for decades by changes in the environment such as dam construction and flow diversions, loss of habitat associated with development, decreased water quality, and now, climate change. Climate change will further exacerbate the current challenges faced by aquatic ecosystems. Understanding how climate change impacts aquatic ecosystems will allow water managers to implement appropriate strategies that support long-term aquatic ecosystem health, reduce endangered species related conflicts, and minimize impacts on water supplies. There are two major ways that climate change will impact ecosystems: increased temperatures and altered hydrology.

Increased Temperatures

Water temperature influences aquatic ecosystems primarily in terms of ecological and biological factors such as dissolved oxygen levels and the ability of a species to exist within the range of temperatures. Climate change will increase air temperatures, and hotter air will translate into warmer water temperatures in streams and rivers.^{51,52} Warmer water will cause increased stress on aquatic spe-

cies that may already be near their limit of temperature tolerance because they inhabit low-elevation areas or are near the southern edge of their distribution.

In response to climate change, many species will need to expand their range northward, or into cooler, higher elevations upstream, otherwise they will disappear from the watershed. Studies have found that a 4 degree Celsius increase would require some species to move approximately 420 miles northward to find temperature conditions similar to that of their original habitat.⁵³ The ability of species to adjust their range depends on its ability to move and find suitable habitat. Although avian species may be more mobile, resident fish and plants are less likely to be able to disperse to new locations, even over several generations. Migration barriers and the highly fragmented nature of most of our remaining riverine ecosystems pose many challenges to such geographic shifts.

Even if species can move within a watershed, new conditions at higher elevations may not be suitable for the displaced species. Fish that need deep pools or the lower flow velocities conditions typical of lower elevations within a watershed may be unable to find such conditions in the steeper reaches upstream. Dams and other infrastructure may also prevent access to portions of the river upstream. Overcoming these challenges is made all the more difficult by the fact that the current rapid rate of climate change will pressure species to adapt over decades, not the centuries normally needed to adapt to historic climate change.

Increased water temperatures and seasonally reduced streamflows will alter many ecosystem processes, with potential direct societal costs.⁵⁴ In addition to negatively impacting species, higher water temperatures will decrease water quality. As water temperatures rise, the amount of dissolved oxygen in water drops.

On the lower San Joaquin River in California, reduced dissolved oxygen levels have caused fish kills and created temporary seasonal barriers to the migration of salmon. Upstream dams and diversions have lowered streamflows. Lower flows have in turn led to increased water temperatures, concentrated nutrient loading from agriculture runoff and wastewater discharge.⁵⁵

When higher water temperatures promote the growth of algae, this can further cut the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water, creating stressful or fatal conditions for fish. Higher water temperatures can also negatively impact ecosystem dynamics, including predator-prey relationships. On the Columbia River in Washington, for instance, warmer temperatures have created a thermal

Fish at Risk: Salmon in the Klamath River and Silvery Minnow in the Rio Grande

In recent years, the West has seen numerous water resource conflicts pitting protection of threatened and endangered species against the need for water supplies. The salmon kills on the Klamath River and the near extinction of the silvery minnow on the Rio Grande are the kinds of conflicts likely to become more common due to climate change impacts on already impaired aquatic water ecosystems.

A series of dams and diversions provide water for agriculture on the Klamath River in the northern California. At the same time, these dams and diversions significantly reduce in-streamflows. In 2002, low flows contributed to high water temperatures, which impeded migration and

caused the death of more than 35,000 adult salmon. As a result of the adult fish kills in 2002 and the severely reduced population of juveniles the following year, salmon fisheries were heavily restricted in 2006 in California to protect the few returning Klamath adults, even though strong runs of salmon were returning on other rivers along the coast and in the Central Valley. The fishing restrictions hit the already struggling fishing industry hard.

Similarly, the Rio Grande silvery minnow was listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1994; it faced possible because of loss of habitat and the effects of dams and diversions constructed for municipal and agricultural use. Continued declines in the silvery minnow population lead to lawsuits against the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers. Today, this species is found in less than 5 percent of its historic range and is heavily managed to prevent its extinction.

Climate change will add new stresses to those associated with water supply diversions. As a result, aquatic ecosystems and sensitive species may be pushed to the point of collapse, thereby increasing the likelihood of even greater conflicts and the need to reduce water supply diversions to meet regulatory protections.

Source: Ikenson, B., 2002. "Rio Grand Silvery Minnow." *Endangered Species Bulletin*, March/June 2002, Vol. XXVII, No. 2.



barrier to migration for Coho salmon and have resulted in increased predation on juveniles by predator species.⁵⁶

Not all impacts of warming will be harmful. For species that are limited in range due to cold temperatures, particularly in the northern latitudes, a warmer climate may have benefits. However, the benefits to relatively few species are vastly outweighed by the negative impacts that climate change will have on other species and ecosystems in the western states.

Altered Hydrology

The effects of climate change on seasonal variations in streamflows may have significant impacts on fish species, regardless of changes in water temperature. The hydrology of streams—including the timing, magnitude, frequency, and duration of flows—significantly influences the nature of stream ecosystems, particularly the

physical characteristics such as the shape of the channel. Many species time their movements up or downstream or out to sea to take advantage of often temporary in-streamflow conditions. Regional shifts in climate that substantially and permanently alter the timing and magnitude of flows can further impact habitat suitability for many species.⁵⁷ As a result, alterations in timing and amount of rainfall can significantly impact their ability to reproduce and cause decreases in population numbers.

In the West, the typical snowmelt-driven stream hydrology entails high spring flows followed by lower summer, fall and winter base flows. But global warming is causing earlier snowmelt by increasing winter and springtime temperatures. Earlier snow melt changes the timing of high flows that are important to aquatic species for reproduction and predator avoidance.⁵⁸ In many western streams, spring runoff is critical to the rearing of

juvenile fish and the downstream migration for salmon on their way to the sea.

Earlier runoff can also result in lower streamflows in the summer and fall. Lower flows may result in warmer and shallower stream conditions that make it more difficult for migratory fish. Similar impacts of reduced in-streamflows already occur on many major rivers due to impoundment or flow diversion. Climate change could exacerbate this problem by shifting seasonal patterns of precipitation and in-streamflow.

Increased frequency and magnitude of peak flows have been observed and they are predicted by a number of climate models.^{59,60} In the West, models show that an increased percentage of precipitation falling as rain instead of snow will mean higher peak flows even if total precipitation stays the same. The resulting increase in peak flows has implications for public safety as discussed earlier in this report and can also negatively impact aquatic ecosystems. Increased intensity of precipitation will lead to more runoff, which in turn can cause more sediment and pollution from the contributing watershed to make their way into water bodies. Higher flows can increase the rate at which beneficial nutrients are flushed out of the watershed and can displace species downstream to potentially less suitable habitat. The cumulative effects of higher peak flows can also cause significant shifts in species composition and may change some habitats so much that some species are eliminated from affected areas.⁶¹

For many species that are already struggling, the relatively rapid change in seasonal hydrology combined with increasing water temperatures will further degrade important habitats, increasing the need for environmental protection measures, such as flow and temperature requirements. The extent to which water supplies are affected by management actions requiring decreased flow diversion will largely depend on whether there are other management options to mitigate the impacts related to climate change. Adequate flows are essential to sustain aquatic ecosystems and sensitive species. But nonflow actions such as removing migration barriers, improving water quality, and restoring habitat can significantly reduce the need for additional flows.

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE WILL AFFECT WESTERN HYDROPOWER

The West relies on dams, in addition to water supply and flood control, for hydropower generation. In California,

Cold-Water Fish Such as Trout and Salmon Threatened by Warmer Waters

Cold-water species such as trout and salmon will be particularly vulnerable to warming waters. A study by Eaton and Scheller found that higher maximum temperatures in streams across the continental United States caused by an average air temperature increase of about 4 degrees Celsius would result in a decline of about 50 percent in thermally suitable habitat for 57 species that require cold or cool water—including game fish such as trout, salmon, and perch. Other researchers have predicted that an increase in air temperature of 3 degrees Celsius in streams of the Rocky Mountain region would reduce suitable stream habitat for trout by up to 54 percent.

Of particular concern is the number of streams that will cease to support a wide range of trout and salmon species due to increased temperatures. An analysis based on emission scenarios provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that up to 38 percent of locations currently suitable for cold-water fish will become too warm to provide habitat by 2090.

Sources: Eaton, J.G., and R.M. Scheller, 1996. "Effects of Climate Warming on Fish Thermal Habitat in Streams of the United States." *Limnology & Oceanography* 41:1,109-1,115.

Keleher, C.J., and F.J. Rahel, 1996. "Thermal Limits to Salmonid Distributions in the Rocky Mountain Region and Potential Habitat Loss Due to Global Warming: A Geographic Information System (GIS) Approach." *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 125:1-13.

Rahel, F.J., C.J. Keleher, and J.L. Anderson, 1996. "Habitat Loss and Population Fragmentation for Coldwater Fishes in the Rocky Mountain Region in Response to Climate Warming." *Limnology & Oceanography* 41:1116-1123.

O'Neal, K., 2002. *The Effects of Global Warming on Trout and Salmon in U.S. Streams*. Natural Resources Defense Council and Defenders of Wildlife.

for example, hydropower provides an annual average of 15 percent of California's electricity production.⁶² But hydropower production is heavily influenced by variations in weather. In 2001, low snowpack in the Pacific Northwest diminished hydropower generation and contributed to energy shortages along the West Coast, illustrating just how vulnerable hydropower in the West is to climate change.⁶³

Global warming could have a detrimental effect on the relationship between hydropower production and energy

demand. As discussed in earlier sections, scientists anticipate a shift in hydrology that includes in reduced winter snowpack, higher peak flows, earlier snowmelt runoffs in spring, and decreased summer streamflows. This shift would likely increase hydropower production supply in winter and spring, but decrease it during summer when less water is available as inflows. However demand for power, intensified by climate change, is likely to follow an opposite trajectory. An overall increase in temperatures could lead to lower winter demand for heating and greater summer demand for air conditioning. Thus, when energy is needed in summer to meet the greater demand for air conditioning, hydropower's energy production will likely be hindered, given the predicted decrease in summer flows. Another vulnerability of higher peak streamflows is an elevated risk of reservoir spills, are a key vulnerability of higher peak streamflows, which would contribute to an overall reduction of net generation.

The Portland Water Bureau (PWB) sponsored a study by Richard Palmer and Margaret Hahn of the University of Washington. The study concluded that

a change in runoff timing would create problems for both water supply reliability and hydropower capacity. In Palmer and Hahn's analysis of future climate change scenarios, they found that the PWB system's winter flows could increase by as much as 15 percent and that late spring flows could decrease by 30 percent.⁶⁴ These changes, combined with an summertime increases in water and electricity use, present serious challenges for PWB. Simply put, early runoff results in water being less available when demand is highest for both water supply and hydropower energy production. Further, the Palmer and Hahn study found that global warming could exacerbate this water and energy supply problem because one of its key effects is an increased possibility of flooding. As fewer freezing days may raise runoff levels, the need intensifies to manage hydroelectric dams for greater flood protection at the expense of hydropower production and water supplies.⁶⁵

For more information regarding the Palmer and Hahn study, please see the Portland Water Bureau Case Study in Appendix A.

The Water and Energy Connection

The strong connection between energy use and water management is often overlooked. Because the energy implications of water supply decisions can be so large,¹ the water/energy nexus will be increasingly important to future efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The California Energy Commission estimates that 19 percent of the state's electricity use, more than 30 percent of the natural gas use (aside from what is consumed by power plants), and 88 million gallons of annual diesel fuel consumption, are associated with water use.² In fact, the California State Water Project (SWP) is the single largest energy user in the state. The water and energy connection is discussed in greater detail in the report *Energy Down the Drain*, by NRDC and The Pacific Institute.

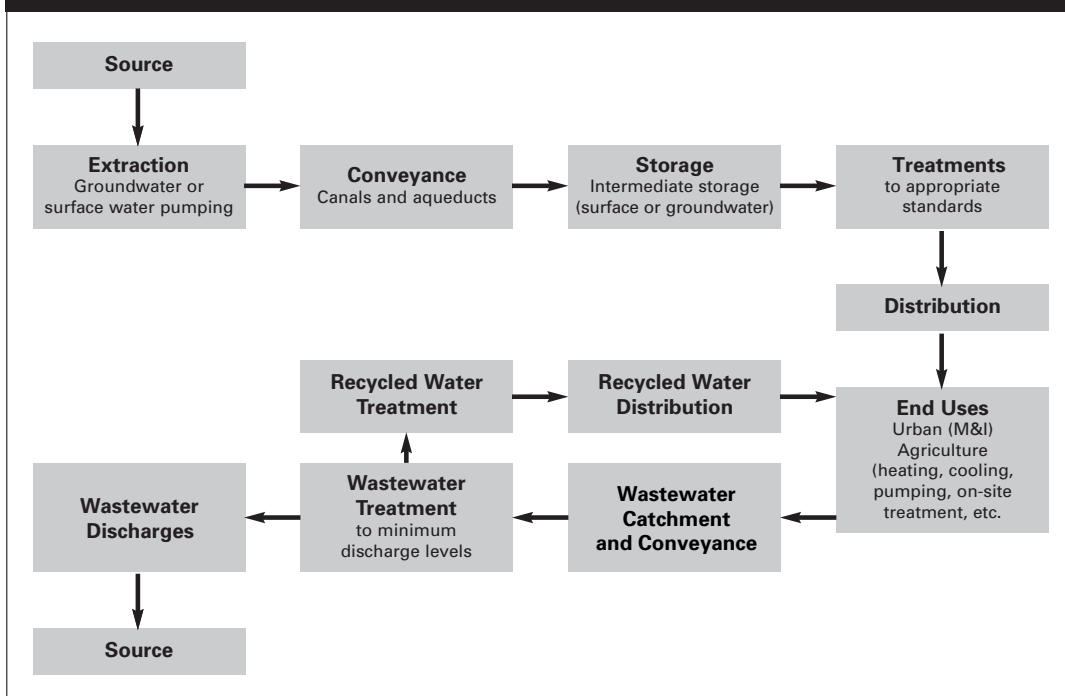
Water use efficiency and water recycling, along with groundwater recharge and stormwater management options, can provide significant opportunities for water managers to simultaneously improve water supply reliability, cut costs, save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. An improved understanding of the relationship between energy and water will assist water managers in incorporating climate change into management plans (see Figure 3-1).

The four principal elements of water systems use energy are: (1) water extraction, conveyance, and storage; (2) water treatment and distribution within service areas; (3) end use, including on-site water pumping, treatment, and thermal inputs (heating and cooling); and (4) waste-

water collection, treatment, and discharge. Energy intensity, or embedded energy, is the total amount of energy calculated on a whole-system basis that is required for the use of a given amount of water in a specific location (see Figure 3-1).

Energy inputs to water systems, and related greenhouse gas emissions, vary considerably by energy sources and geographic location of both end users and water sources and end users. Water use in certain areas is highly energy intensive due to the combined requirements of extraction, conveyance, local treatment and distribution, and wastewater collection and treatment processes. In areas where a large percentage of power is provided by coal-fired plants, the greenhouse gas intensity of water use is particularly high.

Figure 3-1: Flow Diagram of Energy Inputs to Water Systems



Source: This schematic and method is based on Wilkinson (2000) with refinements by Gary Klein, California Energy Commission; Gary Wolff, Pacific Institute; and others. It is available as a simple spreadsheet tool from Wilkinson at Wilkinson@es.ucsb.edu.

Source and Conveyance of Water

Significant amounts of energy are often required to extract a source of water usable and to move the water to where it will be treated and used. Most water used in the United States is diverted from surface sources, such as rivers, streams and lakes, or pumped from groundwater aquifers. Conveying water often requires pumps to lift the water over hills and mountains, a process that can require large amounts of energy. In California, the State Water Project lifts water 2,000 feet over the Tehachapi Mountains—the highest lift of any major water system in the world. Where water is stored in intermediate facilities, additional energy may be required to store and then recover it. Smaller amounts of freshwater are produced from saltwater, brackish water, or wastewater using desalination or recycling technologies. Desalination requires energy to remove salts from water through reverse osmosis or other processes. Water recycling also requires energy to remove pollutants from wastewater.

Treatment and Distribution

Water treatment facilities use energy to pump and process water. The amount of energy required for treatment depends on source water quality. The energy required nationally for water treatment is expected to increase over the next decade as treatment capacity expands, new water quality standards are put in place, and new treatments are developed to improve drinking water quality, including taste and color. After water is treated, additional energy is typically required for local pumping and pressurization, but gravity pressurization and distribution is also possible when reservoirs are sufficiently higher than residences and businesses. Agricultural water generally is not treated before use.

End Uses

Water users require energy to further treat water supplies (e.g., softeners and filters), circulate and pressurize water supplies (e.g., building circulation pumps), and heat and cool water for various purposes. End use energy comprises

a major portion of water-related energy use. For example, water heating for one inefficient showerhead can use up to 2,800 kilowatt hours per year—almost as much energy as it takes to pump the annual water supply for two Southern California homes over the Tehachapi Mountains.³

Wastewater Collection and Treatment

Wastewater is collected and treated by a wastewater system (unless a septic system or other alternative is being used) and discharged. Wastewater is often pumped to treatment facilities where gravity flow is not possible and standard treatments requires energy for pumping, aeration, and other processes.

Reducing Water-Related Energy Use

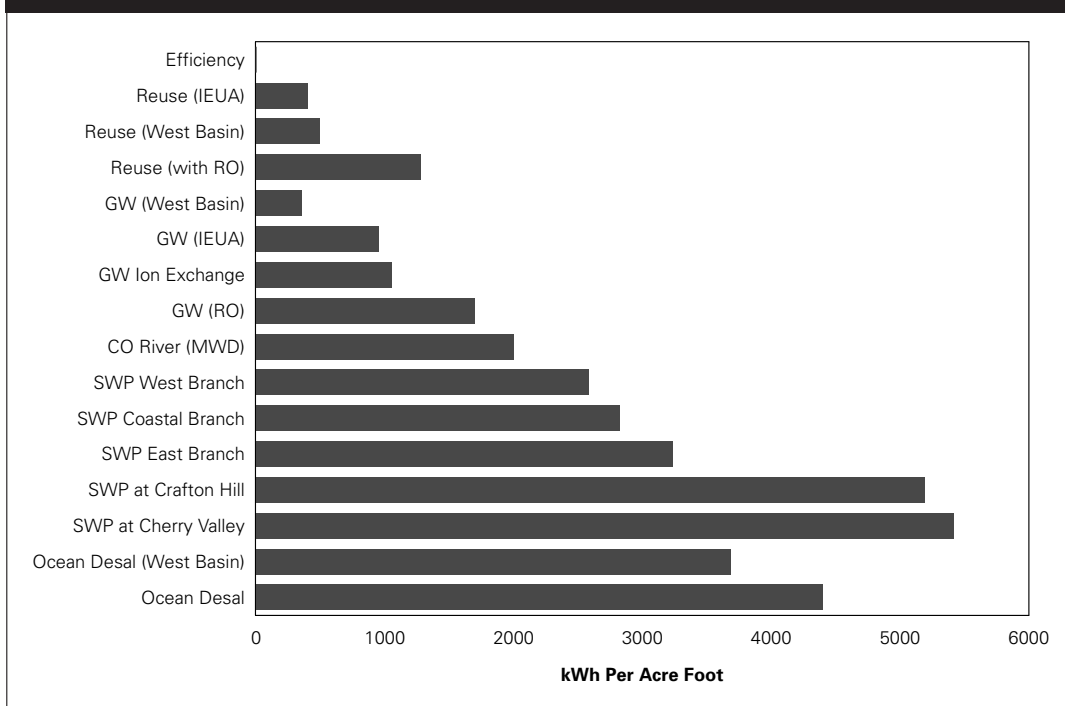
Water use efficiency is the single best way to reduce water-related energy use. As noted above, the energy required for end uses of water (e.g., washing machines, cooling towers) is a major component of energy use in the

urban water supply cycle. Water use efficiency saves end use energy, as well as the upstream energy needed to convey, treat, and distribute that water and the downstream energy needed to treat and dispose of wastewater. Therefore, improving water use efficiency, particularly for energy intensive uses of water, is important regardless of the source of the water or location of its use.

An analysis of water management options for the San Diego County Water Authority found that the total energy savings from relying on improved water use efficiency instead of additional State Water Project deliveries to provide the next 100,000 acre-feet of supply would be approximately 770 million kWh. This would be enough to supply electricity to 118,000 households—25 percent of the homes in San Diego—for a year.⁴

Most local sources are more energy efficient than imported water supplies. Figure 3-2 shows the energy intensity of water supply options for two southern California water agencies:

Figure 3-2: Energy Intensity of Alternative Supply Sources in Two Southern California Water Agencies



Source: Wilkinson based on data from Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA), West Basin Municipal Water District, and California Department of Water Resources.

the Inland Empire Utilities Agency and the West Basin Municipal Utility District. The analysis indicates that water use efficiency is the least energy intensive option and that recycled water and local groundwater sources are a relative energy bargain compared with imported supplies. Even the Chino desalter, a reverse osmosis (RO) process for contaminated groundwater that includes groundwater pumping and RO filtration, is far less energy intensive than any of the imported sources of water. From an energy standpoint, local sources of reclaimed water and groundwater—including contaminated sources requiring advanced treatment—are remarkably efficient. Similar findings were made for the Central Basin Municipal Water District.

The energy intensity of many water supply sources may increase in the future due to regulatory requirements for water quality.⁵ Advanced treatment systems such as reverse osmosis (RO) are being used to treat groundwater, reclaimed supplies, and ocean water. They can produce very high quality water. As a result, they are likely to face fewer energy impacts from more stringent water quality regulations. By contrast, some of the raw water supplies, such as Colorado river and Delta water, may require larger incremental energy inputs for treatment, due to high salinity, including arsenic and perchlorate. This may further increase the advantage of obtaining water from local sources.

Recent State and National Actions to Address Energy-Water Issues

Recently, the link among water, energy, and climate has been getting increased attention. For example, the California Energy Commission (CEC) issued a report on the water/energy relationship and incorporated recommendations into its *Integrated Energy Policy Report* (IEPR) submitted to the state legislature in December 2005. According to the IEPR, investing in water conservation can achieve 95 percent of the energy and demand-reduction goals planned by the state's investor-owned energy utilities for the 2006–2008 program period at 58 percent of the cost of traditional energy efficiency measures.⁶ The CEC report noted that “water agencies are seldom given credit, nor are they able to secure funding, for the electricity savings that result from water conservation and efficiency efforts.”⁷

In the IEPR, the CEC recommended that “the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Department of Water Resources, the Energy Commission, local water agencies and other stakeholders should assess efficiency improvements in hot and cold water use in homes and businesses and include these improvements in 2006–2008 programs.”⁸ To address this important implementation obstacle to integrated water and energy conservation programs, the CPUC has embarked upon a process for rulemaking on issues related to embedded energy, and is currently evaluating proposals for pilot programs that focus on saving embedded energy through improved water use efficiency.⁹

Building on the CEC work, California's Climate Action Team recently took the unprecedented step of identifying water use efficiency as a tool to reduce climate change emissions and the California State Legislature is considering legislation requiring water agencies to evaluate the energy impacts of its water management alternatives. As California implements AB 32, The Global Warming Solutions Act, water efficiency measures are among the suite of actions that will be evaluated for their ability to help the state meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

On the national level, the U.S. Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratory is leading the National Energy/Water Roadmap Program initiated in 2005, as requested by Congress. The purpose of this integrated energy/water research and development program is “to assess the effectiveness of existing programs within the Department of Energy and other Federal agencies in addressing energy and water related issues, and to assist the DOE in defining the direction of research, development, demonstration, and commercialization efforts.”¹⁰

These efforts represent the beginning of better-integrated water, energy, and climate policy. Information about the energy and climate implications of water use can help improve public policy and facilitate combined investment and management strategies among energy, water, and wastewater entities. Potential benefits include improved allocation of capital, avoided capital and operating costs, reduced burdens on ratepayers, emission reductions, and environmental benefits.

Chapter 4

A Guide for Water Managers: Designing a Comprehensive Response to Climate Change

Many water managers are already taking action to understand and address impacts related to climate change. This section is designed to summarize some of these actions and review “best management practice” approaches to these important challenges. Given the wide range of potential climate change impacts on water systems across the West, water managers have numerous options at their disposal to address the effects of climate change.

If well designed, these tools can provide a robust response, potential climate change impacts on water management, and a broad array of additional benefits. This chapter outlines four critical steps water managers can take to ensure a steady supply of quality water in the face of the challenges that climate change poses to the system. It sets forth strategies to make each step successful given the limited resources every water manager faces. Here are the four steps:

1. *Vulnerability analysis:* Evaluating the vulnerability of water supply systems, flood management systems, watersheds, and aquatic ecosystems to water-related climate impacts.
2. *Response strategies:* Implementing response strategies to reduce future impacts of climate change in two major areas: water supply and water management, including flood management and aquatic ecosystems.
3. *Prevention:* Taking immediate and sustained action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to minimize future impacts.

4. *Public outreach:* Increasing public awareness of climate change and potential water-related impacts and opportunities.

VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

An essential first step for water managers is to examine both local and regional effects of climate change. Given that a variety of factors can influence how climate change affects water resources, including the geographic location of sources, end uses, and the nature of the existing water supply infrastructure, each water resource agency should undertake an agency-level analysis to understand how climate change will impact their specific water-related resources and to lay the groundwork for the development of a response plan.

Agencies should also consider joining with other agencies to undertake analysis on a regional level because the impacts of climate change will affect agencies that derive water supplies from a larger shared resource (e.g., the

Colorado River, San Francisco Bay-Delta) and because some agencies in the same region may face similar challenges (e.g., the Sierra Nevada, the Rocky Mountains and the Northwest). Regional analysis will also facilitate cooperative responses and leverage limited resources to produce better results.

Elements that should be considered in conducting local and regional analyses of the effects of climate change on water supply are provided on the following pages. See Appendix A for detailed case studies illustrating how particular water agencies have tackled the challenge of climate change at the local, state and regional levels.

Assessing Water Supply System Vulnerabilities

Water supply systems are designed and operated to meet numerous objectives including water supply, flood protection, hydropower generation, and in-streamflow requirements—all of which are based on a retrospective view of hydrology. As climate change occurs, water infrastructure systems will face conditions different from those for which they were designed, presenting significant challenges for managers. Vulnerability analysis should be done to investigate how specific systems will react to climate-related changes. An analysis should examine a range of fundamental factors, including watershed characteristics, allocation, storage versus runoff ratio, diversity of water supply, flood management, shared regional water resources, water quality impacts, resource allocation and environmental water requirements.

Location and Watershed Characteristics

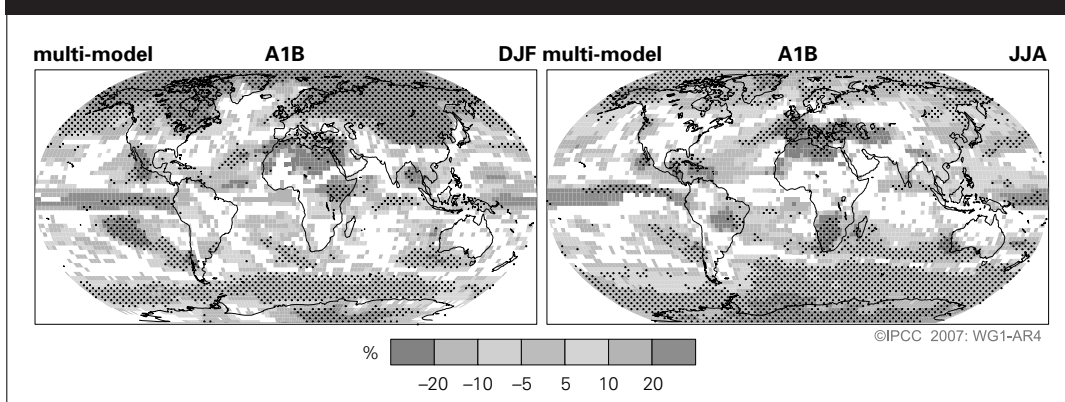
The geographic location and the watershed characteristics of the area being assessed are critical starting points. Although precipitation predictions are coarse, there are studies predicting regional changes related to climate change. Some analyses suggest that northern latitudes may become slightly wetter and drier regions, such as the Southwest, may receive even less precipitation.¹ As the science improves regarding regional impacts on precipitation patterns and total precipitation, water agencies will be increasingly able to identify regional or watershed-specific impacts. In addition, watersheds in the Southwest may be more significantly affected in the future by increases in evaporative losses within watersheds and from reservoirs.² Potential regional changes should be considered as a basis for further analysis.

Watershed characteristics are important. Elevations within the watershed will affect many attributes of a watershed's runoff characteristics including snowline, evaporation, dew point, and temperature. Other important characteristics are vegetation, slope aspect, and soils. A useful model focusing on the Sierra Nevada was developed by the American River Watershed Institute to examine these elements. Climate scenarios can be analyzed for specific watershed conditions to examine potential impacts.^{3,4}

Allocation

Vulnerability analyses should include a determination of how much of the annual runoff is committed to use, including extraction for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses; and in-stream, recreational, and

Figure 4-1: Projected Patterns of Precipitation Changes for Period 2090-2099, relative to 1980-1999



Source: IPCC 2007: WG1-AR4

environmental uses. If most, all, or more than all of the annual runoff is needed to meet existing uses, then the system is already stressed. Therefore, changes to the timing of hydrology from climate change, much less a change in natural inflow quantities, are likely to exacerbate the stress and result in negative impacts on the reliability of supplies. It is important to assess the reliability of water supplies to meet demands under both past and future climate variability.

Storage Versus Runoff Ratio

Vulnerability analyses should examine to what extent structural storage (dams) and non-structural storage (snowpack, groundwater) are relied on to meet demands. Although individual water supply systems vary in the degree to which they rely on storage, most of the West's water supplies depend on snowpack, reservoirs, and groundwater basins to provide annual and carryover storage. The amount of surface and groundwater storage in relation to the mean annual runoff diverted for beneficial use is one simple indicator of a water provider's reliance on snowpack. It is, however, important to recognize that each of these forms of storage has different operational characteristics. Climate change is expected to negatively affect water storage by reducing the snowpack and changing the timing and volume of runoff inflow, which may affect the yield of existing reservoirs. Climate change could also impact groundwater storage by reducing natural recharge and surface water supplies available for groundwater recharge.

Water managers have a wide range of tools to meet future needs. Some tools, such as water transfers, dam reoperation, floodplain management, and landscape conservation, can help conserve water in storage or provide "virtual" storage through cooperation with other agencies. Thus, water managers could respond to a potential future loss of supplies from existing storage by implementing a range of water management tools.

Diversity of Water Supply

Different water supply sources, including groundwater, surface supplies, transfers, and importation, have important water management implications. With climate change likely causing alterations in timing of precipitation and runoff, reduction of natural snowpack storage, and management of surface supplies, a portfolio of water supply alternatives can serve as a hedge strategy. Having a variety of alternatives available, such as wastewater recycling, increased groundwater, water conservation, and

transfers among users, can reduce vulnerability of an individual system.

Water agencies seeking to diversify their existing water supplies should carefully consider potential pitfalls. For example, many river basins are already overcommitted and environmentally degraded. In some areas groundwater is overdrafted or contaminated. In many cases, increasing the diversity of supply for one agency could increase stress for other communities or environments (e.g. over allocated river systems). Moving from a reliance on vulnerable supplies (e.g. surface and groundwater sources) toward water use efficiency and reuse represent measures to diversify water supply portfolios that are appropriate in nearly all circumstances.

Flood Management

Water managers are constantly challenged with balancing flood safety and water supply. Surface storage operations are often designed to provide multiple benefits, including recreation, hydropower production, and flood safety. Flood management presents a particular challenge because when storage space within a multipurpose reservoir is set aside for attenuating flood flows, storage operating rules often can pit flood protection against operations that would maximize water supply.

Climate change is likely to complicate these operational choices. The earlier snowmelt brought on by a warming climate could increase the likelihood that snowmelt runoff will need to be released to maintain flood storage, but this may increase the risk that a given reservoir will not end the rainy season full. In some watersheds, an increase in storm intensity could directly increase peak flows and increase the likelihood of "rain on snow" events, which can result in dramatic increases in flows. If peak flows increase, the existing operating rules may no longer provide an appropriate level of protection. There will likely be a need to increase flood reservation capacity within existing storage facilities thereby exacerbating existing tensions with water supply. However, in some areas with limited existing snowpack, declining snowpack could decrease the likelihood of "rain on snow" events, providing an opportunity to reoperate existing facilities.

Shared Regional Water Resources

Dividing water resources among several water providers can result in shared risks and benefits. A relevant factor in assessing climate change impacts on water supply is whether a particular water supply is wholly appropriated

by local, regional, state, or federal entities. As illustrated by the Colorado River Compact, the effects of climate change may be addressed by increased coordination and planning among agencies and states.

Water Quality Impacts

Water supply could be threatened by water quality changes resulting from increased temperatures, increased peak runoff, decreased summer flows; and sea level rise with saltwater intrusion into coastal aquifers, streams, and estuaries. Where water quality standards are already an issue, climate change will likely exacerbate conditions. Watersheds may see an increase in sediment and non-point source pollution related to larger storm events. In California, for example, saltwater intrusion exacerbated by sea level rise could result in groundwater degradation. In the San Francisco Bay-Delta, saltwater intrusion could increase the salinity of Delta water. Increases in sedimentation due to climate change could result in lost storage capacity, degraded water quality, and increased treatment costs.

Assessing Water Demand Vulnerabilities

A critical consideration in evaluating the stresses and vulnerabilities of a water system is the current level of demand and the ability to manage increases in demand. Demand for water is as much a response to land use and resource management policies as it is a response to climate signals. Higher temperatures will push up demand for agricultural and landscape irrigation water. Those demands may be offset by conservation, changes in crop types, and irrigation practices for agriculture as well as increased use of xeriscaping and more efficient irrigation systems on the municipal side.

Conservation

Communities throughout the West have implemented a wide variety of water conservation measures to improve water use efficiency. Some of these efforts have produced striking results (see Appendix B). Per capita consumption gives a rough estimate of the degree to which a water provider can mitigate water supply impacts through increased investments in water conservation measures. For example, areas with large landscape water use have greater potential for benefits from landscape water conservation. Communities with high interior per capita use have the potential for significant savings from interior water conservation tools. It is

important to note that because the technology of water conservation will improve over time. This water source will grow in the future.

Peak summer water use should also be considered when evaluating possible conservation opportunities. This factor takes into account the difference between summer and winter water use patterns. High peak summer water use in many municipal systems indicates a high degree of outdoor use, which can be reduced through landscape water conservation programs. Many providers have also developed effective indoor residential and industrial/commercial/institutional water user programs to reduce overall consumption.

Resource Allocation

The allocation of water to various sectors (agriculture, commercial, institutional, industrial, and residential) is an important consideration when analyzing the potential flexibility of a water provider to cope with dry years. Each sector has varying degrees of flexibility and requires different strategies for managing decreased water supplies, particularly in extremely dry years. For example, agricultural water users can fallow fields planted with annual crops during critical dry years. Different sectors will be affected differently by climate change. For example, outdoor residential and agricultural water consumption may increase with warmer temperatures. Industrial use may not.

Assessing Environmental and Water Quality Requirements

Rising temperatures, decreased summer streamflows, and increased evapotranspiration will likely increase the need for in-streamflow to meet ecosystem and water quality needs. Environmental requirements such as minimum in-streamflows and water quality standards are increasingly common for western rivers, wetlands, and lakes. Such requirements can significantly affect the operations of both large and small water systems. Most large dams must release water to maintain downstream water quality and provide benefits to aquatic ecosystems, including protected species. Often minimum flow requirements are based on meeting critical temperature and other standards that will require greater releases to maintain. Agencies should assess the degree to which climate change will alter existing environmental conditions with an eye on potential future environmental constraints on operations.

RESPONSE STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH WATER SUPPLY IMPACTS

Although prompt action to lessen greenhouse gas emissions can reduce the future impacts of climate change on western water supplies, it is clear that climate change will produce supply impacts for which water managers should be prepared. A vulnerability analysis can reveal the extent of the climate change-related risks to an existing system. This section discusses how climate change will affect the tools available to respond to these climate impacts and presents a framework for a robust, resilient, and flexible water management approach to handling the effects of climate change on water resources.

Seven Guiding Principles for Responding to Water Supply Impacts

The scope of the potential impacts of climate change makes this issue different from other challenges facing water managers. The following guiding principles are designed to assist forward-thinking water decision-makers in crafting strategies to respond to this challenge.

Strengthen Institutional Capacity. Responding to climate change will require a broad set of management and technical skills, including expertise that builds on traditional water management, such as:

- reoperating existing water systems
- understanding climate impacts
- evaluating opportunities to finance and implement integrated strategies for multiple benefits

Water managers should evaluate their institutional strengths and weaknesses, seek opportunities to improve institutional capacity, and recognize that responding to climate change will require new skills. As Roger Revelle and Paul Waggoner recommended in a 1990 American Association for the Advancement of Science publication, "Governments at all levels should reevaluate legal, technical, and economic procedures for managing water resources in the light of climate changes that are highly likely."⁵

Build In Flexibility. Climate change places managers in a difficult position. There is now a strong scientific consensus that climate change is happening and that it will result in significant impacts because preparing effectively

will require investment of effort and time, water managers should begin such efforts immediately. However, there is still uncertainty regarding how rapidly these impacts will develop and how climate change will affect some water resource characteristics (e.g., total precipitation.)

The solution to this apparent paradox is to design flexible responses to climate change. Locking in large, long-term capital investments under conditions of uncertainty is a risky strategy. Whenever possible, flexibility is desirable as a management strategy. Specifically, strategies that allow for mid-course corrections and redirection of investments toward the most effective tools and that reduces the risk of stranded investments will increase the flexibility of water systems and the ability of water managers to adapt to changing conditions.

Increase Resilience. Even absent any change in climate, we can expect both wet and dry conditions. The relatively new science of paleoclimatology has revealed that the climate in the West has, historically, experienced significant variation, including extended drought periods. For example, the Colorado River basin has seen extended drought periods. In particular, the period used as the historical baseline for Colorado River water allocations was one of the wettest periods in five centuries, resulting in an overallocated river.⁶ Climate change is likely to result in even greater divergence from the recent historical record. Scientists agree that we will see increased temperatures in coming years and we may see wetter wet periods and drier dry periods. Therefore, it makes sense to consider a range of water management options that build resilience through cost-effective strategies to meet future needs under conditions of greater variability and uncertainty.

Seek "No Regrets" and "Multiple Benefits" Strategies. Management strategies that cost-effectively improve a water system's ability to deal with existing stresses and problems (e.g., drought, population growth, land-use changes, and environmental impacts) are often characterized as no-regrets strategies because they make sense today, even before factoring in climate change. Where possible, water managers should seek to implement no-regrets strategies and secure multiple benefits (e.g., water, energy, and cost savings, emissions reductions and reduced environmental impacts) through well-designed policies, investments, and strategies. The focus of good policy is to build resilience in various systems ranging from whole water systems to local landscape conservation programs.

Multiple benefits strategies address more than one objective through a single targeted investment or policy measure. Some multiple benefit strategies that can enhance performance and build resilience through a single investment include:

- improving water use efficiency
- designing policies and management systems that provide better signals to consumers regarding the cost and scarcity of resources
- instituting flood plain management approaches that reduce damage from flooding, provide habitat, and increase groundwater recharge

Address Multiple Stresses. Climate change is just one of a number of factors putting pressure on water supply systems. Rapid population growth, land-use changes, contamination of surface and groundwater resources, and the need for ecosystem protection and restoration are all occurring simultaneously. Many water managers and users are effectively addressing these combined challenges through measures such as dramatically improving water use efficiency and restoring and protecting watersheds and groundwater sources. (See Appendix A.)

Invest in Cross-Agency Relationships. Many of the measures discussed in this chapter begin with developing relationships among agencies that can be partners in innovative approaches to water management. (Integrated approaches are discussed in more detail later in this section and Appendix A includes a number of case studies showing ways in which water managers across the West are developing their own integrated approaches.) Water managers seeking to position their agencies to best respond to climate challenges should begin by strengthening their relationships with potential partner agencies, including neighboring water agencies, as well as those with authority on energy, wastewater, stormwater, environmental quality, and land use issues.

Incorporate Climate Change into Ongoing Project Design. Water managers constantly face a wide range of design decisions regarding existing and new facilities. The design of those facilities should incorporate climate impacts. Managers should begin such work now, rather than waiting for the completion of a comprehensive response plan to address climate change. Several examples illustrate where climate issues are being incorporated into design

decisions. For example, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is working to design operable barriers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Those barriers are designed to use tidal currents to control water levels and circulation in the south Delta. DWR recognizes that climate change is likely to produce significant sea level rise. Such changes could affect the operations and effectiveness of these Delta barriers. To reduce this risk, DWR decided to redesign these barriers so they could be retrofitted in the future to accommodate up to an additional foot of sea level rise. Given the probable useful life of these barriers, DWR believed that this was an appropriate design target. This decision required a redesign for a larger foundation, capable of accommodating larger gates in the future—and resulted in significant expense.⁷

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is currently developing a long-term wastewater master plan designed, in part, to address climate change impacts. Perhaps the most significant climate change-related challenge for San Francisco is the potential for rising sea levels to result in seawater intruding through outfalls into waste treatment facilities.⁸ Such saltwater intrusion could kill the microbes that serve as the foundation of secondary treatment. The SFPUC has already experienced these seawater intrusion events, even without storms, as the result of 7 inches of sea level rise in the past century. The SFPUC is currently designing valves to prevent such sea level rise-related inflows into the wastewater system. Seattle Public Utilities has made several significant design decisions to address potential climate change impacts.⁹ Such water agencies are beginning to discuss how climate change could affect decisions such as the design of drinking water treatment facilities.

By incorporating climate change in ongoing design decisions, water managers can reduce risks and expenses in the future.

Expand Dialogue with the Scientific Community. The scientific community is an essential resource to water managers. Expanded dialogue with the scientific community can increase the effectiveness of measures designed to meet the challenges posed by climate change. A healthy dialogue with water managers will also help scientists develop a more realistic and accurate analysis of potential climate change impacts on water management. The September 2005 conference in Las Vegas, co-sponsored by the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Southern

Nevada Water Authority, and the Desert Research Institute represents an example of this kind of extended dialogue. Such conferences should be held with greater frequency.

The AWWARF Public Advisory Forum developed the following two recommendations regarding climate and science:

* Cooperation of water agencies with the leading scientific organizations can facilitate the exchange of information on state-of-the-art thinking about climate change and impacts on water resources.

- The timely flow of information from the scientific global change community to the public and the water-management community would be valuable. Such lines of communication need to be developed and expanded.¹⁰

Given the need discussed earlier to improve institutional capacity, a robust dialogue between water managers and scientists could be particularly valuable as water agencies move past vulnerability analyses to develop future response strategies that incorporate climate issues.

Determining the Best Mix of Water Management Tools

A century ago, water managers had a limited range of water management tools. Today, water managers have a much greater range of options to manage water in communities around the West:

- Technological advances have dramatically improved the water use efficiency of wide range of devices, including

low-flow showerheads, low-flush toilets, water-efficient washing machines and dishwashers, and water-saving irrigation systems guided by satellite weather data.

- Wastewater recycling, groundwater cleanup, urban stormwater capture projects, water marketing, and active groundwater storage projects have also become proven water management tools.

- Pricing mechanisms, such as inclining block rates (the practice of increasing volumetric prices with increasing water use) and seasonal rates (which modify summer water rates to encourage landscape conservation), can encourage efficient water use.

- In some coastal areas, urban water agencies are beginning to explore desalination, previously dismissed as impractically expensive.

Given the impressive array of water management tools available, how should water managers determine the best mix of responses to climate change—particularly as the performance of water management tools will be affected in different ways as a result of climate change? This section is designed to help water managers answer this question. (See Table 4-1 for a summary of NRDC’s findings.)

Water Management Tools that Will Perform Better as the Climate Changes

Some water management tools are likely to perform better in the future in the face of global warming. This effect is likely to be most significant for tools that reduce landscape water use.

Table 4-1: Performance of Water Management Strategies After Considering Global Warming Effects

More effective	Not affected	Less effective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape conservation • Conservation rate structures • Agricultural water conservation • Water marketing • Urban stormwater management • Saltwater groundwater intrusion barriers to protect coastal aquifers • Water system reoperation • Interagency collaboration and integrated water management strategies • Floodplain management • Watershed restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater recycling • Interior water conservation • Groundwater cleanup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional river diversions • Traditional groundwater pumping • Traditional surface storage facilities • Ocean water desalination*

*Given existing energy requirements.

Landscape Irrigation Conservation. Urban water conservation programs often underemphasize the demands of urban landscaping. With climate change likely to increase evaporation and transpiration rates in planted landscapes, a lawn or landscape could consume more water in the future than it consumes today. One implication of this trend is that landscape irrigation conservation programs have the potential to save more water in a warmer future than they do today.

Landscape irrigation already represents a significant percentage of urban water use in the West. For example, it accounts for approximately half of urban water use in California, or about 10 percent of statewide water use.¹¹ Urban water agencies are increasingly turning to landscape irrigation to find new opportunities to increase urban water use efficiency.¹² For example:

- The Southern Nevada Water Agency offers customers a \$1 per square foot rebate for all turf that is removed and replaced with drought-tolerant landscaping.¹³
- The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has developed a website (www.bewaterwise.com) devoted to educating ratepayers about landscape conservation opportunities.¹⁴
- The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) in California has published a comprehensive book aimed at encouraging appropriate landscape design. EBMUD also offers residential landscape conservation rebates of up to \$1,000.¹⁵
- The Marin Municipal Water District, also in California, offers financial incentives to encourage the installation of weather-based irrigation controllers.¹⁶

As climate change reduces late season snowmelt, measures such as landscape conservation that reduce peak summer demands—often a key constraint on water systems—could be particularly effective. Water managers should incorporate such conservation measures in their plans to meet future water needs and respond to climate change impacts.

Conservation Water Rate Structures. Water rate structures are among the most effective tools to encourage water conservation because they give customers a price signal about the value of this resource. To maximize the effectiveness of this signal, agencies should strive to recover as much revenue as possible through volumetric charges, rather than high fixed charges. Increasing block, or tiered

“We have to attack both sides of the supply-demand equation when faced with more variable water supply due to global warming.”

Source: Chips Barry, General Manager, Denver Water, 2006.

rate structures, offer an initial allocation at a base rate. Additional tiers or blocks of water increase in price. Some utilities offer a lifeline, or below cost rate, for low-income customers. University of California economists Hewitt and Hanemann found a significant positive response to block rate structures in California applications.¹⁷ In addition, seasonal water rates, which increase prices during the warm irrigation season, can be particularly effective in encouraging landscape conservation and in reducing peak summer demands. Water managers seeking to encourage conservation in the future should pay particular attention to rate structures designed to encourage conservation.

Agricultural Water Conservation. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, agricultural water represents 81 percent of all consumptive water use in the nation.¹⁸ In the West, agriculture represents 90 percent of the consumptive use of the developed water supply.¹⁹ Future agricultural water use is difficult to predict because of complex interactive impacts of climate change on international trade, crop selection, and yields. Nevertheless, as in the case of urban landscaping, rising temperatures may increase evapotranspiration rates—meaning that irrigating an acre of crops such as alfalfa or lettuce could take more water in the future than is currently required.²⁰ As a result, agricultural water conservation and fallowing could generate even more water savings in the future than they do today.

Even without considering potential climate change impacts, there is significant potential for agricultural water conservation around the West. For example, in much of the arid West, flood irrigation is still the predominant irrigation technology, and in states including Arizona, Montana, and Idaho, water application rates often exceed 5 feet per acre.²¹ In agricultural areas working to cope with the impacts of climate change, conservation programs and related water transfers could provide valuable revenue.

Market-Based Transfers, Sales of Water. With agricultural water conservation and fallowing programs increasing in effectiveness as temperatures rise, there also may be

Restoring the Wet Meadows of Sierra Nevada's Feather River Basin

A public/private partnership called the Feather River Coordinated River Management Group (CRM) has been working for more than a decade to implement wet meadow restoration projects in the Sierra Nevada's Feather River Basin. The Feather River is an important source of water for California's State Water Project, which provides a portion of the water supply for Southern California, the San Joaquin Valley, and Silicon Valley. There are 250,000 acres of high altitude meadows and valleys in the Feather River's Sierra Nevada watershed. These mountain meadows have been degraded by decades of grazing, road building, and other activities. Streams have eroded deep gullies in meadows, rapidly draining groundwater from these natural high-altitude reservoirs; and incised creek beds have dramatically reduced natural infiltration of runoff.

The Feather River CRM has used several techniques to help restore its degraded meadows. For example, creek beds have been regraded to restore natural drainage elevations by the replacement of incised gullies with barriers and pools. Subsequent monitoring has verified that such projects can significantly increase natural storage in these meadows,

thus retaining additional winter rainfall and snow-melt. This additional stored water is naturally released later in the spring and summer. Analysis of the CRM Big Meadow Cottonwood Creek project found that groundwater levels were within 1 foot of the surface for an average of 8 days prior to restoration, and an average of 223 days after. As a result, the ephemeral stream in the meadow returned to nearly perennial flows, increasing from 214 to 344 days of flow.

This project creates additional active water storage, which could have increasingly important water supply and ecosystem benefits in the future. These projects can also decrease stream temperatures, addressing a key potential climate change impact on cold-water fisheries. As a result, the CRM estimates that large-scale restoration projects have the potential to create large amounts of increased natural groundwater storage.

Sources: <http://www.feather-river-crm.org/>.

Wilcox, Jim, January 2005. "Water Management Implications of Restoring Meso-Scale Watershed Features." <http://www.feather-river-crm.org/publications/tech/IAHS%20Full%20Paper.htm>.

a growing incentive for some farmers to sell a portion of their water supplies through voluntary, market-based transfers. Three factors suggest that incentives for water marketing that moves water from low-value agriculture to high-value urban uses are likely to increase as a result of global warming. First, as urban water agencies face reduced yields from existing water systems, they may be increasingly motivated to pursue, and increasingly willing to pay for, water transfers. Increasing scarcity could raise prices received by agriculture for marketed water. Second, climate change will create increasing uncertainty for agriculture. It may be a challenge for some farmers to cope with warming temperatures and more extreme weather events, increasing their interest in water transfers that could provide them with greater flexibility and revenue. And third, around the West, many agricultural water users have more senior water rights than their urban counterparts have. To a certain extent, this system will insulate the holders of senior water rights holders from the impacts of climate change—making their water supply more reliable than that of junior holders (including many growing urban areas). All of these factors suggest that the economic rationale for water marketing may increase.

It should be noted that water marketing does not create new water, it simply reallocates it. Various sources of water can potentially be transferred by market transactions, each constrained by legal, regulatory, market, and physical parameters. A California Legislative Analyst's Office report identifies the following sources:²²

- Land fallowing and crop shifts to less water-intensive crops.
- Water recycling, such as recycling water from wastewater treatment plants for industrial and irrigation purposes.
- Groundwater pumping instead of using surface water rights, thereby freeing up surface water for transfer.
- Storing excess surface water from wet years in underground aquifers to be pumped in the future when surface supplies are low.
- Water conservation, in both the agricultural and urban sectors. This includes, for example, farmers using water-saving irrigation technologies and homes and businesses using water-efficient landscaping and bathroom fixtures.



Cottonwood Creek in California's Sierra Nevada, with Degraded Meadow. Before (left) and After (right) Restoration.

- Withdrawals from surface storage supplies that were not otherwise planned to be made.

If a water marketing system is to work optimally, care must be taken to design appropriate transfers and to avoid impacts to third parties and the environment. Efficient markets require that buyers and sellers bear the full costs and benefits of transfers. However, when water is transferred, third parties are likely to be affected. Where such externalities are ignored, the market transfers not only water, but also other benefits and costs from non-consenting third parties to the participants in the transfer.²³ Finally, the practice of “paper water” transfers—attempts to sell rights to water that exist only on paper—must be prevented.²⁴ Paper transfers can be highly disruptive, leading to environmental impacts and water management challenges.

Watershed Restoration. Watershed restoration has the potential, in some cases, to help mitigate impacts of climate change. As climate change reduces natural storage through a reduction of snowpack, watershed restoration efforts may be increasingly valuable to reduce peak flows, recharge groundwater, and delay spring runoff. Restoration projects may also decrease stream temperatures—reducing another impact of climate change—and provide additional environmental benefits such as riparian habitat. (See Restoring the Wet Meadows.)

Urban Stormwater Management. Throughout the West, there are abundant opportunities to manage urban stormwater to reduce runoff, flood damage, and pollution and to improve water supply availability and quality. As climate change affects rainfall volumes and storm intensity,

the value of water supply tools that provide stormwater management benefits may increase.²⁵ Climate change will likely force urban communities to invest in additional flood management, creating willing partners for water agencies seeking to invest in integrated stormwater management and water supply strategies.

One approach is to direct stormwater runoff from impermeable surfaces, such as roofs and paved areas, to landscaped areas where the water can percolate into the soil, and recharge the groundwater. Impervious surfaces increase runoff during storm events. The first “flush” often collects and concentrates contaminants from those surfaces such as oils and sediment. When flows exceed the infiltration capacity of the soils, water flows into storm drains. By diverting a portion of the first flows, improved stormwater management reduces demands on storm drain systems. This strategy slows the rate of runoff and allows for recharge. Designs such as shallow depressions, or “swales” and the sloping of both the paved areas and the landscaped areas to follow normal drainage patterns facilitate the redirection of stormwater runoff to landscaped areas where it is intercepted and infiltrated into groundwater aquifers. Some of the most innovative work in this area has been done by Tree People, a non-profit organization in Los Angeles that is advocating the construction of a citywide system of cisterns, groundwater infiltration facilities and urban forestry in order to recharge groundwater and provide other benefits.²⁶

Another stormwater management related strategy, called “daylighting,” involves taking surface flows that are currently conveyed in underground culverts and restoring them to creeks. Daylighting can offer groundwater recharge and environmental benefits, as well as increase property values and recreation in adjacent communities.

Another strategy involves diverting water into groundwater infiltration basins from urban streams during high flow events.

Reoperation of Water Systems. Water agencies have extensive experience with water system management, particularly the operation of storage facilities to meet the different demands of flood management and water supply. As a result of climate change, it will likely be necessary in the future to reconsider operating rules for major water supply systems. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) called for “a systematic reexamination of engineering design criteria, operating rules, contingency plans, and water allocation policies,” noting that “water demand management and institutional adaptation are the primary components for increasing system flexibility to meet uncertainties of climate change.”²⁷ Investigations of reoperation opportunities should be broadly conceived to reflect the interactions of the many elements of complex water systems.

For example, the Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) analysis of potential climate change impacts to the water supply system (see Appendix A) helped SPU identify potential future management challenges that could arise from climate change. SPU created a series of adaptive management strategies for reoperating the water system to improve day-to-day management and to provide greater flexibility. They now use a dynamic reservoir elevation rule curve to help guide the management of flood storage capacity and refill of mountain reservoirs, thereby adjusting reservoir level targets based on real-time snowpack measurements and soil moisture conditions. This information, coupled with simulation models, helps to set reservoir targets during the refill season. Using a dynamic rule curve allows SPU to be more adaptive than if they used a traditional fixed rule curve.

SPU’s experience during the winter of 2005 demonstrates the operational flexibility that can be provided by utilizing the dynamic rule curve. Low snowpack in the winter reduced the probability of floods from snowmelt. Due to this reduced probability of flooding, SPU water managers captured more spring rains than in a normal year. This adaptation of operations to weather conditions provided Seattle with enough water to return to normal supply conditions by early summer, despite the lowest snowpack on record. It also demonstrated the flexibility in the water system to adjust operations for changing weather conditions, whether they are low snowpack or abnormal levels of precipitation. This system reoperation not

only helps in managing the system for the variations in weather that occur now, but also can be used in the future to adjust to further climate change.²⁸

The potential to reoperate reservoirs can also be increased by investments in groundwater storage, downstream channel conveyance capacity and integrated operations of operationally connected reservoir systems.

Saltwater Intrusion Barriers. In many coastal areas, increased seawater intrusion resulting from sea level rise threatens coastal aquifers. In some areas, high rates of groundwater pumping are already drawing saltwater into aquifers, threatening the utility of aquifers and wells. In order to prevent such intrusion, some water districts are injecting freshwater into aquifers to create a saltwater intrusion barrier. For example, Southern California’s West Basin Municipal Water District is injecting highly treated wastewater into coastal aquifers. As sea level rise increases, such saltwater intrusion barriers may be increasingly important to protect coastal aquifers. These barriers may be given additional value in the future because of the importance of local groundwater storage as part of wastewater reclamation and stormwater management programs. As agencies expand their use of wastewater reclamation and stormwater management programs to respond to climate change, seawater intrusion barriers may become key tools.

Water Management Tools Relatively Unaffected by Climate Change

In general, the tools discussed in this section are more resistant to the effects of climate change because they do not rely on precipitation, snowpack or other climate-sensitive water sources. During the past several decades, these tools have proven themselves to be highly productive and cost-effective. For example, in California, these tools are expected to be the backbone of efforts to meet future water needs. They will likely become even more valuable in water management portfolios.

Water managers are starting to link major new investments in water conservation to their desire to prepare for potential climate change impacts. For example, Denver Water is addressing the potential effects of climate change by ramping up its water conservation efforts with its recent \$400 million conservation plan. This plan is designed to cut annual water use by 22 percent, or 16.7 billion gallons per year, during the next 10 years. Although this plan was initially developed without regard to potential climate change effects upon its system, Denver Water is now seeking to reach this 22 percent reduction goal far

more rapidly in order to further protect water users from climate change impacts. The plan includes new strategies and increased investments in existing conservation programs, such as rebates for low-flow toilets and efficient clothes washers. The plan's new programs include:

- establishing a water efficiency rating program for new construction so that builders who do not meet new standards could find it more difficult to connect to the water system.
- installing water meters for landscape irrigation systems.
- initiating water audits of homes before they are sold, and requiring the replacement of leaking or inefficient plumbing fixtures.
- installing low-flow urinals in new commercial buildings.

The actions in the plan are expected to pay for themselves, through reduced water bills, within six years. Denver water users have already cut consumption by about 20 percent since local drought conditions began in 2002. The plan's first year has been approved by Denver Water's board and executive staff, with an initial \$8 million.²⁹

Interior Water Conservation. Although climate change is likely to improve the performance of landscape conservation programs, it will leave interior water conservation programs relatively unaffected. Interior water conservation technology, including water efficient showerheads, toilets, urinals, dishwashers and washing machines, will not perform significantly differently as a result of climate change. However, the value of the saved water may increase over time.

Water Recycling. Just as other forms of recycling have become commonplace, wastewater recycling has increased dramatically in recent decades. Today, for example, Southern California recycles approximately 500,000 acre-feet of water annually.³⁰ (This represents approximately 10 percent of total wastewater generated in this region.) The California Department of Water Resources projects that by 2030, an additional 0.9 million to 1.4 million acre-feet of water recycling will be developed. This still represents a small fraction of total wastewater. One of the advantages of this tool is its resistance to drought effects. Similarly, because the sourcewater supply for water recycling is municipal wastewater, it is far less susceptible

to potential climate change impacts than traditional water supply projects.

Groundwater Cleanup and Protection. Although traditional groundwater pumping may be negatively affected by climate change (discussed in more detail in the next section), water projects, such as those in the Santa Ana watershed that are designed to clean up contaminated groundwater, may be less affected (see Integrated Regional Management Case Study: Santa Ana). The relative stability of groundwater cleanup, in the context of global warming, comes from the fact that the purpose of many of these projects is not simply to withdraw water but to comply with regulatory requirements and to create more usable, uncontaminated groundwater storage capacity. Where groundwater cleanup is intended to provide opportunities for conjunctive use, water managers should pay careful attention to the potential impacts of climate change on the source of water to be stored.

Water Management Tools That May Perform Poorly in the Future

The water management tools that are most likely to be negatively affected by climate change are those that rely primarily on historical precipitation, runoff, and recharge patterns, including both groundwater and surface water sources.

Traditional Groundwater Extraction. As discussed above, some analyses suggest that climate change may lead to significant reductions in groundwater. Shorter periods of high streamflows may decrease percolation, while longer, hotter summers are likely to decrease soil moisture. Therefore, projects that rely on traditional pumping of natural infiltration of precipitation could suffer a loss of yield in the future. In already overdrafted areas, this impact could increase competition for groundwater resources. We have not identified conjunctive use, the combined use of surface and groundwater systems, including active groundwater recharge, as a separate category in this report. Climate change impacts on conjunctive use projects will be determined in significant part by the source of stored water. Conjunctive use projects designed to rely on current snowpack or traditional river diversions may be negatively affected by climate change; however, conjunctive use projects using recycled wastewater may not be affected. Conjunctive use projects in low elevation coastal areas may be negatively affected by sea level rise.

The Conservation Technology Edge: A Water Management Tool That Will Be Increasingly Important in the Face of Climate Change

Conservation will remain a highly effective water management tool in a climate-altered world. Because climate change may make snowpack-based supplies and diversions less reliable over time, the advantages of new supplies produced by technological innovation should increase. The water sector analysis of the National Assessment of the Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change confirms this finding: "Evidence is accumulating that such improvements can be made more quickly and more economically, with fewer environmental and ecological impacts, than future investments in new supplies." Conservation tools have been central to the significant progress made in Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, and Denver to meet the needs of growth without increasing water use (see Appendix B).

Innovation and technology development in the areas of end-use water applications have progressed rapidly in the past few decades. Techniques and technologies from laser leveling of fields and high-efficiency irrigation systems to the design of toilets, urinals, and showerheads have changed the demand side of the equation. Efficiency standards and code requirements have been particularly effective in promoting widespread application of these water saving technologies. End-use applications of water now require much less volume than before to provide equivalent or superior services, and uses of these new technologies often provide immediate economic savings.

These analyses of conservation potential are based on existing technology. Despite significant investments in conservation already, considerable potential remains. In California, 2.5 million toilets have been replaced with high-efficiency models since 1992. There's still room for expansion, with approximately

10 million low-efficiency toilets remaining to be replaced.

The impetus for technological development and innovation in efficient use comes from both price signals and policy. As water gets more expensive and because legal requirements are enacted prohibiting waste and limiting extraction from natural systems, technology has provided a wide range of options for expanding the benefits derived from a given amount of water. Broader application of these techniques will yield significant new supplies and innovations are likely to create improved water conservation technologies. The waterless urinal represents an example of such a relatively recent innovation. It is reasonable to anticipate that ongoing technological innovation will continue to expand the potential benefits of water conservation. In addition, collaborations among agencies with different missions (e.g., water and energy) are expanding water conservation efforts. In short, water use efficiency programs have several significant advantages that are likely to grow over time as a result of collaborations among agencies, technological innovation, and the direct and indirect effects of climate change.

Sources: California State Water Plan, Department of Water Resources, Vol. 2, p.16.1. <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/docs/cwpu2005/>

Gleick, Peter H. et al., 2000. *Water: The Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change for the Water Resources of the United States*. The report of the Water Sector Assessment Team of the National Assessment of the Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change, U.S. Global Change Research Program, Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security.

Gleick, Peter H., Dana Haasz, Christine Henges-Jeck, Veena Srinivasan, Gary Wolff, Katherine Kao Cushing, and Amardip Mann, November 2003. *Waste Not, Want Not: The Potential for Urban Water Conservation in California*. Pacific Institute.

Finally, conjunctive use projects designed to take advantage of floodplain restoration, storing and infiltrating high flows, may be an increasingly important tool in the future. Water managers should evaluate local conditions to understand the implications of climate change on local groundwater resources.

Traditional River Diversions. Declining snowpack, receding glaciers, increased evaporation, flood control requirements, more frequent droughts, reduced dry-season run-

off, and potential reductions in total runoff could render surface water diversion projects less reliable in the future. For example, the Canadian city of Calgary has concluded that the melting of glaciers as a result of climate change could reduce the long-term yield of its surface water supply.³¹ Colorado River water users are increasingly concerned about reduced flows and loss of stored supplies to evaporation, due to climate change.³²

Changes in river hydrography expected as a result of global warming will likely result in alterations in stream-

flows and a direct reduction in water supply reliability. The most obvious impact in this regard is the increase in peak flows and the reduction of dry season streamflows.

The environmental impacts of climate change could exacerbate impacts on the reliability of surface water diversions. As discussed in Chapter 2, climate change could lead to environmental impacts including increased stream temperatures, exacerbated water quality problems and damage to sensitive and listed species—impacts likely to result in more requirements to protect aquatic resources, and greater competition for and conflict over surface water resources.

In addition, as rivers approach the ocean, climate change-driven sea level rise could result in a serious reduction in the reliability and cost-effectiveness of traditional river diversion projects. This has serious implications for coastal communities that rely on low-elevation surface water diversions or on groundwater diversions with a direct connection to surface waters. The Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta is an example of an area vulnerable to these potential effects.

Traditional Surface Storage. Although dams are central to water supply in the West, they have often led to high-profile, protracted policy conflicts. This is true of proposed dams on the Colorado, Yellowstone, Green, Missouri, Platt, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and American rivers. There are cases in which new surface storage projects have generated significantly less conflict, particularly when the surface storage system is well designed, such as in the case of the existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir in the eastern San Francisco Bay Area. This off-stream project was designed to improve water quality and provide emergency supplies and was seen by many as having fewer environmental impacts than traditional surface storage development.^{33,34} However, most dam sites have

“Immediate prospects for major new water supply reservoirs or inter-basin transfers are limited. Consequently, new water project prototypes that emphasize conservation, landscaping, new technologies, and other measures are being promoted across the West.”

Source: Committee on the Scientific Bases of Colorado River Basin Water Management, February 2007. *Colorado River Basin Water Management: Evaluating and Adjusting to Hydroclimatic Variability.* National Research Council, p.96.

high financial and environmental costs, with low potential water supply yields. Given the high capital cost of surface storage projects, water managers should consider how climate change will affect this water management option.

Western dam operators could face increased challenges from seven potential climate-related impacts: reductions in reservoir inflows, increases in the percentage of precipitation falling as rain, rather than snow (and related increases in flood control requirements), decreased snowpack, more severe weather events (both droughts and floods), greater environmental requirements, increased evaporative losses from reservoirs and increased spills from existing reservoirs.

Potential climate change impacts have been cited by some agricultural water agencies as justification for more surface storage facilities.³⁵ Some new surface or groundwater storage may be developed in the West to cope with the challenges presented by climate change. However, it is important for water managers to recognize that, just as climate change can reduce the yield of existing reservoirs, it can also reduce the potential water yield of new dams.

Although site-specific analyses will be required to evaluate potential climate change impacts on proposed new storage facilities, particularly in highly engineered watersheds, some general conclusions are clear. In relatively undeveloped watersheds, a shift toward more rainfall and less snowpack is likely to reduce the yield of most new proposed dams. With shorter high-flow periods, the window for filling off-stream storage facilities could be shorter in the future. Potential reductions in total streamflows as a result of climate change could have profound implications for new surface storage projects. Frequently, new surface storage facilities utilize junior water rights in a river basin. If climate change reduces average total runoff in a basin, water managers could find themselves in a position where they have constructed a new surface storage facility to capture runoff that may be lost in the future as a result of climate change impacts.

In highly engineered watersheds, the potential interactions of existing and proposed facilities can be complex. For example, the climate change effects listed earlier could reduce potential yield from a proposed new storage facility but at the same time, increased climate-driven spills from existing dams could increase the amount of water that could be captured by a new facility.

Finally, surface storage projects in some river systems could face increased operating restrictions to mitigate for the environmental impacts of climate change. The most likely additional operating restrictions include flow

Summary of Potential Climate Change Impacts on Potential New Traditional Surface Storage Facilities

Climate Change Impacts that Could Reduce Potential Yields from New Traditional Surface Storage

- potential decreases in total annual runoff
- decreased late-season runoff, as a result of reduced snowpack
- increased winter runoff, as a result of greater rainfall, increasing spills and flood control storage requirements
- more extreme weather events (droughts and storms)
- increased evaporative losses from reservoirs.
- potential new environmental requirements regarding flow and temperature

Climate Change Impacts that Could Increase Potential Yields

- increased uncaptured spills from existing storage facilities

and temperature requirements. Such requirements could decrease the expected water supply yield of existing and proposed surface storage facilities.

The authors of this report are not aware of any proposed new surface storage facilities that have undergone a comprehensive analysis mentioning the seven factors addressed above. It is likely in many cases that estimates of potential yields from proposed new surface storage projects will be reduced when climate impacts are considered. As a result, these projects, already expensive today, could be more expensive per acre-foot of yield, when future climate change impacts are considered. The potential impact of climate change on new surface storage facilities should be carefully evaluated.

This report is not the first to suggest diminishing prospects for traditional surface storage development in the West and an increase in alternative approaches. For example, the National Research Council's 2007 report on Colorado River basin hydrology observed that "(t)he declining prospects for traditional water supply projects are perhaps more correctly seen not as an end to 'water projects', but as part of a shift toward non traditional means for enhancing water supplies and better managing water demands."³⁶ The report went on to state that "(i)mmediate prospects for major new water supply res-

ervoirs or inter-basin transfers are limited. Consequently, new water project prototypes that emphasize conservation, landscaping, new technologies, and other measures are being promoted across the West."³⁷

Desalination. Evaluating the performance of desalination in the context of climate change raises issues different from those raised by other water management tools and some of these emerging issues support different conclusions. Ocean water, the source for many proposed desalination projects will be far less affected than freshwater sources by climate change. However, water managers making decisions on siting and design for coastal desalination facilities should carefully consider the likelihood of significant sea level rise as a result of climate change. For water managers in coastal areas with existing water systems that could be negatively affected by climate change (e.g. those that rely on snowpack and rivers), the reliability of seawater desalination could be an important consideration.

However, desalination raises another significant issue in the context of climate change. As discussed in Chapter 3, ocean water desalination is a very energy intensive water supply option. Indeed, energy is the primary operating cost of ocean water desalination facilities. Climate change prevention efforts are likely to result in a dramatic increase in efforts to reduce energy consumption, in order to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, a dramatic increase in energy-intensive seawater desalination facilities raises significant issues in the context of climate change. In addition, because of its high energy requirements, seawater desalination is also particularly vulnerable to any future energy price fluctuations.

Although climate change will not have the same impact on this tool as it is likely to have on water management tools that rely on rivers, historical groundwater recharge and snowpack, consideration of climate change raises serious concerns regarding the energy implications of desalination. Energy requirements of desalination have declined significantly in the past decade, largely as a result of the improvement of membrane technology for reverse osmosis plants and improvements in pressure recovery.³⁸ In addition, desalination of less saline sources, such as brackish and contaminated groundwater, requires significantly less energy. Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will raise additional issues regarding desalination. This climate change-related implication for desalination is less direct than the impacts affecting the other tools discussed in this section. As technology improves, this con-

cern will lessen. In fact, if the energy required for ocean desalination declines by a relatively small amount, some Southern California water agencies could save energy by substituting ocean water desalination for diversions from the Bay-Delta estuary.

Integrated Regional Water Management Planning

Many of the tools discussed above—water conservation, wastewater reclamation, and stormwater management—offer potential benefits to other public entities, including wastewater and stormwater agencies, energy utilities, and

Six Concerns Regarding Surface Storage Analyses

In some cases, project evaluation methodologies have exacerbated controversies around proposed surface storage projects. Future evaluations of surface storage projects should address these issues. Problematic approaches in past dam feasibility studies include:

1. Projections based on historical hydrology:

Traditional water development has not considered the potential impacts of global warming on future hydrology. The case of the Colorado River shows how important assumptions regarding future hydrology can be. On the Colorado River, a relatively short hydrologic record led water managers to conclude that the river's long-term average flow would be higher than it has proven to be. As a result, the Colorado River Compact assumed that river flows would average 17 million acre-feet. In fact, average flows have proven to be less than 15 million acre-feet. This discrepancy has significantly increased conflicts on the river. With additional climate change impacts, reliance on historic hydrology will be even riskier.

2. Lack of demand side analysis: The supply side approach has traditionally focused on increasing supply through dams and diversions. Demand management and alternative approaches, which can be less expensive and environmentally damaging, have often been overlooked or their potential underestimated. Addressing both supply and demand side strategies—and comparing all available tools on a level playing field—is a key feature of an integrated approach to water management planning.

3. Flawed economic analysis: Some surface storage studies, particularly those undertaken by the federal government, have failed to include credible economic analysis. For example, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is currently studying a potential surface storage project in California's upper San Joaquin River basin to provide additional supply for agricultural water users. Water from this facility is likely to cost far more than the new water supply would be worth to the agricultural community. When

the Bureau of Reclamation last studied a surface storage project in this region, the agency concluded that raising Friant Dam would produce water costing approximately \$3,000 per acre-foot—twice the cost of desalinated seawater and approximately 100 times the cost of water provided by federal water contracts in the region. Recent analysis of Auburn Dam by the Bureau of Reclamation revealed lower water yields and a significantly higher cost than had been previously estimated.

4. Subsidies that encourage waste: In many water projects, a reliance on subsidies and artificially low water prices encourage under-investment in efficiency and over-use of water resources. Supply-side subsidies skew water management plans against conservation programs. These subsidies have, historically, been focused primarily on dramatically lowering costs for agricultural water users.

5. Underestimates of environmental damage:

There is a long history of promises regarding environmental benefits from dams. However, dam building has a clear record of negative impacts on the environment. For example, 60 years ago, Friant Dam in California was authorized, in part, due to claimed benefits to the San Francisco Bay-Delta. In practice, Friant Dam has resulted in severe degradation of water quality and fisheries.

6. Unrealistic anticipated benefits: For many dam projects, a portion of the cost has been written off (i.e. paid by taxpayers rather than water users) because of claimed environmental, recreation, or other benefits. These benefits have frequently proven to be illusory.

Sources:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/05/060529082300.htm>. Committee on the Scientific Bases of Colorado River Basin Water Management, February 2007.

Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region, Fish and Wildlife Service, October 1995. "Least-Cost CVP Yield Increase Plan," pp.III-41, III-51.

Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region, December 2006. "Auburn-Folsom South Unit Special Report: Benefits and Cost Update."

local governments. These approaches are also often less centralized and less capital-intensive than traditional water development. Integrated regional water management offers the potential to maximize the benefits from these new tools.

Wastewater, stormwater, and conservation programs are often best implemented through collaborations among agencies. Where a water supply agency does not have wastewater or stormwater responsibilities, designing and implementing climate change response strategies in these areas will require interagency collaboration. In addition, water conservation offers significant energy benefits, inviting the participation of energy utilities and state agencies with energy regulatory and planning responsibilities. Finally, water conservation and stormwater management programs can benefit greatly through the participation of local governments with land-use authority.

Agencies with different missions do not always share identical service boundaries, creating a potential obstacle to interagency efforts. In many cases, this obstacle can be overcome by bringing together multiple agencies on a regional basis. Such an integrated regional approach can offer broad benefits. Integrated regional water management is emerging as a particularly important strategy. The 2005 California State Water Plan identifies integrated regional water management as an initiative co-equal with statewide water management planning efforts.³⁹

California's Proposition 50, The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act, and Proposition 84, which were approved by the voters in November of 2002 and 2006 respectively, provided a total of \$1.5 billion in general obligation bond financing for integrated regional water management efforts across the state. This new direction represents a decreased reliance on large traditional water projects and on state and federal agencies to guide planning and decision making. Increasingly, innovative thinking is showing how integrated regional strategies can supplement traditional statewide and federal planning.

Integrated regional planning has several advantages. It encourages collaboration among the diverse agencies in a particular region. As in the case of the projects in the Santa Ana watershed to clean up contaminated groundwater and generate electricity through "cow-power" (see Integrated Regional Management Case Study: Santa Ana), an integrated approach can reveal opportunities that cannot be implemented without cooperation among stakeholders and agencies. It tailors strategies to meet unique local needs. It can maximize the potential for

multiple funding partners and multiple benefits, including reduced dependence on water supplies vulnerable to climate change impacts, reduced urban runoff pollution, groundwater cleanup and improved groundwater management, flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, energy conservation, and public education. And integrated regional planning offers the potential for water managers to address, in one program, multiple stresses facing current water supplies. These include population growth, land-use changes, contamination of surface and groundwater resources, and the need for ecosystem protection and restoration.

Moreover, an integrated approach can increase system flexibility. The massive investment required for a traditional water project can be highly inflexible because, if the construction cost of such a water project proves to be higher than expected, water managers with a partially constructed project cannot redirect investments, without losing the yield of the entire project. These large projects create a significant sunk cost risk. By contrast, investments in an integrated portfolio of conservation, reclamation, and stormwater projects, all of which can be scalable and less capital-intensive, can be more easily redirected to respond to changing conditions or to adjust for an underperforming water management tool.

Effective integrated planning can require the use of many water management tools, with varying potential benefits in different regions. For example, without debating the merits of desalination in general, we can examine how desalination might fit into an integrated regional strategy. In Southern California's Chino Basin, desalination is being used to clean up contaminated groundwater, thus fixing an existing problem and generating water supply reliability and wetland restoration benefits. In San Diego, desalination, although energy intensive and expensive, could provide high quality water that could be blended with existing supplies, facilitating energy-conserving wastewater reclamation programs. In contrast, on California's Central Coast, seawater desalination could be highly growth-inducing, leading to urban sprawl, with potentially serious environmental impacts. The implications of this technology and the case for public funding can be very different in different regional settings.

Integrated Water and Energy Management

Integrated water management efforts should pay particular attention to energy issues. Managing and using water more efficiently can reduce related energy requirements and greenhouse gas emissions. Efficiency as used here

Integrated Regional Management Case Study: The Santa Ana River Watershed

Water managers in Southern California's Santa Ana River watershed are leaders in designing integrated regional water management strategies, relying on an array of tools to produce a wide range of water management and environmental benefits.

The Santa Ana River drains 2650 square miles and runs 100 miles from the peaks of the San Bernardino Mountains to the beaches of Orange County. Five million people live within this "Inland Empire" watershed, a population that is expected to double within 50 years. The watershed is also home to the world's densest populations of cows, a fact that surprises most outsiders. At its peak, the basin held more than 300 dairies, with up to 400,000 head of cattle, operated in less than 220 square miles of the upper part of the watershed—the Chino Basin. These cows produce 1 million tons of manure per year and another 2 million tons of manure currently sit on dairy lands. Runoff from these dairies has contaminated one of Southern California's largest groundwater sources with salts, dissolved solids and nitrates.

Urbanization, dairy operations, habitat destruction and other activities have taken a toll on the Santa Ana River's ecosystem. Today, some of the river's residents, including the Santa Ana sucker, the Least Bell's vireo and the southwestern willow flycatcher, are listed under the Endangered Species Act.

In 1968, local water agencies formed the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) in order to develop an integrated approach to address the challenges discussed above. After decades of effort, this integrated approach includes strategies such as water conservation, wastewater reclamation, and storm water infiltration. What makes the SAWPA case study so interesting is that it shows how multiple problems can be addressed simultaneously.

The juxtaposition of the local dairy industry with growing cities has created challenges—and opportunities—for local leaders. The Inland Empire Utility Agency (IEUA) is diverting dairy waste for composting and marketing to agricultural users. The methane derived from anaerobic digestion of this waste is used to generate renewable electricity. Thus, by diverting dairy waste and reducing ongoing groundwater contamination, IEUA has created a new energy source and a marketable compost product.

The value of new water sources, as well as regulatory and legal pressure to clean up groundwater contamination have also led IEUA to construct two groundwater desalters, which use desalination technology to clean up contaminated groundwater. (Desalting groundwater requires far less energy than desalinating seawater.) The two desalters have a combined capacity of more than 23 million gallons per day. These facilities provide usable water supply and help remediate contaminated groundwater basins. Agencies in the watershed are also recharging the basin's aquifers using storm water runoff and recycled wastewater.

The energy and climate benefits of this integrated approach are also notable. By reducing reliance on energy-intensive imported water (see discussion in Chapter 3), IEUA is able to reduce the electricity consumed to meet water supply needs. In addition to avoiding energy and other costs associated with imported water supplies, increasing local supplies reduces pressure on stressed ecosystems such as the San Francisco Bay-Delta. IEUA has also built a new energy-efficient headquarter building that has received a platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program. The building uses waste heat to reduce heating and cooling costs, and photovoltaic cells to generate electricity.

The benefits of SAWPA's integrated approach are impressive, including:

- creation of local drought-proof water supplies.
- reduced reliance on imported water supplies that are vulnerable to environmental constraints and climate impacts.
- reductions in groundwater contamination
- flood management improvements
- enhanced wetlands
- marketable organic composed dairy waste
- improved air quality
- renewable energy generation
- reduced energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
- marketable greenhouse gas credits

The roots of this effort are more than three decades old. Climate considerations did not lead SAWPA and IEUA to launch this integrated regional effort. However, the energy and climate benefits of their approach are significant. The integrated approach reduces the vulnerability of the region to water supply impacts from climate change. It also shows how water utilities can make cost-effective contributions to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, through water and energy conservation, wastewater reclamation, better groundwater management and renewable electricity generation.

This integrated approach demonstrates how far water management has come from the days when dams and increased water diversions were the all-purpose solutions to meeting water supply needs. In California, the SAWPA effort has become a model for other integrated efforts around the state.

Sources: Santa Anna Integrated Watershed Plan, 2005 Update, Santa Anna Water shed Project Authority, Riverside, CA, June 2005.

Atwater, Rich and Paul Sellew. "Organics management, clean water and renewable energy: Focus on California." *BioCycle: The Journal of Composting & Organics Recycling*, February 2002.

<http://www.ieua.org/desalter.html>.

The LEED program itself reflects an integrated approach to green building. IEUA was able to use its institutional strengths to design on-site stormwater recharge facilities and to locate the headquarters building adjacent to a wastewater treatment plant, in order to provide renewable energy from its digesters and reclaimed water for use on site. The design reduced potable water demand by 73 percent and energy use by 90 percent.

describes the useful work or service provided by a given amount of water. Significant economic and environmental benefits can be cost-effectively achieved through improving water system efficiency. The energy/water nexus will make water conservation programs more attractive to

agencies planning a response to climate change. In particular, as greenhouse gas emission reduction programs increasingly emphasize energy conservation, water agencies are likely to find additional benefits from more fully integrating energy and water management. Taking both

12 Elements to Consider When Designing an Integrated Response to Climate Change

When evaluating options for responding to the water management challenges presented by climate change, water agencies should consider the benefits of comprehensive integrated regional water management planning (IRWMP). Such strategies should incorporate the following elements:

1. Climate Impacts on Existing Systems and Future Strategies. Water agencies should analyze the potential impacts of climate change on existing facilities and on the tools under consideration to meet future demands.

2. Unique Regional Conditions. A careful examination of regional conditions will reveal challenges and suggest unique opportunities for future strategies to produce multiple benefits.

3. Evaluation of Multiple-Benefits and Funding Partners. IRWMP can provide potential multiple benefits and attract new funding partners to address water, energy, and environmental challenges.

4. Efficiency First. In most cases, greater investments in water-use efficiency are cost-effective and environmentally preferable—and result in significant energy savings. California electricity utilities recently adopted a “loading order” that requires investments in efficiency as a first priority before additional supply-oriented power strategies are pursued.⁵⁴ Water utilities should consider adopting a similar approach in response to anticipated climate change impacts.

5. A Full Range of Water Supply and Demand Options. All of the many supply and demand-side water management options should be considered in designing an effective response to climate change.

6. A Full Range of Flood Management Options. Land use controls, setback levees, floodways, and other floodplain management techniques are likely to become increasingly important flood management tools in the future. Given the high cost of new surface storage facilities and levees, and the residual flood risk for communities behind levees (e.g., pre-Katrina New Orleans), decision makers should encourage appropriate land use in floodplains to reduce risk to life and property.

7. Clear Objectives and Performance Standards. In order to evaluate the costs and benefits of alternative strategies, water managers should include clear objectives and performance standards to evaluate all tools on a level playing field.

8. “With-and-Without Project” Baseline Analysis. Analysis of proposed surface storage projects and other large infrastructure investments should include an accurate baseline and a clear “with and without project” analysis. Such analysis can help avoid stranded investments.

9. Economics and Cost-Based Financing. IRWMP should include careful evaluation of the economic costs and benefits of alternative strategies. Financing plans in which beneficiaries, rather than taxpayers, pay for the benefits they receive will provide incentives to ensure cost-effective investments.

10. Enforceable Environmental Protections. IRWMP efforts to restore and enhance the aquatic environment should take the form of specific, enforceable commitments.

11. Institutional Capacity. IRWMP will benefit from efforts to strengthen particular disciplines, including economics, climate-related expertise, and designing interagency partnerships.

12. Outreach to the Public and Decision Makers. IRWMP efforts to educate the public will increase public acceptance of investments to address climate-related problems. Agencies preparing plans to respond to climate change should also encourage decision makers to take prompt action to lessen future climate change-related impacts by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Together, the above recommendations represent a new approach to the foreseeable water management impacts of climate change. Though this approach is a dramatic departure from historic water project planning efforts, it is based on the experiences of water agencies around the West. This integrated regional approach can produce water supply, water quality, environmental, and other water management benefits, as well as greenhouse gas reduction and other societal benefits.

resources into account will improve the cost-effectiveness of water use efficiency programs, allowing, for example, higher rebates that should result in greater participation. Eventually, greenhouse gas reduction programs are likely to generate new opportunities for funding and revenue for water agencies that master the connections between energy and water.

The energy intensity of water varies considerably by source, geographic location and end use. A number of water management entities, government agencies, professional associations, private-sector users, and non-governmental organizations have already demonstrated potential savings in the area of combined end-use efficiency strategies:

- *Water-efficiency improvements:* Implementing cost-effective water efficiency improvements can generate significant energy savings. For example, in some areas, water, and energy utilities have designed joint rebate programs for appliances that save water and energy (e.g. washing machines). Some efficiency improvements can result in direct energy savings for water districts. For example, most of the electricity use in water and wastewater treatment plants is for pumping. Programs that reduce the volume of wastewater can result in significant energy savings for agencies with treatment plants. In addition, water conservation efforts that reduce peak water use can also reduce energy consumption, thus reducing peak energy demands as well.
- *Operations-efficiency improvements:* Energy management benefits can also be obtained by improving pumping equipment and operational control systems at existing facilities, including the use of high-efficiency motors and adjustable-speed drives, efficient pumps, and effective instrumentation and controls. In many applications, these measures can be implemented with payback periods of three years or less.⁴⁰

Response Strategies for Addressing Other Water Resource Impacts

Climate change will have direct effects on water supply resources as discussed in the sections above. However, impacts to water supplies will be compounded by indirect effects that climate change will have on other water resources including aquatic ecosystems and flood management. It is essential to understand and address these

Goods and Services of Aquatic Ecosystems

Water supply

Drinking, cooking, washing and other household uses
Manufacturing, thermoelectric power generation and other industrial uses
Irrigation of crops, parks, golf courses, etc.
Aquaculture

Supply of goods other than water

Fish
Waterfowl
Clams, mussels, other shellfish, crayfish
Timber products

Nonextractive benefits

Biodiversity
Transportation
Recreational swimming, boating, etc.
Pollution dilution and water quality protection
Hydroelectric generation
Bird and wildlife habitat
Enhanced property values
Coastal shore protection

Source: Pew Report on the Climate Effects on Aquatic Ecosystems.

important water resource in order to formulate an effective response plan to minimize water supply impacts.

Aquatic Ecosystems

Climate change will likely have significant impacts on riverine and estuarine ecosystems throughout the West, diminishing the wide array of societal benefits these ecosystems provide. As water managers consider how to respond to climate change, they should evaluate the need to manage and protect aquatic systems to maintain these benefits. In the West, water supply has often been prioritized over competing concerns, resulting in a loss of other benefits—particularly environmental benefits. As a result, many western rivers have been degraded to the point where species have been listed as threatened or endangered.

Today, the public seeks—and environmental laws require—a better balance among beneficial uses, and water managers must help find that balance. Water resource managers and the public share a mutual interest in addressing the impacts of global warming on aquatic ecosystems, in order to reduce future conflicts such as

“The manner in which humans adapt to a changing climate will greatly influence the future status of inland freshwater and coastal wetland ecosystems. Minimizing the adverse impacts of human activities through policies that promote more science-based management of aquatic resources is the most successful path to continued health and sustainability of these ecosystems. Management priorities should include providing aquatic resources with adequate water quality and amounts at appropriate times, reducing nutrient loads, and limiting the spread of exotic species.”

Source: Pew Center on Global Climate Change, Aquatic Ecosystems and Global Climate Change: Potential Impacts on Inland Freshwater and Coastal Wetland Ecosystems in the United States, 2002.

those that have occurred on the Klamath, Rio Grande, and other rivers.

Around the West, many water managers have been leaders in implementing practices that can minimize the effects of climate change and help preserve the health of aquatic ecosystems. These practices include:

Protecting the Ability for Aquatic Species to Adapt to Changing Conditions. Species naturally seek out conditions favorable to their survival and success. In a warmer climate, some aquatic species experiencing increased stress will try to move higher within watersheds to find suitable habitat. Therefore, maintaining or improving conditions necessary for migration within a watershed is critical for the survival of species at the limits of their temperature tolerances. For example:

- Existing water infrastructure has, in many cases, reduced the ability of species to move throughout a watershed. Barriers such as dams and diversion structures should be assessed to determine the potential for improving movement of critical species. In some cases, particularly regarding antiquated infrastructure, retrofitting structures to enable passage, or removing barriers altogether, can allow species to utilize suitable habitat upstream.
- Maintaining free-flowing rivers allows natural migration to take place and helps maintain other physical processes such as sediment transports that are critical

for functioning ecosystems. When developing new storage, seek to locate new storage off-stream or utilize groundwater resources.

Restoring aquatic ecosystems. Restoring in-stream, riparian and floodplain ecosystems will increase the resilience of ecosystems to the effects of climate change and other stressors. Aquatic ecosystems where the natural, physical (i.e., sediment transport) and biological processes (i.e., recruitment of new riparian trees) are largely intact will be healthier and better able to support aquatic species, reducing the challenges that managers will face as climate change impacts intensify. Specifically, managers should consider that:

- Restoration of riparian habitat can play a crucial role in mitigating the effects of increased temperatures. Shading from trees reduces water temperatures. Riparian vegetation provides nutrients critical to aquatic species and improves the stability of stream banks, reduces bank erosion, and creates important aquatic habitat. In addition, large trees that fall into streams provide important in-stream habitat, particularly for juvenile salmon and other small fish.
- In many systems, restoration of periodic high flows is vital for maintaining in-stream habitat. High flows, often in the spring, are needed to establish riparian vegetation. Mobilization of sediment in the channel during high flows is essential for maintaining spawning habitat for salmon and trout. High flows also help move out-migrating juvenile anadromous fish downstream. They can also inundate natural floodplains, which are critical for some species to reproduce.
- Restoration of floodplain ecosystems can provide increased flood protection, groundwater infiltration for water supply, and improved water quality by reducing runoff into streams.

Improving Water Quality by Reducing Runoff of Pollutants. Runoff from urban, agricultural and other managed landscapes into rivers and streams can severely impair water quality through discharges of excess nutrients, sediment, and toxic chemicals. Poor water quality can in turn reduce the biological productivity of rivers and stress aquatic species. Increased flows may be required to mitigate adverse water quality impacts, or meet water quality standards. Reductions in polluting runoff can be achieved through a variety of approaches:

- Support practices such as increased use of permeable surfaces that allow infiltration of rainwater. Impervious surfaces can produce up to 16 times the volume of urban runoff compared to natural, permeable surfaces, reducing natural groundwater recharge and moving pollution into waterways. These practices can not only directly support multiple benefits including water quantity and community aesthetics, but can be more cost effective water quality solutions compared to traditional storm water management which relies on wastewater treatment.
- Riparian and floodplain habitats act as buffers between surface water sources and adjacent land uses, by filtering runoff and reducing direct input of pollutants.
- Watershed education programs have been effective at informing people about actions they can take to protect their local rivers and lakes. Water supply and flood management districts have a unique ability to educate their customers about the need to protect the quality of their water supplies.

Managing Water Supply Systems to Meet the Temperature Needs of Sensitive Species. Maintaining the health of aquatic ecosystems while meeting water supply needs will require data collection, analysis and actions to mitigate or prevent temperature impacts on sensitive species. Such efforts include:

- Data collection and computer modeling of seasonal water temperatures downstream of reservoirs to enable water managers to identify potential temperature problems before a crisis occurs.
- Data collection and computer modeling of reservoir temperatures under different operations scenarios to help water managers identify opportunities to reoperate reservoirs in order to preserve cold water for release later in the year, and to minimize potential water supply impacts.
- Retrofitting existing surface storage with flow curtains or installing flow outlets at a range of elevations within the reservoir to help meet water temperature needs downstream.
- Managing local groundwater levels to preserve subsurface inflow of cold water that may be critical to maintaining cold-water habitat for fish. Local groundwater pumping can also harm riparian vegetation that provides temperature and other ecosystem benefits.⁴¹

Flood Control

The frequency and the size of flood events are expected to increase due to climate change. Water managers are considering the challenge of reoperating reservoirs that serve the dual purpose of flood control and water supply. Because there are competing operational elements between these two purposes, reoperation may result in reduced water supply yield. Flood protection actions downstream of reservoirs, such as levee setbacks, can in some cases reduce the tension that dam operators face in managing for water supply and flood protection.

The most common form of flood protection has been the construction of storage facilities, levees and flood bypasses, but today there are a number of options for improving flood protection that may be more cost effective and provide additional benefits. This section discusses a number of planning considerations as well as structural and nonstructural options for improving flood management in order to address the impacts of climate change. Emphasis has been placed on response measures that not only increase flood protection, but also benefit ecosystem health, water quality, and water supply. Many of these measures may be significantly more cost effective than traditional approaches—particularly over time—because they reduce the potential for flood damage.

Manage Floodplains Knowing that They Will Flood Eventually.

Regardless of existing reservoirs or levees, most lands within the floodplain of a river will flood at some point, damaging property and resulting in the potential loss of life. It is not a question of *if*, but rather *when* such floods will happen. However, many local, state, and federal land-use and planning agencies only plan for the 100-year flood event. With climate change likely increasing the frequency and size of peak events, existing flood control systems may not be adequate. As such, the extent to which land uses within the floodplain can be limited to those compatible with periodic flooding will reduce the cost of flood damages and the need for increased levels of protection.

Many cities and counties currently use planning guidelines and zoning requirements to manage development within the floodplain to provide for public safety. Often only areas within the 100-year floodplain are subject to such regulations. Land that is adjacent to a river but protected by a levee built to withstand a 100-year flood event may not be considered to be within the floodplain. Areas deemed to have a 100-year level of protection may not be adequately protected in the future. The California

“A reasonably foreseeable flood is a flood event that is realistically probable for a particular area. In many cases, this event could exceed a predicted “100-year” flood... Sources of information on reasonably foreseeable floods may include historic floods, paleo-floods, hydrologic modeling using transposition, historical flood damage data, and hydrologic models.”

Source: California Floodplain Management Report, 2002

Department of Water Resources notes that “during a typical 30 year mortgage period, a homeowner living behind a levee has a 26 percent chance of experiencing a flood larger than a 100 year event. This is almost twice the likelihood of a house fire.”⁴²

The single most effective flood management strategy is to avoid development in floodplains that is not compatible with occasional flooding.

Plan for More Extreme Flood Challenges. Current climate modeling does not yet provide precise estimates of the degree to which climate change will increase the frequency and magnitude of flood events in any given area. The need to prevent future flood damage and the time required to implement mitigation measures suggests the importance of immediate planning for increases in flood events. Because simply planning for the 100-year flood may not be adequate in the future, water resource managers should therefore plan for the “reasonably foreseeable flood”, taking into consideration the hydrologic impacts of climate change among other factors.

Restore Floodplain Habitat. Traditional flood control projects have been designed to control flows without considering the importance of maintaining floodplains as part of a healthy riverine ecosystem. Floodplain ecosystems provide essential habitat for a multitude of plants, aquatic species, and other wildlife. Lands adjacent to rivers, particularly those subject to frequent or deep flooding should be strongly considered for preservation or restoration as floodplain habitat. In the last several decades, a growing number of flood management projects are incorporated floodplain protection and restoration as a strategy to reduce flood damage and increase ecosystem health.

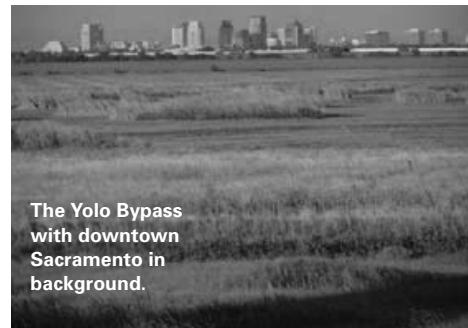
Promote Flood-Compatible Agriculture. One of the best economic uses of floodplain lands is for agriculture compat-

ible with periodic flooding. Not only does this encourage the preservation of productive agricultural lands, but periodic flooding also replenishes nutrients and soils, reducing the need for fertilizers. In addition, managed inundation of seasonal agricultural lands can provide valuable habitat for wildlife. The purchase of flood easements on private lands being used for flood control can also deliver financial benefits to farmers while creating a more cost effective way of meeting the need for improved flood management.

Build Flood-Resistant Infrastructure. In the valleys of large rivers such as the Sacramento, floodplain areas can extend great distances due to the low slope of the land. Making all of such land off-limits to development may not be necessary or feasible. Where construction occurs in an area that could be inundated to a shallow depth by a reasonably foreseeable flood event, structures should be built to withstand damage by requiring raised foundations or non-inhabited first floors. It is important for decision-makers to acknowledge and for residents to understand

Multi-beneficial Floodplains: The Yolo Bypass

The Yolo Bypass in California’s Central Valley is a good example of incorporating agriculture and wildlife habitat into a local flood management plan. In the winter and spring months, the Bypass is employed as a flood control tool that plays a critical role in the Central Valley flood control system including protecting Sacramento and other neighboring cities. When flooded, the Bypass provides valuable habitat for native fish, and a resting stop for migratory birds. During the dry months of the year the Yolo Bypass is farmed with annual crops. Because of the important habitat the Yolo Bypass provides it is home to a national wildlife refuge.



that this approach will not eliminate risk as climate change increases the frequency and magnitude of floods.

Expand Flood Insurance. The most common form of flood insurance is obtained through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). NFIP makes flood insurance available to communities that have enacted ordinances requiring, among other things, that all new construction have its lowest floor elevated at or above 100-year flood elevation. Under federal law, flood insurance must be purchased when obtaining a federally backed loan for a home within the Flood Insurance Rate Maps 100-year floodplain. But it is well recognized that these maps are often out of date and do not include areas that are within the 100-year floodplain due to the existence of levees. Cities and counties should assess the adequacy of their flood mapping based on existing and likely future flood hydrology. Additionally, all homes and businesses in areas at risk of flooding in a reasonably foreseeable flood event should be required to have flood insurance, particularly if they would be at risk of flooding to significant depth in the event of a levee failure.

Floodplain Mapping: The Need for Further Information

The West is growing rapidly and millions of people will be living in areas with the potential to flood. Yet many communities do not have the necessary information to determine the risk or the type of flooding they face. Floodplain mapping involves analyzing the hydrology of flood events of varying sizes and then charting what areas are likely to flood given current flood protection. Programs such as the Flood Insurance Rate Maps are essential tools in enabling cities and counties to make informed management decisions. They also help ensure that development within floodplains is sufficiently protected. Cities and counties, in coordination with state and federal agencies, should ensure that floodplain mapping is adequate by using updated hydrological information that reflects reasonably foreseeable flood events. Development, especially the increase in impermeable surfaces, can significantly alter natural hydrology, increasing downstream risks. Therefore, mapping should also incorporate the flood impacts related to past and future development within the watershed.

Improve Monitoring, Forecasting, and Early Warning Systems.

Collection of river and streamflow data is a critical component of water supply and flood management. To adequately manage rivers and meet ecosystem needs, water officials rely on streamflow data taken at all times of the year. Data collected during storm events is particularly relevant. Because every year is different, long records of data collection are extremely valuable in predicting future flows and rare high-flow events. Streamflow gauging is also an essential tool for developing early warning systems as part of evacuation plans that can both reduce flood damages and the loss of life. Unfortunately, recent cuts in federal spending have decreased the number of gauges throughout the West, undermining water resource managers and those responsible for public safety and ecosystem health. As climate change alters current hydrology, a robust stream gauge system will be essential to assist water managers and other decision makers.

Watershed and meteorological conditions vary greatly depending upon place, so no single strategy or suite of strategies will be appropriate for all locations. As a result, land-use planners and water resource managers should consider all options. They should also give priority to the response measures which are most cost effective, provide the most multiple benefits, and are easiest to implement given cost and political considerations.

PREVENTION

Decision makers in the West have traditionally looked to water leaders, particularly those from rapidly growing urban areas, to inform them about problems related to water supply, and to develop solutions. The scope and extent of potential worst-case climate change impacts, ranging from lost snowpack to rising sea levels, could result in serious challenges for water managers. As in the case of the gasoline additive methyl tertiary-butyl ether MTBE (see The MTBE Story: Urban Water Agency Leadership) the wisest course for water managers is to be proactive, to reach out to decision makers and the public, and to encourage preventative action. Regarding climate change, prevention means comprehensive, ambitious, and prompt action to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Such actions could have profound benefits for water management for decades to come.

The MTBE Story: Urban Water Agency Leadership

Perhaps the best example of proactive action by water managers in responding promptly to threats to urban water supplies is the effort to address the contamination of groundwater by the gasoline additive methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE). Water agencies were on the forefront of efforts regarding MTBE contamination long before regulatory agencies took action regarding this suspected carcinogen. A decade ago, urban water managers became aware of the threat posed by MTBE contamination to water supplies. MTBE threatened thousands of wells across the country in places where this gasoline additive had leached into groundwater.

Instead of waiting for regulators to assess the scope of the problem and design a response, water managers proactively educated the public and decision makers about MTBE's sources, potential health impacts, and potential costs to water agencies. They took the lead in urging regulatory agencies and legislators to address the threat posed by MTBE. Water agencies also opposed oil company efforts to obtain a congressional waiver of liability. The consensus regarding MTBE among water managers led to the involvement of the American

Water Works Association (AWWA). Thanks to water managers, states began banning MTBE, reducing future contamination—and future costs—far more rapidly than would otherwise have been the case. The MTBE case illustrates the impact that proactive water managers can have on public education and prevention on critical water issues.

There were several reasons for this decision to take a leadership role in the MTBE debate. The scientific evidence regarding MTBE contamination was clear. The water management implications of MTBE were serious in terms of public health, the contamination of existing water supplies, and economic costs. Regulatory agencies were slow to respond to the problem when action by policymakers could have had a major impact. And finally, water managers are respected community leaders; decision makers and the public look to them for information about serious water-related problems. Each of these factors now applies in the case of climate change.

For many of the same reasons as the MTBE case, water managers should take the lead in advocating climate change prevention measures.

This would not be the first time that water managers have taken the lead on water management issues without waiting for intervention by regulatory agencies. In December 1991 in California, urban water agencies and environmental organizations signed a memorandum of understanding regarding urban water conservation. This landmark agreement included 14 best management practices for urban conservation. Membership in the California Urban Water Management Council has now grown to 354 members.⁴³ These urban water agencies could have waited for the state legislature or regulatory agencies to mandate conservation efforts. Although the state has raised significant concerns regarding the pace of implementation of the best management practices, this agreement remains a significant pro-active step.⁴⁴

Western water agencies and other decision makers with water management responsibilities have already demonstrated a broad approach as they begin to reduce climate change impacts. The pace of action to prevent future damage from climate change is accelerating dramatically. Concerns about water impacts are a significant factor in these developments, and water managers are

beginning to take clear, action to help prevent climate change. This section provides a brief survey of best practices regarding these actions at the local, state, regional, and national levels.

Action at the Local Level

Although reducing the future impacts of climate change will require action at all levels of government, steps taken at the local level can result in innovative approaches to prevention, and can point the way to broader action. Several examples of such local action are cited here.

Action by Individual Water Agencies

Some water agencies are laying the groundwork for programs to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. For example, the East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) is working to minimize the district's climate change footprint. EBMUD is the first water district to join the California Climate Action Registry. As a member of the registry, EBMUD pledges to annually track, report, and certify its greenhouse gas emissions. The district has also replaced nearly its entire passenger vehicle fleet

with electric-gas hybrids and installed microturbine and photovoltaic systems on the roofs of its two main offices to power business operations. EBMUD was recently awarded the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Leadership Club award for exemplary green power production—the first water/wastewater agency to receive this honor. (See Appendix A for a detailed discussion of EBMUD's approach to climate change.) Since EBMUD joined the registry, more than a dozen California water agencies have joined as well as Seattle Public Utilities and the Salt River Project.

Public/Private Partnerships

In some areas in the West, water agencies are collaborating with local businesses to address global warming. The Santa Clara Valley Water District's (SCVWD) partnership with Sustainable Silicon Valley is an excellent example. Formed in 2001, Sustainable Silicon Valley (SSV) is a collaboration of businesses, government agencies, and nongovernmental organizations aimed at addressing environmental and resource pressures in the San Francisco Bay Area's Silicon Valley.⁴⁵ SSV is working towards a goal of reducing regional carbon dioxide emissions to 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2010.

To meet the goal, the partnership is focusing on energy efficiency, fuel efficiency, and increased use of renewable energy. This partnership with high technology firms reveals an understanding of the need to take action to prevent climate change and of the opportunities for businesses pioneering. It also shows an understanding of effective new technologies that assist in achieving this goal. Many Silicon Valley entrepreneurs see climate change reduction efforts as a major growth industry. As part of this effort, SCVWD has installed high-efficiency photovoltaic cells above a parking area on its San Jose campus, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 412,699 pounds per year and supplying 20 percent of the facility's energy needs with clean energy. (See Appendix A for a detailed discussion of how SCVWD is working to address climate change.)

Cities for Climate Protection

Local governments across the United States are beginning to address the challenge of reducing climate change emissions. More than 670 cities worldwide have joined the Cities for Climate Protection campaign. These include at least 150 in the United States, more than 45 of which are in the West.⁴⁶ These local governments include many

with water management responsibilities. Of the western cities that are members of the campaign, more than 30 serve as direct municipal water providers. In addition, the Marin (California) Municipal Water District has signed on to the campaign as an individual water district—the first water district to do so. As part of the agreement, signatories analyze their greenhouse gas emissions, set emissions reduction goals, develop and implement local greenhouse actions plans, and monitor and report results. This campaign represents a major movement of cities to address climate change-related issues directly.

U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement

On June 13, 2005, the U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously passed a resolution regarding global warming.⁴⁷ Remarkably, this measure received more support than any resolution in the organization's history.⁴⁸ Of the more than 410 mayors who had signed the agreement as of March 8, 2007, (representing more than 60 million people), at least 133 are mayors of western cities. At least 85 of those cities provide water services directly through municipal water agencies.⁴⁹ The agreement commits signatories to strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing climate change pollution—a reduction of 5.2 percent below 1990 emissions levels by 2012.

Action at the State Level

Around the nation, a growing number of states are also taking action to address climate change. In the West, governors are stressing the potential impacts on water supplies as major reasons for taking comprehensive action. State-based strategies include gubernatorial initiatives, programs to reduce carbon pollution, and a move toward renewable portfolio standards.

Comprehensive Gubernatorial Initiatives

California. On June 1, 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an executive order establishing greenhouse gas emissions targets for the state. The targets call for reducing California's emissions 11 percent below current levels by 2010, 25 percent by 2020, and 80 percent by 2050. Scientists agree that reductions of about 80 percent below current levels are needed to stave off the most serious effects of climate change.

In addition to highlighting potential impacts to water supply, the California initiative also emphasizes that water managers can be part of a comprehensive climate change strategy. The final March 2006 report from the

Governor's Climate Action Team underscores the fact that water conservation has the potential to generate significant energy savings, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions. (See the discussion of energy and water issues in Chapter 3 for a more complete discussion of this issue.)

Three California urban water agencies have become directly involved in supporting the state's efforts to mandate cuts in climate change pollution. The East Bay Municipal Utility District, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the Marin Municipal Water District have all written to the governor, urging him to adopt an aggressive greenhouse gas pollution control strategy. For example, the Santa Clara Valley Water District stated in its letter to Governor Schwarzenegger, "(W)e are very concerned about the impacts of global warming on Sierra snow pack and on water quality in the Delta. The district has supported policies that would reduce the effects of greenhouse gases. We urge you to take the necessary next steps to further the goals and commitments made by your Administration to prevent and defer global warming in California."⁵⁰

Arizona. On February 2, 2005, Governor Janet Napolitano signed an executive order creating a 36 person Climate Change Advisory Group. The group was charged with producing a Climate Change Action Plan that gives recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Arizona.⁵¹ The suite of recommendations issued by the task force would reduce emissions to 20 percent below 2006 levels, while saving the state approximately \$6 billion, creating 300,000 new jobs, and saving 172,000 barrels of oil.

Oregon. On April 13, 2005, Governor Ted Kulongoski announced five new initiatives designed to curb climate change. These initiatives, based on the Governor's Advisory Group on Global Warming, include:

- establishing new greenhouse gas reduction goals
- developing a plan for stricter emission standards for vehicles, along the lines of California's program
- developing carbon dioxide reduction schedules for utilities and other large emitters
- reducing state agency energy use by 20 percent by 2025
- increasing renewable and bio-fuel production and use⁵²

New Mexico. On June 9, 2005, Governor Bill Richardson signed an executive order setting greenhouse gas emis-

Western Leaders Speak Out About Climate—and Potential Water Impacts

"Global warming threatens California's water supply, public health, agriculture, coastlines and forests, our entire economy and way of life. We have no choice but to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." (California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, July 3, 2005)

"Arizona and other Western States have particular concerns about the impacts of climate change and climate variability on our environment, including the potential for prolonged drought, severe forest fires, warmer temperatures, increased snowmelt, reduced snow pack and other effects." (Governor Janet Napolitano, Climate Change Executive Order, February 2, 2005)

"Coastal and river flooding, snowpack declines, lower summer river flows,... and increased pressure on many fish and wildlife species are some of the effects anticipated by scientists at Oregon and Washington universities." (Oregon Strategy for Greenhouse Gas Reductions, Governor's Advisory Group on Global Warming, p. i)

"The southwestern United States will likely suffer significant impacts from temperature changes, such as decreased annual precipitation, faster evaporation of surface water supplies, and increased runoff at the end of winter when snow will melt faster." (Governor Bill Richardson, Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Executive Order, June 9, 2005)

"Montana has been locked in the grip of a drought for most of the past two decades...I am very concerned about the connection these conditions have to global climate change... I am intrigued by the fact that every city, state, corporation, province and country that has resolved to control its respective green house gas emissions has reaped substantial economic benefits from those efforts...I ask you to establish a Climate Change Advisory Group that will examine agriculture, forestry, energy, government and other sectors of our state. I want this broad-based group of Montana citizens to identify ways in which we can reduce our collective greenhouse gas emissions while saving money, conserving energy and bolstering our economy." (December 13, 2005 letter from Governor Brian Schweitzer to Richard Opper, director of the state Department of Environmental Quality)

sions reduction targets at 2000 emissions levels by 2012, 10 percent below 2000 levels by 2020, and 75 percent below 2000 levels by 2050. The order created the New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group to write a plan to meet the targets.⁵³ New Mexico thus became the first major energy producing state to set targets for cutting global warming emissions.

Montana. On December 13, 2005, Governor Brian Schweitzer called for the creation of a Climate Change Advisory Group, charged with developing recommendations to help Montanans save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The effects of climate change on water were cited first in the governor's letter, quoted below:

State-Level Programs to Reduce Carbon Pollution

States are taking a wide range of individual actions to reduce the emissions that cause global warming. For example, several states are adopting renewable portfolio standards or California's pioneering legislation regulating automobile tailpipe emissions of greenhouse gases. However, these efforts represent only two possible state-level responses to address global warming. In addition to the broad gubernatorial initiatives discussed above, state-based programs include:

- Automobile tailpipe emissions standards
- Appliance efficiency standards
- Renewable energy generation requirements, known as renewable portfolio standards
- Incentives for renewable energy production and generation
- Green building standards, such as the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Environmental Design (LEED) program
- Requiring utility energy plans to include the cost of carbon emissions

California's Global Warming Solutions Act. The Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) authored by Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez (D-Los Angeles), was signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on September 27, 2006. This made California the first state in the nation to set limits on heat-trapping pollution by implementing the pollution reduction targets laid out by Governor Schwarzenegger in June 2005. It set limits

to cut the state's global warming pollution 25 percent by 2020. In recognition of the water supply benefits of reducing global warming, AB32 was supported by three California urban water agencies: the East Bay Municipal Utilities District, the Marin Municipal Water District, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Water agency staff and board members lobbied in support of AB 32 and helped spread awareness of the potential water-related impacts of climate change, and contributed to the bill's passage.

California's Vehicle Tailpipe Greenhouse Gas Emissions Program.

In 2002, California passed pioneering legislation to reduce global warming pollution from all new passenger cars and trucks sold in the state, the largest automobile market in the United States. The law takes effect with the 2009 model year. At least 10 states, including Arizona, Oregon, and Washington, and Canada have adopted or indicated their intention to adopt California's tailpipe pollution standards. Together, these states and Canada represent one-third of the North American automobile market, providing a significant incentive for automobile manufacturers to improve the emissions of their entire fleet.

Renewable Portfolio Standards. At least seven western states have adopted renewable portfolio standards, which require electric utilities to purchase specified percentages of their power from renewable energy sources by specific target dates.⁵⁴ There are many benefits of such standards, including reduced pollution from coal-fired power plants and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

- Arizona: Requires electricity retailers to purchase 15 percent of their power from renewable sources by 2025
- California: Requires 20 percent renewables by 2017
- Colorado: Requires 10 percent renewables by 2015
- Montana: Requires 15 percent renewables by 2015
- Nevada: Requires 20 percent renewables by 2015
- New Mexico: Requires 10 percent renewables by 2011
- Washington: Requires 15 percent renewables by 2020

Action at the Regional Level

Western Regional Climate Action Initiative

On February 26, 2007, the governors of Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and California, launched

“In the Southwest, water is absolutely essential to our quality of life and our economy... Addressing climate change now, before it is too late, is the responsible thing to do to protect our water supplies for future generations.”

Source: Governor Bill Richardson, February 28, 2006

a joint effort to reduce their emissions of global warming pollution. Through the Western Regional Climate Action Initiative, these states will create a regional system to promote clean energy and energy efficiency to slow emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping pollutants that are contributing to global warming. The new agreement is similar to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative among 8 northeastern states and will include regulatory and market mechanisms.

West Coast Governors Global Warming Initiative

In September 2003, the governors of California, Oregon, and Washington launched a regional initiative designed to address climate change.⁵⁵ This effort includes setting emissions targets for state vehicle fleets, creating targets and incentives for renewable energy, and developing efficiency standards for appliances.

Southwest Climate Change Initiative

In February 2006, Governor Richardson of Arizona and Governor Napolitano of New Mexico announced the creation of the Southwest Climate Change Initiative, aimed at reducing global warming effects and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

The largest regional global warming effort, known as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), has been launched among eight Northeast and mid-Atlantic states.⁵⁶ The initiative's goals include capping carbon dioxide emissions from power plants at current levels in 2009 and reducing them by 10 percent from current levels by 2019. RGGI may become the nation's first cap and trade carbon program. This market-based approach to emission reductions is expected to drive investments to the least cost strategies, encourage technological innovation, and bring net economic benefits to the region. State modeling has estimated that, along with expected investments in

Sense of the Senate Resolution— Passed on June 22, 2005

On June 22, 2005, the United States Senate passed a resolution (54–43), which for the first time called for mandatory limits on U.S. global warming pollution. The bipartisan resolution was offered by Senators Bingaman (D-NM), Byrd (D-WV), and Domenici (R-NM). The passage of the resolution marked the first time that a majority of the Senate has voted in support of mandatory caps to limit global warming pollution. The resolution read: Congress finds that

(1) Greenhouse gases accumulating in the atmosphere are causing average temperatures to rise outside of the range of natural variability and are posing a substantial risk of rising sea levels, altered patterns of atmospheric and oceanic circulation, and increased frequency and severity of floods and droughts;

(2) There is a growing scientific consensus that human activity is a substantial cause of greenhouse gas accumulation in the atmosphere; and

(3) mandatory steps will be required to slow or stop the growth of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere.

(b) Sense of the Senate—It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should enact a comprehensive and effective national program of mandatory market-based limits and incentives on emissions of greenhouse gases that slow, stop and reverse the growth of such emissions at a rate and in a manner that

(1) will not harm the United States economy; and

(2) will encourage comparable action by other nations that are major trading partners and key contributors to global emissions.

efficiency, RGGI will result in a net savings on consumer energy bills of more than \$100 per household.

Action at the National Level

Progress on global warming can be made at the local, state, and regional level. However, the United States will not fully or adequately address climate change-related issues until it develops a mandatory national program to slow, stop, and reverse the emissions of pollutants that cause global warming. Though Congress has not passed

U.S. Climate Action Partnership: A Joint Business and Environmental Program

The business community is taking a leadership role in calling for an ambitious, effective national program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. On January 22, 2007, the U.S. Climate Action Partnership, a diverse group of businesses and environmental organizations called on the federal government to quickly enact strong national legislation to achieve significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. It further stated:

"We, the members of the U.S. Climate Action Partnership, pledge to work with the President, the Congress, and all other stakeholders to enact an environmentally effective, economically sustainable, and fair climate change program consistent with our principles at the earliest practicable date."

This unprecedented alliance, called the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), consists of businesses including Alcoa, BP America, Caterpillar, Duke Energy, DuPont, FPL Group, General Electric, Lehman Brothers, PG&E, and PNM Resources, along with four non-profit organizations, including NRDC. The USCAP document, "A Call for Action," includes a goal of reducing greenhouse gas concentrations to a level "that minimizes large-scale adverse climate change impacts to human populations and the natural environment." According to the group, "Each year we delay action to control emissions increases the risk of unavoidable consequences that could necessitate even steeper reductions in the future, at potentially greater economic cost and social disruption." The group supports "mandatory approaches" to reduce heat trapping pollutants, as well as flexible strategies to achieve these reductions. According to these business and environmental leaders, confronting this challenge "will create more economic opportunities than risks for the U.S. economy."

Source: United States Climate Action Partnership, January 2007. "A Call for Action." www.us-cap.org.

comprehensive legislation to this end, there has been some significant action at the federal level. The U.S. Senate has adopted a bipartisan resolution calling for mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions.

Mandatory Federal Limits on Global Warming Pollution

Recent scientific consensus has solidified around the need for decisive federal action to limit global warming pollution in order to stave off dangerous impacts on the earth's climate. Industry had recognized this urgency and called on Congress to act. Most significantly, in January of 2007, some of America's largest corporations called for mandatory limits on the pollution that causes global warming under a newly formed alliance called the United States Climate Action Partnership (USCAP). The group, which consists of such industry-leading companies as General Electric, Caterpillar, Duke Energy, Alcoa, Lehman Brothers and DuPont, noted in its report that "each year we delay actions to control emissions increases the risk of unavoidable consequences." USCAP went on to call for "prompt enactment of national legislation in the United States to slow, stop, and reverse the growth of greenhouse gas emissions over the shortest period of time reasonably achievable."⁵⁷

Like USCAP, NRDC supports aggressive emissions reductions measures such as those outlined in Congressman Henry Waxman's *Safe Climate Act* (HR 5642), and in Senators' James Jeffords and Barbara Boxer's *Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act* (S. 3698). Both pieces of legislation call for reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and for further reductions to levels approximately 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Such cuts are needed to avoid atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide that would lead to dangerously increased global temperatures and catastrophic changes in the earth's natural systems.

For up-to-date information, on federal global warming legislation, please visit the NRDC Global Warming web page at: <http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/default.asp>.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

As respected community leaders, water managers can have a significant impact in shaping public opinion and awareness. The role of water managers in shaping public awareness is particularly significant in the American West; where water is scarce, water leaders bear a greater burden in educating the public and decision makers regarding water-related issues. Some water officials are already beginning to educate the public about the connections between climate change and water management. Water districts use a wide range of educational tools: materials for children, billboards and other paid advertising, outreach and meetings with—and letters to—elected officials. These educational efforts can have a significant effect on the public debate when it comes to climate change.

How Water Managers Are Leading the Way

Today, some western urban water managers are meeting the challenge of calling for action on global warming. As early as 1998, the Water Education Foundation, a California nonprofit organization with many board members from water agencies, major water users, and water-related engineering firms, devoted an issue of its magazine to climate change, discussing the growing scientific evidence regarding climate change and potentially significant water-related impacts such as a reduction of snowpack.⁵⁸ In October 2001, the American Water Works Association's journal discussed some of the potential climate-related impacts on water supplies that are reviewed in this report.⁵⁹ These discussions, in turn, have helped

water managers to begin to analyze how their systems are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

As public awareness about the threat posed by global warming has grown, so too has the awareness of water managers. In 2005 the American Water Works Association Research Foundation issued a seminal report entitled *Climate Change and Water Resources: A Primer for Municipal Water Providers*. Though written primarily for water managers, the report discusses the importance of public education about the water-related potential impacts of climate change. And there are more signs that awareness among water managers is continuing to build:

- The Santa Clara Valley Water District's website includes strong statements about climate change "The reality of global warming and climate change is the most significant long-term threat to water resources management in Silicon Valley."⁶⁰
- Three San Francisco Bay Area urban water agencies wrote to Governor Schwarzenegger in early 2006, urging him to take prompt action to address climate change. These three urban water agencies have also supported state legislation that would create mandatory caps on greenhouse gas emissions.
- In January 2007, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission convened a Water Utility Climate Change Summit attended by more than 150 water managers and other stakeholders. The conference received significant media coverage.

The message is beginning to get through to decision makers, as indicated by public comments made by governors around the West about the need to act to reduce climate change impacts. Nearly all of those comments (see *Western Leaders Speak Out about Climate*) highlight the effect global warming will have on water resources.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The research, analysis, and best practices reviewed in this report suggest several broad conclusions related to climate change and water management. These conclusions, as well as the conclusions in the American Water Works Association Research Foundation (AWWARF) report, lead to a number of specific recommendations for water managers that fall into the four action areas outlined in the previous chapter: vulnerability analysis, response, prevention, and public awareness.

CONCLUSIONS

The Science Is Clear

The scientific community has provided clear and urgent evidence that global warming is already happening and that it is caused by the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, particularly carbon dioxide. This increase is largely human-caused, primarily through the burning of fossil fuels in power plants and cars.

Climate Change Will Affect Water Management

There are a variety of ways in which climate change will negatively affect water resources in the American West. Considered together, these changes could have a significant impact on water supply, water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and flood management. We are already experiencing serious impacts of climate change, includ-

ing sea level rise, decreased snowpack and earlier peaks in spring runoff.

Immediate and Sustained Action Can Reduce Future Impacts

Broad and strong actions will slow, stop, and reverse rising emissions of greenhouse gases, reducing future impacts on water resources. Immediate action is required to reduce long-lasting climate effects. Cost-effective opportunities for emission reductions can provide immediate multiple benefits.

Water Managers are Taking Action on Climate Issues

Water managers need to provide leadership to address the impacts of climate change on water resources and lead by example by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Around the West, some water managers have undertaken

a broad range of actions on issues related to all aspects of climate change.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Water managers work with their communities to meet future water needs. The comprehensive recommendations presented in this section are designed to assist managers in helping Western communities face the new challenges posed by climate change.

Vulnerability Analysis

Local, regional, state and national water resource managers should assess the vulnerability of water supplies, flood management and aquatic ecosystems to impacts from climate change.

■ Conduct Local Analyses

Water managers should analyze the potential effect of climate change on water supply systems, water demand, and environmental and water quality requirements.

■ Assess Regional Impacts

Water managers should undertake cooperative regional vulnerability analyses to develop an understanding of the common challenges they face and lay the groundwork for cooperative responses. Such regional efforts could also produce better results and reduce expenses for individual participating agencies.

■ Undertake State- and Federal-Level Evaluations

Agencies should undertake state level analyses of likely climate change impacts on a full range of water management issues. Federal agencies including the Bureau of Reclamation, the the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and the Atmospheric Administration, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the United States Geologic Survey should undertake evaluations of the likely impacts of climate change on water resources, and federal facilities and on the communities they serve.

Response

The following recommendations are designed to help water managers respond effectively to likely climate change impacts.

■ Guiding Principles for Water Resource Management Response

The following general principles are designed to assist forward-thinking water decision makers in crafting strategies to respond to this challenge.

- *Strengthen Institutional Capacity.* Responding to climate change will require agencies to invest in inter-agency collaborations, stakeholder involvement and technical analysis.
- *Maximize Flexibility.* Develop strategies that allow for mid-course corrections and redirection of investments toward the most effective tools, and strategies that reduce the risk of stranded investments in order to increase the ability of water managers to adapt to changing conditions.
- *Increase Resilience.* Water managers should consider a range of water management options that increase their ability to meet future needs under conditions of greater variability and uncertainty.
- *Implement “No Regrets” and “Multiple Benefits” Strategies.* Choose cost-effective strategies providing multiple benefits that make sense both today, and in a world altered by climate change.
- *Address Multiple Stresses.* Climate change is intensifying the stress put on water resources by other factors (e.g., population growth, land-use changes, contamination of surface and groundwater resources, and the need for ecosystem protection.) Water managers should seek to address these combined challenges through measures such as improving water use efficiency and protecting surface and groundwater sources.
- *Invest in Inter-Agency Relationships.* Water managers should partner with neighboring water agencies, as well as with agencies managing energy, environmental resources, wastewater, stormwater, and land use .
- *Incorporate Climate Change into Ongoing Project Design.* Water managers should incorporate climate change impacts into the design of existing and new facilities now, rather than waiting for the completion of comprehensive response plans to address climate issues.
- *Expand Dialogue with the Scientific Community.* Water managers and scientists should exchange information to increase the effectiveness of measures designed to meet the challenges posed by climate change and should develop a more accurate analysis of potential impacts on water resources.

■ **Restore and Protect Aquatic Ecosystems in Preparation for Climate Change**

In recent years, the West has seen numerous water resource conflicts pitting protection of threatened and endangered species against the demand for water supplies. To prevent future conflicts, to minimize impacts to water supplies and to protect our aquatic ecosystems, water managers should incorporate the following actions into their climate change strategies:

- Restore degraded rivers and floodplain habitats to buffer the impacts of climate change and provide critical habitat for sensitive species.
- Improve water quality by reducing runoff of pollutants through watershed management, increasing urban retention and infiltration of precipitation.
- Manage water supply systems to meet the temperature needs of sensitive species.

■ **Implement Water Management Tools That Are Effective in the Context of Climate Change**

Prior to making long-term investment decisions, water managers should carefully consider climate change effects on the tools available to meet future water needs. Climate change is likely to improve, or leave unchanged, the performance of tools such as water use efficiency and water recycling. Other tools that rely on historical hydrology (e.g., traditional river diversions, traditional groundwater pumping and traditional surface storage), are likely to perform less effectively in the future.

■ **Put Conservation First**

Water efficiency represent a sound and basic “no regrets” water management approach to future climate change impacts. Cost-effective water conservation investments can generate significant benefits on multiple fronts, including water supply, environmental, energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Water managers should support conservation strategies that:

- *Transform markets through plumbing code changes and appliance standards.* These changes are the most successful and cost-effective way to save water. In California, a recent study found that between 50 percent and 85 percent of the conservation likely to occur under a variety of scenarios by 2030 will be attributable to changes in the plumbing code.¹

- *Offer rebates for and make investments in interior water use efficiency.* Ultra-low flush or dual-flush toilets, low-flow showerheads and faucets, efficient appliances, and waterless urinals are proven cost-effective tools.
- *Promote landscape conservation.* Promote landscape water conservation including selection of drought-tolerant plants, landscape design that groups plants with similar water needs, efficient irrigation technology (including “smart-controllers” that automatically adjust to changes in weather), training for irrigation managers and maintenance personnel and seasonal rate structures
- *Use water metering and volumetric pricing to provide accurate price signals.* Water metering remains the single most effective water conservation tool. Measures such as submetering for multiple-unit residential and commercial buildings, and dedicated landscape meters, are particularly effective.
- *Price water to reflect its true cost and reduce existing water subsidies.* Water agencies should maximize the percentage of revenue recovered through volumetric charges rather than fixed charges, and should adopt tiered and seasonal water rate structures that encourage efficiency.
- *Support efficient product labeling.* The EPA has initiated the WaterSense program, comparable to the Energy Star™ program, to label products that meet its standards for water efficiency. Such a labeling program will help guide customers to the water-efficient choices already on the market and will encourage manufacturers to develop new, efficient products.
- *Use system leak detection to reduce unaccounted-for water.* In some systems these leaks can account for 30 percent or more of water use.
- *Implement commercial, industrial, and institutional conservation programs.* These can include programs targeted at individual measures, such as cooling towers, pre-rinse spray valves in restaurants, X-ray machines, and more customized initiatives designed to address industrial processes, and institutions, including universities and hospitals.
- *Create statewide and national programs for water conservation.* The California Urban Water Conservation Council is a good model for how to develop, implement, and monitor best management practices for water conservation. The new Alliance for Water Efficiency, which plans to bring together agencies, business interests

and environmental groups, should be an effective voice for advancing national water conservation standards and raising the profile of water conservation.²

- *Broaden public awareness.* Except in a handful of water-short regions, the public is generally unaware of the myriad benefits of water conservation. Regional campaigns to boost public awareness could generate substantial water savings.

■ **Incorporate Climate and Energy Issues in Water Planning**

By implementing tools ranging from efficiency improvements to reuse and recharge, there is an enormous opportunity to simultaneously save water and energy and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Water agencies should evaluate their energy consumption, particularly energy consumption driven by water use. Such an analysis should consider each phase of water use—storage and diversion, conveyance, treatment, local distribution, end use, wastewater treatment, and disposal.

■ **Collaborate with Energy Utilities.**

Water conservation generates substantial water and energy savings, and thus reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Water agencies should work with local energy utilities to develop joint programs, such as rebates, to encourage water and energy conservation. Energy utilities should be appropriately credited for the embedded energy savings that accompany water conservation. Furthermore, water conservation activities that also save energy should qualify for public funding available for energy conservation.

■ **Integrate Regional Water Management**

Water managers should approach climate change response by utilizing an integrated regional water management approach, including a broad range of issues, multi-disciplinary analysis, stakeholders and agencies with multiple interests, and solutions tailored to local conditions. An integrated approach can produce broad benefits, including water supply, water quality, fish and wildlife, habitat improvements, recreational opportunities, flood damage reduction, energy supplies, greenhouse gas emissions, and regulatory compliance. Such integrated efforts should consider:

- potential climate change impacts on existing facilities and future water management tools
- unique regional conditions

An Integrated New Vision for the San Francisco Bay-Delta Ecosystem

California recently created a new “Delta Vision” process to develop a plan to address the multiple crises currently facing the Bay-Delta estuary, including climate change-caused sea level rise and increased flood risks. This plan will be developed by state agencies, with input from a new blue ribbon panel and a stakeholder group, including urban and agricultural water interests. A new plan for the Bay-Delta should include prompt action in several areas:

- strengthening efforts to reduce future global warming, thus minimizing future risks to the Delta,
- implementing short-term actions to protect and restore endangered species, including, when necessary, reductions in Delta pumping
- reducing reliance on the Delta for water supplies (by investing in more reliable alternatives), thus reducing the economic risks associated with reliance on a vulnerable Delta
- stopping ongoing urbanization that is putting more Californians at risk of a Katrina-style disaster as they move into homes on vulnerable Delta islands
- maintaining the most important Delta levees and
- restoring other Delta islands to natural habitat, thus lessening the risk of a catastrophic failure, lowering levee maintenance costs, and helping to restore a healthy ecosystem.

Although a successful solution will cost billions of dollars, the price tag could be far higher if California fails to respond effectively to this challenge.

- potential multiple benefits and potential funding and implementation partners (e.g. water supply, water quality, ecosystem management, recreation, land use and flood management)
- “efficiency first” investments
- a full range of potential demand and supply strategies
- a full range of potential flood management options
- clear objectives and performance standards for evaluating options

- “with and without project” baseline analysis for large infrastructure investments
- economic analysis and “beneficiary pays” financing
- enforceable environmental requirements
- strengthening institutional capacity
- educating the public and decision-makers about the need to reduce and prevent climate change

■ **Evaluate Surface Storage**

Evaluations of any potential surface storage facilities should take place as part of a fully integrated approach, including the following specific actions

- base analyses on likely future hydrology
- give demand side approaches an emphasis at least equal to alternatives that would increase supply
- include a comprehensive economic analysis
- establish beneficiary pays pricing policies, rather than relying on subsidies
- fully incorporate potential environmental impacts
- avoid assigning costs to unrealistic potential benefits

■ **Carefully Consider Commitments Regarding Future Water Deliveries**

Water agencies, including the Bureau of Reclamation, should consider climate change carefully when making commitments regarding future water deliveries. In particular, agencies should avoid promising increased water deliveries based on current hydrology.

■ **Factor Climate Change into Flood Management Decisions**

For agencies with flood management responsibilities, an awareness of climate change should be integrated into future management decisions. For example:

- avoid development in floodplains that is not constructed to be compatible with occasional flooding
- dam operators should develop plans to reoperate surface storage facilities and other infrastructure in response to changing hydrology, caused by global warming
- managers should investigate floodplain management opportunities, such as floodplain, riparian and wetland restoration and the establishment of flood-compatible

agricultural practices. These actions can generate public safety, flood damage-reduction, environmental and agricultural preservation benefits

- planners should incorporate climate change in analyses of future flood risk, including planning for the “reasonably foreseeable flood”, which is larger than the 100-year flood
- support expansions in flood insurance
- improve mapping, monitoring, forecasting, and early warning systems

Prevention

Water managers can contribute to efforts designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to reduce future climate change impacts.

■ **Support Mandatory Caps on Emissions**

Support the creation and enforcement of a mandatory national cap on the pollution that causes global warming (mainly carbon dioxide), as the single most important step in controlling and reducing the future impacts of global warming. The problem can be addressed most effectively addressed through federal caps, but local, state, and regional initiatives are also effective and important tools in the face of federal inaction.

■ **Support Alternative Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs**

Energy efficiency and renewable energy programs are necessary elements for any plan to achieve a dramatic reduction in carbon emissions. The following programs can be implemented at the state and/or national levels:

- appliance efficiency standards
- renewable energy generation requirements
- incentives for renewable energy production and generation
- green building standards, such as the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards
- requiring utility energy plans to include the cost of carbon emissions

■ **Take Action at the District Level**

Water agencies should develop programs to reduce their energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Districts should consider joining the Cities for Climate Protection campaign.³

■ **Develop Community Partnerships**

Partnerships with the business community and local governments can enable water districts to broaden participation in ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reductions programs.

Public Outreach

Given the global nature of climate change and the need for far-reaching actions to address its causes, raising public awareness is essential to encourage effective action.

■ **Educate Ratepayers**

Ultimately, water district ratepayers could feel significant impacts and be forced to bear significant costs as a result of climate change. Water managers have a range of tools, such as newsletters, billboards, bill inserts, websites, and more, to educate ratepayers. An increased understanding of the challenges posed by climate change will promote ratepayer acceptance of programs designed to address this issue.

■ **Educate Decision Makers**

The involvement of water managers is important to convince agency and legislative decision makers that climate change is more than simply an environmental issue. Water managers are in a unique position in the West to educate decision makers about the water supply and economic consequences of climate change and the need to prevent worst-case climate scenarios.

■ **Educate the Media**

Water managers should strive to improve the media's understanding of these significant potential impacts and help raise awareness to reduce climate change impacts and risk.

■ **Incorporate Climate Issues into Conferences and Publications**

Water community conferences on water issues regularly include a presentation or two regarding climate issues. Given the significance of the potential effects, climate-related water management issues should play a more central role in water agency conferences, newsletters, reports,

and other publications. These efforts should be crafted to help water managers and users to take action.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH NEEDS

The more we know about global warming and the effect it will have on our water resources, the better prepared water managers can be to prevent the most serious consequences of rising temperatures. Water agencies, academic institutions, and state and federal agencies should consider funding research designed to address the following areas:

- the potential groundwater impacts of climate change
- the impact of climate change on water demands
- the impact of climate change on potential new surface storage facilities in highly engineered systems
- likely future changes in precipitation patterns (including totals and variability)
- potential future reductions in total streamflows
- improved maps and data showing flood risks and other flood-related information
- improved modeling of changes in the frequency and magnitude of peak flows
- potential impacts on water quality
- potential impacts on aquatic ecosystems
- downscale climate modeling for local and regional applications

Case Studies: Water Agency Action on Climate Change

Throughout the West, agencies of all sizes have conducted vulnerability analyses to evaluate the reliability of their water systems in the face of climate change. A number of agencies, such as the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Seattle Public Utilities have been studying potential climate change effects for years, while others have only recently begun to investigate these potential impacts. Each agency and utility's experience in analyzing potential climate change impacts has produced unique findings and has consistently given critical insight for water managers to prepare for the potential effects of climate change on their particular water systems.

Denver Water

Denver Water, a separate entity from the City of Denver, serves a total of 1,104,400 customers in the Denver Metro area, approximately one-fourth of Colorado's population. The agency uses one-third of the state's treated water supply. Its primary water sources are the Blue and South Platte rivers.

"We want to find out as much as we can about [climate change]," says Denver Water general manager Chips Barry.¹ To achieve that objective, Denver Water hired Stratus Consulting, an environmental and engineering research firm, to conduct an analysis of Denver's system in order to test the district's sensitivity to changes in temperature and precipitation as a result of climate change.² The findings of this analysis will be outlined in a general briefing paper presented to Denver Water on its completion.

In the district's next Integrated Resources Plan (expected to be completed in 2007), Denver Water plans to include a scenario designed to produce a rough estimate of possible impacts on its supply and demand.³ "Most of us operate on the premise that the future will be pretty much as it has been in the past," Barry points out. "Global warming has created greater doubt as to that proposition."⁴ By reducing the uncertainty regarding the particular impacts of climate change on its system, Denver Water can effectively plan to mitigate its effects and increase supply reliability.

Denver Water is ramping up its water conservation efforts with a \$400 million conservation plan designed to cut annual water use, over the next 10 years, to a level 22 percent below levels that prevailed prior to the 2002–2005 regional drought.⁵ Although this conservation

CITY LEVEL
Denver Water at a Glance

- hired an environmental engineering and research firm to analyze the effects of global warming on its system, including changes in temperature and precipitation.
- plans to include in its next Integrated Resources Plan a sample scenario of the potential effect of climate change on its supply and demand.
- accelerated investments in conservation, in part as a response to potential global warming impacts.

plan was initially established without regard to potential climate change effects on the Denver Water system, the agency accelerated its implementation, in part because it provides Denver Water with the ability to use saved water to mitigate impacts from climate change. Denver Water's board and executive staff approved the plan with an initial allowance of \$8 million for the first year. Moving forward, the plan's funding will be appropriated by the board and executive staff on an annual basis.⁶

Portland Water Bureau

The Portland Water Bureau supplies drinking water to more than 787,000 customers in the Portland region. The primary source of the bureau's water supply system is the Bull Run watershed, located in Mount Hood National Forest, 26 miles east of downtown Portland. Groundwater significantly supplements the agency's supply.

The Portland Water Bureau (PWB) incorporated climate change into its water supply planning analysis by commissioning a seminal study in 2002 by the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group.⁷ The study used a series of four linked Global Circulation Models—the Department of Energy's Parallel Climate Model, the Max Planck Institute's ECHAM4 model, and the Hadley Centre's HasCM2 and HasCM3 models—to estimate climate change impacts upon its system. The studies focused particularly on the Bull Run watershed, the district's primary water source.

All four models were used to develop water demand forecasts and a hydrologic model for the Bull Run watershed. The output of these models were then applied to its Supply Transmission Model, which takes inputs of

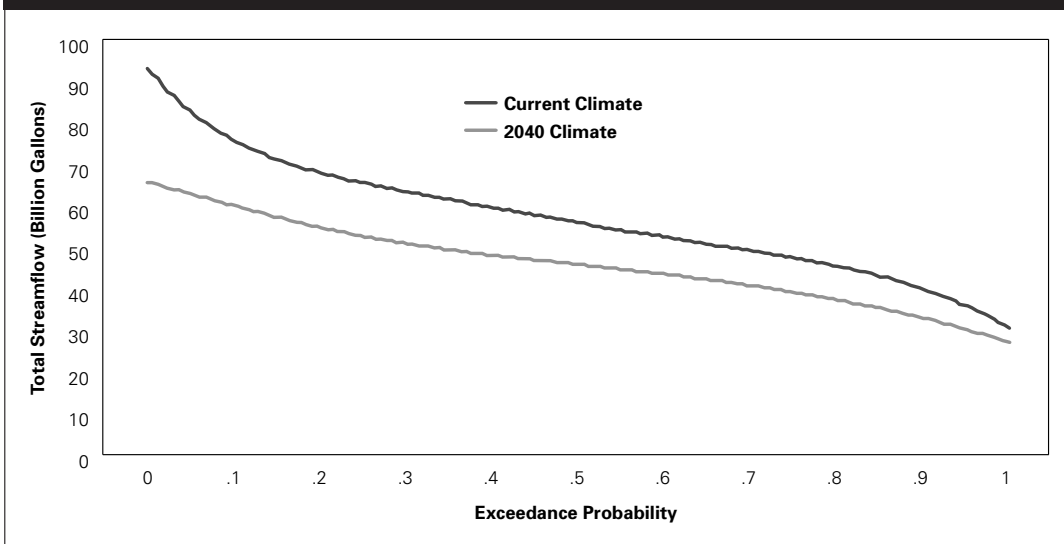
demand, weather, and water supplies to create different reliability scenarios. These model runs suggest that the Bull Run watershed will experience warmer and drier summers due to climate change, with an increase in general year-round temperature. The hydrologic models predict that precipitation will increase in the winter and decrease in the spring, with less snow melt remaining in the spring, making the Bull Run Watershed an increasingly rain-driven system with more years of lower summer streamflows into the storage reservoirs. This is particularly an issue in the Portland surface water storage system because the system's reservoirs are kept full during the winter, so an increase in earlier drawdown years with lower summer streamflows will affect overall system yield.⁸

Using the 60-year hydrological record, the study then evaluated the impacts of climate-altered streamflows and increased water demands on water supply performance with consideration given to three factors: (1) changes in water availability, (2) changes in water demand created by anticipated regional growth, and (3) changes in water demand as a result of hotter summer temperatures. The study estimated that the average impact of climate change alone on the current storage system could require approximately 1.3 billion gallons more water per year to meet demand. A change in runoff timing is PWB's supply threat, as it could reduce storage levels in comparison with historical record. This shift in runoff increases the number of years with longer drawdown periods due to lower flows and higher demand, requiring increased use of alterna-

CITY LEVEL
Portland Water Bureau at a Glance

- commissioned a study to analyze the potential effects of climate change on its system, with a particular focus on the district's primary water source.
- found that climate change will alter basic hydrology of the Bull Run watershed.
- projected that demand on the system will increase during the summer as a result of global warming, requiring an additional 1.3 billions gallons to meet demand.
- concluded that overburdening of the system will ultimately result in a reduction of Portland's surface water system safe yield during the summer, requiring additional conjunctive use of Portland's existing groundwater system.

Figure A-1: Portland Water Bureau's Projected Streamflow Shift Due to Climate Change



From the Powerpoint Presentation, "The Impacts of Climate Change on Portland's Water Supply." Portland Water Bureau and University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, 8/29/06

tive sources of supply, in addition to already anticipated reductions due to conservation measures. The study concludes that climate change will alter the basic hydrology of the Bull Run watershed as well as the system's demand, ultimately resulting in a reduction in the reliable yield of Portland's surface water system.

PWB is exploring the many alternatives to enhance its water supply reliability in the face of climate change, with an emphasis on flexibility in infrastructure development. Some of the strategies PWB is considering are conservation and conjunctive use that could be coordinated with reoperated existing surface and groundwater supplies. Other water suppliers in the Portland metropolitan area have conducted similar studies, in recognition of the need to collaboratively assess the impacts of climate change on regions with multiple water supplies.⁹

Santa Clara Valley Water District

The Santa Clara Water District (SCVWD) is the primary water agency for the residents of Santa Clara County, California. SCVWD provides water for the 1.7 million residents of the county, as well as serving as its flood protection agency and as the steward of the county's streams, creeks, underground aquifers, and reservoirs.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) began incorporating the uncertainties posed by climate change in its water supply planning processes about a decade ago. The district is continuously updating its analyses

CITY LEVEL Santa Clara Valley Water District at a Glance

- conducted a risk analysis in 2003 and determined that global warming could have serious implications for the district's water supply after 2020.
- concluded that the district's projects to meet water demand beyond 2020 must consider the effects of climate change on water quality, saltwater intrusion, imported and local water supplies, and the water transfer market.
- plans to complete a Water Supply Sustainability Plan in 2008, which will update its Integrated Water Resources Plan to include more detailed regional climate modeling and an analysis of local and regional impacts of future climate scenarios.
- is analyzing its climate footprint and has started tracking and reporting CO₂ emissions.

as more information about climate change emerges. In SCVWD's 2003 Integrated Water Resources Planning Study (IWRP), the district assessed global warming's threat to supply reliability. It applied vulnerability assessment models on five portfolios composed of various water supply options. These five hybrid portfolios were built to meet three planning objectives: high water quality, natural environment protection, and minimum cost impacts.

- SCVWD's "Extend" simulation model analyzed potential portfolio performance through 2040 based on historical hydrology
- The Economic Analysis Tool compared water supply options on equal economic footing
- The Risk Analysis Tool used statistical techniques and estimation of seven risk likelihoods to test the portfolios under a variety of possible future scenarios, including climate change

SCVWD considered its results over three time frames: Phase I (2003 through 2010), Phase II (2011–2020), and Phase III (2021–2040).¹⁰

In its risk analysis, SCVWD determined that global warming could have serious implications for the district's water supply after 2020. The analysis concluded that the district's projects designed to meet water demand beyond 2020 must consider the effects of climate change on water quality, saltwater intrusion, imported and local water supplies, and the water transfer market. SCVWD has concluded that its water supply is particularly vulnerable to certain climate change effects such as sea level rise, loss of snowpack, and a shift in runoff timing. Pursuant to its 2005 Urban Water Management Plan, SCVWD is assessing various options to address the impacts of climate change, including additional water recycling, additional water banking, and dry-year transfer options. Another option the agency is considering is employing additional treatment options to address water quality impacts such as increased salinity in the Delta, from which the district receives approximately 50 percent of its water supply.¹¹

A key aim of the district is to increase the flexibility of its water supply portfolio in the face of potential water supply threats by securing baseline water supply programs, investing in "no regrets" actions, and focusing on the long term.¹² The district is moving forward by developing a robust framework for sustainability and investment decision making. It also plans to complete a Water Supply Sustainability Plan in 2008, which will update its IWRP analyses to include more detailed regional climate model-

ing and an analysis of both local and regional impacts of future climate scenarios. As a comprehensive water management agency, SCVWD is gearing up to both mitigate and adapt to global climate change. SCVWD is also analyzing its own climate change footprint and reporting its CO₂ emissions as a member of the Sustainable Silicon Valley Initiative (SSV).¹³ See page 46 for more on the district's involvement with SSV.

Additionally, SCVWD is communicating its concern about the impacts of climate change to the community it serves and to state decision-makers. SCVWD wrote a letter in March 2006 supporting the governor's acknowledgement of global warming's effects on California industry in his 10-Year Strategic Growth Plan. The following month, the district wrote a letter of support for California Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), which places a cap on greenhouse gas emissions from the electrical power, industrial, and commercial sectors, and establishes a program to track and report greenhouse gas emissions.

Seattle Public Utilities

Seattle Public Utilities provides water to a customer base of more than 1.3 million people in the metropolitan area of Seattle, Washington. The utility receives almost all of its water supply from two watersheds in the Cascade Mountains: the Cedar and Tolt River watersheds.

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) has been actively involved in climate change as related to water supply issues for more than 15 years. Based on currently available information regarding the potential effects of climate change, the utility's analyses concluded that it is unlikely to need new water supply sources to meet water demand in the next 40 to 50 years, despite its region's

CITY LEVEL

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) at a Glance:

- uses a dual approach to climate change vulnerability analysis process that incorporates both a bottom-up perspective (historical hydrology) and a top-down strategy (using modeling to assess local watershed levels).
- forming partnerships with other regional groups—including state agencies, county and city governments, water districts, and an Indian tribe—to better prepare the region for the effects of climate change.

growing population. However, SPU acknowledges the many uncertainties surrounding climate change's potential impacts on its water system. SPU's 2007 Water System Plan describes how the utility will continue to monitor its system vulnerabilities, engage in research, and employ scenario planning in order to make system investments and operational changes that will prepare the utility for possible impacts.¹⁴

SPU uses a two-pronged approach to investigate its system's vulnerabilities to climate change. To assess climate change from a bottom-up perspective, SPU began by examining its historical hydrology, using streamflow records to reconstruct inflows into its surface water supplies. The utility now has an inflow dataset for the past 76 years, from water year 1929 through 2004. SPU also uses a system stimulation model to estimate the firm yield of its supply in order to meet the utility's 98 percent reliability standard, while accounting for climate variability. This bottom-up approach has underscored that a key vulnerability of SPU's water supply system is the timing of the return of fall rains. SPU's reservoirs are operated on a single-year drawdown cycle, and delays in the fall rainy season can force SPU to draw down deeper into reservoir storage. When this occurs, SPU relies on emergency storage reserves to meet the needs of its customers and downstream habitat. Research on future climate change has not directly addressed the timing of fall rains, but SPU is taking steps to ensure that its emergency supplies can be relied on during times of extreme drought.¹⁵

Potential climate change-driven loss of snowpack represents another system vulnerability. To mitigate this threat, SPU routinely monitors snowpack conditions and uses a dynamic rule curve that adjusts reservoir refill targets according to actual snowpack and soil-moisture conditions. This approach utilizes real-time conditions to regulate reservoir management and increases the likelihood of a full reservoir refill prior to the summer drawdown period. The dynamic rule curve also assists in managing the utility's risk from increases in precipitation variability, another potential climate change impact. SPU does not have a sizeable reservoir capacity compared to many other water systems, and it therefore relies on the dynamic rule curve and other operational management strategies to make the most of current water supplies.

As mentioned earlier in this report, SPU worked with the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group (CIG) to analyze its water system's susceptibility to climate change from a top-down perspective. CIG's analysis involved examining the SPU watershed's suscep-

tibility by employing a statistical downscaling method to translate the average monthly meteorological data from the General Circulation Models (GCMs) at nearby grid points down to local weather station locations. This method used cumulative distribution curves and historic weather patterns to generate a time series of meteorological data representing future climate from the GCMs. These data were input into a hydrology model and then fed into Seattle Public Utilities' system simulation model using some simplifying assumptions, including the use of static reservoir operating rules. These loosely linked models complete the process of translating information from the GCMs to the local watershed level.¹⁶

This downscaling method reveals a series of potential climate change impacts that affect water supply. Although there is significant cumulative modeling uncertainty associated with this method, the modeling results are useful for water supply planning purposes and for reexamining existing and planned water management systems under a wider range of climatic conditions. This model examined several elements that affect water supply, including temperature, snowpack, yield and precipitation. The results show:

- an increase in temperature of 2.3 degrees Fahrenheit in the Seattle region by 2040
- a decrease in snowpack of 50 percent by 2040
- a 6 percent decrease in combined inflows from the Cedar and Tolt reservoirs from June to September per decade through 2040
- a reduction in yield of 24 million gallons per day by 2040

The model results also indicate that the predicted deviation in precipitation does not range significantly outside the range of natural variability.

SPU is widening the scope of its climate change analyses by co-sponsoring regional studies with King County (in which Seattle is located), the Cascade Water Alliance, and the Washington Department of Ecology as part of a larger regional water supply planning process, which also incorporates climate change. A wide cross-section of organizations are participating in the planning process—including state agencies, county and city governments, water districts, and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe—with the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group as the technical lead on climate change. The process is designed to develop information regarding

current and emerging water resource management issues in and around King County, including climate change. This partnership is a multi-year effort to analyze water resource conditions and management in order to better meet the region's water demand. The process will examine all available water sources, including reclaimed water and conservation. Climate change is one of five resource management issues under study, with a technical committee in place on each issue to produce reports and recommendations that could be included in water planning processes in the region.¹⁷

Building on past research and other endeavors, SPU plans to expand its knowledge of the evolving science behind climate change by continuing to partner with leading scientists. This research will help to further refine SPU's understanding of the local impacts of climate change and provide an increased understanding of how its system can adapt over time. SPU is particularly interested in learning more about the impacts of climate change on frequency of flood events, water demand, and fall rains, because the timing and intensity of these events are key vulnerabilities for the Seattle water supply system. Additionally, SPU seeks to develop hydroclimatic reconstructions, a practice that involves using tree-ring samples to reconstruct past hydroclimatic conditions in order to assess its system's vulnerability to climate change. The utility also aims to utilize more scenario planning, employ physical downscaling methods, and quantify the effectiveness of its changes in operations.¹⁸ SPU anticipates revisiting its climate change analysis at least every six years in conjunction with its Water Supply Plan update, or sooner, if new significant information becomes available.

East Bay Municipal Utility District

The East Bay Municipal Utility District supplies water and provides wastewater treatment for customers in parts of Alameda and Contra Costa counties in the Eastern portion of the San Francisco Bay Area, including Oakland and Berkeley. Its water system serves approximately 1.3 million people in a 325-square mile region.

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) is another agency that has emerged as a leader in assessing the impacts of climate change on water resources. In 2003, EBMUD conducted a dual-faceted vulnerability analysis to quantify impacts on its system: a planning model operated on a monthly timestep, and an operations model based on a daily hydrograph. Its monthly planning model used a database of historical river flows and tested

CITY LEVEL East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) at a Glance

- conducted a dual-faceted vulnerability analysis to quantify climate change impacts on its system: a planning model operated on a monthly time step and an operations model based on a daily hydrograph.
- concluded that changes in precipitation patterns and flooding due to climate change could compromise system reliability.
- became the first water district to join the California Climate Action Registry by pledging to annually track, report, and certify its greenhouse gas emissions.

its sensitivity to climate change by shifting 28 percent of historical April to July runoff volume into the November to March period, to estimate the reliability of system operations with less late-season snowmelt. The 28 percent figure was based on a study conducted by Maurice Roos, Chief Hydrologist of the California Department of Water Resources, which assessed how a shift in climate would impact the Mokelumne watershed, EBMUD's primary water source. Roos estimated that a 5 degree Fahrenheit temperature increase in the Mokelumne watershed might result in a 28 percent shift in runoff. EBMUD's analysis did not reveal significant impacts from this shift, as the historical record shows that in most years there has been more snowmelt in the watershed than can be stored. However, the extent of future precipitation changes in this watershed due to climate change is unknown. In dry years, annual runoff volume is less than the total reservoir capacity, and the timing of snowmelt would have little effect on system reliability. An overall reduction in precipitation, however, would have direct effects on this runoff and the amount of water available for storage. Model simulation of the historical record adjusted for an earlier snowmelt confirmed that the district's water supply and carryover storage would not be reduced significantly in most years. The only exception is water year 1997, which was exceptionally wet and warm in early winter but dry beginning in February. If the spring runoff from snowmelt in that year reduced by 28 percent, EBMUD found that the carryover storage would have been reduced, which would affect system reliability if a drought period were to follow. Such a sequence of events is of concern to

EBMUD. The operations model analyzed the impacts of a 5 degree Fahrenheit temperature increase on water year 1997's daily hydrograph based on historical sequence of snowfall and rainfall inputs. The results of this analysis were intuitive: with a climate change-induced runoff shift, flood control consistently was revealed as an issue that the district must be prepared to address.^{19,20}

EBMUD has made it a priority to invest in the production, use, and refinement of new supply-forecasting tools. By developing and using these tools, the district further reduces the uncertainties of climate change impacts on its water supply. By better understanding its water system's particular vulnerabilities, EBMUD can effectively managing the stresses on its supply. In order to diversify its water supply sources, the district is also constructing the Freeport Regional Water Project, in partnership with the Sacramento County Water Agency. This project, which will allow EBMUD to divert water from the Sacramento River, was carefully negotiated with Sacramento County, environmentalists and other interests.

EBMUD is also working to prevent global warming by minimizing its climate change footprint. As discussed, it was the first water district to join the California Climate Action Registry—a non-profit public/private partner-

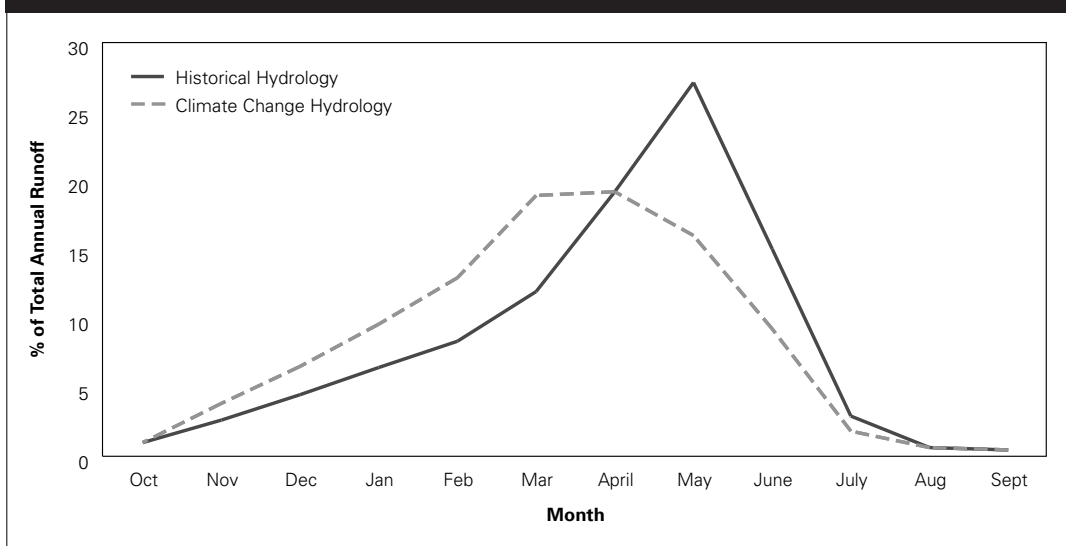
ship established by California statute, which provides a voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) registry to promote early actions to reduce GHG emissions. As a member of the Registry, EBMUD pledges to annually track, report, and certify its greenhouse gas emissions. EBMUD's efforts to mitigate its own impact on global warming were recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency, who presented the district with a Green Power Leadership Award.²¹

Furthermore, EBMUD has taken its concerns about global warming beyond district boundaries to California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the state legislature. In a December 2005 letter, General Manager Dennis Diemer urged the Governor and the Climate Action Team to proactively assess how global warming may affect water supply and the economy in California's 10-Year Strategic Growth Plan. Then in March 2006, the District actively supported California's Assembly Bill 32.

Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba (CABY) Watersheds

The Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba rivers are four adjacent watersheds located in California's central-Sierra region. The CABY alliance involves a diverse membership

Figure A-2: EBMUD's Projected Streamflow Shift Due to Climate Change



EBMUD's comparison of long-term average unimpaired runoff under historical conditions and with its climate change model's 28% shift from April-July runoff volume to the November-March time period.

body including representatives from agriculture, recreation, Native American tribes, the business community and local, state, and federal governments.

Various stakeholders of four watersheds: Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba (CABY) have cited climate change as a guiding principle in their first-ever collective Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The purpose of the IRWMP is to provide an integrative approach to water management that is oriented toward the collective goals of the region's water users.²² The plan was adopted by ten participating organizations as of December 2006, including the El Dorado Irrigation District, Gold County Fly Fishers, the U.S. Tahoe National Forest, the Yuba Watershed Council, the Bear River Watershed Group, American Rivers, Natural Heritage Institute, and the Nevada Irrigation District. Implementation by a regional entity is expected to begin in 2007, which will oversee the execution, monitoring, and success of projects in the IRWMP.

As it lays the framework for its IRWMP, CABY is assessing how it can prepare for climate change by maximizing its tools, policies, and current system infrastructure. CABY is using the Water Evaluation And Planning (WEAP) system to help measure potential climate change impacts on hydrology. The WEAP system, developed by the Stockholm Environmental Institute's Boston Center and the Tellus Institute, is a microcomputer tool developed for integrated water resources planning. It analyzes a

system's water supply generated through watershed hydrological processes using a water management model driven by water demand and environmental requirements, governed by the natural watershed and the region's network of reservoirs, canals, and diversions. WEAP generates scenarios that examine a full range of water planning issues, including climate change.²³

Liz Mansfield, CABY Project Director and El Dorado Irrigation District Watershed Coordinator, explains that WEAP can assist the region in developing a plan to manage climate change effects on its regional system. The CABY planning team has highlighted specific vulnerabilities to investigate, such as reservoir operations. A shift in runoff timing could have significant effects on the region's water supply, due to the delicate balance involved in reservoir management. The CABY region is at a high altitude with limited-capacity reservoirs that often remain full year-round for recreational and hydropower purposes. Analyzing how climate change will shift runoff in this region is critical to planning efforts for effective reservoir management.²⁴

CABY also recognizes its elevated susceptibility to fire in the face of climate change. The region is densely vegetated, with a high volume of forested areas. CABY's planning community is seeking to understand the extent to which the expected increase in fires brought on by climate change will affect regional water supply and water quality. By gaining a clearer sense of climate change's effects on their system, the CABY planners can develop proactive strategies to meet effectively the needs of the region's water users.

What we are seeing in the CABY regional planning effort is part of a new trend—water managers using climate change vulnerability analyses to shape integrated planning efforts. In the past, climate change analyses have generally been produced as stand-alone documents, CABY uses the findings from its vulnerability analyses as a pillar in its planning framework.

California Department of Water Resources

The California Department of Water Resources manages the State Water Project, including the California Aqueduct. The department's numerous roles include providing flood control services, aiding local water districts in water management and conservation activities, and planning for future statewide water demands.

In July 2006, The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the first statewide analysis of

AGENCY LEVEL CABY at a Glance

- the managers of four watersheds—Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba (CABY)—joined forces to examine how global warming will impact its watershed on a regional level.
- used a microcomputer tool that analyzed climate change vulnerability.
- used the findings of the vulnerability analysis as a foundation of CABY's integrated planning efforts.
- determined that reservoir operations and vulnerability to forest fires were two particular threats to the region, and are planning response strategies to mitigate these risks.

likely climate change effects on water supply. The agency commissioned the study in response to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's June 2005 Executive Order, which established greenhouse gas emissions targets for California and required biennial reports regarding potential climate change effects in numerous areas.

Progress on Incorporating Climate Change into Management of California's Water Resources, is the product of the Climate Change Work Team, a group formed by DWR in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to incorporate climate change science into California's water resources planning and management. DWR is communicating to local water agencies the results of the report and the various analysis tools used therein, which could be used by others to address climate change-related issues. The goal of these efforts is to assist water managers in future climate change analysis and to help them identify information gaps for future research.

DWR's report concludes that climate change has the potential to reduce the yield of the state's two major water projects by as much as 10 percent—a highly noteworthy figure considering that over 20 million California residents receive a portion of their water supply from those two projects (the State Water Project, or SWP, and the federal Central Valley Project, or CVP). The report notes that climate change creates a more active hydrological cycle, thereby altering the timing, intensity, location, amount and variability of precipitation. The study anticipates that these variations in precipitation events may lead to increases in extreme weather events, such as storms, flood events, and droughts. DWR expects more floodwaters to manage in winter, followed by less snowmelt to store in reservoirs for use during the warmer, summer months. By the year 2050, an average loss of 5 million acre-feet or more of annual water storage in the state's snowpack is expected—more than the capacity of the state's largest reservoir, Lake Shasta. In addition, the combination of more frequent extreme events coupled with lower winter reservoir storage levels, which may be required in response to higher peak streamflows, presents a key challenge for operators of the state's reservoirs.

In addition, the study points out that sea level rise due to climate change could have multiple implications for California, including erosion of coastal land area and possible sea water intrusion in coastal aquifers. Sea water flooding may pose a serious threat to land, at the mouths of rivers and streams, and in estuaries.

The San Francisco Bay-Delta, an important source of water for Southern California, the San Joaquin Valley and

STATE LEVEL

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) at a Glance

- commissioned a study to determine how global warming will affect California's water resources on a state-wide level.
- helped local and regional water managers understand how its climate change response strategies fit into the larger statewide plan for action, enabling decision makers to plan a more coordinated response to rising temperatures.

the Bay Area, is particularly susceptible to several effects of climate change. From a water resources perspective, the most significant effects of climate change on the Delta are increased salinity intrusion, as well as increased vulnerability of Delta levees to sea level rise. An increase in sea water intrusion in the Delta could lead to a degradation of water quality for the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project. Climate change also has significant, if uncertain, implications for the Delta's fragile ecosystem, which is home to various threatened and endangered species. (See *The Other New Orleans: California's Delta Water Supply and Sea Level Rise*.)

DWR researchers expect that higher air temperatures due to climate change will likely elevate water temperatures in the ocean as well as in the state's lakes and waterways. These increased water temperatures may harm aquatic species sensitive to temperature, particularly threatened and endangered aquatic species. In addition, some foreign invasive species may thrive in these new warmer conditions, further threatening the health of aquatic ecosystems. Water quality could be compromised as well, including a reduction in dissolved oxygen levels. Warmer water will raise the need for temperature control releases from reservoirs. Simultaneously, however, cold-water storage in reservoirs will be constrained due to the expected effects of climate change, such as diminished snowpack and lower storage levels.

According to DWR, future water demand is expected to grow, as a result of global warming. The report finds that warming-caused impacts to evapotranspiration, commercial and industrial use, environmental water demand, and domestic water use may be some of the most significant climate change-related challenges facing California. Increases in evaporative cooling demand and a higher consumption of water by concentrated animal feeding

facilities are also expected. Moreover, climate change could require more water in order to control rising temperatures for sensitive aquatic species. This need to mitigate rising water temperatures could be an important issue in fragile areas such as the San Francisco Bay-Delta, a delicate ecosystem that provides habitat for many threatened and endangered species. In addition, DWR predicts that basic domestic water demand will rise with higher temperatures, mainly from drinking water for humans and pets, and increased bathing and evaporative cooling. Future population growth in the state promises to bring additional water demand, tightening the squeeze on this limited resource.

DWR emphasizes the need for water agencies and researchers to incorporate climate change impacts and potential associated risks into the planning and management of California's water supply. DWR emphasizes the need to understand the probability of various climate change scenarios and to evaluate how they could affect different regions. By better understanding these potential impacts, decision makers are better equipped to plan appropriate response strategies.²⁵

New Mexico Office of the State Engineer/ Interstate Stream Commission

The Office of the State Engineer is responsible for administering the state's water resources by supervising, measuring, appropriating, and distributing all surface and groundwater in New Mexico. The Interstate Stream Commission duties include protecting New Mexico's water rights under eight interstate stream basins, ensuring the state's compliances with each basin, and planning for future water needs.

New Mexico is the next state after California to analyze the potential impacts of climate change on its state's water resources. Governor Bill Richardson's 2005 Executive Order directed the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer to prepare an analysis of the likely effects of global warming on the state's ability to manage water resources in collaboration with other state agencies, research institutions, and water planners. The report, *The Impact of Climate Change on New Mexico's Water Supply and Ability to Manage Water Resources*, summarizes its findings.

Based on 18 climate simulations prepared by scientists throughout the world, the report highlights potential impacts to New Mexico that generally reflect those expected throughout the West, including changes in snowpack, variability in available water, increased unpredictability in precipitation patterns, and a rise in extreme events

STATE LEVEL

New Mexico Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission at A Glance

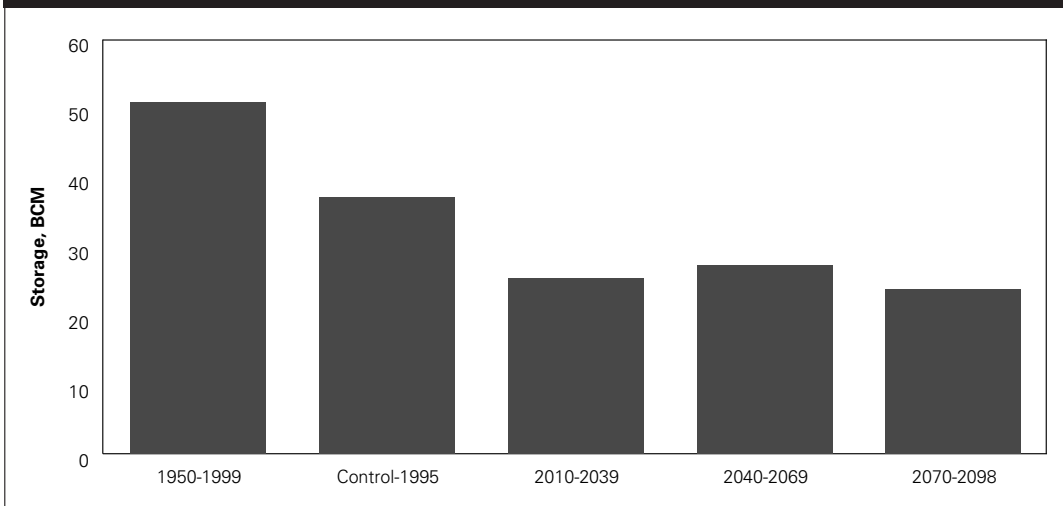
- commissioned a report to determine what specific global warming effects are likely to be of particular importance in New Mexico.
- recommended proactive, immediate action to mitigate the impacts of climate change, such as exploring options such as desalination of brackish water supplies and water reuse.
- recommended an integrated approach that brings together water management and policy expertise as well as state government, environmental, and agricultural representatives.

such as droughts and flooding. These changes will bring additional challenges to the management of the state's water resources. One such challenge is the fact that the water resources in the Colorado River Basin—one of New Mexico's primary sources of water supply—are expected to decline by as much as 40 percent over the next century. In addition, mountain snowpack in the state's southern half could vanish by the late 21st century, completely eliminating natural storage that is critical for meeting demands during peak summer months.

Climate change is likely to bring significant implications for the state's rangelands, farmland, and aquatic ecosystems. Warmer temperatures combined with changing precipitation patterns suggest the possibility of increased fire activity in the state's rangelands, which make up more than two-thirds of the state's land area. In turn, the more fires are likely to intensify stress on future water resources. New Mexico's farming community is also predicted to feel serious effects from climate change. Farmland in the state could decrease as much as 25 percent as a result of increased evaporation and earlier spring runoff. Additionally, shifts in water temperature and changes in runoff timing could critically alter aquatic habitats, resulting in species loss or migration and causing new combinations of species.

The state's report emphasizes the need for water managers to begin preparing for these potential impacts. The first step for water managers is to identify and quantify the range of climate change vulnerabilities specific to their area. Water managers are advised to conduct a vulnerability analysis of current reservoir infrastructure in order to ensure that they are capable of withstanding the additional

Figure A-3: Projected Changes in Average Total Colorado River Basin Reservoir Storage



For downscaled climate simulations of the U.S. Department of Energy/National Center for Atmospheric Research Parallel Climate Model (PCM) based on projected 'business-as-usual' (BAU) greenhouse gas emissions and a control climate simulation based on static 1995 greenhouse gas concentrations, and an ensemble of three 105-year future climate. Simulations for three periods, and a comparison with observed historical (1950-1999) climate. From p. 21 of report.

Source: <http://www.nmdrought.state.nm.us/ClimateChangeImpact/completeREPORTfinal.pdf>

pressures likely to be caused by climate change. The report also suggests that as science and technology advance, water managers should consider expanding water supplies through reuse, desalination of brackish water supplies, weather modification, expanded use of low-quality water, and reduced reservoir evaporation.

The report determines that the key to successful adaptation is a "robust scenario-based planning structure."²⁶ The report, compiled with input from numerous published reports and assistance from a broad group of professionals, emphasized that while a degree of uncertainty regarding possible effects of global warming will inevitably remain, we can control the degree to which climate

change will affect water sources by planning for action today. The report encourages government collaboration with the various stakeholders in water planning—i.e., cities, agriculture, and the environment—as well as within the education and science community, in order to develop comprehensive planning strategies. It advises water resource planners and managers to employ an adaptive, proactive planning approach in conjunction with a "no regrets" decision-making process that focuses on desirable outcomes regardless of uncertainties.

Appendix B

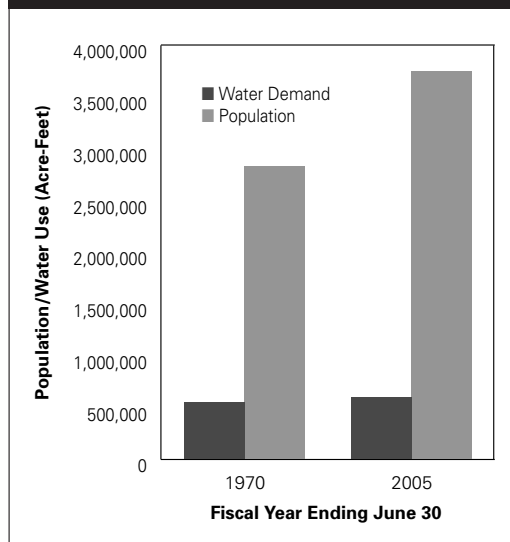
Decoupling Population Growth and Water Use

During the past several decades, many urban communities across the West have grown dramatically. Traditionally, many water planners have assumed that urban water use would grow in proportion to population. Yet in Western states, urban water use remains approximately 10 percent of the total developed water supply.¹

In fact, as the figures below indicate, some communities have succeeded in keeping water use relatively flat, despite dramatic population growth. Los Angeles, Seattle, the San Francisco Bay area, and Denver have all experienced significant population growth in the past quarter century, yet for each, total water use has remained relatively constant. This remarkable accomplishment has been made possible by significant investments in water conservation.

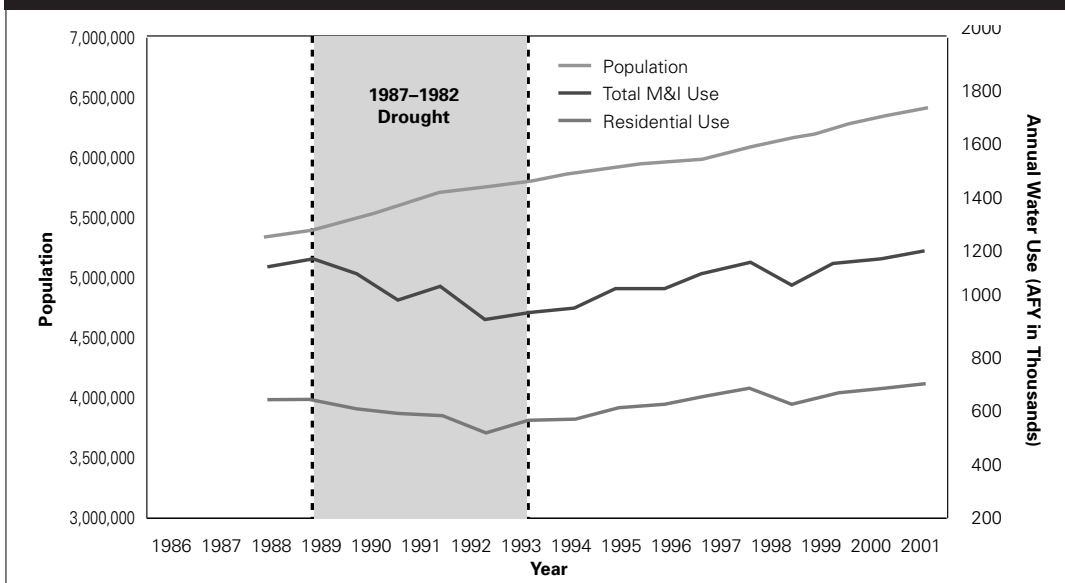
In addition to water conservation investments, some areas have also made major investments in wastewater recycling and groundwater cleanup. Several of these efforts have been prompted by droughts. In Southern California, conservation and recycling investments have also been motivated by pressure to reduce deliveries from the Colorado River and the Mono Lake basin (see Figure B-1). The progress made by these communities demonstrates the effectiveness of efficiency as a water supply tool. As discussed earlier in the report, California's new State Water Plan indicates that these tools are likely to remain the largest sources of supply for future growth. Figures B-2, B-3, and B-4 show similar progress in the San Francisco Bay area, Denver, and Seattle.

Figure B-1: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Water Use and Population



Source: Fatema Akhter, LADWP: 8/31/06 and from California Water Decisions booklet published by Environmental Water Caucus, 7/00.

Figure B-2: San Francisco Bay Area Population and Water Use



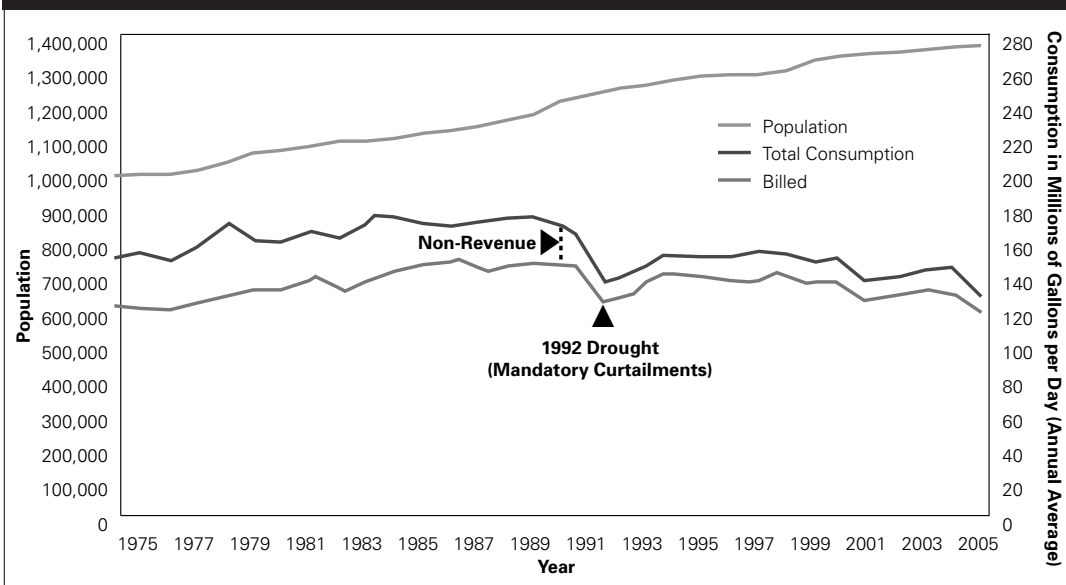
Source: Randy Kanouse, East Bay Municipal Utility District Sacramento Lobbyist. From Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Administrative Draft: 6/06.

Figure B-3: Denver Demand and Customer Growth of Treated Water



Source: Elizabeth Gardener, Denver Water Conservation Manager: 8/29/06.

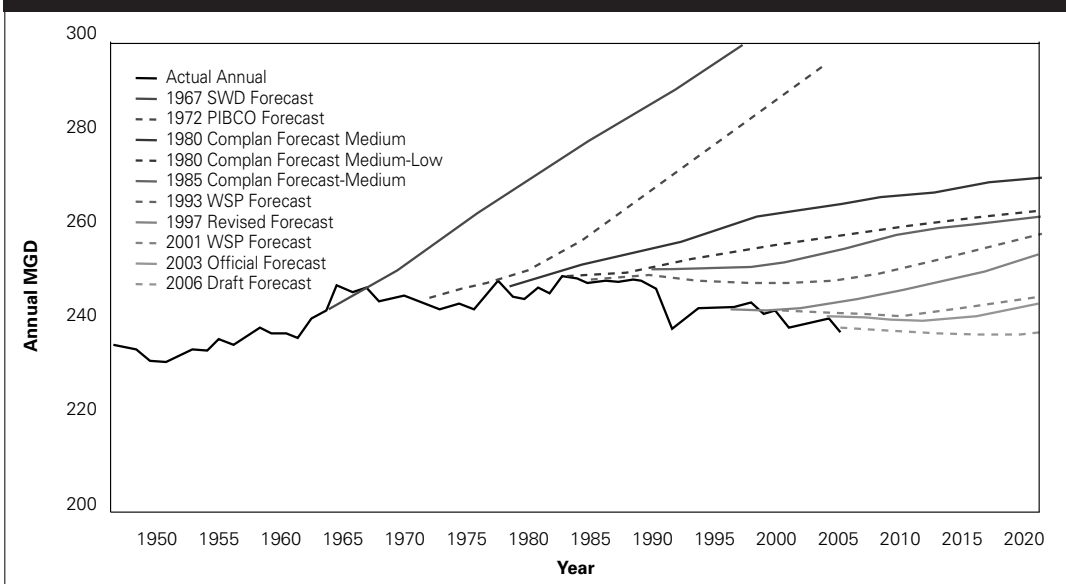
Figure B-4: Population Growth and Water Consumption from Seattle Public Utilities



Source: Pg. 2-15. Seattle Public Utilities, 2007 Water System Plan, Public Review Draft. Online access: http://www.cityofseattle.net/util/About_SPU/Water_System/Plans/2007WaterSystemPlan/index.asp.

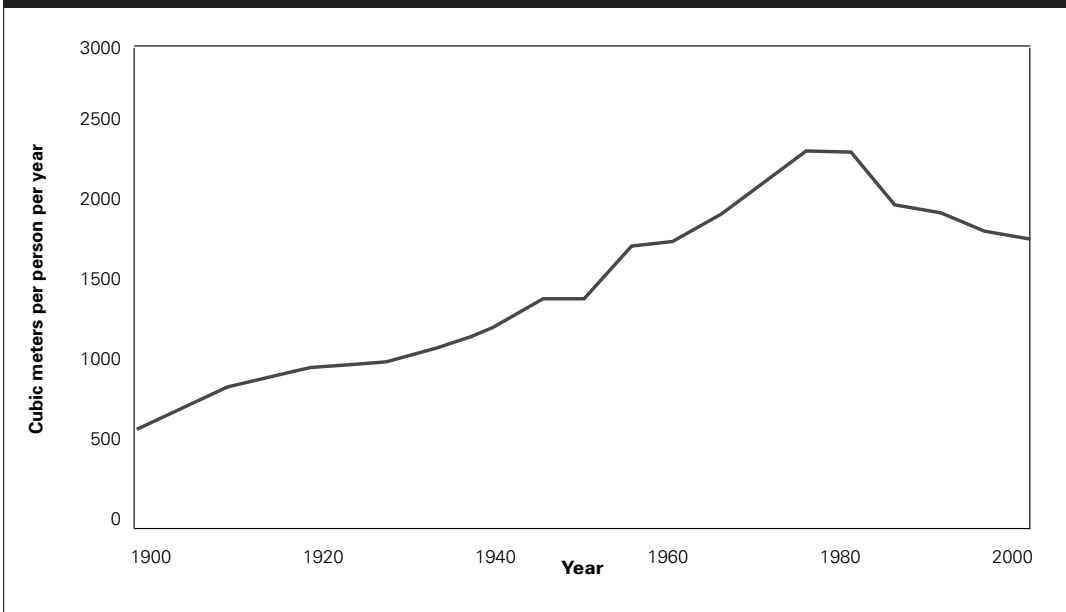
Note: Issaquah, Sammamish Plateau, and Covington area are not included in historic data because they did not become customers until 2004 when contract with CWA was signed.

Figure B-5: Seattle Public Utilities Forecasting Demand



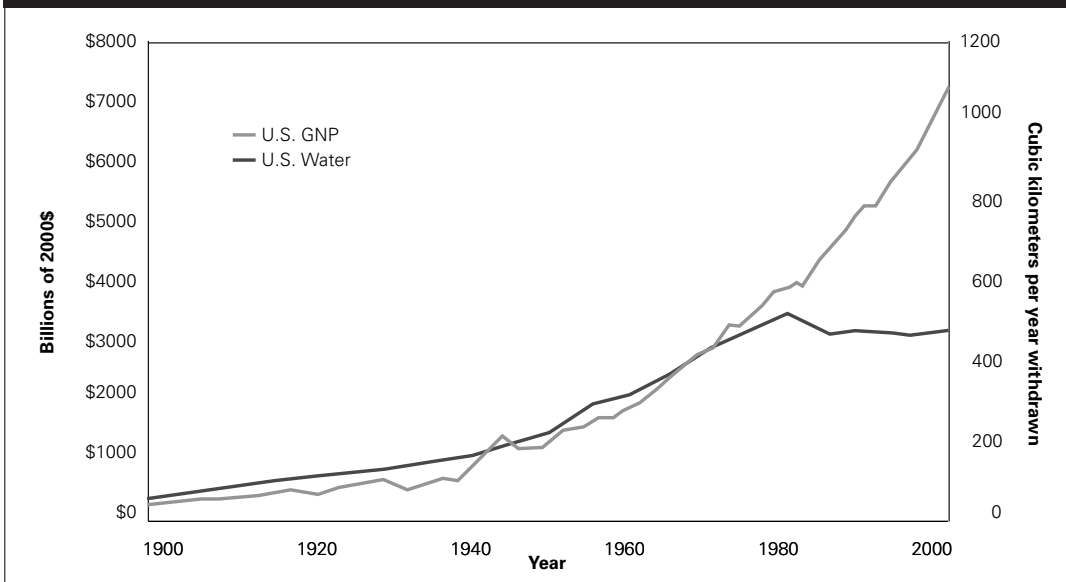
Source: Chuck Clarke, Director, Seattle Public Utilities, personal communication with Barry Nelson.

Figure B-6: United States Per Capita Water Withdrawals



Source: Source: Peter Gleick, Pacific Institute (www.pacinst.org). See also, *The World's Water* (Island Press, Washington DC)
 Note: Nationally, this figure diminishes to 6.5%.

Figure B-7: U.S. Economic Growth and Total Water Withdrawals



Source: Source: Peter Gleick, Pacific Institute (www.pacinst.org). See also, *The World's Water* (Island Press, Washington DC)
 Note: Nationally, this figure diminishes to 6.5%.

This decoupling of population and water use can be seen on the national level as well. Figure B-7 shows that, for the past quarter century, water withdrawals across the nation have remained essentially flat despite a significant increase in GNP. Figure B-6 shows that per capita water withdrawals have declined significantly over the same period. This trend is due to both increased investments in water use efficiency and a shift in the nation's economy toward industries that are less water-intensive.

INCORPORATING DEMAND MANAGEMENT IN PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE WATER USE—THE SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES EXPERIENCE

Even where water agencies have made significant investments in conservation, it has taken a sustained effort for planners to incorporate fully the benefits of conservation—and the decoupling of growth and water use. Figure B-5 from Seattle Public Utilities illustrates this challenge. Total water SPU water demand has been remarkably flat for approximately three decades. For many years, however, demand forecasts projected dramatically higher future

demand than has proven to be the case based largely on assumptions that previous water use trends would continue. Demand forecasting methodologies have improved significantly in a number of areas in the past thirty years. For example, since the 1980's, SPU forecasters have worked to incorporate the long-term savings as a result of conservation programs. Figure B-5 indicates, in the most recent SPU projections, demand projections track actual past water use trends.

Water demand forecasts are often designed to be conservative, because water managers are understandably hesitant to risk underestimating future demand. However, overestimations of future demand—frequently based in part on underestimations of the performance of efficiency measures—tend also to overestimate the importance of water management tools designed to increase supply. Today, conservation, water recycling and other demand management tools are now well enough established that water managers can rely on their performance over time. These tools should be carefully incorporated into future demand projections. The results of this effort can be seen in SPU's increasingly accurate demand projections—which now anticipate a continued ability to meet future water needs without a significant increase in supply.

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Appendix A

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Appendix B

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D36. Letter from Friends of the Santa Clara River, dated July 24, 2007

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (see, *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

The comment attaches a copy of a climate change study entitled, *In Hot Water-Water Management Strategies to Weather the Effects of Global Warming*, prepared the Natural Resources Defense Council. Climate change and its effect on water is an important issue and, for this reason, has been addressed in the Landmark Village Final EIR in **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**.

Message

AH-15

Tae, Susan

From: Paul Ayers [ayerspaul@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 7:36 AM
To: Tae, Susan
Subject: Newhall Ranch Project

I would like to make my comments regarding the EIR released in or around 12/2006

- 1. I believe the comment period should be extended 120 days
2. I do not believe the project should be approved before the EIS on the Santa Clara River has been completed.
3. I oppose building in an SEA.
4. I oppose the destruction of 67 oaks
5. I believe that impacts to global warming should be addressed and mitigated before this project is approved.

Grid of 6 numbered boxes for marking responses.

Paul R. Ayers
Glendale, CA

3/12/2007

E215. Letter from Paul Ayers, dated March 9, 2007

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (see, *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Response 2

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information responsive to the comment, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Response 3

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 4

The comment requests that the Planning Commission oppose building in the Significant Ecological Area. The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 5

The comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies;** **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources;** and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change,** for responsive information regarding global warming.

INGEBORG PROCHAZKA

3734 S. Canfield Ave. #329
Los Angeles, CA 90034
(310) 559-0823

RECEIVED
MAR 15 2007

AH-17

County of Los Angeles
320 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Daniel Fierros, Dept. of Regional Planning

Re: Newhall Ranch-Landmark Village Development

March 12, 2007

Dear Mr. Fierros,

Anyone who drives around the Los Angeles basin knows that the traffic is getting worse day by day. More development will contribute to congestion and polluted air no matter what the draft EIR states. Also, with anticipated future draughts and reduced water supply from the Colorado River, water shortages may become part of our daily lives. Please consider the detrimental impact this huge development will have on everybody's lives in the basin, including the lives of the elected officials who need to oppose the project. This project must be stopped.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Sincerely,

Ingeborg Prochazka
Ingeborg Prochazka

E216. Letter from Ingeborg Prochazka, dated March 12, 2007

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (see, *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Response 2

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses water supply/service, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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

Please see **Response 2**, above.

RECEIVED
MAR 27 2007
AHZY

March 26, 2007

Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, Ca, 90012

RE: Opposition to Proposed Newhall Ranch Project

Dear Ms. Tae:

While I do not live in the area of the proposed Newhall Ranch project, I have lived in Los Angeles County for decades. This proposed project would negatively affect the entire county. Increased traffic congestion, poor air quality and an increased burden on the infrastructure would result if your department approves this project.

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Please deny a permit for this project as it is currently constituted.

Sincerely Yours

Brian D. O'Reilly
824 Elyria Drive
Los Angeles, Ca, 90065

E217. Letter from Brian O'Reilly, dated March 26, 2007

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (see, *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

The comment addresses traffic and air quality issues, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, and Section 4.9, Air Quality. The Draft EIR concluded that traffic/access impact would be mitigated to a less than significant level, while impacts to air quality would remain significant and unavoidable. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Infrastructure impacts are discussed in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service, Section 4.11, Wastewater Disposal, Section 4.12, Solid Waste Services, and Section 4.19, Utilities.

Response 3

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

April 2, 2007
26893 Bouquet Canyon
C-341
Jungus, CA 91350

RECEIVED
APR 03 2007
AH20

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

Dear Ms Tae;

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Newhall Ranch project. I am opposed to it being built and am particularly concerned about the environmental, health and social costs it will create. According to the Environmental Impact Report for the first 1,444-unit phase, the project will have severe impacts to Significant Ecological Area 23, the Santa Clara River and its biology, cut down 67 oaks and, of course, create major traffic and air pollution problems.

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In an era of global warming, we cannot continue to approve automobile based sprawl housing. Los Angeles County must re-think its land-use policies and not approve projects such as this.

6

Please do not approve the project before the Federal EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration. Please do not allow building in a Significant Ecological Area. Please do not allow the destruction of 67 oaks.

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I am requesting that the impact to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be considered for approval.

11

This type of sprawl makes developers rich but makes everyone else poorer. It is the citizens who must pay for more roads, more schools, more police. It is the citizen who must sit in traffic gridlock and breath polluted air. It is the citizen who will become ill because of the pollutants added to our air. The developer walks away with his pockets stuffed with money and it is the citizen who faces environmental degradation of this community. Please consider the real costs of continuing to allow this type of out of control growth in Santa Clarita.

12

Sincerely,
Carol Winkler

E218. Letter from Carol Winkler, dated April 2, 2007

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (see, *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Impacts to SEA 23 were addressed in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota.**) 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses the Santa Clara River and its biology, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota.**) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised

Section 4.4, Biota.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses traffic issues, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The Draft EIR concluded that, with mitigation, impacts to traffic would be less than significant. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses air quality impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 8

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 9

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Response 10

Please see **Response 4**, above.

Response 11

Please see **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 12

Please see **Response 7**, above.

AH #1

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

Dear Ms Tae;

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Newhall Ranch project. I am opposed to it being built and am particularly concerned about the environmental, health and social costs it will create. According to the Environmental Impact Report for the first 1,444-unit phase, the project will have severe impacts to Significant Ecological Area 23, the Santa Clara River and its biology, cut down 67 oaks and, of course, create major traffic and air pollution problems.

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In an era of global warming, we cannot continue to approve automobile based sprawl housing. Los Angeles County must re-think its land-use policies and not approve projects such as this.

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Please do not approve the project before the Federal EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration. Please do not allow building in a Significant Ecological Area. Please do not allow the destruction of 67 oaks.

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I am requesting that the impact to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be considered for approval.

11

This type of sprawl makes developers rich but makes everyone else poorer. It is the citizens who must pay for more roads, more schools, more police. It is the citizen who must sit in traffic gridlock and breath polluted air. It is the citizen who will become ill because of the pollutants added to our air. The developer walks away with his pockets stuffed with money and it is the citizen who faces environmental degradation of this community. Please consider the real costs of continuing to allow this type of out of control growth in Santa Clarita.

12

Sincerely,
Evelyn G. Carpenter

Evelyn G. Carpenter
Apartment 451
18701 Flying Tiger Drive
Santa Clarita, CA 91387

E219. Letter from Evelyn Carpenter

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (*see, CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Impacts to SEA 23 were addressed in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses the Santa Clara River and its biology, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised

Section 4.4, Biota.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses traffic issues, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The Draft EIR concluded that, with mitigation, impacts to traffic would be less than significant. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses air quality impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 8

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 9

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Response 10

Please see **Response 4**, above.

Response 11

Please see **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 12

Please see **Response 7**, above.

RECEIVED
APR 04 2007

AH-2

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

Dear Ms Tae;

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Newhall Ranch project. I am opposed to it being built and am particularly concerned about the environmental, health and social costs it will create. According to the Environmental Impact Report for the first 1,444-unit phase, the project will have severe impacts to Significant Ecological Area 23, the Santa Clara River and its biology, cut down 67 oaks and, of course, create major traffic and air pollution problems.	1			
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In an era of global warming, we cannot continue to approve automobile based sprawl housing. Los Angeles County must re-think its land-use policies and not approve projects such as this.	7			
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Please do not approve the project before the Federal EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration. Please do not allow building in a Significant Ecological Area. Please do not allow the destruction of 67 oaks.	9			
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I am requesting that the impact to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be considered for approval.	11			
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This type of sprawl makes developers rich but makes everyone else poorer. It is the citizens who must pay for more roads, more schools, more police. It is the citizen who must sit in traffic gridlock and breath polluted air. It is the citizen who will become ill because of the pollutants added to our air. The developer walks away with his pockets stuffed with money and it is the citizen who faces environmental degradation of this community. Please consider the real costs of continuing to allow this type of out of control growth in Santa Clarita.				

Sincerely,
Barbara Cogswell

E220. Letter from Barbara Cogwell

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (*see, CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Impacts to SEA 23 were addressed in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses the Santa Clara River and its biology, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised

Section 4.4, Biota.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses traffic issues, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The Draft EIR concluded that, with mitigation, impacts to traffic would be less than significant. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses air quality impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 8

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 9

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Response 10

Please see **Response 4**, above.

Response 11

Please see **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 12

Please see **Response 7**, above.

RECEIVED
APR 10 2007
AH# 3

25439 Via Macarena
Valencia, CA 91355
April 1, 2007

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

Dear Ms Tae;

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Newhall Ranch project. I am opposed to it being built and am particularly concerned about the environmental, health and social costs it will create. According to the Environmental Impact Report for the first 1,444-unit phase, the project will have severe impacts to Significant Ecological Area 23, the Santa Clara River and its biology, cut down 67 oaks and, of course, create major traffic and air pollution problems.

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In an era of global warming, we cannot continue to approve automobile based sprawl housing. Los Angeles County must re-think its land-use policies and not approve projects such as this.

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Please do not approve the project before the Federal EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration. Please do not allow building in a Significant Ecological Area. Please do not allow the destruction of 67 oaks.

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I am requesting that the impact to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be considered for approval.

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This type of sprawl makes developers rich but makes everyone else poorer. It is the citizens who must pay for more roads, more schools, more police. It is the citizen who must sit in traffic gridlock and breath polluted air. It is the citizen who will become ill because of the pollutants added to our air. The developer walks away with his pockets stuffed with money and it is the citizen who faces environmental degradation of this community. Please consider the real costs of continuing to allow this type of out of control growth in Santa Clarita.

12

Sincerely,

E221. Letter from Carol Lutness, Dated April 1, 2007

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (*see, CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Impacts to SEA 23 were addressed in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses the Santa Clara River and its biology, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised

Section 4.4, Biota.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses traffic issues, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The Draft EIR concluded that, with mitigation, impacts to traffic would be less than significant. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses air quality impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 8

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 9

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Response 10

Please see **Response 4**, above.

Response 11

Please see **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 12

Please see **Response 7**, above.

AH# 4

4/1/07

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

Dear Ms Tae;

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Newhall Ranch project. I am opposed to it being built and am particularly concerned about the environmental, health and social costs it will create. According to the Environmental Impact Report for the first 1,444-unit phase, the project will have severe impacts to Significant Ecological Area 23, the Santa Clara River and its biology, cut down 67 oaks, and, of course, create major traffic and air pollution problems.

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In an era of global warming, we cannot continue to approve automobile based sprawl housing. Los Angeles County must re-think its land-use policies and not approve projects such as this.

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Please do not approve the project before the Federal EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration. Please do not allow building in a Significant Ecological Area. Please do not allow the destruction of 67 oaks.

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I am requesting that the impact to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be considered for approval.

- 11

This type of sprawl makes developers rich but makes everyone else poorer. It is the citizens who must pay for more roads, more schools, more police. It is the citizen who must sit in traffic gridlock and breath polluted air. It is the citizen who will become ill because of the pollutants added to our air. The developer walks away with his pockets stuffed with money and it is the citizen who faces environmental degradation of this community. Please consider the real costs of continuing to allow this type of out of control growth in Santa Clarita.

- 12

Sincerely,

Deana Perozzi

E222. Letter from Deana Perozzi, Dated April 1, 2007

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (see, *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Impacts to SEA 23 were addressed in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses the Santa Clara River and its biology, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised

Section 4.4, Biota.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses traffic issues, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The Draft EIR concluded that, with mitigation, impacts to traffic would be less than significant. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses air quality impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 8

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 9

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Response 10

Please see **Response 4**, above.

Response 11

Please see **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 12

Please see **Response 7**, above.

RECEIVED
APR 03 2007
AH21

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

Dear Ms Tae;

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Newhall Ranch project. I am opposed to it being built and am particularly concerned about the environmental, health and social costs it will create. According to the Environmental Impact Report for the first 1,444-unit phase, the project will have severe impacts to Significant Ecological Area 23, the Santa Clara River and its biology, cut down 67 oaks, and, of course, create major traffic and air pollution problems.

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In an era of global warming, we cannot continue to approve automobile based sprawl housing. Los Angeles County must re-think its land-use policies and not approve projects such as this.

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Please do not approve the project before the Federal EIS on the Santa Clara River has been released/completed because this may change the project configuration. Please do not allow building in a Significant Ecological Area. Please do not allow the destruction of 67 oaks.

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I am requesting that the impact to global warming be addressed and mitigated before the project can be considered for approval.

11

This type of sprawl makes developers rich but makes everyone else poorer. It is the citizens who must pay for more roads, more schools, more police. It is the citizen who must sit in traffic gridlock and breath polluted air. It is the citizen who will become ill because of the pollutants added to our air. The developer walks away with his pockets stuffed with money and it is the citizen who faces environmental degradation of this community. Please consider the real costs of continuing to allow this type of out of control growth in Santa Clarita.

12

Sincerely,
Frank Jurd
24603 Cordera Ct
Valencia CA 91355

E223. Letter from Frank Ford

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (*see, CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 2

Impacts to SEA 23 were addressed in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 3

The comment addresses the Santa Clara River and its biology, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, and Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota, pp. 4.4-36 and 4.4-69 through 4.4-70. (Please see also Final EIR, revised

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Response 5

The comment addresses traffic issues, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access. The Draft EIR concluded that, with mitigation, impacts to traffic would be less than significant. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 addresses air quality impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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 7

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Response 8

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 9

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Response 10

Please see **Response 4**, above.

Response 11

Please see **Topical Response 6**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies; **Topical Response 7**: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources; and **Topical Response 8**: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Response 12

Please see **Response 7**, above.

RECEIVED
APR 03 2007
AH 22

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

Dear Ms Tae;

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Newhall Ranch project. I am opposed to it being built and am particularly concerned about the environmental, health and social costs it will create. According to the Environmental Impact Report for the first 1,444-unit phase, the project will have severe impacts to Significant Ecological Area 23, the Santa Clara River and its biology, cut down 67 oaks, and, of course, create major traffic and air pollution problems.

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In an era of global warming, we cannot continue to approve automobile based sprawl housing. Los Angeles County must re-think its land-use policies and not approve projects such as this.

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12

Sincerely, *Mary Indermee*
26340 Lorea Pl
Valencia CA 91355

E224. Letter from Mary Indermule

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (*see, CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

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Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Response 9

Please see **Response 2**, above.

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Response 12

Please see **Response 7**, above.

AA-6

Ms. Susan Tae
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Dept.
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: Newhall Ranch, Landmark Village Project No. 00-196-(5)

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Sincerely,

Christine Johann } 26336 UREA PLACE
 Christine M Johann } VALENCIA, CA 91355
 STEPHEN A. CARBOTTO
 Stephen A. Carbotto

E225. Letter from Christine Johann and Stephen Cartotto

General Response

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Response 12

Please see **Response 7**, above.

AH 25

RECEIVED
APR 02 2007

Dr. Mha Atma S. Khalsa
Martha Oaklander
1536 Crest Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90035

March 29, 2007

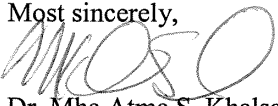
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department
Attention: Susan Tae
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012


Dear Ms. Tae,

As lifetime L.A. County residents, voters, taxpayers and business owners, we strongly urge the Planning Department to reject the proposed Newhall Ranch development. This project would have horrendous negative effects on the environment, our communities, and our quality of life. It would add 357,000 additional car trips to our freeways and surface streets, worsening air pollution and the health of all residents, especially children. It would have very serious negative environmental impacts including air and water quality, water supply, and numerous endangered species. And the development would be in an area prone to landslides and to extreme tectonic activity.

1

We urge you to uphold your responsibility to the people of Los Angeles County by rejecting this project, and we will join numerous concerned L.A County residents in continuing to closely follow your actions in this vital matter.

Most sincerely,

Dr. Mha Atma S. Khalsa


Martha Oaklander

E226. Letter from Dr. Mha Khalsa And Martha Oaklander, Dated March 29, 2007

General Response

All comment letters on the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which were received after expiration of the public comment period and after the Regional Planning Commission public hearing on February 28, 2007, are considered late comments. Because CEQA does not require a lead agency to respond to late comments, Los Angeles County is not required to provide a written response to any such comment letters (*see, CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(a)). However, the County has decided to respond to such comments without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

Response 1

The comment letter recommends rejection of the Newhall Ranch project based upon the addition of 357,000 additional car trips, landslides, water supply, air and water quality, numerous endangered species and extreme tectonic activity. The reference of 357,000 additional car trips and landslides refers to the entire Newhall Ranch Specific Plan project and not the Landmark Village project. The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan project was approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on May 27, 2003. The approval is not subject to review at this time.

The project under review at this time is the Landmark Village portion of Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. The Landmark Village project would generate 41,900 average daily trips. The comment addresses traffic, air quality, water quality, and biota issues, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, in Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, Section 4.9, Air Quality, Section 4.3, Water Quality, and Section 4.4, Biota. (Please see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.) The Draft EIR concluded that traffic/access and water quality impact would be mitigated to a less than significant level, while impacts to air quality and biota would remain significant and unavoidable. The topography of the site is generally flat and is not subject to landslide activity. With respect to the availability of water, please see **Topical Response 5: Litigation Concerning Water Supplies**.

The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding the EIR analyses and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

COPY

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
PUBLIC HEARING)
LANDMARK VILLAGE PROJECT)

ROOM 150, HALL OF RECORDS
320 W. TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007

9:00 A.M.

Reported and Transcribed by: Troy Anthony Ray
 231 South Baldwin Avenue, #F
 Arcadia, California 91007
 (626) 272-7548

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording;
transcript produced by transcription service.

APPEARANCES

COMMISSIONERS

Esther L. Valadez, Chair
Harold V. Helsley, Vice Chair
Leslie G. Bellamy
Pat Modugno
Wayne Rew

STAFF

Susan Tae
Ron Hoffman
Frank Meneses
Lawrence Hafetz, County Counsel

ALSO PRESENT

Fabrizio Pachano, Department of Public Works
Mr. Scott, Fire Department
Glenn Adamick, Applicant
Kirsten James
Angela Meaney-D'Arcy
Teresa Savacci
Jack Eidt
Lynne Plambeck
Kris Ohlenkamp
Ron Bottorff
Jennifer Robison
Jeannette Vosberg
Barbara Wampole
Thomas Barron

INDEX

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Director's Report
4. County Counsel's Report
5. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 10, 2007
6. Public Hearing - Landmark Village Project
Staff Report by Ms. Susan Tae
Public Comments
7. Commissioners Deliberation
End of Public Hearing - Landmark Village
Certificate of Reporter

1 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

2 PROCEEDINGS BEGIN AT 9:00 AM

3 CHAIR VALADEZ: Good morning, everyone and welcome to
4 the January 31st meeting of the Regional Planning Commission.
5 It's 9:00 a.m., and we begin our proceedings with the Pledge of
6 Allegiance. If you could please stand today, Mr. Modugno will
7 lead us.

8 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Thank you, Madam Chair. If you
9 please stand and join me in the honoring of our flag by saluting.
10 Ready.

11 (PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE)

12 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you. Now, I will entertain a
13 motion for an approval of the agenda, please.

14 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: So moved.

15 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Second.

16 CHAIR VALADEZ: So ordered. Director's report.

17 MR. HOFFMAN: Good morning, commissioners. I am
18 pleased to announce to you that yesterday the Board of
19 Supervisors unanimously adopted the La Crescenta-Montrose
20 Community standards district and the associated zone changes
21 which is good news on two parts. Number one, that they took your
22 recommendation, made no substantive changes; and secondly, there
23 was an urgency ordinance in effect that the adoption of this new
24 CSC would also repeal that urgency ordinance and allow the
25 apartments in the R3 zone not to have to go through a conditional

1 use permit, but to go through the normal plot land procedure.

2 But with the new development standards that staff and your
3 commission so carefully crafted.

4 And I think it is worthy to note that when the board
5 adopted the ordinance and the new CSB, they did make special note
6 of Mr. Andy Molicotes. This was one of the projects Andy has
7 worked so hard on and had attended several community meetings in
8 the fall even when he wasn't feeling so good that he was out
9 there leading the charge, and Supervisor Antonovich made special
10 recognition of that. So I think it was a tribute to Andy that
11 that project was adopted and will now go into effect in a few
12 days. That concludes my presentation.

13 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you. Anyone have any questions?
14 Commissioner Helsley.

15 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: A question of maybe public works
16 or maybe director that there was a position where there were five
17 lots that were put back into private ownership. And my question
18 is, when those go back to private ownership or county ownership
19 on a floodplain, does it join that lot as a continuous piece or
20 does it stay as a 388 square foot lot? And does that become a
21 buildable lot because that I think provides some concerns if each
22 one of those lots become buildable. You're talking about two
23 hundred eighty-eight -- three hundred -- six hundred eighteen and
24 three hundred ninety-four square feet for these lots. And so I'm
25 concerned. It was Item Number 46 yesterday.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: I think I have to look into that and see
2 what the details in terms of the transfer was. If it -- often
3 times I think when there's excess property, it does often times
4 go to the adjoining property owner, but I think there are perhaps
5 situations where that does not. But perhaps working with the
6 Department of Public Works, we can report back --

7 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: I would appreciate it.

8 MR. HOFFMAN: -- to the commission on that at a later
9 date.

10 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: And if they aren't -- if they go
11 back to a property owner that's adjoining them, if they could be
12 tied together so they're not two separate parcels, I think that
13 that would be a good -- an important thing for us as we plan.

14 MR. HOFFMAN: We'll look into that for you.

15 CHAIR VALADEZ: I take that you saw the article on the
16 gentleman who built on a thousand square foot lot, a four story
17 building in Santa Barbara?

18 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Yes.

19 CHAIR VALADEZ: People are now sort of being very
20 creative when they are building single family homes.

21 MR. HOFFMAN: It was actually a four hundred square
22 foot lot.

23 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes.

24 MR. HOFFMAN: I'm going up to Santa Barbara this
25 weekend. I'm going to try to find out what that place looks

1 like.

2 CHAIR VALADEZ: I think he indicated that he believes
3 that he was now going to be on tours. People would be touring
4 his property.

5 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Well, that was what drew my
6 attention to this. I thought, you know, 288 square feet, you
7 know.

8 CHAIR VALADEZ: Now that we can see what people can do
9 on four hundred square feet --

10 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Right.

11 CHAIR VALADEZ: -- we know it can be done on two
12 hundred feet. Okay, then. County counsel, would you please give
13 your report now.

14 MR. HAFETZ: Good morning, Madam Chair, commissioners.
15 I'll just mention and then maybe perhaps report a little bit more
16 after the continuation that I did have a chance to meet with
17 staff since the last hearing about the whole CEQA issue as it
18 relates to our new procedures for findings and conditions and
19 approvals. So I'll report back at the end of the hearing.

20 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Thank you. Any questions?
21 Commissioner Helsley.

22 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Yes. Less wording maybe?

23 MR. HAFETZ: Staff is working on wording and they're
24 going to give it to me. There was nothing in today's package
25 that mattered. So, yes, we're working together on that, but I'll

1 just report back on that.

2 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Will we see it before it's a
3 final -- it's already finalized?

4 MR. HAFETZ: We certainly could do that. As
5 Commissioner Valadez mentioned last week, we're sort of in the
6 trial stage of this new procedure and perhaps in the early stages
7 you can give comments if the motion -- I mean, typically what's
8 going to happen is that staff on Wednesday or whatever is going
9 to be working on the motion for the package to go out. And then
10 in the following week if there are issues about the motion, we
11 can debate it or discuss it.

12 CHAIR VALADEZ: I think that's probably going to be
13 okay.

14 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: That's fine.

15 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. All right. Thank you. Minutes
16 for approval of the January 10th meetings.

17 COMMISSIONER REW: Madam Chair, Item Number 7, if I'm
18 not mistaken, I think I was the maker of the motion.

19 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. I'll order that changed. Are
20 there any other changes that need to be corrected?

21 COMMISSIONER REW: If that's correct, I'd recommend
22 that change.

23 CHAIR VALADEZ: Any other --

24 COMMISSIONER REW: I'll move to approve the minutes.

25 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: I'll second the motion.

1 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. So ordered. Moved -- approved
2 with the change.

3 We now move to our public hearing. We require at a commission or
4 prior to any testimony that if anyone is going to be testifying
5 on this matter or any other matters that we're going to hear
6 today be sworn in. So I'd like to swear everyone in who intends
7 to testify today. If you could please stand. Please stand if
8 you're going to be testifying today on any matter. We only have
9 one matter which may incline public comment.

10 (SWEARING IN PUBLIC SPEAKERS)

11 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much. Please be seated.
12 Now, if we could have staff report.

13 MS. TAE: Good morning. My name is Susan Tae and I'm
14 with the Department of Regional Planning, Land Division Section.
15 Project Number 00-196 is known as the Landmark Village Project
16 and is the first within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area.
17 The applicant request approval of vesting tentative tract map
18 number 53108 for the subdivision to create a maximum of 1,444
19 dwelling units in approximately one million square feet of
20 commercial and office retail. Of the 1,444, 144 for sale to
21 moderate income households and 152 for lease to low income
22 seniors are proposed as required in the affordable housing
23 requirements of the specific plan.

24 The general plan, local plan and specific plan
25 amendments have been filed to change A Street, which is the main

1 road through the subdivision, from a secondary highway
2 designation to a local collector street. Conditional use permits
3 have also been filed for the development of the project within a
4 significant ecological area, special management area, on site and
5 off site project grading and off site utilities including water
6 tanks, sewer and water lines.

7 Oak Tree permit 00-196 has also been required for
8 removal of 67 oak trees including ten heritage oaks and
9 encroachment into the protected zone of 14 oak trees including 3
10 heritage.

11 The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan was adopted by the
12 Board of Supervisors on May 27, 2003 for 20,885 dwelling units
13 and commercial retail, business park, mixed use development and
14 open space trails, parks and other project amenities including a
15 water reclamation plant. The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area
16 encompasses approximately 11,000 acres and the Landmark Village
17 Project covers 292 acres of the overall Newhall Ranch area.
18 Landmark is within the Riverwood Village which is identified
19 within the specific plan.

20 At this time, staff would like to approach the maps to
21 further describe the project. The tentative map depicts the
22 subdivision portion of the Landmark Village. There are other
23 project features that go beyond the subdivision boundaries as
24 depicted on this map. The project location is located south of
25 State Route 126 generally between Walcott Road and Long Canyon

1 Road in the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area. This location is
2 west of the 5 Freeway and east of Ventura County. City of Santa
3 Clarita is also located to the west.

4 The Santa Clara River and Castaic Creek do border the
5 subdivision boundary to the south, and access to the project site
6 is provided by Long Canyon Road which is a major highway and
7 Walcott Way, which is a secondary highway. The main access
8 through the project is provided by A Street which has been
9 proposed to be a local collector road, and from A Street which
10 will be a public street, private driveway, fire lanes and well as
11 other public roads are being composed for internal access.

12 Uses within the subdivision property are generally
13 clustered to residential uses along this portion here as well as
14 multifamily uses north and south of the A Street location. Mixed
15 use is proposed in this location here which proposes the work
16 units, and commercial and retail are proposed in this location as
17 well as a larger commercial center to the west.

18 An elementary school is proposed within the general
19 center portion of the subdivision. A public park is proposed
20 adjacent to that as well as other parks including a private
21 homeowner association maintained park. Other open space
22 amenities include a trail -- a regional river trail which is
23 located along Santa Clara River and other trails throughout the
24 subdivision including an interpretive trail that is proposed to
25 be maintained by the homeowner's association.

1 Metrolink right of way is depicted as required by the
2 specific plan. The Metrolink right of way is depicted as -- oh,
3 excuse me. That's open space -- as commercial lots that are not
4 planned for development at this time. They are indicated on the
5 map here and range between 35 and 50 feet just south of State
6 Route 126.

7 Grading is approximately proposed to be 5.5 million
8 cubic yards of fill onto the property as well as cut grading.
9 The location of the grading is proposed to the south in the Adobe
10 Canyon area. This is also within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan
11 boundary and is proposed within another pending subdivision that
12 is now being processed by the county. A haul route is depicted
13 over an existing agricultural crossing through the Santa Clara
14 River to the subject property line that is located to the north.

15 Other off site gradings proposed at Chiquito Canyon
16 which is north of State Route 126 and is included within the
17 conditions and permits that have been filed for the project. If
18 there are no further questions of the maps at this point, staff
19 will continue its presentation.

20 CHAIR VALADEZ: Are there any questions? Commissioner
21 Bellamy? Commissioner Helsley? No?

22 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Would you point out the MTA
23 easement for me again?

24 MS. TAE: Yes. It's a little high for me, but it's the
25 commercial lots indicated as no development plans. They are

1 specifically lot numbers -- let's see -- 352, 357 through 360,
2 368, 384 to 385 and 388 to 389.

3 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: So it's the pattern -- just to
4 the south of the 126?

5 MS. TAE: That is correct, yeah. There are a series of
6 commercial lots just south of State Route 126 that is intended to
7 be the Metrolink right of way.

8 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: The concern I guess I have with
9 that is has there been any planning done as to where the stations
10 might be and the parking for those stations?

11 MS. TAE: Currently a commercial lot is depicted at
12 this location here which is intended in the short term to be used
13 as a park and ride lot. It is intended -- I believe that the
14 Metrolink station would be at this location.

15 CHAIR VALADEZ: Just briefly, you indicated
16 integrating, that there would be another subdivision being
17 processed, that it would have grading impacts also. Is part or
18 being annexed into Newhall Ranch or is it a separate subdivision?

19 MS. TAE: The subdivisions that are located to the
20 south are also within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, yeah.
21 They are separate CPs because they are not within the Landmark
22 subdivision but --

23 CHAIR VALADEZ: Right. So it's still part of it. It's
24 just not part of this subdivision?

25 MS. TAE: Correct.

1 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Thank you. Are there any other
2 questions? Okay. Thank you very much.

3 Okay. We now will begin with the applicant's presentation, there
4 being no other questions of staff. I'd like to have a few
5 housekeeping issues. The most important being is that I know
6 everyone carries a cellular phone including myself which at this
7 particular moment is turned on. So I would like to have everyone
8 check their cellular phones to make sure that it's not turned on,
9 put into vibrate mode or if you need to have the call coming in.
10 Thank you very much. In a few moments you'll notice me bending
11 over to do the exact same task. If we could have the applicant
12 come forward at this point.

13 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Madam Chair, before the
14 applicant comes forward, I would like to ask some questions of
15 staff and legal counsel.

16 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. If we could have the applicant
17 wait a moment. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: And also disclose an ex parte
19 communication. I've had discussions over the years in more
20 general sense with the applicants in anticipation of this project
21 coming before us. As most of you know, this project has been
22 viewed by the county, discussed and approved by the Board of
23 Supervisors in its broader sense, discussed and approved by this
24 commission, at least by four members of this commission, myself
25 being the fifth member who was not part of those discussions when

1 I came on this commission five years ago. This was only passed
2 further in the terms of the general case.

3 What I had expressed during the process of discussions
4 with Sunshine Canyons expansion with the applicant, as many of
5 you recall, my concerns about the traffic as it relates to
6 expansion of the Sunshine Canyon. I expressed that to the
7 applicant and said that I would have concerns because of the
8 activity along the I5 Corridor, and the I5 Corridor unfortunately
9 or fortunately is a major freeway which is used for the entire
10 region and actually the entire West Coast. Unfortunately as you
11 sit there in Santa Clarita Valley, you often times blame the
12 traffic on the development that has occurred within the Valley
13 and since Newhall Land and Farming has historically been the
14 largest developer, they have become the brunt of the that
15 criticism. And yet the traffic patterns as it relates continue
16 to get worse are not necessarily problems.

17 As we have had discussions before we brought Caltrans
18 into this commission meetings because they will say that we can
19 mitigate to the freeway but from the freeways is there
20 responsibility and we have no responsibility to add any other
21 mitigation unless it's something that they require.

22 Because of the impact here on 126 and the 5, I had
23 expressed a personal concern to the applicants, since I live in
24 the Santa Clarita Valley, that I would like to review this
25 project and see them come forward with some other steps dealing

1 with traffic. So if we could get -- before we move along with
2 this, I will have a number of questions regarding traffic because
3 it appears to me that the other issues as we have gone through
4 this -- and I've gone back and reviewed what the county has done
5 before, what the courts have done as this case has gone through
6 the courts -- most of the water issues have been dealt with. We
7 can deal with other infrastructure things as far as sewage
8 treatments, parks, schools -- the thing that we have difficulty
9 in dealing with that's because of Caltrans goal within is
10 traffic.

11 But we have been asked to continue this and as part of
12 the presentation this morning. You'll probably hear that from
13 the people who are expressing concerns. And I'm not opposed to a
14 continuance of -- to allow additional time to look at it. But I
15 would like staff, if you can, because of the fact that we've had
16 major environmental impact review of this and through the
17 specific plan, through the items as they are litigated through
18 the court system, how much of what we're looking at in the EIR or
19 draft EIR for this project is really new information or would we
20 look at it as an overlap where maybe fifty, sixty, seventy,
21 eighty, ninety percent of it is really a rehashing of information
22 that has been there before?

23 So that there is focus as we begin to hear,
24 particularly from people who are here expressing concerns about
25 the project, I'd like those concerns to be focused primarily on

1 those issues which are new and not issues which have already been
2 heard by this body and by the Board of Supervisors and
3 particularly those items which have been litigated and have gone
4 through the court system that we're starting to talk about those
5 again because to -- for this -- for us to really look at it --
6 freshly look at those issues that really are new that would have
7 some bearing in terms of decision making. So that's the first
8 question I would ask of staff if you could just give a
9 guesstimate of how much of this information is overlap.

10 The second thing is because of this having gone through
11 full master planning, sort of the overview, the specific plans,
12 et cetera and there had been a designation of the broad number of
13 units that can be part of this plan, how much latitude do we have
14 in a reasonable sense in terms of moving those numbers or
15 alternatively -- and we look at those numbers as being more of a
16 benchmark and it's how much movement around the infrastructure to
17 make the infrastructure match with those numbers? Because again
18 if the Board of Supervisors has also made a determination that X
19 numbers of homes can be built in Newhall Ranch, X number of
20 commercial properties can be done, then are we taking that more
21 as a -- almost a constant that we're going to move around and
22 flex a bit but not change 21,000 to 30,000 or 21,000 to 2,000?
23 So that -- does that number have some flexibility within a 5
24 percent range, 2 percent range, 10 percent range it's clearly
25 post the county's approval of somehow or another the Lennar

1 Corporation in the evaluation of this with those approvals in
2 hand as they did the purchase of Newhall Land and Farms. So
3 there was some expectation because that value has already been
4 assigned by the county of Los Angeles to much of this land that
5 was either agricultural or open space land.

6 And then lastly as we view this, again reflecting back
7 on the traffic, the job/housing balance within the Santa Clarita
8 Valley has changed over the years. There has -- while it was
9 initially a bedroom community with people commuting out of the
10 community to seek jobs in San Fernando Valley or beyond is been a
11 very powerhouse of creating jobs. As those jobs have been
12 created, I often time can going home in the evening see an equal
13 number and sometimes more people exiting the Santa Clarita Valley
14 as there are the traffic is ongoing into the Santa Clarita
15 Valley. [Now, how much of that traffic is really moving up and
16 down from Bakersfield to Los Angeles or how many is leaving there
17 jobs in Santa Clarita Valley to there homes in San Fernando
18 Valley and vice versa?

1

19 So as a reflection, I'd like some commentary -- and
20 perhaps that relates more directly back to the applicant -- as we
21 look at the traffic issues but also look at the job/housing
22 balance so that the jobs created are somehow matching the housing
23 which is created. There's a much greater variety of housing plan
24 as I've read through this in terms of affordability, et cetera.
25 But if I could get that -- maybe Mr. Meneses or Mr. Hafetz -- if

1 you could comment -- or Ms. Tae -- as far as those first issues
2 I've spoken about to just again that overlap within the existing
3 EIR that has already gone through the entire process. How much
4 of what's here is new and then the other pieces of the project.

5 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Madam Chair.

6 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes. Commissioner Bellamy.

7 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Commissioner Modugno, could you
8 be a little bit more specific what you don't want rehashed or
9 what was litigated or what the Regional Planning Commission has
10 heard already and the types of things that have been addressed
11 with the environmental impact report, please.

12 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: I think specifically the number
13 of homes, the amount of commercial activity which is being set
14 aside there. I think the water issue has gone through pretty
15 well, the impact on the river. Is there some new information
16 there? But the bulk of this has probably already been dealt
17 with. It's those types of issues that as this body looked
18 through this, it spent a lot of time going through it as the
19 Board of Supervisors spent a lot of time going through it, and
20 it's pieces of it that were litigated that went through the court
21 system.

22 While those clearly are not totally closed, they have
23 already been substantially gone over. And there are going to be
24 people who are new to our hearing who were never part of any of
25 that. And so the extent to which they want to start focusing on

1 this, they have a right speak about it. But to the extent to
2 which it has been pretty much an issue which has been hashed over
3 a number of times, to focus our attention on those issues which
4 have already been dealt with in the past versus dealing with
5 those issues which are new or where items have changed or -- I'd
6 rather see us put our attention to those areas where we can get -
7 - where we really need to sort of zero in on those pieces of it
8 that are critical to our determination.

9 And then -- because we're starting from a blank slate.
10 We've clearly looked at impacts on the river here, we've looked
11 at the dirt being moved, we've looked at impacts on roads, we've
12 looked at housing, we've looked at infrastructure. There's a lot
13 of things that we would go through and many of those have already
14 been sort of dealt with.

15 CHAIR VALADEZ: I think we can definitely do a little
16 summary. I think what we're -- what your inquiry goes to is the
17 situation where we have a specific plan which we've approved,
18 which is the overall plan for Newhall, and then kind of the
19 limits to review when we're looking at each individual
20 subdivision coming up. Now, we've been doing that to a certain
21 extent in Stevenson Ranch and some of the other ones that we've
22 seen come up. But this is the first time that it's a brand new
23 specific plan for this commission, maybe just an overview of
24 what, then the environmental review -- as each one of these comes
25 up, kind of a scope of the environmental review at that point

1 where there's this massive specific plan and what's approve. How
2 do they go together and how do they match?

3 MR. MENESES: As you described, Mr. Modugno, this has
4 had extensive environmental review and some court activity that
5 took place that maybe Mr. Hafetz might address. But clearly when
6 the specific plan was approved, there was an acknowledgment and
7 findings that there would be significant impacts with the
8 project -- the overall project. And I think the staff report
9 has -- and the EIR on this more project level EIR that you've
10 been provided with again recognizes those impacts. So this is
11 nothing new. We have -- the county has recognized the
12 significant impacts of the overall specific plan. Those impacts
13 are -- have not changed. I believe there was an additional focus
14 on noise that had not been as focused in the original EIR because
15 it was such a general analysis.

16 But comparing the two EIRs, as I've said, the big
17 issues have been addressed, the significant impacts have been
18 acknowledged, the findings have been made. For us to argue
19 whether or not these impacts should somehow result in a denial or
20 something of that sort, I don't know that we could do that
21 because the EIR was certified and that was recognized. This EIR
22 that we've provided you is a more project level EIR.

23 You asked about what is new? Well, certainly we could
24 say that you have a more detailed project before you. You have -
25 - you now have street layouts that you didn't have before, you

1 have lot placements, you have the different types of uses that
2 are -- have evolved since the specific plan, which some of which
3 were recognized, but the exact placement of those uses were
4 unknown at the time. In this layout here you have, you have some
5 changes that are being proposed as opposed to the original
6 specific plan which were recognized by the way in the specific
7 plan as a -- something that could be done through substantial
8 performance review.

9 You do have one big change which is the A Street which
10 was originally conceived to be a major highway. A more focused
11 analysis by the developer has compelled them to come in and ask
12 for a reduction in that highway. Public works have reviewed
13 that, and they are comfortable with that change. So that is
14 something that they are asking for you to approve.

15 So in essence just -- I could go on and on about the
16 differences in the EIRs, but once again I think the big issues
17 have been addressed, significant impacts of this project have
18 been recognized. I think it's more of a matter of looking at the
19 detailed project before you and determining whether or not it's a
20 good project and whether or not it's in accordance with the
21 original program EIR.

22 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Commissioner Helsley.

23 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: As you delineated those items
24 that cannot be reduced below significant, you just indicated
25 noise, and I think that's just basically construction noise,

1 isn't it? One of them being the building of the bridge where
2 they're probably using a pile driver or something of this nature
3 that's going to impact for a long -- quite a period of time, but
4 it's just construction. It won't be there as a continual noise.

5 MR. MENESES: I would have to ask Suzy if that's
6 correct.

7 MS. TAE: That is correct, Commissioner Helsley. The
8 main concerns with noise that were deemed significant for this
9 project was the construction of the Long Canyon Bridge and the
10 potential timing of the bridge construction where residences may
11 or may not be occupied. So that was identified as a significant
12 impact for this project that was not previously identified with
13 the overall specific plan.

14 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: The aspect of visual qualities
15 and Biotas, those have been pretty well defined in the previous
16 EIR, and we've addressed major impacts on those in this specific
17 one.

18 MS. TAE: That is correct. The applicant has provided
19 a planning notebook which also provides additional exhibits and
20 updated plans that are specific to this project location, and
21 they do show that they conform with what was previously
22 considered for the specific plan.

23 CHAIR VALADEZ: Any other comments or statements? No
24 one else? Yes, Commissioner Bellamy.

25 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Madam Chair, and your number two

1 issue basically how much wiggle room we had as far as number of
2 units, reduction or replacement of existing number of units
3 within the project; is that correct?

4 MR. MENESES: That's correct.

5 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Thank you.

6 CHAIR VALADEZ: Did you get an answer to that?

7 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: I did.

8 MR. MENESES: Just to touch on that. I'm sorry I
9 didn't touch on that earlier, but I believe that your commission
10 holds substantial discretion over that. I think that you should
11 understand that, you know, the specific plan did contemplate
12 almost 21,000 units in the overall project sites. In this case
13 you're only looking at a small portion of that, and there will be
14 other projects coming before you. They may not reach the full
15 contemplated number of units in the future. We don't know at
16 this time. I think right now your focus should be on this
17 particular site and whether or not you have issues with the
18 densities that are being proposed.

19 You touched on jobs/housing. Certainly that has a lot
20 to do with whether or not the number of units that are being
21 proposed right now are adequate to balance with the number -- the
22 commercial that's being proposed and the other amenities of this
23 project. You certainly have the discretion to reduce the number
24 of units if you felt you were so inclined.

25 MS. TAE: If I may clarify Mr. Meneses comments.

1 Within the specific plan there are land use planning areas and
2 villages identified where as part of the overall specific plan
3 approval there was consideration of jobs/housing balance, there
4 was consideration of the provision of parks and other amenities
5 within the overall planning of the Newhall Ranch development.
6 Within the Landmark Village there are specific planning areas
7 that do identify where residential and commercial uses are
8 appropriate. They do also identify the number of dwelling
9 unities that are approved under the specific plan within the
10 boundaries of your subdivision before you.

11 And as Frank -- excuse me -- Mr. Meneses had mentioned
12 previously, there was also language within the specific plan that
13 allowed for transfers, conversion and other sort of adjustments
14 that as subdivision maps come there and more detailed plans are
15 identified, there is an implementation procedure for how that
16 will still conform with the specific plan. So there are a number
17 of units approve within the boundaries of the specific plan, as
18 staff understands. There are provisions for adjustments and
19 changes of uses, but all of these changes would still need to
20 comply with the procedures as set forth in the specific plan in
21 which the applicant has shown that they have complied.

22 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: And Ms. Tae, the number of
23 residential units anticipated within the specific plan for
24 Landmark and then the plan which is before us today, is it at the
25 same number, above, below or within that same range?

1 MS. TAE: The answer is within the specific plan. They
2 have five villages identified and this particular subdivision is
3 within a portion of one of the villages. Within the documents
4 that they have provided because this subdivision covers only a
5 portion of Riverwood, they've also shown that the remaining
6 portion of units still are pending for other subdivisions that
7 are in the process. So Landmark as a project is a subset of a
8 larger number of units that are approved for this area, and they
9 do show that the number of units they are proposing here along
10 with the other remaining units that can be used do comply with
11 the specific plan.

12 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: So what we will need to focus on
13 is we would pool it with the other villages and then -- pieces of
14 the specific plan just looking at cumulative activity.

15 MS. TAE: Correct.

16 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: And then make a determination at
17 some point in time either this commission or some future
18 commission is the applicability of that and whether that number
19 indeed will result in something slightly less, something slightly
20 greater or something even beyond slightly in -

21 MS. TAE: Correct.

22 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: -- one direction or the other.
23 And then in terms of getting at the job/housing, there have been
24 a massive number of jobs created outside at least this project
25 boundary to the north. So it's really now bringing housing, more

1 jobs currently exist so -- thank you.

2 CHAIR VALADEZ: Commissioner Helsley.

3 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: The continuation of the
4 discussion where you talked about this being a small portion of
5 one planning zone. In the planning zone -- I'm looking at
6 schools at the moment -- we have three elementary schools, I
7 think it was, and one middle school. I think they call it a
8 junior high school, but it's clearly a middle school today and a
9 high school in that zone, or is that in the total project?

10 MS. TAE: The schools as well as the fire station and
11 the park amenities were provided as a land use overlay. So they
12 were mapped within the specific planning areas, but the specific
13 plan also allowed for flexibility that based on the needs of the
14 various school districts or the location requirements as the
15 subdivisions come through, that those can be moved within the,
16 within the areas. And there's a clarification. I believe it may
17 be five elementary schools that were allocated within Newhall
18 Ranch.

19 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Then I guess my request is as
20 the developer makes the presentation, if they could kind of
21 delineate that school position a little more than what is
22 delineated in the presentation at present so that we have an idea
23 of what is the broad brush picture and this is the specific brush
24 picture as it relates to school sites and middle school and high
25 school.

1 And the other item that I would like to have them
2 delineate as they make their presentation is the interface of the
3 MTA because I think this becomes a critical issue in that
4 transportation solution as to how that is going to interface and
5 at what point do we see that really coming into play.

6 I have a concern in relation to MRF facilities being
7 sited someplace within the community. And I realize that it may
8 not be in this project itself specifically, but if it needs to be
9 cited within seven miles or something of that general nature and
10 then a waste energy facility site in the overall plan of things
11 so that there is a taking care of solid waste because I know
12 there is an overriding position in relation to solid waste
13 disposal, and I think that we really need to have that delineated
14 in the early planning stages rather than waiting until the end.

15 The last part of this is the phasing of the schools
16 into this project. There is a request to have it phased, and I
17 didn't see that specific information. And so I would like to
18 have that delineated in the presentation. Thank you.

19 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Any other questions or issues
20 before we begin the public hearing?

21 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: I'd like a clarification on
22 that, Commissioner Helsley. Are you -- in fact, what I would
23 like clarification on is can we address issues of the overall
24 project which aren't specifically dealing with -- what we're
25 hearing today such as a waste to energy facility for the overall

2

1 project or a MRF facility? I mean, can we actually address that
2 today when we're addressing just this one thing?

2

3 CHAIR VALADEZ: I guess that question is for the staff.

4 MR. MENESES: Well, we can certainly provide you with
5 information that you may need with respect to other developments
6 that have taken place in the area. You wouldn't be necessarily
7 deciding those projects. That -- as points and clarification, we
8 can go back and tell you what's going on with the closest waste
9 facilities. For instance, the Chiquito Canyon Landfill is
10 nearby. There are certain waste --

11 CHAIR VALADEZ: I think that -- I think you're right.
12 Think we can identify it as an issue --

13 MR. MENESES: Right.

14 CHAIR VALADEZ: -- an issue which may not have been
15 picked up. I mean, I know that they're basically almost the same
16 commission that heard it the last time; but, you know, there may
17 be an issue that we didn't pick up and we want to address it now
18 to see how it's handled and to make sure as we go forward with
19 each one of these subdivisions that it's adequate. So I think
20 that's probably a fair --

21 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: And I think that's what I'm
22 asking.

23 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes. It's a --

24 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Don't go --

25 CHAIR VALADEZ: -- we would like to see that it's

1 considered, we'd like to know that it's being handled and we want
2 to make sure as we start the specific plan projects in the
3 subdivisions that it's handled -- you know, if it's handled
4 incrementally or exactly how we're going to look at it for the
5 entire system. I think that's a good suggestion. Okay. Is
6 there anything -- anyone else on these issues? Okay.

7 I appreciate that in terms of getting some issues on
8 the table so that we can have our applicant begin to handle them,
9 as opposed to in the back, at the very beginning. So I think
10 this is very helpful. If we could have the applicant come
11 forward now. And I believe you have a video presentation for us.
12 Would that start your presentation?

13 MR. ADAMICK: Yes. I'll -- thank you, chair, members
14 of the Regional Planning Commission. My name is Glenn Adamick.
15 I am with Newhall Land, and I do have a Power Point
16 presentation --

17 CHAIR VALADEZ: And we do need your address. We
18 require now that when you come up, if you would sign in. You can
19 sign if after you testify, and you will also begin your name and
20 your address. Thank you.

21 MR. ADAMICK: It's Glenn Adamick. 23823 Valencia
22 Boulevard; Valencia, California. I'm going to try to get this
23 all fired up here.

24 CHAIR VALADEZ: Let me just take -- we have to
25 reorganize ourselves up here.

1 (Pause)

2 MR. ADAMICK: Well, thank you. Again, my name is Glenn
3 Adamick with Newhall Land. It's a privilege to be here, and
4 we've been looking forward to it for a number of years now. And
5 what I wanted to do is really run through a Power Point
6 presentation and then address some of the issues that the
7 commission mentioned.

8 The project before today is the Landmark Village
9 Project. This is the illustrative site plan of Landmark Village.
10 I'll use the mouse here to identify some of the key areas in
11 Landmark Village. This is the location -- this is SR 126 at the
12 top here, State Route 126. This is Walcott Drive and the
13 Valencia Commerce Center directly to the north. This is Long
14 Canyon Road, Chiquito Canyon Road. Chiquito is an existing
15 roadway that goes up into the community of Valverde. This is the
16 Santa Clara River running along what would be the southerly
17 boundary of Landmark Village. Over to the west is Interstate 5.

18 This is the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan land use map
19 and as you can see the shaded area here is Landmark Village.
20 Here you can catch a little bit of I5 off to the right hand side.
21 As Ms. Tae pointed out, Landmark -- Newhall Ranch Specific Plan
22 was approved in 2003. The specific plan itself, Newhall Land,
23 began work on the specific plan back in the early 1990s. We
24 submitted the specific plan application in the county in 1994.
25 Public hearings began in 1996 and lasted all the way to 2003.

1 There was some litigation filed on the original approval in 1999.
2 The entitlement was perfected addressing that litigation, and
3 there was a settlement agreement entered into with various
4 environmental organizations in 2004. We began moving forward in
5 earnest at that time with the first community Landmark Village.

6 The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan permits development of
7 the 12,000 acre property with nearly 21,000 homes and five and a
8 half million square feet of commercial. There was a certified
9 program EIR, and we'll talk about that a little bit more in
10 detail in my presentation. It was project level for the Newhall
11 Ranch waste water reclamation plant which is the sewage treatment
12 plant. In addition, the board approved a master conditional use
13 permit. That master CUP permitted the construction of three
14 bridges over the Santa Clara River.. One of those bridges is
15 associated with Landmark Village, the Long Canyon Road Bridge.
16 It also permitted flood protection. That is primarily buried
17 bank stabilization along portions of the Santa Clara River.

18 As part of the public hearings on the Newhall Ranch
19 Specific Plan, there was a great deal of discussion on buffers
20 along the Santa Clara River. That issue was heavily debated, and
21 buffers were established and incorporated into the specific plan.

22 Some of the benefits associated with the Newhall Ranch
23 Specific Plan included the preservation of the High Country. The
24 High Country is about 4,200 acres of the 12,000 acre specific
25 plan. In addition, there was presser vacation of the Santa Clara

1 River corridor, nearly a thousand acres. At the end of the
2 specific plan process, the county required and Newhall Land
3 provides additional property in Ventura County which is the Salt
4 Creek corridor consisting of about 1,500 acres that will be
5 dedicated along with the High Country to a joint powers authority
6 made up of the county, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and
7 the City of Santa Clarita. The High Country and Salt Creek
8 Corridor, and that's nearly 6,000 acres, contain significant
9 environmental resources including over 16,000 oak trees. This
10 area will also be open to the public for the first time.

11 In the specific plan in the area of parks it required
12 three community parks. Landmark Village contains one of those
13 community parks; up to ten neighborhood parks which of course
14 would be distributed throughout the specific plan area. There
15 are about 50 miles of trails including a significant extension of
16 the Santa Clara River regional trail, really from the eastern
17 boundary of the specific plan all the way to the Ventura County
18 line. For comparison purposes for those of you who are familiar
19 with Valencia, Valencia contains about 30 miles of trails and
20 paseos. So as you can see Newhall Ranch adds to that. There are
21 also communitywide and neighborhood private recreation centers.
22 Very similar particular to what we've done in the Valencia area,
23 and also an 18 hole golf course.

24 On the school front there is up to 5 elementary
25 schools. The elementary schools are actually in -- the Newhall

1 Ranch Specific Plan boundaries is within three elementary school
2 districts -- the Castaic district, the Newhall district and the
3 Saugus district. There is one senior high school, one junior
4 high school. I should make a point of stating that there is
5 right now on the west side of I5 West Ranch high school and
6 Rancho Pico high school. Those two schools were advanced by
7 Lennar as part of its Phase 5 or legacy community and those
8 schools are up and operating right now. So on the west side of
9 I5 that buildout you will have two senior high schools and two
10 junior high school. There's also a regional library. We've been
11 working on the county of the location of that. That likely will
12 occur in the second phase of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan
13 Mission Village.

14 There are three fire stations. One of the fire
15 stations is located in Landmark Village. There will also be a
16 sheriff station. The conceptual location of that station is
17 directly north of Landmark Village in the Valencia Commerce
18 Center.

19 As far as transportation, the specific plan results in
20 the construction of over 30 miles of new roadways and that is
21 significant extensions of Magic Mountain Parkway, Valencia
22 Boulevard, Commerce Center Drive, Chiquito Long Canyon Road and
23 Pico Canyon Road. There are also improvements to State Route 126
24 costing approximately a hundred ten million dollars. Those
25 include grade separated crossings as well as expansion of State

1 Route 126.

2 There's a right of way being preserved for commuter
3 light rail line in the future, there are transit improvements
4 that will be installed in all of the communities within the specific
5 plan, there's a park and ride lot located within Landmark
6 Village. We are working with the city on potential transfer
7 stations for bus service on the west side of the I5, and as Suzy
8 pointed out a future rail station within Landmark Village.

9 In addition on the I5 front, many of you may remember
10 there was a mitigation measure applied to the specific plan that
11 required Newhall to participate in a funding mechanism for
12 mainline expansion of I5 in one had been created when the
13 individual communities were coming along. We've taken that to
14 the next step. We are working with Caltrans and the various
15 agencies -- the county and the city -- on expansion of I5
16 mainline, and there is a mitigation measure within the Landmark
17 EIR that now requires participation a pro rata share with funding
18 from Landmark.

19 In addition, nearly 60 percent of all the homes within
20 the specific plan are within walking distance of village
21 commercial centers, and that has a big impact on transportation.
22 Similar to Valencia, we're trying to encourage folks to walk, use
23 the paseos or pedestrians walkways to access the commercial
24 centers, to access the parks, to access the schools.

25 As far as jobs/housing, Landmark Village and the

1 Newhall Ranch Specific Plan is adjacent to Valencia Gateway,
2 which is a major job center in north Los Angeles County. And as
3 some of the commissioners recognized a major employment center,
4 it right now has 60,000 existing jobs. Newhall Ranch brings an
5 additional 20,000 permanent jobs to the table as well as 50,000
6 construction related jobs. From a big picture standpoint when
7 you look at what Newhall Land has done with Valencia from job
8 creation and combine that with Newhall Ranch, we end up with
9 about 50,000 residential units at build out and about a 100,000
10 jobs.

11 In Landmark Village and in the specific plan there is a
12 broad spectrum of housing to meet the long term needs of Los
13 Angeles County and this is reflected in Landmark Village. They
14 include apartments, condos, townhomes detached single family
15 homes, second units; and in Landmark an affordable component of
16 about 296 homes. In the specific plan there are 2,200 affordable
17 homes that are to be provided. And as was recognized with the
18 poured's approval of the specific plan, there is a substantial
19 annual fiscal surplus to Los Angeles county due to the
20 implementation of the specific plan.

21 This is an exhibit that shows the proximity to job
22 centers. The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan of course and this
23 highlighted area is Landmark. Directly to the north in the
24 Valencia Commerce Center which is about halfway builtout right
25 now containing over six million square feet of light industrial

1 and office. Directly to the east is the Valencia Industrial
2 Center which is built out and I believe contains about fifteen
3 million square feet in total of light industrial and office.
4 It's also in close proximity to commercial office located east of
5 the I5 and also will be in close proximity to what is our Entrata
6 community which brings a great deal of commercial square footage
7 and office square footage to the table.

8 The specific plan EIR did identify significant
9 unavoidable impacts and agricultural resources, biological
10 resources, visual resources, air quality and solid waste. All
11 other environmental areas are mitigated to a less than
12 significant level. Extensive mitigation was incorporated into
13 the specific plan EIR and that project approval. The Board of
14 Supervisors did adopt a statement of overriding considerations
15 sighting many of the benefits that I've gone through in this
16 presentation including the preservation and dedication of the
17 High Country, Salt Creek Corridor, the river corridor as well as
18 the significant amenities that are being provided.

19 Now we're at the point where we're at specific plan
20 implementation. The first goal is of course consistency with the
21 Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. And I think you'll hear a lot from
22 me on that point as we continue on the hearings with Landmark and
23 the future of communities. There are now four villages within
24 the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan -- Landmark, Mission, Homestead
25 and Potrero. Landmark, Mission, Homestead have all been filed.

1 The tentative maps for those villages have been filed with the
2 county of Los Angeles. Landmark is first, Mission and Homestead
3 are trailing right behind. Potrero we are still working on the
4 tentative map and hope to submit that later this year. The way
5 that we are implementing this specific plan and the way the
6 county contemplated it being implemented was through the approval
7 of the tentative tract maps and the accessory entitlements.

8 On the EIR front, where required to prepare a project
9 level EIR for each of the communities. As Mr. Meneses pointed
10 out, we are at a level of detail that was not there with the
11 specific plan as far as roadway alignments, as far as lotting, as
12 far as exact locations of commercial, industrial, residential and
13 school uses. But we do tier from that certified Newhall Ranch
14 Specific Plan EIR. In addition, we incorporate all the Newhall
15 Ranch Specific Plan EIR mitigation measures into each project
16 when applicable. Certain mitigation measures are applicable to
17 certain spots within the specific plan.

18 Landmark Village includes 1,444 homes, up to a million
19 square feet of commercial really in two locations. One location
20 off of Walcott, one location off of Long Canyon Road. A turn-key
21 elementary school. This is the Castaic school district. A turn-
22 key community park that's adjacent to the elementary school. A
23 turn-key fire station, a two mile extension of the Santa Clara
24 River regional trail and as Ms. Tae indicated, we are requesting
25 a plan amendment to downgrade A Street from a secondary highway

1 to a collector's street. And DPW does support this request.
2 Basically what we found with the project level analysis is that A
3 Street does not carry the trips to justify it or designate it a
4 secondary highway. The interesting point is that the right of
5 way for A Street is larger than what a secondary highway would
6 provide. It allows us to do some parkways and some pedestrian
7 walkways in a median.

8 The Landmark Village EIR tiers off of the Newhall Ranch
9 Specific Plan EIR. It is consistent with the Newhall Ranch
10 Specific Plan EIR. It concludes that there will be significant
11 unavoidable impacts in agricultural resources, biological
12 resources, visual resources, air quality and solid waste. Those
13 were all significant unavoidable impacts that were found and
14 board overrode in the specific plan EIR. Additionally, the
15 Landmark Village draft EIR concludes that there will be
16 significant unavoidable impacts in noise, and this is primarily
17 related to the construction of the Long Canyon Bridge -- one,
18 assuming pile driving; and two, assuming the residents move in
19 prior to the construction of that bridge. In addition, there are
20 additional comprehensive mitigation measures above and beyond the
21 specific plan EIR measures that are included in the draft EIR.

22 That really concludes the slide presentation. To
23 address some of the questions that came up on the school front,
24 as I indicated there will be up to five elementary schools that
25 will be constructed as part of Newhall Ranch, one senior and one

1 junior high school as well. We do have funding agreements and we
2 continue to work with the effected school districts. Basically
3 our funding agreements with those districts require us to fully
4 mitigate the impacts that we create. So we basically --

5 CHAIR VALADEZ: It's time.

6 MR. ADAMICK: Oh, it's time?

7 CHAIR VALADEZ: It's time.

8 MR. ADAMICK: I wasn't even looking.

9 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes.

10 MR. ADAMICK: I was answering some questions, but
11 that's all right.

12 CHAIR VALADEZ: Do you have anything additional?

13 MR. ADAMICK: That's it.

14 CHAIR VALADEZ: I guess maybe at this point we can see
15 if we would like some additional time for him or --

16 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Yes. Because we've raised some
17 questions before, I'd like to allow some additional time to --

18 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: -- answer those.

20 CHAIR VALADEZ: So the time being allowed is to answer
21 the questions from the commission.

22 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Madam Chair, do we have a break
23 coming up?

24 CHAIR VALADEZ: Oh, yes we do. It's perfect timing so
25 that you can prepare your answers for the commission. We need a

1 ten minute break so we'll take a ten minute break right now.

2 (A BREAK WAS TAKEN)

3 CHAIR VALADEZ: Can everyone be seated please so that I
4 can call the meeting to order. Okay. We can begin and call the
5 meeting back to order. We can begin with the applicant's
6 presentation regarding commission questions. Just for the
7 record, just start with your name again. It would be helpful.

8 MR. ADAMICK: Sure. It's Glenn Adamick, Newhall Land.
9 23823 Valencia Boulevard, Valencia, California. Let me go ahead
10 and respond to the questions that were raised by the commission.
11 First I will address schools. As indicated there will be up to
12 five elementary schools that will be constructed in conjunction
13 with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan - one junior high school and
14 one senior high school. As far as timing of those schools as it
15 compares to timing of the development, we expect our first
16 occupancies in Landmark Village some time in 2009, 2010, probably
17 the latter part of the '09. The idea is to have that first
18 elementary school in Landmark Village up and operational some
19 time in 2010. So we are at the early stages of Landmark.

20 The next school would be located in the Mission Village
21 area -- or for the Mission Village community, and we expect to
22 have that up and operational about 2011. The third elementary
23 school will be in Homestead or the third phase of Newhall Ranch.
24 That's estimated to be about 2014, the second elementary school
25 in Homestead about 2016 and then the last elementary school will

1 be in our Potrero Village. And the opening of that is
2 undetermined at this time. But basically what we're trying to do
3 in concept is open up the elementary schools at about the same
4 time or in very early stages of the individual villages as they
5 start to occupy.

6 CHAIR VALADEZ: Commissioner Helsley.

7 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: A question in relation to that.

8 Do you see -- or is there a projected a bus haul route to the
9 schools in previous the villages from the early stages of the
10 next village?

3

11 MR. ADAMICK: Well, the interesting thing with Newhall
12 Ranch is we're actually within three different elementary
13 schooling districts. So Landmark, of course, and everything
14 north of 126 is in the Castaic district. And we're still -- and
15 I can probably provide you with more detail in a future meeting,
16 but we're still working through some of details associated with
17 that first school. The district certainly would like to have
18 some critical mass before they open up a school, you know, so
19 they -- you know, if you have ten or fifteen kids, they don't
20 want to open an elementary school for you yet. So there's going
21 to be some discussion and some of those details worked out. And
22 I'd prefer to come back to you with a little bit more on that.

23 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: The agreement that you have in
24 relation to school, is it with just one of those districts or is
25 it with all three of those districts?

4

1 MR. ADAMICK: It's with all three of those districts
2 and it's also with the high school district. And in short, you
3 know, when I say up to five schools, we basically mitigate the
4 impact that we create. And if our student generation shows that
5 we need four schools or six schools, then that's what we have to
6 provide and that's the same way across the board at the high
7 school level as well. So whatever we -- you know, whatever
8 impact we create we have to mitigate, and it's that easy.

9 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Okay. The other concern as
10 those come forward is there's a potential -- or have you worked
11 on agreements with the school districts so that you have in the
12 district ability to move children from one district -- elementary
13 kids to the other district until that other school is built
14 because sometimes the transportation would be very onerous to the
15 young kids.

5

16 MR. ADAMICK: That has occurred in the past. I think
17 school districts are getting much more protective of their
18 boundaries because a lot of their funding, of course, comes from
19 students that are generated within those boundaries. I think
20 that's another detail that we will have to come back to you on.

21 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Any additional questions?

22 MR. ADAMICK: I have some additional ones --

23 CHAIR VALADEZ: On this, on this particular issue.

24 MR. ADAMICK: Okay.

25 CHAIR VALADEZ: Just on this issue. I just want to

1 finish this one. Okay. Thank you.

2 MR. ADAMICK: I think that addresses the school front.
3 On the I5 issue that Commissioner Modugno raised, there is a
4 coalition that was created in the Santa Clarita Valley called the
5 Gateway Coalition. That coalition is made up of many members of
6 the business community in the Santa Clarita Valley who understand
7 the importance of Interstate 5 both for the valley and
8 regionally. And there also have been improvements identified for
9 mainline expansion of I5 through the Santa Clarita Valley. Those
10 improvements have been identified by MTA.

11 What's happening on the I5 is there is an environmental
12 document presently being prepared with Caltrans and the Gateway
13 Coalition as well as final design implementing those improvements
14 identified by MTA for Interstate 5 in the Santa Clarita Valley.
15 The funding for that will come from certainly communities that
16 are approved for development in the Santa Clarita Valley. As I
17 indicated earlier, Landmark Village in the subsequent phases of
18 Newhall Ranch would pay its fair share for its impact on the
19 mainline. But also with the passage of the bond measure last
20 year, there will be grant applications that are submitted at the
21 state level to obtain funding as well.

22 And as Commissioner Modugno mentioned, you know, a
23 great deal of the traffic that's on Interstate 5 is not traffic
24 that's generated by the local community. Interstate 5 is a key
25 link between, you know, Canada and Mexico and all of California,

1 and there's a great deal of commerce that occurs there. And a
2 lot of the improvements are really trying to move the trucks off
3 of what would be the passenger vehicle lanes into truck only
4 lanes primarily over Newhall Pass and then also -- which
5 increases your transportation lanes and also extension of high
6 occupancy vehicle lanes as well. We can certainly work with
7 staff and Caltrans and provide you with more detail on that
8 subject as well as timing, but the initial thought is that the
9 first phase of that improvement would be in place some time in
10 2009 to 2011. So about the same time that Landmark comes online.

11 On the solid waste front, there is a MRF that has been
12 identified for the Chiquito Canyon Landfill which is in close
13 proximity to Landmark. That landfill would also certainly serve
14 to deal with the trash that comes off of Landmark and Newhall
15 Ranch. As far as other infrastructure, as mentioned there is a
16 sewage treatment plant or water reclamation plant that will be
17 constructed in conjunction with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan.
18 It was actually approved by the county. The idea is to have that
19 plant up and operational at the same time that Landmark occupies.
20 We have provided an alternative in the EIR that talks about going
21 back to the Valencia plant in the interim if for some reason that
22 plant isn't up and operational.

23 As far as electricity and other utilities, we of course
24 have been working with all of the companies that will provide a
25 utility service to Newhall Ranch. Landmark can basically tie

1 into the existing system from an electrical standpoint, a natural
2 gas standpoint. Mission Village which is the second phase of
3 Newhall Ranch includes I believe the first two substation
4 alternative that would be proposed in conjunction with Newhall
5 Ranch for electrical purposes. And I think that touches on
6 everything. I think I dealt with the jobs/housing balance
7 through the presentation. So if there are any additional
8 questions.

9 CHAIR VALADEZ: Commissioner Helsley, you have some
10 additional questions?

11 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Yes. You talked about the
12 treatment facility. As I read through this material, I thought
13 it was just a pump -- a pump station pumping it back with a high
14 pressure line. Could you, could you highlight on the village
15 plant where that location is for me, please.

16 MR. ADAMICK: Sure. This is the -- I'll try to scream,
17 but this is the Newhall Ranch water reclamation plant which is --
18 here's the Ventura County boundary. Landmark Village is right
19 here.

20 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Yeah.

21 MR. ADAMICK: So the Landmark Village Project includes
22 an extension of the utility corridor from Landmark Village
23 including sewer line down to the approved water reclamation
24 plant. Also, includes extension of utilities up to the Valencia
25 water reclamation plant.

1 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: And you'll be -- in the
2 beginning position you're going to be using a force main back to
3 the existing facility until the lower facility is online?

6

4 MR. ADAMICK: The goal is to have the lower facility
5 online when we start occupying Landmark. If for some reason it
6 isn't though, we would go back via force main in a pump to the
7 Valencia plant. But the idea is, is that as soon as the Newhall
8 Ranch Plant is online, then the sewage is going down to the
9 Newhall Ranch Plant.

10 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Okay. That's a pretty big
11 expense as an alternative to go the other direction, through the
12 force main.

13 MR. ADAMICK: You --

14 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Is the force main going to be
15 used for something else?

7

16 MR. ADAMICK: The utility corridor itself, it's not
17 just sewer that we're dealing with. We're dealing with really
18 all of the utilities -- water, electrical, gas and everything
19 else. So the trench for the utility corridor is going to include
20 all that really up to the old road which is where the Valencia
21 WRP is and then all the way down to the Newhall Ranch Plant. So
22 the cost there isn't that significant. The idea with the Newhall
23 Ranch Water Reclamation plant is to build that in phases. We
24 would initially open up a two million gallons per day phase and
25 then turn that over to the sanitation district.

1 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Right. I read that section or
2 understood that section, but I didn't understand if you're going
3 to be putting that facility downstream, why, why the force main
4 upstream because they're basically the same thing?

5 MR. ADAMICK: The facility downstream may not be open
6 in time. That's really the reason for it so --

7 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Okay. I didn't see anything if
8 there on bringing a reclaimed water supply to this Landmark.

9 MR. ADAMICK: That would be part of -- as many of you
10 do remember, about 51 percent of the water supply for Newhall
11 Ranch is reclaimed water. Landmark Village would have -- would
12 utilize reclaimed water from either the Valencia Plant or the
13 Newhall Ranch Plant for irrigation purposes. So it does include
14 reclaimed water.

15 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: I guess I missed that because I
16 did not see that in the piping scheme.

17 MR. ADAMICK: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: I thought that -- and I need to
19 make a statement that I have visited the site with a tour with
20 the commissioners, but I've also visited the site from my home,
21 looking at those things that I still have concerns with when this
22 project came to me. So I keep -- I went out and went along the
23 roadway looking at a couple of things I didn't fully understand.
24 And I have had and I appreciate the mainland, and I don't know
25 whether that was -- it was not part of our agenda package that

1 was the specific plan you presented here today. I got an
2 advanced copy of that and I appreciate that information and I
3 think that needs to be declared. But it drew my attention to the
4 aspect of reclaimed water and the infringement into the SEA at
5 the east end of the that. Is there a reason why the project
6 cannot be pulled back 40 to 60 feet as it comes down I think
7 Castaic Creek?

8

8 MR. ADAMICK: I think going back to the initial
9 discussion in my Power Point presentation, what we have tried to
10 do with Landmark Village is illustrate its consistency with the
11 specific plan. When the specific plan went through the county
12 process initially through the Regional Planning Commission, Board
13 of Supervisors, they in a sense through that master CUP approved
14 encroachments into the SEA. And those encroachments include the
15 buried bank stabilization, they include trails and they include
16 utilities. And we have adhered to that original approval. I
17 think, as Mr. Meneses indicated, certainly the commission could
18 look at things a little differently, but we think we've adhered
19 to that approval.

20 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Well, I think you've done a
21 very -- from what I have seen, I think you have done an admirable
22 job on the rest of it and staying out of the what you might call
23 the floodplain except for that one little pocket up there just to
24 the south of the bridge which it appears that it is going to go
25 over into that zone and be a constant problem. And so that's a

1 major concern I have.

2 CHAIR VALADEZ: Commissioner Bellamy, did you have any
3 questions?

4 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Madam Chair, I believe this
5 might not pertain to the Landmark Village, but I believe that
6 staff has stated that we can at least address the Newhall Ranch
7 Project. [Commissioner Helsley had mentioned that a waste to
8 energy facility was a possibility in Newhall Ranch. Has that
9 been looked at?

9

10 MR. ADAMICK: I think what he mentioned, and you can
11 clarify it if I'm wrong, is the MRF and that there is a materials
12 recycling facility that is approved for the Chiquito Canyon
13 Landfill. And Newhall Ranch is in close proximity to the
14 Chiquito Canyon Landfill. So that would be the opportunity for
15 that to occur.

16 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: He mentioned the MRF after he
17 mentioned the waste to energy facility. And so -- am I correct,
18 commissioner?

19 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: And so I was just wondering if
21 Newhall Ranch - this has been something that Commissioner Helsley
22 has obviously looked to trying to facilitate within a community,
23 especially a brand new community, a waste energy facility. Is
24 that something that's been taken into consideration?

25 MR. ADAMICK: We talking about Cogen?

1 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: It's like a Cogen, but it's
3 taking waste energy, putting some natural gas with it and coming
4 out with electricity rather than using the landfill -- the
5 landfill is then extended probably by 80 percent because only the
6 hard solids have to go to the landfill. And you're taking the
7 soft solids and making electricity from it. But it's quite
8 different from a materials recovery facility. That's going to be
9 separation and there's a lot of material that doesn't go out in
10 that separation. You take this and develop it into a burning
11 process and then pull the energy out of it. There's one in the
12 City of Commerce.

13 MR. ADAMICK: And that is going to occur on the
14 Chiquito Landfill site. They are going to deutilize the methane
15 that comes off of that site to create energy.

16 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: That's --

17 MR. ADAMICK: But that's different I think than what I
18 think you're talking about.

19 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: That's a little different.
20 That's still different.

21 MR. MENESES: We would have to check the conditions of
22 approval for the Chiquito Canyon Landfill. I know that there is
23 a MRF that's part of that project that was approved. I'm not
24 sure that it was approved as a waste energy cogeneration plant,
25 but we can report back to you on the status of that.

1 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: The dramatics are different, and
2 so often in communities why it's very difficult to site the
3 energy conversion site because it wasn't planned for. And we
4 need to do that planning up front if we're going to get it, and
5 it needs to be done in that veil.

6 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: I hadn't finished.

8 CHAIR VALADEZ: Go ahead, commissioner.

9 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: The commission actually took a
10 tour to -- city congress to see the waste energy plant, and I
11 believe there's only two in L.A. County and that's in the City of
12 Commerce and in Long Beach. And it seems like that's the answer,
13 however, like Commissioner Helsley said -- stated, that the
14 problem is obtaining the site because if we have an existing
15 community, the existing community doesn't have the foresight to
16 understand the advantages of the waste to energy. So if you're
17 creating a brand new community, which is going to be five
18 villages, it just seems like this would be a great opportunity to
19 put something like that in there.

20 MR. ADAMICK: We can certainly take a look at that.

21 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Commissioner Modugno.

22 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Madam Chair, I don't think that
23 that would be something necessary in my discussions with
24 sanitation districts because they offer these things and really
25 see if there is an opportunity.

1 Going back to the water reclamation and certainly it
2 was one of the things I had focused on and understood the golf
3 course and many other large grassy areas, parks, et cetera would
4 be dealt with reclaimed water. So as you put your utility
5 corridors through and all of the water lines, will there be water
6 lines parallel so that reclaimed water can be pulled off to the
7 extent with -- beyond just the parks that even the some of the
8 homeowner association, greenbelts, landscaping within the
9 roadways and various other things can utilize reclaimed water?
10 And I would assume having been to both the sanitation plants in
11 Santa Clarita and seeing the amount of water that goes through, I
12 know part of that water is meeting some needs down river.

10

13 I am saying that if you pulled water from Valencia by
14 gravity would flow if you reclaimed all of that and then to where
15 your extent water is owed down river that maybe that would come
16 out of this new plant. But to try and capture as much of that
17 reclaimed water and utilize that within the community because one
18 of the things is -- reflecting back when I served on the water
19 commission in the City of Santa Clarita, there were opportunities
20 to use it, but there wasn't plumbing to get at it and to go into
21 retrofit was far more expensive. But since you're building de
22 novo all of this to be able to put that pipe in with.

23 Beyond that, the other piece is the extension of which
24 technology has changed dramatically, and we're going much more
25 from a wired world to a wireless world. What activities or what

11

1 things are planned to be able to bring wireless technology within
2 the various communities as you plan on moving forward?

11

3 And then I'd like you to also address the cost -- and
4 there's and more and more literature out there -- the cost of
5 building green buildings. And the county last week took action
6 that all county buildings from this day forward will at least
7 attempt to have a silver certification from lead in terms of
8 environmental sensitivity. And I read a very extensive article
9 last week in Business Week, it was pages and pages long, that are
10 showing that the cost -- even of residential construction -- that
11 the recovery in terms of saved energy, they sited one house where
12 the people's utilities went from a thousand dollars a month to a
13 hundred dollars a month and they actually were shoving power back
14 out into the system verse us just buying power all day long
15 because of the way in which the home was generating its own power
16 and even excess power. Have those been taken into consideration
17 either within this component of the ranch or might be looked at
18 in future components because it's certainly -- again, I think
19 what we're trying to achieve is saving on water, saving on energy
20 and not generating as much waste.

12

21 MR. ADAMICK: I think -- I think we are looking into
22 the latter two that you mentioned which would be the green
23 building as well as the wireless technology. On the reclaimed
24 water front, that is actually implemented in conjunction with
25 Landmark. We are proposing to build both reclaimed water tanks

1 as well as potable tanks and utilize all of the reclaimed water
2 during the dry weather season that comes off of the Newhall Ranch
3 water reclamation plant for exactly what you mentioned -- parks,
4 medians, HOA areas. The idea is to pipe all of that so we can
5 take advantage of reclaimed water because reclaimed water is a
6 significant portion of our water supply.

7 The other two items, I would certainly -- I will
8 certainly get some information back to staff and to the
9 commission to show you what we're doing on that front as well and
10 provide you with more detail.

11 CHAIR VALADEZ: Commissioner Helsley.

12 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: The aspect of the leads, the
13 construction characteristics, I think it is starting to be shown
14 nationwide that the residential application of many of these
15 things has a pay back within twelve or fifteen years. Well, that
16 is reasonable. It's not the best of investments, but it's a
17 reasonable investment. But the bigger thing is, is that it takes
18 off the grid impact and private development homes. So the
19 condominiums, the apartments and this type of things generating
20 electricity with solar cells and the solar hot water heating as a
21 preheat, not necessarily as a the final heat because efficiency I
22 think diminishes as you get up into the higher levels of
23 temperature. But the preheat or the lower portion of that is
24 very, very effective.

25 I think that Irvine has provided us with a very fine

1 example of using reclaimed water systems within buildings, and it
2 has not been fully accepted by the L.A. County Health Department
3 as yet. But I think if more developments plumb in that manner,
4 that it has a potential of forcing the health department to take
5 this issue and to fully evaluate it in a responsible matter so
6 that it can be used for secondary systems within commercial
7 buildings and public areas. I don't think we're going to see it
8 back in the residential houses for a long time just because of
9 the inability to control, but I think that in commercial
10 buildings it has that potential. And if it's done in the
11 beginning and that piping system is put in, it really becomes
12 effective.

13 CHAIR VALADEZ: So that would be getting backwards with
14 regard to --

15 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Right.

16 CHAIR VALADEZ: -- sustainability. Basically what type
17 of sustainable elements are you putting in and how are those
18 going to work, not just here but throughout Newhall Ranch dealing
19 with all the solid waste, the water, et cetera.

20 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: One of the other things with
21 that is that they have -- they probably -- you probably need to
22 do some exploration in joint powers because your potable water
23 agency doesn't really want to handle reclaimed water a lot of
24 times and your sanitation district doesn't want to handle
25 reclaimed water a lot of times. And so you -- the development of

1 joint powers agreement many times is necessary and that takes
2 time to develop.

3 CHAIR VALADEZ: Are there any other questions? Okay.
4 Seeing none, thank you very much.

5 COMMISSIONER REW: Madam Chair.

6 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes. Commissioner Rew.

7 COMMISSIONER REW: When -- back when we approved the
8 Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, I felt comfortable when we
9 recommended to the Board of Supervisors approval of the specific
10 plan. I felt comfortable with that because I knew that each one
11 of these developments would be coming back in stages, and we
12 wouldn't be looking at approving 21,000 homes at one time. Just
13 for the example, there some concern about the availability of
14 water and I thought to myself, no one is going to build houses if
15 they can't provide water for those houses. I don't think they'll
16 sell. So I knew that we would be looking at these things later
17 on. Today I'm somewhat questioning my glee at that time. I'd
18 like to ask some specific questions.

19 You mentioned that this is around fourteen hundred plus
20 of the twenty-one thousand planned homes. And then the Newhall
21 Ranch Specific Plan, according to your presentation, is going to
22 provide somewhere around twenty-two hundred affordable homes?
23 How many affordable homes in this fourteen hundred plus
24 developed?

25 MR. ADAMICK: Two ninety-six.

1 COMMISSIONER REW: Two ninety-six. When people -- do
2 you have any opinion when people exit this development in the
3 morning today to work, how many of them are going to turn right
4 and how many are going to turn left?

14

5 MR. ADAMICK: Most folks will turn right coming out of
6 the development and proceed east on State Route 126.

7 COMMISSIONER REW: More employment will be that way --

8 MR. ADAMICK: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER REW: -- than to the -

10 MR. ADAMICK: Than to the left.

11 COMMISSIONER REW: -- to the west.

12 MR. ADAMICK: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER REW: I recall many years ago -- a few
14 years ago when we approved the development in the Santa Clarita
15 Valley -- now I can't recall what it was -- but it was near the
16 I5. And that same day there was a representative from MTA that
17 sat in the audience and, you know, we question the increase in
18 traffic and, you know, whose responsibility is this? And should
19 the developer be responsible for all these improvements that are
20 necessary like on the I5? And the fellow from the MTA was
21 sitting back there going like this. And then I said or should it
22 be the Caltrans that is responsible? Oh, no, no.

23 So at that time I said I don't think I'm going to
24 approve anything that anywhere near the freeway because we don't
25 know how things are going to change. That -- for example, Orange

1 County. Look what they had to pay in relocation costs and
2 eminent domain to widen that freeway because it had been
3 developed up to that freeway. Now, State Route 126 is not a
4 freeway, but is it going to be? In other words, is that
5 something that we have to be concerned with?

15

6 MR. ADAMICK: Caltrans has done a preliminary study on
7 State Route 126, and they believe that a portion of it will be a
8 freeway. That portion would be directly east of Landmark at
9 Commerce Center Drive interchange where the Valencia Commerce
10 Center is located to I5. From Commerce Center Drive interchange
11 to the coast, they look at SR 126 based upon projected traffic
12 volumes only needing to be an express way. The Newhall Ranch
13 Specific Plan includes substantial expansion to State Route 126.
14 It's right of way that we control across the board, and we will
15 be dedicating and constructing those improvements to the tune of
16 about a hundred ten million dollars. So we are building it to
17 accommodate all of the future projections for that roadway.

18 COMMISSIONER REW: I congratulate you on the number of
19 affordable homes in this development because when I first got
20 appointed to this commission, I was invited to come in and have a
21 tour of the entire Santa Clarita Valley by the Newhall Group land
22 people. And I was impressed by the housing, but I asked the
23 question, I said, when are the people going -- where are do the
24 people live that make the beds in the hotels, that wait on the
25 tables in the restaurants, that mow the lawns in these

1 neighborhoods? And it looks like you're concerned about that and
2 your plan is going to then approach that. Congratulations.

3 MR. ADAMICK: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER REW: Thank you.

5 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you. I apologize for not
6 noticing you.

7 COMMISSIONER REW: That's okay.

8 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Then if we could not proceed --
9 if there's no other issues, we could now proceed to the public
10 hearing where the public will speak. We allow three minutes.
11 There is a timer in front. It begins just like the stop lights.
12 It beginning with green, it goes to an orange/yellow color and
13 then it's red. I would appreciate if you keep track of your
14 time, look up periodically to see when it turns it yellow. And
15 at that point, begin to summarize so that when it turns to red,
16 you'll be able to complete your testimony because I will be
17 holding you to the three minute time. We begin with those
18 persons who are in support of the application for Landmark
19 Village. If we could have you come two at a time. Okay. Can we
20 begin with a show of hands, the commissioner has asked. Can we
21 see all those people that are be testifying in support of the
22 project. Okay. This gentlemen. Those person who have concerns,
23 issues or opposing this project? Okay. That's very helpful. If
24 we could have you --

25 (Colloquy Between Staff and Chair Valadez)

1 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. What I'd like to do is we
2 began -- I began with swearing in all those persons who were
3 going to testify. While the gentleman's coming in for support
4 comes up, those of you who came in and would like to testify but
5 were not sworn in, could you please stand and raise your right
6 hand. Okay.

7 (Swearing in Public)

8 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Thank you very much. Please be
9 seated. Could the gentleman who is testifying in support of this
10 application come forward please or other persons. Is there no --
11 okay. There's no testimony in support of the application. I
12 think he's changed his mind. No one wants to be the only one.
13 If we could then begin with those persons who have concerns or
14 issues with respect to the application. We'll be taking you two
15 at a time.

16 The first person, as you sit down, if they could begin
17 their testimony. You're going to be required to sign in. If you
18 could sign in after your testimony. If you could move forward so
19 that as soon as a seat becomes available, you could sit in these
20 two front chairs right here if you're going to be testifying.
21 And in that manner, you can take the seat as soon as available.
22 As soon as I see that those seats are empty, I will assume that
23 all testimony has been completed. Okay. So I will begin with
24 you. You begin just with your name and address, please.

25 MS. JAMES: Sure. Good morning. My name is Kirsten

1 James. I am a staff scientists with Heal the Bay. Address, 1444
 2 19th Street, Santa Monica. Heal the Bay is a nonprofit
 3 organization dedicated to making Southern California coastal
 4 waters and watersheds safe, healthy and clean. Today I am here
 5 to discuss some of the fatal flaws in the water quality,
 6 hydrology and Biota sections of the Landmark Village draft EIR.
 7 There's insufficient time to discuss all of these concerns so I
 8 will just highlight some of the main concerns. The others can be
 9 found in our letter.

16

10 As stated before, the level of detail in the project
 11 EIR was not the same as this EIR so it should be evaluated on its
 12 own merits. Our over arching concern with this project as
 13 outlined in the draft EIR is that it impinges upon the natural
 14 functioning of the rivers to such an extent that significant
 15 damage will be done to water quality, hydrology and aquatic
 16 habitat.

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17 First, there is an insufficient vegetated buffer zone
 18 between the developed areas and the require. Among other things
 19 the riparian ecosystems are key stone habitats play a critical
 20 role in a variety of ecosystem processes and protect water
 21 quality. The draft EIR outright states that the lost of habitat
 22 due to the project is significant. However, the developer has
 23 obviously not considered reasonable alternatives to lessen this
 24 impact such as increasing the riparian buffer. A minimum of five
 25 hundred foot buffer as measured from the outside of the riparian

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1 canopy is necessary to properly mitigate the project impacts.

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2 Another flaw in the draft EIR is the extensive area of

3 stream bank -- stream bank alteration in the form of harden

4 structures. In fact, it specifies that there will be 18,600

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5 linear feet of burial -- buried soil sediment. Armored --

6 structures in the stream bank are none -- known to increase

7 erosion and sedimentation problems and decrease aquatic and

8 riparian habitat. For example, Heal the Bay's stream team mapped

9 70 miles of stream in Malibu creek watershed between 2001 and

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10 2003. They found 19.8 linear miles of armoring resulting in 18.7

11 linear miles of eroding stream banks. So the EIR has obviously

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12 not properly addressed downstream impacts. And also if the --

13 if the developer build outside of hundred year floodplain

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14 entirely, this will significantly reduce the amount stabilization

15 needed.

16 Heal the Bay is very involved in the development of

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17 TMDLs in the L.A. region. As you know, the Santa Clara is listed

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18 as impaired for several constituents. Responsible parties such

19 as counties and cities are responsible for implementing these

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20 TMDLs and projects such as this and should be prepared to

21 implement them and this project will not do that. So in closing,

22 the draft EIR does not adequately consider alternative that would

23 enable the project to proceed with the least environmental damage

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24 and does not accurately describe the environmental risk to

25 decision makers. Thank you.

1 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much. Are there any
2 questions for this speaker? Thank you for coming up.

3 MS. MEANY-D'ARCY: Hi. My name is Angela Meany-D'Arcy.
4 I'm from the Acjachemem Nation, Juaneno Band of Mission Indians.
5 I'm director of cultural resource programs for the Wishtoyo
6 Foundation which is located at 1591 Spinnaker Drive -

7 CHAIR VALADEZ: You'll have to -- I know we only gave
8 you three minutes, but you'll just have to slow down for just a
9 second. She can't type that fast.

10 MS. MEANY-D'ARCY: I'm sorry.

11 CHAIR VALADEZ: That's okay.

12 MS. MEANY-D'ARCY: 1591 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 203;
13 Ventura, California. I'm here as you may guess to discuss the
14 cultural resource section of the DEIR today. I have six major
15 points to make today.

16 The first and most critical point is that the to
17 Tataviam Tribal Nation for whom these lands are -- have ancestral
18 ties is not extinct as the draft environmental impact report
19 states. Quite frankly, folks, I'm absolutely disgusted that I
20 even have to come here today and argue that a tribal nation
21 that's been viable and existing for thousands and thousands of
22 years is extinct.

23 The second major point that I have to make is that
24 proper evaluation of impacts to native American cultural
25 resources, of which there are many significant within the project

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1 bounds, is impossible without tribal consultation which of course
2 you cannot have in the DEIR asserts that that tribal nation is in
3 fact extinct.

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4 The third major point that I have to make today is that
5 the development of adequate and appropriate mitigation measures
6 is also impossible absent proper tribal consultation.

7 The fourth point I have to make is that this DEIR is
8 not in compliance with either state or federal cultural resource
9 preservation and tribal consultation laws.

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10 The fifth point I'm going to make today is that very
11 significant Tataviam cultural resources and potentially sacred
12 sites are going to be harmed if not flat out destroyed by this
13 development project.

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14 And the final point I'm going to make today is Wishtoyo
15 Foundation calls for a complete re-haul of any archeological or
16 cultural resource study or assessment that's been done with
17 respect to this DEIR. We call for this because the archeological
18 firm who was hired, Whitley and Simon, asserts within the DEIR
19 that the Tataviam Tribal Nation is extinct.

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20 The example that I want to give you today is if the
21 preparers of the traffic portion of this DEIR had asserted to you
22 that the 5 Freeway did not exist, nobody would stand here with a
23 straight face and argue that that preparer was qualified to make
24 that assessment. Clearly you cannot do a proper assessment of
25 traffic impacts from a project if you deny the existence of the

1 5. Similarly you cannot do a proper assessment of the cultural
2 resource impacts because of this project if you deny the
3 existence of the Tataviam nation.

4 You have on record an objection from the native
5 American Heritage Commission saying that it is completely
6 unacceptable to deny the existence of the Tataviam nation. You
7 know what, you can do a Google search and the first item that
8 comes up is the website for the Tataviam Tribal Nation. The
9 chair of the Tataviam Tribal Nation, Rudy Ortega, Sr. --

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10 CHAIR VALADEZ: Can you slow down just a little.

11 MS. MEANY-D'ARCY: Excuse me?

12 CHAIR VALADEZ: Can you slow down just a little bit.

13 MS. MEANY-D'ARCY: The chair of the Tataviam Tribal
14 Nation, Rudy Ortega, Sr., was in fact instrumental in getting the
15 most recent legislation, 2641 Native American Burial Grounds
16 Legislation, passed.

17 Look folks, the Native American culture resources on

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18 this project site are significant. There have been eight
19 archeological sites that have already been discovered, two
20 burials have been removed according to the archeological reports
21 in this project, and they found quartz knives, they found
22 obsidian knives, they found cave paintings, they found smaller

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23 replicas of cave paintings. And the DEIR completely asserts that
24 the Tataviam Tribal Nation is extinct. State and federal law

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25 require you to consult with this tribe prior to any sort of

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1 approval of this plan.

2 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you.

3 MS. MEANY-D'ARCY: You're welcome.

4 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Are there any questions? None.
5 Okay. Thank you very much.

6 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Madam Chair, while the others
7 are coming forward, do we have that in a written -- I would like
8 to ask the previous presenter, do we have that in a written form?
9

10 CHAIR VALADEZ: Could you come back. I think there's a
11 question for you. I apologize. If we could have the chair for
12 just a moment.

13 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: And I'm sorry. I was late --I
14 was trying to look through my notes. I thought I had had
15 something that was --

16 CHAIR VALADEZ: I think she mentioned that there was
17 something in writing.

18 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: -- but I don't see it.

19 MS. MEANY-D'ARCY: I did submit by e-mail.
20 Unfortunately, my printer went out this morning so I don't have a
21 hard copy for you, but I did submit one by e-mail.

22 And additionally, the Wishtoyo Foundation made these
23 same objections when the specific plan amendments for this very
24 project were approved for the City of Santa Clarita. Whitley and
25 Simon was also the archeological firm on that project. So one

1 year ago these same comments were made in writing. So again it's
2 egregious and embarrassing for them to now assert that the
3 Tataviam Tribal Nation is extinct.

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4 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Thank you.

5 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Thank you very much. Okay. Can
6 you sign in after you testify. Have you signed in, sir? Could
7 you begin to sign in.

8 MS. SAVACCI: Hi. My name is -- is this on?

9 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes, it's on. And if you could pull it
10 forward so that --

11 MS. SAVACCI: Okay. My name is Teresa Savacchi. I live
12 at 26724 Mocha Drive in the City of Santa Clarita. I wanted to
13 make sure that you are all aware that the Nature Conservancy has
14 just completed a report. I believe that it's referenced as the
15 upper Santa Clara River Watershed Conservation Plan. That was
16 based on about a year worth of meetings with biologists from
17 across the state, some of the most well known and respected
18 biologist from across the state. And evidently what they're
19 doing is they're documenting areas that they find of significant
20 ecological value, and one of the areas that they're most
21 interested in is a portion of the Landmark Village project area.

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22 One of the target species that they were addressing in
23 this document was the endangered Arroyo Toad, which has many
24 habitat requirements. I don't pretend to be a biologist, but
25 I've read enough environmental impact reports to recognize that

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1 even though Newhall Land and Farming has not documented this
2 species within that project site, certainly they are right
3 upstream. The species has been documented moving up to seven
4 hundred feet within one week and up to a mile out of the
5 watershed and into the minor tributaries - all of which I think
6 within this project would be destroyed. So I'd like for you to
7 really consider, and Newhall Land and Farming, working with the
8 Nature Conservancy and possibly acquiring portions of this
9 project. That's my first issue.

10 My second issue is traffic. The City of Santa Clarita
11 recently did -- they commissioned a report to sort of look to see
12 where people were commuting to and from work. And what they
13 found was that fifty-one percent -- excuse me -- fifty-one
14 percent of the people that work in -- that live in Santa Clarita
15 do not -- I mean, have to travel to the San Fernando Valley and
16 Los Angeles and beyond in order to pay their mortgages. So the
17 jobs that are being created in the Santa Clarita Valley are not
18 necessarily employing those people who are purchasing homes. And
19 I really think that we need to be concentrating -- if we are a
20 progressive community -- county, we need to be concentrating on
21 putting businesses there that support our local citizens so that
22 we do not continue to impact our roads, freeways, et cetera, et
23 cetera.

24 I also think it's a little bit irresponsible to
25 continue to build projects on a floodplain that eventually cause

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1 the taxpayers to pay for once the land is dedicated. For
 2 instance, Ventura County last year spent ten million dollars in
 3 emergency flood protection. I'd like to see the long-term cost
 4 analysis of what it's going to cost us to maintain all those side
 5 tributaries that will turn into concrete ditches.

6 And finally, I'm a mother of three young children and
 7 as the traffic increases, I'm just flabbergasted that you guys
 8 would just consider my children an overriding consideration.
 9 Should my children that live out there not matter to you or
 10 anywhere across our area? I mean, the air quality is awful and
 11 it's getting worse and these projects are making it worse because
 12 they don't employ the people that live there. Each person that
 13 moves here has to drive further to work, to the San Fernando
 14 Valley, L.A. and beyond and all of this increase in traffic is
 15 impacting the quality of our air and impacting my child's life.
 16 I hope you'll take that into consideration.

17 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much. Any questions?
 18 Thank you for coming up. Sir.

19 MR. EIDT: Hello. My name is Jack Eidt. I'm from Wild
 20 Heritage Planners. My address is 5015 Almaden Drive in Los
 21 Angeles, California 90042. Wild Heritage Planners is a Southern
 22 California based organization dedicated to sustainable
 23 environmental planning as well as Smartgrowth.

24 We see this project as further evidence of the wrong
 25 type of growth that has created a complete mess in Southern

1 California. Basically, Wild Heritage Planners recommends that
2 the County of L.A. consider other alternatives that -- for the
3 fourteen hundred units that would not build within the
4 significant ecological area of the Santa Clara River as well as
5 in and around that, that sensitive area. Also, as a program
6 level, EIR looks at these general impacts. When we look to say
7 that because it was approved on a program level, this says
8 nothing about the reality of the impacts.

9 So now this board has to face the reality of twenty
10 thousand units as a cumulative whole. We're starting off with
11 fourteen hundred units and it's already in a situation that's in
12 a completely sensitive area. This type of -- there's a lot of
13 talk as -- about jobs being created in the area but as the
14 speaker before me said, this really just creates a major
15 commuting situation that is completely unsustainable. These
16 people who are going to be located in this -- now it's a
17 Greenfield area will no infrastructure to deal with them. So
18 basically they're going to have to create a whole new system of
19 infrastructure to service this development in an area that right
20 now is just wild and open. That is a completely significant
21 impact.

22 And if you really think about what it does on a macro
23 scale for Southern California, there are -- the San Fernando
24 Valley has all sorts of openings to create Smartgrowth
25 development close to with the jobs existing. Instead of putting

1 these people out -- I mean -- okay. If you keep developing out,
2 there might be a few affordable units but really we're looking at
3 these people are going to be moving farther away and driving into

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4 the city. So the two alternatives, not building in the
5 floodplain as well as the cluster option are definitely not

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6 enough. We need to be out of the floodplain, we need to be out
7 of the SEA area.

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8 Also, the Green building issue is imperative. We've
9 got, we've got global climate change, we've got peak oil. We've
10 got all sorts of issues that are making this type of development

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11 totally unsustainable. And this Board has to think in a forward
12 reaching way to require the developer to be start. And if
13 they're going to come here and try and build more of this
14 unsustainable stuff that has ruined the San Fernando Valley, they
15 need to do it right with technology that's up to date today.

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16 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much.

17 MR. EIDT: Thank you.

18 CHAIR VALADEZ: Any questions? Thank you for coming
19 in. If you could leave the seat. And if you see a seat
20 available and you'd like to testify, please come and sit in the
21 seat. Come forward, please. Thank you. Okay.

22 MS. PLAMBECK: My name is Lynne Plambeck. I'm
23 representing Santa Clarita Organization For Planning in the
24 Environment. I'm also an elected director on Newhall County
25 Water District. I'm not representing my board. However, I

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1 mention that to have you understand that I do have some
2 qualifications on water issues.

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3 The -- I would like to request additional time to be
4 able to comment on this project. [According to the Daily News,
5 sixty-three letters were submitted to this commission requesting
6 additional time. I don't think that's ever occurred before. I
7 hope the commission recognizes that request and allows additional
8 time for the comment -- extended comment period.

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9 When this specific plan was approved, it was condition
10 of approval that each tract map would be examined individually
11 for water supply and water concerns would be addressed on a tract
12 map level. So to try to exclude those is not only wrong from a
13 planning point of view but also doesn't comply with the
14 conditions of approval. [There is a major error in the EIR. The
15 EIR states in the water supply section that this project has its
16 own water supply, it will merely convert the farming uses of
17 water to municipal uses.

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18 This is an unadjudicated basin. They don't own that
19 water. That isn't a property right. That water is a public
20 resource. The basin is unadjudicated. It is available to anyone
21 that wants to pump from that basin. They have argued this over
22 and over again before the State Resources Control Board in every
23 water venue that's available. To now put this in this EIR is
24 egregious. [That portion of the EIR needs to be rewritten and re-
25 circulated so that people can properly comment on this section.

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1 To start out by saying they have their own water resource and
2 there's no problem just prejudices the entire section. It needs
3 to be recirculated. This is a major area.

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4 There will be new -- wells in the area. Castaic Lake
5 Water Agency is already planning on putting wells to pump water
6 to act as a backup for the ammonium -- the spread of the ammonium
7 perchloride. So there may be diminished water available to this
8 project.

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9 Also, you each get this water supply report that is --
10 the most recent one was from last year, but you should have

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11 another one coming out. I would like to bring to your attention
12 the agricultural table in this. In 1980 when there was
13 considerable agricultural land in this -- in the Santa Clarita
14 Valley -- we had onion fields in the middle of town -- they were
15 using fourteen thousand acre feet of water. Now, in 2004
16 according to this table they're using fifteen thousand, but the
17 only place they're farming is in the Newhall land area. That's
18 the only place. So why are we using so much farm water.
19 Something is wrong with this table. The Commission needs to
20 act -- ask for the backup documentation for this. This is being
21 overstated. It's got to be overstated.

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22 There not -- there isn't that much arable land there.
23 I mean, they're not farming it so -- unless they're just dumping
24 it on the ground. I don't know but -- also the Commission should
25 remember that the united resource -- the United Water Company

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1 withdraw their complaints because reclaimed water was going to
 2 makeup the difference of the drawdown in this basin. And if
 3 that's not going to happen, you need to look at water and tell
 4 them that.

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5 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much. Do we have any
 6 questions? Okay. Thank you for coming in. Is there another
 7 person who can come up and testify please?

8 MR. OHLENKAMP: Good morning.

9 CHAIR VALADEZ: Good morning.

10 MR. OHLENKAMP: My name is Kris Ohlenkamp. I live at 2367
 11 Old Topanga Canyon Road in Topanga, 90290. I'm president of the San
 12 Fernando Valley Audubon Society, and we in conjunction with Ventura
 13 Audubon, L.A. Audubon and the Audubon California office have submitted
 14 very concise recommendations, 15 pages of them, just concerning the
 15 birds and the impacts on birds in this area and the inadequacies and
 16 the egregious omissions that are in this environmental impact report.

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17 There is no new significant information in this impact
 18 report that was not in the original master plan, and there has been a
 19 lot of change in the bird life, or at least change in the knowledge of
 20 the bird life for that area in the last 15 years including the
 21 California Condor, the Short-eared Owl and the California Spotted Owl
 22 are three sensitive species which have been shown to use this Landmark
 23 Village property. They are not addressed at all in this environmental
 24 impact report. Neither are eight other sensitive bird species which
 25 use the Newhall Ranch property and most likely use this Landmark

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1 Village property as well. They are not addressed in this
2 environmental impact report. So those are significant omissions.

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3 We also challenge the proposed mitigation which is totally
4 inadequate for any of the environmental impacts on the natural
5 resources, the biological resources of this area. [If you've read this
6 letter of ours, I think it's rather eye opening in the methods that
7 were used to do surveys for the birds. They were totally inadequate,
8 they did not use the approved methodologies. They were done at the
9 wrong times of the day, the wrong seasons and in many cases they did
10 not look for the sensitive species that are of concern. So we think
11 that whole area needs to be addressed. So thank you.

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12 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you. Anyone have any questions?
13 Okay. Seeing none, thank you very much for coming in.

14 MR. BOTTORFF: Before I begin, can I hand in some additional
15 written comments --

16 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes, you can.

17 MR. BOTTORFF: -- thirteen pages.

18 CHAIR VALADEZ: We'll take them from you prior to you
19 beginning your testimony. Is there anyone else to testify? I'm
20 assuming there isn't if no one comes forward. Okay. You can begin,
21 sir, with your name and address.

22 MR. BOTTORFF: Good morning, Madam Chair, members of the
23 Planning Commission. My name is Ron Bottorff. I live at 660 Randy
24 Drive, Newbury Park. I chair Friends of the Santa Clara River. We
25 have provided extensive written comments, but we have several people

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1 working on additional comments. So I would ask that an additional --
 2 an extension of the comment period be provided.

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3 The DEIR comments on hydromodification on Page 4.3-113 show
 4 once again that there's no real understanding on the cumulative
 5 impacts, cumulative potential for existing and future development
 6 along the Santa Clara River because detrimental -- hydromodification
 7 impacts.

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8 I might point out on that map there behind you, there were
 9 some comments earlier about the floodplain. That entire green area to
 10 the left there which is going to be filled and developed, that is in
 11 the floodplain of the river, most of that area.

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12 A larger quantitative regional study is needed on this.
 13 DER -- DEIR even acknowledges this on page -- in the water quality

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14 section. [Until this study is complete and the impacts fully defined,
 15 we urge that no further projects along the Santa Clara River be
 16 approved.]

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17 Friend of the Santa Clara River has a current lawsuit
 18 against the Army Corps of Engineers for inadequate analysis of
 19 cumulative impacts of multiple development projects along the river.

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20 And they're required to do this under the Clean Water Act and they
 21 have not do that. That's the reason for our lawsuit. [Most of the
 22 Biota comments I have are in the piece I turned in. We do believe
 23 that the issue of buffer zones still -- is still in play. Our written
 24 comments that are in your staff report shows that there are needs for
 25 larger buffer zones. In its initial comments on the specific plan,

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1 the California Department of Fish and Game recommended a five hundred
2 foot minimum buffer. Several people here today have done that, and I
3 agree with all of them.

4 Landmark Village setbacks range from zero in places to about
5 three hundred feet. An applicable study show that this is not
6 adequate to protect riparian species. Landmark Village as proposed
7 will result in a lost of over eighty -- about eighty-five acres of
8 river flood plan, as I pointed out that green area up there, most of
9 it. Usurping the floodplain of a river can have serious impacts. The
10 floodplain avoidance alternative would prevent these impacts and if
11 the project is eventually approved, this alternative or a lesser
12 damaging environmental alternative should be adopted.

13 I'll just conclude by thanking your commission for hanging
14 in for ten years or more on Newhall Ranch. No approvalship for this
15 project should be forthcoming until the DEIR is revised to account for
16 the impacts that I have discussed. Thank you for consideration of
17 these comments.

18 CHAIR VALADEZ: Do we have any questions?

19 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Yes.

20 CHAIR VALADEZ: Commissioner Helsley.

21 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: I would like to have you relate for
22 me -- I'm going to go to the map and point to a section that appears -
23 - I think it's farm currently, but is not going to be part of this
24 development -- not developed as part of this development. I would
25 like to have you comment on this pocket right in here.

1 MR. BOTTORFF: That -- well, you're running your pointer
2 along the top edge of the riparian zone. That is -- that's setback.
3 The dark area about that is the -- I'll see if Glenn Adamick agrees
4 with this -- is the top of the bank protection -- the buried bank
5 protection. So the area between that and riparian zone, that is --
6 that's the buffer.

7 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: And this is currently farmed as farm
8 land?

9 MR. BOTTORFF: A good bit of it is, yes.

10 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: The area down here?

11 MR. BOTTORFF: I'm not sure what's in there right now. I
12 don't recall any farming there. The floodplain area I referred to is
13 the -- most of the green section above that. Yeah. Between there and
14 126.

15 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Thank you.

16 MR. BOTTORFF: You're welcome.

17 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much.

18 MS. ROBISON: Hello. My name is Jennifer Robison; 6348
19 Primrose Avenue; Los Angeles, California. I'm the conservation
20 coordinator for the Sierra Club, and the Sierra Club has many concerns
21 about the DEIR of this project. Today I'll be addressing water
22 supply. We would also ask for additional time in commenting on this
23 issue, but today my address will be for the water supply.

24 The approval of Newhall Ranch Specific Plan called for the
25 water supply to be addressed during consideration of each phase and

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1 tract map. The existence of the ammonium perchlorate in the Santa
 2 Clarita water -- Valley water supply has negative effects on the
 3 health of our community members especially our children. And
 4 subsequent to the approval of the specific plan, studies have shown
 5 the spread of the perchlorate plume including low levels which were
 6 discovered in the Newhall County Water District Well 13. Currently
 7 there are no cleanup facilities online to address this pollution
 8 issues.

9 With the increased development, increased development adds
 10 stress to the water supply in the region and the Santa Clara River and
 11 Saugus Aquifer are unadjudicated basin. Therefore, Newhall Ranch does
 12 not have its own water supply as DEIR implies. And the Sierra Club is
 13 very concerned about the water supply and the health and future of
 14 families.

15 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you. Are there any questions for this
 16 presenter? Commissioner Helsley.

17 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: I would ask a question in relation to
 18 Well 13 when you talked about there are no cleanup alternatives for
 19 that. Wasn't there a proposal that was --

20 MS. ROBISON: It's my understanding there are proposals for
 21 there to be cleanup facilities put in place. And since 2003 we've
 22 been told each year that there would be cleanup facilities put in
 23 place, and there has not been yet.

24 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: There still have not been. Do you
 25 know whether or not they're depended upon a brineline establishment?

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1 Establishment of a brineline?

2 MS. ROBISON: I'm not, I'm not --

3 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Okay.

4 MS. ROBISON: -- aware of that.

5 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Thank you.

6 CHAIR VALADEZ: We do have to take a break. Our
7 stenographer has to have a break right now. So we'll take a small
8 break for maybe about six or seven minutes and then we'll come back.
9 We'll start with you, ma'am.

10 (A BREAK WAS TAKEN)

11 CHAIR VALADEZ: I'll call the meeting back to order. Begin,
12 please. Thank you.

13 MS. VOSBERG: Hi. I'm Jeanette Vosberg. I live at 4124
14 East Boulevard in West Los Angeles, 90066. And I understand that
15 you're building in a floodplain, and this eliminates natural water
16 quality benefits. From the commissioners' remarks I get the distinct
17 impression is not one of your major focuses. Water is my major focus,
18 and although I live in West L.A., I come out to the -- to Santa
19 Clarita very often because we own property out there. And I see
20 something that I fight against every day in the Biota watershed and
21 that's the appearance of concrete.

22 Over ninety percent of our Biota watershed has either been
23 put in the storm drains or channelized in concrete. And now because
24 of all of that concrete and all of those storm drains, what has
25 happened is that every time that there's a storm, all of the urban

1 runoff from our streets combines with the natural storm water and
 2 makes a polluted soup that goes down all of these storm drains which
 3 feed into the Biota Creek -- or the Centinela Creek which feeds into
 4 the Biota Creek and then directly into the ocean and the pollution is
 5 so bad that, you know, I wouldn't swim in there. People do, but I
 6 think they're crazy.

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7 And so what's happening is that now we're under federal
 8 mandate to clean up the Santa Monica Bay, and how do you do that?
 9 Well, there's two ways. One is through mechanical means like, you
 10 know, send it to a Hyperion plant or one of these reclamation plants
 11 you were talking about earlier or clean it up in some way. The most
 12 cost effective way based on the County of L.A.'s own statistics, of
 13 which I think you are apart, say that that will cost six to ten times
 14 more to do mechanical solutions than to put back the natural function
 15 of the watershed. And so what I'm sitting here thinking is why on
 16 earth when you have natural means of water purification, the
 17 probability of using storm water when we have a water shortage are you
 18 considering doing exactly what the Biota watershed has done and what
 19 we're trying to undo?

101

20 I just would say that seriously you're doing a wrong thing
 21 here. Einstein said that if you always do the things you've always
 22 done, you'll always get the result you've already gotten. And if you,
 23 if you think that you can go ahead -- whether you cosmetically put
 24 your concrete in --

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25 CHAIR VALADEZ: Ma'am.

1 MS. VOSBERG: -- and then you put some dirt over it --

2 CHAIR VALADEZ: Ma'am, your time is up.

3 MS. VOSBERG: -- either way it all --

4 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you.

5 MS. VOSBERG: -- turns into the same thing. You're going to
6 have a big problem later on.

7 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: If I may make a comment --

9 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: -- or ask staff to make a comment.

11 CHAIR VALADEZ: -- ask her. If you could just have a seat.

12 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Just -- I would like to have staff or
13 maybe the developer on his rebuttal, but if staff would prefer to talk
14 about -- then I'm going to go to the map and point to a couple of
15 things. If staff or if the developer could comment on these little
16 ponds that we find in this area here and this in here because this is
17 a part of what you're talking about that needs to be done.

18 CHAIR VALADEZ: A small part. Thank you very much. Thank
19 you for coming in and testifying.

20 MS. VOSBERG: Thank you.

21 CHAIR VALADEZ: That's fine.

22 MS. WAMPOLE: My name is Barbara Wampole. My address is
23 28006 San Martinez Grande Canyon Road; Castaic, California 91384.

24 Good morning, Chair Valadez and commissioners. Thank you very much.

25 I truly appreciate your attention to my comments. I also first want

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1 to start with saying that the public needs more time to comment, and I
 2 myself need more time to completely review and comment fully on this.
 3 I respectfully request an extension to keep the comment period open so
 4 that we can make adequate analysis of everything that's before you.

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5 It's a huge project. I'd also like to say that I'm a 35-year resident
 6 of the Santa Clarita Valley, and I'm the vice chair of Friends of
 7 Santa Clara River.

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8 I sit in traffic in this valley, I see trails blown out by
 9 floods. I've seen improved air decline severely, I've seen creek
 10 after creek concreted by this applicant among others, and I also
 11 volunteer at the homeless shelter and I've seen this community propose
 12 that we bus our homeless to Los Angeles. So we have severe problems
 13 with housing, with traffic and a lot of other things, and this
 14 project, again, is a sprawling project and does not -- it is not
 15 sufficiently sustainable. Excuse me.

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16 Any amount to the specific plan concerns us. We believe
 17 that there are still concerns with the specific plan and that comment
 18 period does not offer adequate time to review this and the amendments.
 19 Other outstanding concerns we have with the specific plan also need to

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20 be reviewed. We still need more time. And I think we also need to
 21 point out that the Army Corps of Engineers and the California
 22 Department of Fish and Game still have not issued permits for this
 23 project, and we are now looking at the county approving something that
 24 may not actually be able to be built the way that the project is being
 25 proposed. Why are we doing this now?

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1 Four years ago the overall specific plan was approved.
2 There is indeed new information since then. Critical natured -- the
3 critical nature of any new information regardless of the quantity is
4 really of more importance. We face grave challenges due to the
5 resource consumption that we all exhibit and natural resource
6 identification on the project site.

7 Another thing that I think I keep bringing up, whenever I've
8 been to hearings on this project in had area, Chiquito Canyon Landfill
9 continues to be a challenging impact on the existing and future
10 residents. The pollution plume that was identified in the groundwater
11 in the 1990s when the landfill was expanded still somehow alludes full
12 analysis. Simply living in close -- proximity to the landfill hazards
13 needs fuller analysis. And the farm water which is used in this area
14 in theory for that project, still I don't see anyone analyzing the
15 quality of that in relation to the landfill, and I'm very concerned
16 about that.

17 I'd like to point out again that this project channelizes
18 the Santa Clara River. It, it -- the buried bank stabilization is
19 merely a cosmetic to show that if it's blown out, we then end up with
20 concrete, and it's now channelized as if it had concrete anyway.
21 Revegetated, it's still channelized.

22 I'd just like to make one comment before I close. Alexander
23 Graham Bell said in 1917 when he was 70 years old, we can take coal
24 out of a mine, but we can't put it back. We're spendthrifts in the
25 matter of fuel and are using our capital for running expenses. What

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1 shall we do when we have no more oil? And what would happen if all
2 the fossil fuel being burned continued to fill the air with
3 pollutants? He was inclined, as he said, to think we would have a
4 sort of greenhouse effect, a whitewash, a glasshouse cutting off large
5 portions of the sun's heat and creating a greenhouse by reflecting it
6 away. We --

7 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much.

8 MS. WAMPOLE: -- we don't come before you with frivolous
9 concerns. You might appreciate our frustration in the light --

10 CHAIR VALADEZ: Excuse me. If you could just --

11 MS. WAMPOLE: -- of how long --

12 CHAIR VALADEZ: -- if you could just give us your last
13 comment. Is that it?

14 MS. WAMPOLE: Just to say you might, you might appreciate
15 our appreciate our frustration as concerned citizens in the light of
16 how long this awareness of our consumption could be a problem and has
17 been ignored for so many years. Thank you.

18 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much.

19 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Madam Chair, is this the last person?
20

21 CHAIR VALADEZ: Is this the last person? Yes.

22 MR. BARRON: Hi. My name is Thomas Barron. I also live at
23 28006 San Martinez Grande Canyon Road in Castaic. Good morning,
24 commissioners, and thank you for this opportunity to contribute
25 testimony for your consideration of the specifics of the proposed

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1 Landmark Village plan. I have lived in the -- for the past thirty -

2 CHAIR VALADEZ: You'll have to slow down a little.

3 MR. BARRON: Okay.

4 CHAIR VALADEZ: I know you're reading. When you read, a
5 person tends to speak faster.

6 MR. BARRON: I'll be happy to make a copy of this also.

7 CHAIR VALADEZ: Also, that would be good. You can give it
8 to us for the record.

9 MR. BARRON: Yeah. Unfortunately, I don't have a printer
10 with me. So I'll have to e-mail it if you'll accept it as testimony
11 after today.

12 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes, we will.

13 MR. BARRON: I have lived for the past 35 years on the
14 immediate border of the project area and have participated in the
15 consideration of the Newhall Ranch Plan since its inception. I've
16 given public comment in the past and have attended hearings including
17 the supervisor hearing in which the specific plan was approved as well
18 as traveling to Kern County for the court case. I have reviewed the
19 documents submitted to you today in electronic form and have listened
20 to this morning's request that we not rehash the issues that have been
21 settled. So I will try to limit my testimony today to the subjects of
22 transportation and air quality.

23 My work, like so many of the residents in our area, is
24 outside the area and commuting is part of my life. I have passed by
25 the project area for years and years and have always reflected on how

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1 my neighbors who settled the area took the streetcar from Flower
2 Street, then by train from Union Station to the nearby Castaic
3 Junction Station. When I moved in, in the early 70's, the freight
4 train still ran to Ventura and we could hear the whistles in the
5 distance. This rail line was destroyed by flood in the -- I believe
6 in the late 70's, and the Newhall Company bought the right of way,
7 removed the tracks that travel the length of what is now the project
8 area. Fillmore and Piru have kept a portion of that track alive and
9 in fact branded their communities around the trains as Heritage
10 Valley.

11 In the plan before you there is a provision for rail, but it
12 is certainly not that is it is actually going to be restored and it is
13 certain -- it is not certain that it is actually going to be restored
14 in a timely manner. Why not require the construction of the rail to
15 proceed or being required to be concurrent with the buildout of
16 Landmark Village? I think you might have the authority to do that.

17 Like the commissioner, who also commutes down I5, we're all
18 concerned with traffic. The applicant addresses the traffic issue in
19 a number of documents, but it really comes down to the basic
20 assumption that the jobs to work ray show analysis is correct.
21 Supervisor Yaroslavsky stated in the approval hearing that even he
22 doesn't believe this. The map showed millions of feet of industrial
23 space between this project and town center and the impact -- the
24 implicit representation is the residents will work there having
25 commuted the short distance across the bridge at Castaic Creek, now

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1 126, and that their use of other community resources is off peak
2 unless impactful.

3 I'm an avid cyclist and am currently in the Santa Clara Velo
4 Club whose members use the bike trails and roads throughout the area.
5 It is not uncommon for our members to put in more an a hundred miles a
6 week in both individual and group rides. We are intimately familiar
7 with the traffic issues on the ground and our club has been working
8 with the city to establish trails and bike lanes. I'm going to skip
9 ahead here.

10 So we've had the unique opportunity to see this on the
11 ground. I'm there with the trucks and the cars on 126. Air quality,
12 especially ozone, is a major concern to cyclist. The plan contains
13 documentation of the appropriately named carbon monoxide non-
14 attainment area, which claims that it is primarily from out of the
15 area and, therefore, additional impacts from the projects are incident
16 all. I would ask the commissioners to be -- require more specific
17 designation of the mitigations outlined --

18 CHAIR VALADEZ: If you could just --

19 MR. BARRON: -- especially proper bicycle circulation plan.

20 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. That should be your last -- if it's
21 the last --

22 MR. BARRON: That's basically my last comment. The project
23 repeatedly uses the bicycle plan as a mitigation, and I don't find the
24 map or the definition in the group to be --

25 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much.

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1 MR. BARRON: I would request that you make that more
2 specific.

3 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Thank you very much. Are there any
4 questions? Okay. Thank you, sir. If you did not sign in -- I don't
5 think you signed in.

6 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: And can he supply us with a written
7 comment.

8 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes. Could you also supply us with a
9 written comment.

10 MR. BARRON: Yes, I will.

11 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Thank you. All right. I think I'd
12 like to stop for a few minutes for the commission discussions, seeing
13 no other public testimony.

14 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: You know, I smiled several times
15 during the testimony in terms of, you know, the river. My family has
16 lived within a ten-mile radius for ninety years. I grew up playing in
17 this river, and I remember my grandmother -- my Italian grandmother
18 always going out after rains looking for tree mushrooms. My mother
19 never let me eat them, but the river was a great generator of tree
20 mushrooms on some the fallen trees.

21 There clearly is a sensitivity to this, and I appreciate the
22 comments which have been brought forward this morning because as I
23 peruse through environmental impact reports and try to read every last
24 word, it's impossible with the amount of time that's given to us and
25 the amount of information which is provided. So to the extent to

1 which members of the public and people have specific interest in
2 components of that, review them and find discrepancies or find areas
3 of concern and bring them to our attention allows us to focus on
4 those.

5 I'm also -- since there are no other questions and points
6 which were raised this morning, I do support an extension of the
7 comment period. It also provides us an opportunity to focus in on
8 those areas which have brought forward to us both in written comments,
9 which have been provided, as well as testimony today. And it provides
10 the applicant a chance to review those. We often times will give the
11 applicant a chance for rebuttal. I would -- I guess, Mr. Adamick, I
12 assume that you'd prefer to wait until afterwards and have a chance to
13 go back and formally review the comments from this morning's testimony
14 and be able to focus on those issues. So I would -- unless there's
15 other discussions this morning --

16 CHAIR VALADEZ: I don't know. Let me just check with the
17 other commissioners --

18 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: -- I would quite frankly prefer that
19 we look at some dates to extend this, continue the comment period. If
20 there's areas that we want staff to address, we could certainly bring
21 those back at that date.

22 CHAIR VALADEZ: Any other comments or -- Commissioner
23 Helsley? Commissioner Rew.

24 COMMISSIONER REW: I have a question for staff. We received
25 today when we came in this additional correspondence. This is in

1 addition to what we received with our agenda?

2 MS. TAE: That is correct.

3 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Might, I just say on that because as
4 I went through those -- the letters that we got this morning, the vast
5 majority of those were supportive of the project that people would
6 want to buy in this area. And when Commissioner Helsley was asking if
7 people go on the 126 and go left or go right, there's a lot of these
8 people that are going to get out of these homes and hopefully go north
9 into areas where they have a job. And they're not able to find
10 affordable housing at this point and time in the Santa Clarita Valley.
11 So my hope is that there will be a considerable number of people who
12 go north.

13 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: That's only two hundred ninety-
14 four to date -- affordable.

15 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Well, lets assume that some of those
16 jobs, some of those buildings are paying more than -- that people
17 could buy market -

18 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Right.

19 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: -- great housing because they've got
20 a decent job.

21 You know, the transportation part of this, I think we have
22 to look at the roads, the potentiality of that rail going through. As
23 many of you know, I commute to Century City from Santa Clarita every
24 day and I use Santa Clarita Transit. And Santa Clarita Transit has
25 taken a number of cars off the road as I see those full buses going in

1 and out north to Warner Center, Van Nuys, downtown Los Angeles and to
2 Century City or UCLA and West Los Angeles. So the extent to which
3 there's encouragement for that, extent to which if this park and ride
4 is going to be installed and that park and ride is going to connect
5 Santa Clarita transit.

6 When Princes Cruises moved its headquarters out to Santa
7 Clarita from Century City -- indeed the office building which I work -
8 - a lot of those people stayed living on the west side if there's a
9 reverse commute. And so those buses pick up in West Los Angeles to
10 take people out to Santa Clarita Valley to work. So the extent to
11 which that system is enhanced, improved, advertised, it just becomes
12 the ability to try and get that traffic off the road that I notice are
13 coming. I would like to ask staff concerning these updates, the
14 initial --

15 CHAIR VALADEZ: The comment period?

16 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: -- date in terms of when this was
17 released for public review and comment was when?

18 MS. TAE: The formal public comment period for the draft EIR
19 had begun on November 20th, 2006.

20 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: So ninety days -- sixty days from
21 that would take it to January the 19th.

22 MR. MENESES: 22nd.

23 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Given thirty days -- well, given
24 thirty days in November, thirty-one days in December, a sixty-day
25 comment period really would take it a day. So I think the comment

1 period was open though until January 22nd; is that correct?

2 MS. TAE: And then -- excuse me -- extended to this morning.
3 So additional time beyond the sixty that was initially noticed was
4 provided. So sixty-plus days.

5 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: But if we went back from ninety days
6 from the date it was originally sent out -- given out to the public,
7 and again that was November --

8 MS. TAE: 20th.

9 CHAIR VALADEZ: 20th.

10 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: -- 20th. So that would then take it
11 to February 17th would be ninety days because you're backing out two
12 days because of the thirty-one days in December and January and thirty
13 days in November? See, I'm looking at some dates. I think what we
14 discussed earlier is February 28th as a date possibly to continue this
15 hearing, and then you would like that comment -- all comments in, in
16 order for staff to provide us with our packets seven days before that
17 date or 10 days before that date?

18 MS. TAE: Seven or ten days will work for staff to package
19 and provide that to you as well as forward them to the EIR consultant.

20 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: So if we continue the comment period
21 until, let's say, February 21st, which would be seven days before the
22 hearing.

23 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: That's an awful hard push on staff.

24 CHAIR VALADEZ: Well, the staff's just, what? Just going to
25 put them in a package and send them to us and nobody is going to look

1 at them?

2 MR. MENESES: That's correct. We will just -- we'll provide
3 them to you. Of course, we'll be reviewing them as much as we can
4 prior to the meeting.

5 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: But that's a Wednesday. What about
6 that Monday or the previous -- that Monday date would give us full
7 ninety days after -- before the review period, correct?

8 MR. MENESES: Well, my staff had indicated that February
9 23rd would give us a total of ninety days from November 20th. I
10 didn't --

11 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Well, it's actually -- no. You've
12 got to back out the thirty-one day months and the other pieces. So
13 it's not adding days, it's subtracting days. So I think if the
14 started November --

15 MR. MENESES: 20th.

16 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: -- the 20th, then it would be
17 December the 19th, then it would be January the 18th so -- no, I'm
18 sorry. It would be December -- because there's thirty days in
19 November so it would be --

20 CHAIR VALADEZ: Since we're doing an extension, I think we
21 can do an extension to any date --

22 MR. MENESES: That's correct.

23 CHAIR VALADEZ: -- that we find that works for staff that we
24 could extend it.

25 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Well, I would like at least 30 days --

1 CHAIR VALADEZ: I don't think it has to be no --

2 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: I would like to at least allow a full
3 ninety days for the comment period which I think then would take us --

4 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: What's the possibility of continuing
5 this until March some time so that staff has the chance to review this
6 material that's going to be coming in because as I looked at some of
7 these matters, I think that there's a large amount of study that kind
8 of needs to be done with them. And I don't think you do it in three
9 days or five days.

10 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: I think as I talked to staff earlier,
11 that March was pretty well booked. And then that puts out into April,
12 and there are two bad days there that I will not be here. So that
13 puts us out in May. So really if we don't do it February the 28th,
14 then it goes out to May.

15 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Well --

16 CHAIR VALADEZ: There's no day in March that we have that we
17 can put this on? It doesn't -- it's not requiring a huge amount of
18 time. It's not going to have a lot of people.

19 COMMISSIONER REW: Well, we took three hours today.

20 CHAIR VALADEZ: Well that's -- that was -- we took two of
21 them ourselves. We were -- that was commission use of time. You
22 know, if we closed it lets say in February, we could be ready some
23 time -- you know, you would need two weeks or three weeks or whatever,
24 we'd be ready at the end of March. Is there anything at the end of
25 March?

1 MR. MENESES: It looks rather full, I mean, in my opinion.

2 I -- unless you wanted to set --

3 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes. We have multiple, multiple public
4 hearings.

5 MR. MENESES: Yes. Unless you wanted to set a special
6 meeting date for this on --

7 CHAIR VALADEZ: I think by itself, no. It's too small of
8 case by itself.

9 MR. MENESES: If you continued this to February 28th --

10 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: See, I would like to set February the
11 20th as the final date for comments and February the 28th for the
12 hearing and encourage people to get the information in sooner for
13 staff review. And for this last (inaudible), we are just going to
14 have to do something afterwards.

15 MR. MENESES: Right. Well, you know, we won't have the
16 final EIR done by the continuation date. We would still need
17 additional time to come back with all the final documents and so
18 forth. And as we normally do, we would -- if you were inclined to
19 close the meeting -- the hearing on February 28th, we'd come to you on
20 a subsequent date as a consent item along with the final EIR.

21 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: And I think quite frankly the major
22 issues have probably been brought forward to us at this point although
23 people have said that they would like to hone in on them; that clearly
24 the comments about Native American tribe presence has been brought
25 forward. That needs to be looked at. The water issue is ongoing. It

1 needs to be looked at; the surveys. So it's there. It's not a matter
2 of big surprises being popped in on February the 20th. And if they
3 are a big surprise on February 20th, then we discuss them on February
4 28th. Then it's a matter of we'll continue it.

5 MR. MENESES: That's correct.

6 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Right.

7 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: With that attitude, I have no problem
8 with the 28th.

9 CHAIR VALADEZ: Because I'm just concerned that we will not
10 have staff time to review things and the way in which these comments
11 come in, they'll all be coming in at the very end. So that's just the
12 way in which the world works I guess. And so -- but if in fact the
13 comments are basically the same as what we've heard today except in
14 writing, then I think that staff knows that they have to address those
15 issues if there's -- you know, we're taking obviously the risk that in
16 fact on that day we won't feel comfortable and we'll have to extend it
17 again. And since the EIR is incomplete at this point, I don't think
18 that's harmful. So I'd like to have a motion to that effect.

19 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Unless there are any other comments.

20 CHAIR VALADEZ: No. I didn't see --

21 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: I would like to see if we could have
22 the developer -- I missed a couple of items that I think they might be
23 able to respond to today without having to continue on.

24 CHAIR VALADEZ: I think we're going to just take their
25 rebuttal on the 28th.

1 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: We will? Okay.

2 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes. We're going to take rebuttal on the
3 28th.

4 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Then I would like to --

5 CHAIR VALADEZ: We're going to do it all at one time.

6 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: -- I would like to be certain that
7 they talk about the two cul-de-sacs that are on the west side of the
8 project and then have streets projecting out of them parallel to 126
9 and going off to a butt-in.

10 I would like to have you comment as to what were the
11 setbacks that were originally discussed from the river and how have
12 you met those setbacks.

13 What are we doing in relation to trail heads for hiking and
14 equestrian use and the interface across the bridge -- or across the
15 river, not necessarily across the bridge. How do bikers and
16 equestrians get across the river? You have a large -- a couple of
17 large bridges you're building. Are you planning to put walk --
18 separate walkways from the traffic on the sides and maybe on the
19 opposite side an equestrian? I don't know. But something needs to be
20 done in that, in that direction.

21 I heard the aspect of a trail going through the -- or
22 through the -- in a central park area and -- but it was going to be a
23 private park. But there's a trail that goes through there. That's a
24 public trail. So how do you keep the private park and the public
25 trail or were you just talking about that park being maintained by the

1 Homeowner's Association and being a public park? I was confused at
2 that point.

3 A statement was made by -- and brought up and I think really
4 sparked an interest in mind and that is that the aspect of getting
5 right of way and building that right of way, at least getting into
6 Ventura, was an interesting comment, and I think something that needs
7 to be studied as a continual rail line that's already three fourths in
8 existence. Definitely the leads building and the private development
9 of power generation.

10 The aspect of waist to energy facility, and I realize it may
11 not be on this property, but I think there needs to be a plan within
12 your project total area for that MRF and for waist to energy concerns
13 because that's a critical need for our future.

14 The Native American tribe, I see that there's a letter that
15 we've received from Native American Heritage Commission on January
16 22nd that does talk about the tribal extinction and interface that
17 needs to be seriously looked at.

18 What has been given to the new studies in relation to the
19 Nature Conservancy and some of the Santa Clarita preservation funds
20 and setasides that were not available when the EIR was first being
21 developed? I think you need more credit given to your -- and I would
22 like to hear some more discussion on Smartgrowth where -- and there's
23 a three letter acronym. TM --

24 CHAIR VALADEZ: TMDs.

25 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: What?

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1 CHAIR VALADEZ: TMDs or -

2 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: No. It's some neighborhood project,
3 but it's a transportation -- the walking characteristic, and I would
4 like to hear more about that. 122

5 The perchlorate is still a sensitive issue. We keep hearing
6 that it's been taken care of or it's going to be taken care of. We
7 don't have a brineline yet. That project -- that problem has not gone
8 away. This Commission took and covered over -- or maybe is going to
9 be taking and covering over a section of the input area to pull that
10 plume back. And I think we need to be concerned with that. 123

11 United Water I think needs weigh in some in a manner on this project again
12 as -- in relation to current agreements and current situations with
13 water availabilities. 124

14 I don't know -- I think the Audubon gave us an outstanding
15 letter, very, very extensive. And we need to take and interface that
16 into our EIR in a specific way. There are a lot of issues brought in
17 there that I don't think have been looked at before and I think that
18 they do need to be looked at. 125
19 I concur that we need more time, and I
20 am pleased to hear that we're looking at doing it, but there's a
21 definite position going in that direction. 126

21 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Anyone have anything else to add?

22 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Madam Chair, at this point I would
23 move that we continue this public hearing until Wednesday, February
24 28th, 2007 and continue the comment period until Tuesday, February
25 20th, 2007.

1 COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: Second.

2 CHAIR VALADEZ: All in favor signify by saying aye.

3 THE PLANNING COMMISSION: Aye.

4 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. The matter has been continued as
5 indicated. Wee look forward to seeing everyone and receiving any
6 comments that -- additional comments that you have with regards to the
7 environmental development. Thank you very much.

8 (End of Public Hearing on Landmark Village Project)

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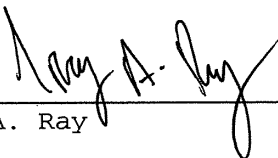
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CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



Troy A. Ray

February 12, 2007

Responses to Regional Planning Commission Transcript of January 31, 2007

Commissioner Modugno Comment 1

Now, how much of that traffic is really moving up and down from Bakersfield to Los Angeles or how many is leaving there jobs in Santa Clarita Valley to there homes in San Fernando Valley and vice versa?

Response 1

The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, page 4.7-15, summarizes the direction and volumes of traffic as follows:

**Table 4.7-5
Roadway Volume Summary – Existing (2003) Conditions**

Roadway Segment	Direction	Lanes	AM Peak Hour	PM Peak Hour	ADT
SR-126 at Ventura/LA County Line	EB	1	920	1,030	13,060
	WB	1	810	960	11,870
Chiquito Canyon Road	NB	1	30	100	880
	SB	1	110	70	1,060
Wolcott Way	NB	1	20	10	130
	SB	1	10	20	150
I-5 north of SR-126	NB	4	2,100	2,500	49,000*
	SB	4	1,900	2,100	45,000*
I-5 south of SR-126	NB	4	2,800	3,100	60,000*
	SB	4	2,400	2,500	53,000*

Source: Austin-Foust Associates (September 2004) (see **Appendix 4.7**).

EB = eastbound; WB = westbound; NB = northbound; SB = southbound

*AADT by direction

Level of service ranges:

.00 – .60	A
.61 – .70	B
.71 – .80	C
.81 – .90	D
.91 – 1.00	E
Above 1.00	F

These numbers support the notion that workers are coming from the west and south and show peak volumes leaving the Santa Clarita Valley in the pm hour moving south and north of SR-126. Additionally, I-5 is a key link between Canada and Mexico and all of California and this roadway carries a large amount of inter- and intrastate commerce.

Commissioner Bellamy Comment 2

What I would like clarification on is can we address issues of the overall project which aren't specifically dealing with -- what we're hearing today such as a waste to energy facility for the overall project or a MRF facility I mean, can we actually address that today when we're addressing just this one thing?

Response 2

A MRF site has been approved for the Chiquito Canyon Landfill located north of SR-126. A waste-to-energy facility has not been proposed as a part of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan site, nor is a waste-to-energy facility plant presently a permissible use.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 3

Do you see -- or is there a projected a bus haul route to the schools in previous the villages from the early stages of the next village?

Response 3

The applicant is currently working with the Castaic School District on a plan that could include the initial bussing of Landmark-generated elementary school students to an existing school within the District until such time that Landmark generates enough students to open the Landmark Village Elementary School. The first occupancies in Landmark are anticipated in mid- to late 2009. The anticipated opening of the Landmark Village Elementary School is fall 2010. In summary, there will likely be a 9- to 12-month period where the elementary students generated in Landmark would be bussed to an existing school within the Castaic District.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 4

The agreement that you have in relation to school[s], is it with just one of those districts or is it with all three of those districts?

Response 4

The applicant has agreements with all three elementary school districts. Agreements also are in place with the high school district.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 5

The other concern as those come forward is there's a potential -- or have you worked on agreements with the school districts so that you have in the district ability to move children from one district -- elementary

kids to the other district until that other school is built because sometimes the transportation would be very onerous to the young kids.

Response 5

Please see **Response 3**, above.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 6

And you'll be -- in the beginning position you're going to be using a force main back to the existing facility until the lower facility is online?

Response 6

As soon as the Newhall Ranch Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) is online, all waste from each of the villages (including Landmark Village) will be processed through this plant. If, for some reason, the Newhall Ranch WRP is not online, wastewater would be pumped via force main to the existing Valencia WRP, which is located upstream from the Landmark Village tract map site.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 7

Is the force main going to be used for something else?

Response 7

The wastewater force main is a part of the utility corridor. The utility corridor itself includes water, electrical, gas, and other utilities. So the trench for the utility corridor is going to include all of the necessary facilities east to The Old Road to the Valencia WRP, and west to the Newhall Ranch WRP. The idea with the Newhall Ranch WRP is to build that in phases.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 8

Is there a reason why the project cannot be pulled back 40 to 60 feet as it comes down I think [to] Castaic Creek?

Response 8

The proposed project does not propose development in the River Corridor SMA/SEA 23 except for bank stabilization, water quality, and best management practice (BMP) measures such as water quality filters and basins. These uses were previously approved with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. No commercial or residential development is proposed in the River Corridor SMA/SEA 23.

Commissioner Bellamy Comment 9

Commissioner Helsley had mentioned that a waste to energy facility was a possibility in Newhall Ranch. Has that been looked at?

Response 9

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Commissioner Modugno Comment 10

So as you put your utility corridors through and all of the water lines, will there be water lines parallel so that reclaimed water can be pulled off to the extent with -- beyond just the parks that even the some of the homeowner association, greenbelts, landscaping within the roadways and various other things can utilize reclaimed water?

Response 10

As a part of the project development, both reclaimed and potable water tanks are proposed to be built to utilize all of the reclaimed water during the dry weather season that would be generated as a part of the Newhall Ranch WRP. This water would be used for parks, medians, greenbelts, and homeowners' association common areas.

Commissioner Modugno Comment 11

What activities or what things are planned to be able to bring wireless technology within the various communities as you plan on moving forward?

Response 11

The applicant currently has an alliance with SBC for introduction of new technology into the Newhall Ranch communities, which could include the incorporation of wireless technology into those communities. The portions of Newhall Ranch that were being explored for this coverage would include commercial areas and public spaces (parks, library, and private community centers). It should be noted that each of the homes and commercial businesses within Newhall Ranch will incorporate the best available technology into their design.

Commissioner Modugno Comment 12

And then I'd like you to also address the cost -- and there's and more and more literature out there -- the cost of building green buildings.

Response 12

The applicant has completed a "Sustainability Summary" that incorporates and defines in more detail the use of energy conservation techniques, potential alternative energy sources, and the incorporation of green building designs into the entire Newhall Ranch community. Please see **Appendix F** of this Final EIR.

Commissioner Rew Comment 13

How many affordable homes in this fourteen hundred plus developed?

Response 13

The Landmark Village project will provide for 296 affordable housing units.

Commissioner Rew Comment 14

When people -- do you have any opinion when people exit this development in the morning today to work, how many of them are going to turn right and how many are going to turn left?

Response 14

The majority of residents will turn right coming out of the development and proceed east on SR-126 as major employment centers are located in close proximity to the project including: Landmark Village combined with the other villages of Newhall Ranch will create approximately 20,000 permanent jobs in the Santa Clarita Valley. Newhall Ranch is adjacent to Valencia Gateway, which presently provides 50,000 jobs. Additional development within Valencia Gateway will create an additional 30,000 jobs. When completed, the job centers in Newhall Ranch and Valencia will have resulted in the creation of approximately 100,000 jobs in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Commissioner Rew Comment 15

Now, State Route 126 is not a freeway, but is it going to be? In other words, is that something that we have to be concerned with?

Response 15

Caltrans has prepared a preliminary study on SR-126, and it believes that a portion of SR-126 will be a freeway. That portion would be directly east of the Landmark Village tract map site at the Commerce Center Drive interchange where the Valencia Commerce Center is located to I-5. From Commerce Center Drive interchange to the coast, Caltrans looks at SR-126 based upon projected traffic volumes only

needing to be an expressway. The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan includes right-of-way for SR-126, and the project applicant has agreed to dedicate and construct those improvements at a substantial cost. Consequently, roadway improvements are being built to accommodate all of the future projections for that roadway.

Kirsten James Comment 16

Today I am here to discuss some of the fatal flaws in the Water Quality, Hydrology and Biota sections of the Landmark Village draft EIR. There's insufficient time to discuss all of these concerns so I will just highlight some of the main concerns. The others can be found in our letter.

Response 16

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Kirsten James Comment 17

As stated before, the level of detail in the project EIR was not the same as this EIR so it should be evaluated on its own merits.

Response 17

The Landmark Village EIR is tiered from the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR, which is discussed in detail as follows:

“CEQA provides a lead agency with the flexibility to prepare different types of EIRs, and to employ different procedural means to focus environmental analysis on the issues appropriate for decision at each level of environmental review (Public Resources Code Section 21093[a]). CEQA provides that the “...degree of specificity required in an EIR will correspond to the degree of specificity involved in the underlying activity which is described in the EIR” (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15146).

As stated, the certified Newhall Ranch Final EIR addressed the Specific Plan at the “program” level of detail, acknowledging that further environmental review would be required in connection with preparation of project-specific tentative subdivision maps. The Newhall Ranch Final EIR also contained a separate project-level environmental analysis for the WRP, so the County could issue final approval of the WRP.

Because the Landmark Village project implements a part of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, and because the certified Newhall Ranch Final EIR assessed the significant environmental effects associated with development of the entire Specific Plan area, this Draft EIR will be tiering from the certified Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Final EIR in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21093(a) and *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15168(c). Public Resources Code Section 21093 encourages a lead agency to “tier” from a

previously certified program EIR, whenever feasible. In this way, the Draft EIR can focus on site-specific issues relating to the Landmark Village project and allows the County, as the lead agency, to concentrate on issues, which are ripe for decision and exclude from consideration issues already decided or not ripe for decision (*CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15168[c], 15385).

The “tiering” of an EIR is intended to “...promote construction of needed housing and other development projects by (1) streamlining regulatory procedures; (2) avoiding repetitive discussions of the same issues in successive [EIRs]; and (3) ensuring that [EIRs] prepared for later projects which are consistent with a previously approved policy, plan, program or ordinance concentrate upon environmental effects which may be mitigated or avoided in connection with the decision on each later project.” (Public Resources Code Section 21093[a]) The tiered or site-specific EIR may incorporate by reference discussions, mitigation measures and alternatives developed in the previously certified program EIR, and concentrate on the issues specific to the “project” analyzed in the tiered EIR (Public Resources Code Section 21094; *CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15168(c), 15385).

A “Project EIR” is typically prepared for a specific construction-level project, such as a tentative subdivision map. A Project EIR “...should focus primarily on the changes in the environment that would result from the development project...[and] examine all phases of the project including planning, construction and operation” (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15161). In this instance, the Draft EIR for the Landmark Village project includes, among other discretionary entitlements, tentative subdivision map approval.

Consistent with the above legal principles, the County’s Department of Regional Planning prepared an Initial Study/Notice of Preparation (IS/NOP) (refer to **Appendix I**), and determined that a tiered project EIR is required for the Landmark Village project. Accordingly, the Draft EIR will be tiered from the certified Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Final EIR, including the adopted Mitigation Monitoring Plans for both the Specific Plan and WRP (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15168[d]).” (See, Landmark Village Draft EIR, Introduction, pp. I-6 - I-7.)

Kirsten James Comment 18

Our over arching concern with this project as outlined in the draft EIR is that it impinges upon the natural functioning of the rivers to such an extent that significant damage will be done to water quality, hydrology and aquatic habitat.

Response 18

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.3, Water Quality, Section 4.4, Biota, Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, Section 4.10, Water Service, and Section 4.19, Utilities. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is

required. 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.

Kirsten James Comment 19

First, there is an insufficient vegetated buffer zone between the developed areas and the require.

Response 19

Please see **Response 4**, to letter from Heal the Bay, dated January 22, 2007.

Kirsten James Comment 20

Among other things the riparian ecosystems are key stone habitats play a critical role in a variety of ecosystem processes and protect water quality. The draft EIR outright states that the lost of habitat due to the project is significant.

Response 20

The comment restates information contained in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Kirsten James Comment 21

The developer has obviously not considered reasonable alternatives to lessen this impact such as increasing the riparian buffer.

Response 21

Please see **Responses 33, 34, and 35**, to letter from Center for Biological Diversity, dated February 20, 2007. In addition, please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 5.0, Project Alternatives.

Kirsten James Comment 22

A minimum of five hundred foot buffer as measured from the outside of the riparian canopy is necessary to properly mitigate the project impacts.

Response 22

Please see **Response 19**, above.

Kirsten James Comment 23

Another flaw in the draft EIR is the extensive area of stream bank alteration in the form of harden structures. In fact, it specifies that there will be 18,600 linear feet of buried soil sediment. Armored structures in the stream bank are known to increase erosion and sedimentation problems and decrease aquatic and riparian habitat.

Response 23

Please see **Response 28** to letter from Heal the Bay, dated January 22, 2007.

Kirsten James Comment 24

For example, Heal the Bay's stream team mapped 70 miles of stream in Malibu creek water shed between 2001 and 2003. They found 19.8 linear miles of armoring resulting in 18.7 linear miles of eroding stream banks.

Response 24

Please see **Response 28** to letter from Heal the Bay, dated January 22, 2007.

Kirsten James Comment 25

So the EIR has obviously not properly addressed downstream impacts.

Response 25

The EIR has been revisited, and it properly addresses downstream impacts. Nonetheless, 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Kirsten James Comment 26

Heal the Bay is very involved in the development of TMDLs in the L.A. region. And also if the --if the developer build outside of hundred year floodplain entirely, this will significantly reduce the amount stabilization needed.

Response 26

Please see **Response 4**, to letter from Heal the Bay, dated January 22, 2007.

Kirsten James Comment 27

Heal the Bay is very involved in the development of TMDLs in the L.A. region.

Response 27

The comment provides background information, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Kirsten James Comment 28

As you know, the Santa Clara is listed as impaired for several constituents.

Response 28

The comment restates information contained in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.3, Water Quality, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Kirsten James Comment 29

Responsible parties such as counties and cities are responsible for implementing these TMDLs and projects such as this and should be prepared to implement them and this project will not do that.

Response 29

The comment addresses issues that are beyond the scope of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Kirsten James Comment 30

So in closing, the draft EIR does not adequately consider alternative that would enable the project to proceed with the least environmental damage and does not accurately describe the environmental risk to decision makers. Thank you.

Response 30

Please see **Response 21**, above.

Angela Meany-D'Arcy Comment 31

The first and most critical point is that the Tataviam Tribal Nation for whom these lands are -- have ancestral ties is not extinct as the draft environmental impact report states. Quite frankly, folks, I'm absolutely disgusted that I even have to come here today and argue that a tribal nation that's been viable and existing for thousands and thousands of years is extinct.

Response 31

The Tataviam Band is not extinct and the archaeological consultants have personally apologized to the Tataviam Band. The page of the archaeological report that erroneously stated that the Tataviam Band was extinct has been revised. The requested changes have been made to reflect the Wishtoyo Foundation's comments on the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Please refer to the Final EIR **Section 3.0, Revised Draft EIR Pages**, for the requested revisions. In addition, please refer to **Response 1** to letter from Native American Heritage Commission, dated January 22, 2007.

Angela Meany-D'Arcy Comment 32

The second major point that I have to make is that proper evaluation of impacts to native American cultural resources, of which there are many significant within the project bounds, is impossible without tribal consultation which of course you cannot have in the DEIR asserts that that tribal nation is in fact extinct. The third major point that I have to make today is that the development of adequate and appropriate mitigation measures is also impossible absent proper tribal consultation.

Response 32

There has been on-going communication with the Tataviam Band, and the project applicant has committed to ongoing Native American monitoring during grading operations. Additionally, the comment states that mitigation measures are inadequate because they fail to consider appropriate mitigation from a tribal perspective. Pursuant to the *CEQA Guidelines*, a Notice of Preparation was issued

on March 1, 2004. The purpose of the Notice of Preparation is to solicit input and comment from agencies and organizations that may be interested in the project. A Notice of Preparation and Initial Study were sent to the Native American Heritage Commission for input and comment. No responses to the Notice of Preparation and Initial Study were received from this agency. Regarding comments about the EIR's incorrect statement that the Tataviam Band is extinct, please refer to **Response 1** to letter from Native American Heritage Commission, dated January 22, 2007.

Angela Meany-D'Arcy Comment 33

The fourth point I have to make is that this DEIR is not in compliance with either state or federal cultural resource preservation and tribal consultation laws.

Response 33

Please see **Response 32**, above.

Angela Meany-D'Arcy Comment 34

The fifth point I'm going to make today is that very significant Tataviam cultural resources and potentially sacred sites are going to be harmed if not flat out destroyed by this development project.

Response 34

While cultural resources and burials have been documented within the project area, they are not located on the project site. Communication between the project applicant and the Tataviam Band is ongoing and will continue throughout construction of the Landmark Village project.

Angela Meany-D'Arcy Comment 35

And the final point I'm going to make today is Wishtoyo Foundation calls for a complete re-haul of any archeological or cultural resource study or assessment that's been done with respect to this DEIR. We call for this because the archeological firm who was hired, Whitley and Simon, asserts within the DEIR that the Tataviam Tribal Nation is extinct.

The example that I want to give you today is if the preparers of the traffic portion of this DEIR had asserted to you that the 5 Freeway did not exist, nobody would stand here with a straight face and argue that that preparer was qualified to make that assessment. Clearly you cannot do a proper assessment of traffic impacts from a project if you deny the existence of the 5. Similarly you cannot do a proper assessment of the cultural resource impacts because of this project if you deny the existence of the Tataviam nation.

You have on record an objection from the native American Heritage Commission. saying that it is completely unacceptable to deny the existence of the Tataviam nation. You know what, you can do a Google search and the first item that comes up is the website for the Tataviam Tribal Nation. The chair of the Tataviam Tribal Nation, Rudy Ortega, Sr. -

CHAIR VALADEZ: Can you slow down just a little.

MS. MEANY-D'ARCY: Excuse me?

CHAIR VALADEZ: Can you slow down just a little bit.

MS. MEANY-D'ARCY: The chair of the Tataviam Tribal Nation, Rudy Ortega, Sr., was in fact instrumental in getting the most recent legislation, 2641 Native American Burial Grounds Legislation, passed.

Response 35

Please see **Response 31**, above, and **Response 1** to letter from Native American Heritage Commission, dated January 22, 2007.

Angela Meany-D'Arcy Comment 36

Look folks, the Native American culture resources on this project site are significant.

Response 36

Please see **Response 34**, above.

Angela Meany-D'Arcy Comment 37

There have been eight archeological sites that have already been discovered, two burials have been removed according to the archeological reports in this project, and they found quartz knives, they found obsidian knives, they found cave paintings, they found smaller replicas of cave paintings.

Response 37

Please see **Response 34**, above.

Angela Meany-D'Arcy Comment 38

And the DEIR completely asserts that the Tataviam Tribal Nation is extinct.

Response 38

Please see **Response 31**, above, and **Response 1** to letter from Native American Heritage Commission, dated January 22, 2007.

Angela Meany-D'Arcy Comment 39

State and federal law require you to consult with this tribe prior to any sort of approval of this plan.

Response 39

Please see **Response 32**, above.

Angela Meany-D'Arcy Comment 40

And additionally, the Wishtoyo Foundation made these same objections when the specific plan amendments for this very project were approved for the City of Santa Clarita. Whitley and Simon was also the archeological firm on that project. So one year ago these same comments were made in writing. So again it's egregious and embarrassing for them to now assert that the Tataviam Tribal Nation is extinct.

Response 40

Please see **Response 31**, above, and **Response 1** to letter from Native American Heritage Commission, dated January 22, 2007.

Teresa Savaikie Comment 41

My name is Teresa Savakie. I live at 26724 Mocha Drive in the City of Santa Clarita. I wanted to make sure that you are all aware that the Nature Conservancy has just completed a report. I believe that it's referenced as the upper Santa Clara River Watershed Conservation Plan. That was based on about a year worth of meetings with biologists from across the state, some of the most well known and respected biologist from across the state. And evidently what they're doing is they're documenting areas that they find of significant ecological value, and one of the areas that they're most interested in is a portion of the Landmark Village project area.

Response 41

The comment provides background information, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Teresa Savaikie Comment 42

One of the target species that they were addressing in this document was the endangered Arroyo Toad, which has many habitat requirements. I don't pretend to be a biologist, but I've read enough environmental impact reports to recognize that even though Newhall Land and Farming has not documented this species within that project site, certainly they are right upstream. The species has been documented moving up to seven hundred feet within one week and up to a mile out of the watershed and into the minor tributaries - all of which I think within this project would be destroyed.

Response 42

Please see **Response 12** to letter from Teresa Savakie, dated January 21, 2007.

Teresa Savaikie Comment 43

So I'd like for you to really consider, and Newhall Land and Farming, working with the Nature Conservancy and possibly acquiring portions of this project. That's my first issue.

Response 43

Newhall Ranch, of which Landmark Village is a part, includes the preservation of the High Country SMA/SEA 20, Salt Creek area, and the River Corridor SMA/SEA 23 - a total of nearly 6,700 acres. A total of three community parks (Landmark includes the first) and up to ten neighborhood parks will be provided as part of Newhall Ranch. Finally, private recreation facilities will be provided throughout the entire Ranch providing additional recreational opportunities to residents.

Teresa Savaikie Comment 44

My second issue is traffic. The City of Santa Clarita recently did -- they commissioned a report to sort of look to see where people were commuting to and from work. And what they found was that fifty-one percent -- excuse me -- fifty-one percent of the people that work in -- that live in Santa Clarita do not -- I mean, have to travel to the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles and beyond in order to pay their mortgages. So the jobs that are being created in the Santa Clarita Valley are not necessarily employing those people who are purchasing homes. And I really think that we need to be concentrating -- if we are a progressive community -- county, we need to be concentrating on putting businesses there that support our local citizens so that we do not continue to impact our roads, freeways, et cetera, et cetera.

Response 44

Please refer to **Response 19** to letter from Southern California Association of Governments, dated January 22, 2007. In addition, please see **Response 2** to letter from Teresa Savaikie, dated January 21, 2007.

Teresa Savaikie Comment 45

I also think it's a little bit irresponsible to continue to build projects on a floodplain that eventually cause the taxpayers to pay for once the land is dedicated.

Response 45

The proposed project will elevate land out of the floodplain and comply with all County and FEMA requirements. All flood protection improvements will be paid for by the project proponent.

Teresa Savaikie Comment 46

For instance, Ventura County last year spent ten million dollars in emergency flood protection. I'd like to see the long-term cost analysis of what it's going to cost us to maintain all those side tributaries that will turn into concrete ditches.

Response 46

The comment raises economic, social, or political issues, all of which 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 over the adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Teresa Savaikie Comment 47

And finally, I'm a mother of three young children and as the traffic increases, I'm just flabbergasted that you guys would just consider my children an overriding consideration. Should my children that live out there not matter to you or anywhere across our area? I mean, the air quality is awful and its getting worse and these projects are making it worse because they don't employ the people that live there. Each person that moves here has to drive further to work, to the San Fernando Valley, L.A. and beyond and all of this increase in traffic is impacting the quality of our air and impacting my child's life. I hope you'll take that into consideration.

Response 47

The comment addresses traffic and air quality, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic, and Section 4.9, Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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. In addition, please see **Response 4** to letter from Teresa Savakie, dated January 21, 2007.

Jack Eidt Comment 48

Hello. My name is Jack Eidt. I'm from Wild Heritage Planners. My address is 5015 Almaden Drive in Los Angeles, California 90042. Wild Heritage Planners is a Southern California based organization dedicated to sustainable environmental planning as well as Smartgrowth. We see this project as further evidence of the wrong type of growth that has created a complete mess in Southern California.

Response 48

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Jack Eidt Comment 49

Basically, Wild Heritage Planners recommends that the County of L.A. consider other alternatives that -- for the fourteen hundred units that would not build within the significant ecological area of the Santa Clara River as well as in and around that, that sensitive area.

Response 49

Please see **Response 8**, above, to comment from Commissioner Helsley and **Response 21**, above, to comment from Kirsten James. In addition, please refer to **Response 2** to letter from Wild Heritage Planners, dated January 31, 2007.

Jack Eidt Comment 50

Also, as a program level, EIR looks at these general impacts. When we look to say that because it was approved on a program level, this says nothing about the reality of the impacts.

Response 50

The Landmark Village Draft EIR is a project-level EIR. Please see **Response 17**, above, to comment from Kirsten James.

Jack Eidt Comment 51

So now this board has to face the reality of twenty thousand units as a cumulative whole.

Response 51

The Landmark Village project does not propose 20,000 units, but rather 1,444 dwelling units. The comment confuses the proposed project with that of the total Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan was approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor's on May 27, 2003.

Jack Eidt Comment 52

We're starting off with fourteen hundred units and it's already in a situation that's in a completely sensitive area.

Response 52

The Landmark Village tentative tract map site is located primarily on agricultural land that is not considered a sensitive biological resource area. In addition, the policy decision of whether to allow development of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan site, including Landmark Village, already has been made by the County's Board of Supervisors in conjunction with its approval of the Specific Plan and associated program environmental documentation on May 27, 2003.

Jack Eidt Comment 53

This type of -- there's a lot of talk as -- about jobs being created in the area but as the speaker before me said, this really just creates a major commuting situation that is completely unsustainable.

Response 53

Please see **Response 44**, above.

Jack Eidt Comment 54

These people who are going to be located in this -- now it's a Greenfield area will no infrastructure to deal with them.

Response 54

Please see **Response 11** to letter from Wild Heritage Planners, dated January 31, 2007.

Jack Eidt Comment 55

So basically they're going to have to create a whole new system of infrastructure to service this development in an area that right now is just wild and open.

Response 55

It should be noted that the project site is located adjacent to the Valencia Commerce and along State Route 126. Please see **Response 7**, above, with respect to the utility corridor.

Jack Eidt Comment 56

That is a completely significant impact.

Response 56

Creating infrastructure does not necessarily create a significant impact. Portions of the utility corridor cause impacts with regard to biological impacts, but do not cause significant impacts to the utility services themselves. No further response can be provided.

Jack Eidt Comment 57

And if you really think about what it does on a macro scale for Southern California, there are -- the San Fernando Valley has all sorts of openings to create Smartgrowth development close to with the jobs existing. Instead of putting these people out -- I mean -- okay. If you keep developing out, there might be a few affordable units but really we're looking at these people are going to be moving farther away and driving into the city.

Response 57

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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Jack Eidt Comment 58

So the two alternatives, not building in the floodplain as well as the cluster option are definitely not enough.

Response 58

The Landmark Village Draft EIR proposes four alternatives -- not two as suggested by the comment. Please see Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 5.0, Project Alternatives, for further information regarding project alternatives.

Jack Eidt Comment 59

We need to be out of the floodplain, we need to be out of the SEA area.

Response 59

Please see Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.2, Hydrology. It discusses the fact that the Landmark Village project proposes to be elevated out of the floodplain. Please see **Response 8**, above, with regard to development located outside of the SEA.

Jack Eidt Comment 60

Also, the Green building issue is imperative.

Response 60

Please see **Response 12**, above. In addition, please see **Appendix F** of this Final EIR for the project applicant's "Sustainability Summary."

Jack Eidt Comment 61

We've got, we've got global climate change,

Response 61

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies**; **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources**; and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change**, for responsive information regarding global warming.

Jack Eidt Comment 62

we've got peak oil

Response 62

The comment raises issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment. 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 over the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Jack Eidt Comment 63

We've got all sorts of issues that are making this type of development totally unsustainable.

Response 63

Please see **Response 12**, above.

Jack Eidt Comment 64

And this Board has to think in a forward reaching way to require the developer to be start. And if they're going to come here and try and build more of this unsustainable stuff that has ruined the San Fernando Valley, they need to do it right with technology that's up to date today.

Response 64

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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 65

My name is Lynne Plambeck. I'm representing Santa Clarita Organization For Planning in the Environment. I'm also an elected director on Newhall County Water District. I'm not representing my board. However, I mention that to have you understand that I do have some qualifications on water issues. The -- I would like to request additional time to be able to comment on this project.

Response 65

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 66

According to the Daily News, sixty-three letters were submitted to this commission requesting additional time. I don't think that's ever occurred before. I hope the commission recognizes that request and allow additional time for the comment -- extended comment period.

Response 66

The comment requests that the public comment and review period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 67

When this specific plan was approved, it was condition of approval that each tract map would be examined individually for water supply and water concerns would be addressed on a tract map level. So to try to exclude those is not only wrong from a planning point of view but also doesn't comply with the conditions of approval.

Response 67

Please see the Draft Landmark Village EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service, which thoroughly discusses all issues pertaining to water supply and the proposed project. The comment does not provide enough detail as to how the EIR does not comply with "conditions of approval." No further response can be provided.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 68

There is a major error in the EIR. The Draft EIR states in the water supply section that this project has its own water supply, it will merely convert the farming uses of water to municipal uses. This is an unadjudicated basin. They don't own that water. That isn't a property right. That water is a public resource. The basin is unadjudicated. It is available to anyone that wants to pump from that basin. They have argued this over and over again before the State Resources Control Board in every water venue that's available. To now put this in this EIR is egregious.

Response 68

This is not an error. As stated in Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Services, page 4.10-1:

“Potable water demand (702 afy) would be met by the Valencia Water Company through the use of the project applicant's rights to 7,038 afy of groundwater from the Alluvial aquifer, which is presently used by the applicant for agricultural irrigation. Because this water is already used to support the applicant's existing agricultural uses, there is not expected to be any significant environmental effects resulting from the use of such water to meet the potable demands of the Landmark Village project, which is part of the approved Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area. In addition, due to project conditions, the amount of groundwater that will be used to meet the potable demands of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, including the Landmark Village project, cannot exceed the amount of water historically and presently used by the applicant for agricultural uses. Therefore, no net increase in groundwater use will occur with implementation of this project pursuant to the Specific Plan.”

In addition, please see both the **Introduction** and **Response 17** to letter from Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment, dated February 16, 2007.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 69

That portion of the EIR needs to be rewritten and re-circulated so that people can properly comment on this section. To start out by saying they have their own water resource and there's no problem just prejudices the entire section. It needs to be recirculated. This is a major area.

Response 69

Please see **Response 68**, above.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 70

There will be new -- wells in the area. Castaic Lake Water Agency is already planning on putting wells to pump water to act as a backup for the ammonium -- the spread of the ammonium perchloride. So there may be diminished water available to this project. Also, you each get this water supply report that is -- the most recent one was from last year, but you should have another one coming out.

Response 70

Please see **Topical Response 1: Perchlorate Treatment Update**. Please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service, pages 4.10-33 through 4.10-42 and 4.10-63 through 4.10-69, concerning the impact of perchlorate on water supply.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 71

Also, you each get this water supply report that is -- the most recent one was from last year, but you should have another one coming out.

Response 71

The 2006 Santa Clarita Valley Water Report, dated May 2007, has been released and is available for public review and consideration. In addition, a copy of the latest report is found in **Appendix B** of this Final EIR.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 72

I would like to bring to your attention the agricultural table in this. In 1980 when there was considerable agricultural land in this -- in the Santa Clarita Valley -- we had onion fields in the middle of town -- they were using fourteen thousand acre feet of water. Now, in 2004 according to this table they're using fifteen thousand, but the only place they're farming is in the Newhall land area. That's the only place. So why are we using so much farm water. Something is wrong with this table. The Commission needs to act -- ask for the backup documentation for this. This is being overstated. It's got to be overstated. There not -- there isn't that much arable land there. I mean, they're not farming it so -- unless they're just dumping it on the ground.

Response 72

The figures used in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service, Table 4.10-A are accurate and no revision is required.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 73

I don't know but -- also the Commission should remember that the united resource -- the United Water Company withdraw their complaints because reclaimed water was going to makeup the difference of the drawdown in this basin. And if that's not going to happen, you need to look at water and tell them that.

Response 73

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Kris Ohlenkamp Comment 74

My name is Kris Ohlenkamp. I live at 2367 Old Topanga Canyon Road in Topanga, 90290. I'm president of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, and we in conjunction with Ventura Audubon, L.A. Audubon and the Audubon California office have submitted very concise recommendations, 15 pages of them, just concerning the birds and the impacts on birds in this area and the inadequacies and the egregious omissions that are in this environmental impact report.

Response 74

Please see **Introduction** and **Responses 1** through **86** to letter from Audubon California, dated January 19, 2007.

Kris Ohlenkamp Comment 75

There is no new significant information in this impact report that was not in the original master plan,

Response 75

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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Kris Ohlenkamp Comment 76

and there has been a lot of change in the bird life, or at least change in the knowledge of the bird life for that area in the last 15 years including the California Condor, the Short-eared Owl and the California Spotted Owl are three sensitive species which have been shown to use this Landmark Village property. They are not addressed at all in this environmental impact report. Neither are eight other sensitive bird species which use the Newhall Ranch property and most likely use this Landmark Village property as well. They are not addressed in this environmental impact report. So those are significant omissions.

Response 76

Please see the **Response 22** to letter from Audubon California, dated January 19, 2007.

Kris Ohlenkamp Comment 77

We also challenge the proposed mitigation which is totally inadequate for any of the environmental impacts on the natural resources, the biological resources of this area

Response 77

Please see **Response 67** to letter from Audubon California, dated January 19, 2007.

Kris Ohlenkamp Comment 78

If you've read this letter of ours, I think it's rather eye opening in the methods that were used to do surveys for the birds. They were totally inadequate, they did not use the approved methodologies. They were done at the wrong times of the day, the wrong seasons and in many cases they did not look for the sensitive species that are of concern. So we think that whole area needs to be addressed. So thank you.

Response 78

The comment expresses an opinion. For responsive information regarding additional surveys performed in 2007, please see the Landmark Village Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**.

Ron Bottoroff Comment 79

Good morning, Madam Chair, members of the Planning Commission. My name is Ron Bottorff. I live at 660 Randy Drive, Newbury Park. I chair Friends of the Santa Clara River. We have provided extensive written comments, but we have several people working on additional comments. So I would ask that an additional an extension of the comment period be provided.

Response 79

The comment requests that the public comment and review period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Ron Bottoroff Comment 80

The DEIR comments on hydromodification on Page 4.3-113 show once again that there's no real understanding on the cumulative impacts, cumulative potential for existing and future development along the Santa Clara River because detrimental -- hydromodification impacts.

Response 80

Please see **Response 7** to letter from Friends of the Santa Clara River, dated January 21, 2007.

Ron Bottoroff Comment 81

I might point out on that map there behind you, there were some comments earlier about the floodplain. That entire green area to the left there which is going to be filled and developed, that is in the floodplain of the river, most of that area.

Response 81

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Ron Bottoroff Comment 82

A larger quantitative regional study is needed on this. DER -- DEIR even acknowledges this on page -- in the water quality section.

Response 82

Please see **Response 25** to letter from Friends of the Santa Clara River, dated January 21, 2007. In addition, please see Dudek's Santa Clara River Watershed Study, which is found in **Appendix A** of this Final EIR.

Ron Bottoroff Comment 83

Until this study is complete and the impacts fully defined, we urge that no further projects along the Santa Clara River be approved.

Response 83

Please see **Response 82**, above.

Ron Bottoroff Comment 84

Friend of the Santa Clara River has a current lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers for inadequate analysis of cumulative impacts of multiple development projects along the river. And they're required to do this under the Clean Water Act and they have not do that. That's the reason for our lawsuit.

Response 84

Please see Dudek's Santa Clara River Watershed Study, which is found in **Appendix A** of this Final EIR.

Ron Bottoroff Comment 85

Most of the Biota comments I have are in the piece I turned in. We do believe that the issue of buffer zones still -- is still in play. Our written comments that are in your staff report shows that there are needs for larger buffer zones. In its initial comments on the specific plan, the California Department of Fish and Game recommended a five hundred foot minimum buffer. Several people here today have done that, and I agree with all of them. Landmark Village setbacks range from zero in places to about three hundred feet.

Response 85

Please see **Responses 13** and **16** to letter from Friends of the Santa Clara River, dated January 21, 2007.

Ron Bottoroff Comment 86

An applicable study show that this is not adequate to protect riparian species.

Response 86

The comment does not provide enough specificity to respond to the comment. No further response is required or can be provided.

Ron Bottoroff Comment 87

Landmark Village as proposed will result in a lost of over eighty -- about eighty-five acres of river flood plan, as I pointed out that green area up there, most of it. Usurping the floodplain of a river can have serious impacts.

Response 87

Please see **Response 18** to letter from Friends of the Santa Clara River, dated January 21, 2007.

Ron Bottoroff Comment 88

The floodplain avoidance alternative would prevent these impacts and if the project is eventually approved, this alternative or a lesser damaging environmental alternative should be adopted.

Response 88

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Ron Bottoroff Comment 89

I'll just conclude by thanking your commission for hanging in for ten years or more on Newhall Ranch. No approvalship for this project should be forthcoming until the DEIR is revised to account for the impacts that I have discussed. Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Response 89

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Jennifer Robinson Comment 90

Hello. My name is Jennifer Robison; 6348 Primrose Avenue; Los Angeles, California. I'm the conservation coordinator for the Sierra Club, and the Sierra Club has many concerns about the DEIR of this project. Today I'll be addressing water supply.

Response 90

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Jennifer Robinson Comment 91

We would also ask for additional time in commenting on this issue, but today my address will be for the water supply.

Response 91

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Jennifer Robinson Comment 92

The approval of Newhall Ranch Specific Plan called for the water supply to be addressed during consideration of each phase and tract map.

Response 92

Consistent with this comment, the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service, evaluates the Landmark Village project's water demand and supply at the project-level.

Jennifer Robinson Comment 93

The existence of the ammonium perchlorate in the Santa Clarita water -- Valley water supply has negative effects on the health of our community members especially our children.

Response 93

Please see **Topical Response 1: Perchlorate Treatment Update**. In addition, please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Services, pages 4.10-33-42 and 4.10-63-69, concerning the impact of perchlorate on water supply.

Jennifer Robinson Comment 94

And subsequent to the approval of the specific plan, studies have shown the spread of the perchlorate plume including low levels which were discovered in the Newhall County Water District Well 13. Currently there are no cleanup facilities online to address this pollution issues.

Response 94

Please see **Topical Response 1: Perchlorate Treatment Update**. In addition, please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Services, pages 4.10-33 through 4.10-42 and 4.10-63 through 4.10-69, concerning the impact of perchlorate on water supply.

Jennifer Robinson Comment 95

With the increased development, increased development adds stress to the water supply in the region and the Santa Clara River and Saugus Aquifer are unadjudicated basin. Therefore, Newhall Ranch does not have its own water supply as DEIR implies.

Response 95

Please see both the **Introduction** and **Response 8** to letter from California Water Impact Network, dated February 11, 2007. In addition, please see **Response 68**, above.

Jennifer Robinson Comment 96

And the Sierra Club is very concerned about the water supply and the health and future of families.

Response 96

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Commissioner Helsey Comment 97

I would ask a question in relation to Well 13 when you talked about there are no cleanup alternatives for that. Wasn't there a proposal that was --

Response 97

Please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Services, pages 4.10-33-42 and 4.10-63-69, concerning the impact of perchlorate on water supply. In addition, please see **Topical Response 1: Perchlorate Treatment Update**.

Commissioner Helsey Comment 98

Do you know whether or not they're depended upon a brineline establishment? Establishment of a brineline?

Response 98

A brine line is not part of the perchlorate remediation proposed by CLWA and the local retail water purveyors.

Jeanette Vosberg Comment 99

Hi. I'm Jeanette Vosberg. I live at 4124 East Boulevard in West Los Angeles, 90066. And I understand that you're building in a floodplain, and this eliminates natural water quality benefits. From the commissioners' remarks I get the distinct impression is not one of your major focuses.

Response 99

The Landmark Village tentative tract site is being raised sufficiently that it will remove the tract map site from the floodplain.

Jeanette Vosberg Comment 100

Water is my major focus, and although I live in West L.A., I come out to the -- to Santa Clarita very often because we own property out there. And I see something that I fight against every day in the Biota watershed and that's the appearance of concrete. Over ninety percent of our Biota watershed has either been put in the storm drains or channelized in concrete. And now because of all of that concrete and all of those storm drains, what has happened is that every time that there's a storm, all of the urban runoff from our streets combines with the natural storm water and makes a polluted soup that goes down all of these storm drains which feed into the Biota Creek -- or the Centinela Creek which feeds into the Biota Creek and then directly into the ocean and the pollution is so bad that, you know, I wouldn't swim in there. People do, but I think they're crazy.

Response 100

The comment provides background information, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Jeanette Vosberg Comment 101

And so what's happening is that now we're under federal mandate to clean up the Santa Monica Bay, and how do you do that? Well, there's two ways. One is through mechanical means like, you know, send it to a Hyperion plant or one of these reclamation plants you were talking about earlier or clean it up in some way.

Response 101

The comment discusses Santa Monica Bay and not the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area or the Landmark Village project site. As such, no further response is required. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Jeanette Vosberg Comment 102

The most cost effective way based on the County of L.A.'s own statistics, of which I think you are apart, say that that will cost six to ten times more to do mechanical solutions than to put back the natural function of the watershed. And so what I'm sitting here thinking is why on earth when you have natural means of water purification, the probability of using storm water when we have a water shortage are you considering doing exactly what the Biota watershed has done and what we're trying to undo? I just would say that seriously you're doing a wrong thing here. Einstein said that if you always do the things you've always done, you'll always get the result you've already gotten. And if you, if you think that you can go ahead -- whether you cosmetically put your concrete in --

CHAIR VALADEZ: Ma'am.

CHAIR VALADEZ: MS. VOSBERG: have a big problem later-- and then you put some dirt over it -- Ma'am, your time is up.-- either way it all --Thank you.-- turns into the same thing. You're going to on.

Response 102

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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 103

My name is Barbara Wampole. My address is 28006 San Martinez Grande Canyon Road; Castaic, California 91384. Good morning, Chair Valadez and commissioners. Thank you very much. I truly appreciate your attention to my comments. I also first want to start with saying that the public needs more time to comment, and I myself need more time to completely review and comment fully on this. I respectfully request an extension to keep the comment period open so that we can make adequate analysis of everything that's before you. It's a huge project.

Response 103

The comment requests that the public comment period be extended. Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. 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 required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 104

I'd also like to say that I'm a 35-year resident of the Santa Clarita Valley, and I'm the vice chair of Friends of Santa Clara River.

Response 104

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Barbara Wampole Comment 105

I sit in traffic in this valley, I see trails blown out by floods. I've seen improved air decline severely, I've seen creek after creek concreted by this applicant among others, and I also volunteer at the homeless shelter and I've seen this community propose that we bus our homeless to Los Angeles. So we have severe problems with housing, with traffic and a lot of other things, and this project, again, is a sprawling project and does not -- it is not sufficiently sustainable. Excuse me. Any amount to the specific plan concerns us.

Response 105

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, Section 4.5, Floodplain, and Section 4.9 Air Quality. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Barbara Wampole Comment 106

We believe that there are still concerns with the specific plan and that comment period does not offer adequate time to review this and the amendments. Other outstanding concerns we have with the specific plan also need to be reviewed. We still need more time.

Response 106

Please see **Response 103**, above.

Barbara Wampole Comment 107

And I think we also need to point out that the Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game still have not issued permits for this project, and we are now looking at the county approving something that may not actually be able to be built the way that the project is being proposed. Why are we doing this now?

Response 107

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Barbara Wampole Comment 108

Four years ago the overall specific plan was approved.

Response 108

The comment restates information contained in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 109

There is indeed new information since then. Critical natured -- the critical nature of any new information regardless of the quantity is really of more importance.

Response 109

The comment addresses general subject areas, but does not raise any specific issue regarding the Landmark Village EIR analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Barbara Wampole Comment 110

We face grave challenges due to the resource consumption that we all exhibit and natural resource identification on the project site. Another thing that I think I keep bringing up, whenever I've been to hearings on this project in had area, Chiquito Canyon Landfill continues to be a challenging impact on the existing and future residents. The pollution plume that was identified in the groundwater in the 1990s when the landfill was expanded still somehow alludes full analysis. Simply living in close -- proximity to the landfill hazards needs fuller analysis. And the farm water which is used in this area in theory for that project, still I don't see anyone analyzing the quality of that in relation to the landfill, and I'm very concerned about that.

Response 110

The comment addresses resource consumption and identification, both of which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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. The comment also generally addresses the Chiquito Canyon landfill. In response, the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.21, Environmental Safety, pages 4.21-30 and 4.21-31, address the Chiquito Canyon landfill and potential groundwater impacts:

The landfill is listed on several databases, although it is reported as having had no violations of applicable hazardous waste laws. The environmental concerns associated with this property, including odors, leachate, methane gas migration, water quality, dust generation, and windblown refuse, are mitigated through landfill design, construction and maintenance in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. Specific design features include surface water controls, groundwater protection barriers, and landfill gas collection systems.

Impacts to the groundwater table beneath the landfill site are unlikely for two reasons. First, the landfill is lined with clay, synthetic fabric, or other types of liners to prevent materials from entering ground or surface waters. Second, the facility is located in an assumed cross-gradient location relative to the regional groundwater flow direction. Therefore, the potential environmental impact from this property is low."

Barbara Wampole Comment 111

I'd like to point out again that this project channelizes the Santa Clara River. It, it -- the buried bank stabilization is merely a cosmetic to show that if it's blown out, we then end up with concrete, and it's now channelized as if it had concrete anyway. Revegetated, it's still channelized.

Response 111

The comment claims that the Landmark Village project's proposed bank stabilization will channelize the Santa Clara River. The bank stabilization proposed for the Landmark Village project is not a cement channel. The bank stabilization techniques used for the Landmark Village project are adequately described in the Draft EIR, Section 1.0, Project Description, pp. 1.0-53 and 1.0-54. 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 or question the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 112

I'd just like to make one comment before I close. Alexander Graham Bell said in 1917 when he was 70 years old, we can take coal out of a mine, but we can't put it back. We're spendthrifts in the matter of fuel and are using our capital for running expenses. What shall we do when we have no more oil? And what would happen if all the fossil fuel being burned continued to fill the air with pollutants? He was inclined, as he said, to think we would have a sort of greenhouse effect, a whitewash, a glasshouse cutting off large portions of the sun's heat and creating a greenhouse by reflecting it away. We -

CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much.

MS. WAMPOLE: -- we don't come before you with frivolous concerns. You might appreciate our frustration in the light --

CHAIR VALADEZ: Excuse me. If you could just --

MS. WAMPOLE: of how long --

CHAIR VALADEZ: -- if you could just give us your last comment. Is that it?

MS. WAMPOLE: Just to say you might, you might appreciate our appreciate our frustration as concerned citizens in the light of how long this awareness of our consumption could be a problem and has been ignored for so many years. Thank you.

Response 112

The comment raises issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment. 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 required.

Thomas Barron Comment 113

Hi. My name is Thomas Barron. I also live at 28006 San Martinez Grande Canyon Road in Castaic. Good morning, commissioners, and thank you for this opportunity to contribute testimony for your consideration of the specifics of the proposed Landmark Village plan. I have lived in the -- for the past thirty --

CHAIR VALADEZ: You'll have to slow down a little.

MR. BARRON: Okay.

CHAIR VALADEZ: I know you're reading. When you read, a person tends to speak faster.

MR. BARRON: I'll be happy to make a copy of this also.

CHAIR VALADEZ: Also, that would be good. You can give it to us for the record.

MR. BARRON: Yeah. Unfortunately, I don't have a printer with me. So I'll have to e-mail it if you'll accept it as testimony after today.

CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes, we will.

MR. BARRON: I have lived for the past 35 years on the immediate border of the project area and have participated in the consideration of the Newhall Ranch Plan since its inception. I've given public comment in the past and have attended hearings including the supervisor hearing in which the specific plan was approved as well as traveling to Kern County for the court case. I have reviewed the documents submitted to you today in electronic form and have listened to this morning's request that we not rehash the issues that have been settled. So I will try to limit my testimony today to the subjects of transportation and air quality.

Response 113

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Thomas Barron Comment 114

My work, like so many of the residents in our area, is outside the area and commuting is part of my life. I have passed by the project area for years and years and have always reflected on how my neighbors who settled the area took the streetcar from Flower Street, then by train from Union Station to the nearby Castaic Junction Station. When I moved in, in the early 70's, the freight train still ran to Ventura and we could hear the whistles in the distance. This rail line was destroyed by flood in the -- I believe in the late 70's, and the Newhall Company bought the right of way, removed the tracks that travel the length of what is now the project area. Fillmore and Piru have kept a portion of that track alive and in fact branded their communities around the trains as Heritage Valley.

Response 114

The comment provides factual background information, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Thomas Barron Comment 115

In the plan before you there is a provision for rail, but it is certainly not that it is actually going to be restored and it is certain -- it is not certain that it is actually going to be restored in a timely manner. Why not require the construction of the rail to proceed or being required to be concurrent with the buildout of Landmark Village? I think you might have the authority to do that.

Response 115

Right-of-way has been set aside for light rail on the Landmark Village project site.

Thomas Barron Comment 116

Like the commissioner, who also commutes down I-5, we're all concerned with traffic. The applicant addresses the traffic issue in a number of documents, but it really comes down to the basic assumption that the jobs to work ray show analysis is correct. Supervisor Yaroslavsky stated in the approval hearing that even he doesn't believe this. The map showed millions of feet of industrial space between this project and town center and the impact -- the implicit representation is the residents will work there having commuted the short distance across the bridge at Castaic Creek, now 126, and that their use of other community resources is off peak unless impactful.

Response 116

The comment addresses the overall Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, which is not the focus of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. The Landmark Village Draft EIR focuses upon the impacts of the project and not of the entire Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. Nonetheless, the County's Board of Supervisors previously considered and certified the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR, which fully evaluated the environmental implications of approving the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan and related project approvals. The Landmark Village Draft EIR is a project-level environmental document, which tiers from the previously certified Program EIR.

Thomas Barron Comment 117

I'm an avid cyclist and am currently in the Santa Clara Velo Club whose members use the bike trails and roads throughout the area. It is not uncommon for our members to put in more than a hundred miles a week in both individual and group rides. We are intimately familiar with the traffic issues on the ground and our club has been working with the city to establish trails and bike lanes. I'm going to skip ahead here.

So we've had the unique opportunity to see this on the ground. I'm there with the trucks and the cars on 126. Air quality, especially ozone, is a major concern to cyclist. The plan contains documentation of the appropriately named carbon monoxide non-attainment area, which claims that it is primarily from out of the area and, therefore, additional impacts from the projects are incidental. I would ask the commissioners to be -- require more specific designation of the mitigations outlined --

CHAIR VALADEZ: If you could just --

MR. BARRON: -- especially proper bicycle circulation plan.

CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. That should be your last -- if it's the last --

MR. BARRON: That's basically my last comment. The project repeatedly uses the bicycle plan as a mitigation, and I don't find the map or the definition in the group to be --

CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much.

MR. BARRON: I would request that you make that more specific.

Response 117

Please see the Landmark Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, Figure 1.0-19, Landmark Village Portion of Specific Plan Master Trails Plan, and Figure 1.0-20, Landmark Village Trails Plan, which depict the trails (including bicycle) that are included in the proposed project.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 118

I would like to be certain that they talk about the two cul-de-sacs that are on the west side of the project and then have streets projecting out of them parallel to 126 and going off to a butt-in.

I would like to have you comment as to what were the setbacks that were originally discussed from the river and how have you met those setbacks.

What are we doing in relation to trail heads for hiking and equestrian use and the interface across the bridge -- or across the river, not necessarily across the bridge. How do bikers and equestrians get across the river? You have a large -- a couple of large bridges you're building. Are you planning to put walk -- separate walkways from the traffic on the sides and maybe on the opposite side an equestrian? I don't know. But something needs to be done in that, in that direction.

I heard the aspect of a trail going through the -- or through the -- in a central park area and -- but it was going to be a private park. But there's a trail that goes through there. That's a public trail. So how do you keep the private park and the public trail or were you just talking about that park being maintained by the Homeowner's Association and being a public park? I was confused at that point.

A statement was made by -- and brought up and I think really sparked an interest in mind and that is that the aspect of getting right of way and building that right of way, at least getting into Ventura, was an interesting comment, and I think something that needs to be studied as a continual rail line that's already three fourths in existence. Definitely the leads building and the private development of power generation.

Response 118

Please see **Response 4** to letter from Heal the Bay, dated January 22, 2007. Based on the site-specific analysis conducted in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, the setback/buffer is consistent with the previously approved Newhall Ranch Specific Plan.

Please see **Response 115**, above, with regard to the project setting aside right-of-way for rail. Access for hikers and pedestrians is described in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 1.0, pages 1.0-39 through 1.0-44.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 119

The aspect of waste to energy facility, and I realize it may not be on this property, but I think there needs to be a plan within your project total area for that MRF and for waste to energy concerns because that's a critical need for our future.

Response 119

The Los Angeles County Sanitation District presently operates a waste-to-energy incinerator in the City of Commerce. The facility was built in 1986 and provides power for up to 20,000 homes. The facility includes a large incinerator with a smoke stack approximately 150 feet tall. According to the Sanitation District, there has not been a waste-to-energy facility proposed in California since 1990. There are presently a total of three in the state.

Policy changes and environmental regulations have made it extremely difficult to build new waste-to-energy facilities within the state. State and federal regulations no longer consider these facilities as a safe and environmentally sound alternative to landfills. Federal incentives, investments tax credits, favorable tax treatment and reasonable permitting no longer exists for these facilities. An example is that these facilities are no longer eligible for emission off-set credit by the Air Quality Management District. Finally, several environmental organizations argue that these facilities not be considered as a renewable energy source.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 120

The Native American tribe, I see that there's a letter that we've received from Native American Heritage Commission on January 22nd that does talk about the tribal extinction and interface that needs to be seriously looked at.

Response 120

The Tataviam Band is not extinct and the archaeological consultants have personally apologized to the Tataviam Band. The page of the archaeological report that erroneously stated that the Tataviam Band was extinct has been revised.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 121

What has been given to the new studies in relation to the Nature Conservancy and some of the Santa Clarita preservation funds and set asides that were not available when the EIR was first being developed?

Response 121

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR. However, the County is unaware of any specific funds that could be utilized by a conservancy organization to acquire parts or all of the project site.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 122

I think you need more credit given to your -- and I would like to hear some more discussion on Smartgrowth where -- and there's a three letter acronym. TM --

CHAIR VALADEZ: TMDs.

COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: What?

CHAIR VALADEZ: TMDs or -

COMMISSIONER HELSLEY: No. It's some neighborhood project, but it's a transportation (*)the walking characteristic, and I would like to hear more about that.

Response 122

There are many different components that make a community sustainable or qualify it as a smart growth project. These include a proper mix of land use, provision of jobs, design for future transit uses in the plan, provision of open space and recreation, connectivity (trails), preservation of natural areas, the reduction of impermeable surfaces, water conservation and re-use, energy conservation – potentially including the use of alternative energies (wind, cogeneration, etc.), and the incorporation of green building techniques.

As evidenced below, Landmark Village, as with all of Newhall Ranch, incorporates the following components of a sustainable or smart growth community:

- **Mix of Land Uses.** Landmark Village, along with the other villages in Newhall Ranch, will include a broad range of housing types, including affordable housing, along with commercial, office, and public facilities. As to Landmark Village, a diverse range of 1,444 homes (308 single-family and 1,136 multi-family units) would be provided. To minimize and shorten vehicle trips, most homes will be within walking distances to the Landmark Village community's commercial and mixed-use areas, elementary school site, community park, and trail system. Finally, Landmark Village is located adjacent to the Valencia Commerce Center, one of the largest employment centers in the Santa Clarita Valley. Bike and pedestrian trails within Newhall Ranch and Landmark Village will connect to trails within the Valencia Commerce Center.

- **Provision of Jobs.** A portion of Newhall Ranch's projected 19,000 new jobs would be offered through Landmark Village's mixed-use and commercial areas. Newhall Ranch is adjacent to the existing Valencia Gateway (which includes the Valencia Commerce Center), which presently provides 50,000 jobs. Other development within Valencia Gateway will create an additional 30,000 jobs. When completed, the job centers in Newhall Ranch and Valencia will have resulted in the creation of approximately 100,000 jobs in the Santa Clarita Valley. A balanced jobs-housing base is a critical component to a sustainable community because it allows people to work close to home and minimizes vehicle miles traveled.
- **Locating of Residential Uses in Close Proximity to Commercial Services/Public Spaces.** Nearly 60% of the residential units in Newhall Ranch will be located within walking distance of village or commercial centers. This is clearly documented by the Landmark Village land plan. Residents within Landmark Village will be able to utilize paseos/trails and/or the Santa Clara River Regional Trail to walk to commercial centers, private recreational facilities, the elementary school and a community park. As stated above, this traditional neighborhood design minimizes vehicle trips.
- **Provision of Transit and Light Rail Right-of-Way.** Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will be part of the Santa Clarita Transit system and will pay its fair share for transit service to the community. Transit improvements within Newhall Ranch will include a park-and-ride lot, a future transit station, transfer station, bus stops, and preservation of light rail right-of-way. Landmark Village will include a total of five bus stops, a park-and-ride lot, and the preservation of light rail right-of-way along SR-126. The provision of transit and the accommodation of light rail encourage residents to rely less on vehicular travel.
- **Open Space, Recreation, and Preservation of Sensitive Resource Areas.** Newhall Ranch, of which Landmark Village is a part, includes the preservation of the High Country, Salt Creek Corridor and the Santa Clara River and internal open areas - a total of nearly 7,800 acres. A total of three community parks (Landmark includes the first) and up to ten neighborhood parks will be provided as part of Newhall Ranch. Finally, private recreation facilities will be provided throughout the entire Ranch providing additional recreational opportunities to residents. In short, Landmark Village's design connects jobs, retail, schools, parks, and recreation facilities with the community's trail system to promote walking and biking while minimizing vehicle trips.
- **Hierarchy of Trails.** Newhall Ranch will include over 50 miles of trails to encourage pedestrian mobility. Landmark Village includes a two-mile extension of the Santa Clara River trail, with direct connections to residential, commercial, and park uses, and various paseos including the paseo running along "A" Street or the Landmark Village Spine Road. This design also is intended to minimize vehicle trips.
- **Reducing Impermeable Surfaces.** To curtail urban runoff and maximize groundwater recharge, Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will utilize open/soft bottom channels, smaller street sections, where possible, increased native landscape areas, and non-structural water quality treatment improvements.
- **Water Conservation and Re-Use.** Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will utilize native, drought-tolerant plants in the community's landscaping, use recycled water for irrigation, and evapotranspiration controllers (i.e., weather-sensitive sprinklers) to reduce potable water demand and runoff.

- **Traffic/Transportation Improvements.** Landmark Village’s traffic circulation plan, which is consistent with all of Newhall Ranch, minimizes vehicle trips and reduces GHG emissions through the design of internal roads in conjunction with homes, school site, commercial areas, and trail system. Transit is included in the traditional neighborhood design, and it includes a park-and-ride lot and bus stops. Additionally, a five-mile right-of-way for a potential Metrolink light rail extension is accommodated along SR-126. Trails and bike paths leading to close-to-home jobs, neighborhood-serving retail, and the school encourage residents to reduce vehicle miles traveled. The applicant also has committed to fund \$300 million in roadway improvements in the Santa Clarita Valley in conjunction with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, including Landmark Village, to improve traffic movement and circulation.

The project applicant also has prepared a “Sustainability Summary” for Landmark Village that identifies the above project design features and includes green building measures and alternative energy sources. Please see **Appendix F** to this Final EIR.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 123

The perchlorate is still a sensitive issue. We keep hearing that it's been taken care of or it's going to be taken care of. We don't have a brineline yet. That project -- that problem has not gone away. This Commission took and covered over -- or maybe is going to be taking and covering over a section of the input area to pull that plume back. And I think we need to be concerned with that.

Response 123

Please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service, pp. 4.10-33-42 and 4.10-63-69 concerning the impact of perchlorate on water supply. Please also see **Topical Response 1: Perchlorate Treatment Update**.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 124

United Water I think needs weigh in some in a manner on this project again as -- in relation to current agreements and current situations with water availabilities.

Response 124

United Water Conservation has submitted a letter to the County regarding the Landmark Village Draft EIR and that letter is found in the Final EIR. In brief, United Water Conservation District indicated that it did not believe that the project would result in an overdraft of the eastern basin, or impact flows at the Los Angeles County/Ventura County line.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 125

I don't know -- I think the Audubon gave us an outstanding letter, very, very extensive. And we need to take and interface that into our EIR in a specific way. There are a lot of issues brought in there that I don't think have been looked at before and I think that they do need to be looked at.

Response 125

Please see **Introduction** and **Responses 1** through **86** to the letter from Audubon California, dated January 19, 2007.

Commissioner Helsley Comment 126

I concur that we need more time, and I am pleased to hear that we're looking at doing it, but there's a definite position going in that direction.

Response 126

Additional time for public review and comment has been provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
PUBLIC HEARING)
LANDMARK VILLAGE PROJECT)

ROOM 150, HALL OF RECORDS
320 W. TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2007

9:00 A.M.

Reported and Transcribed by: Troy Anthony Ray
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Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording;
transcript produced by transcription service.

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Esther L. Valadez, Chair
Harold V. Helsley, Vice Chair (Absent)
Leslie G. Bellamy
Pat Modugno
Wayne Rew

STAFF

Susan Tae
Frank Meneses
Elaine Lemke, County Counsel
Lawrence Hafetz, County Counsel

ALSO PRESENT

Barry Witler, Department of Public Works
Captain Scott, Fire Department
Glenn Adamick, Applicant
Connie Warden Roberts
Larry Mankin
Mike Lebecki
Rich Waters
Garry George
Dawn Duetra
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Cam Noltemeyer
Ileene Anderson
Barbara Wampole
Lynne Plambeck
Katherine Squires
Teresa Savaikie
Lisa Fimiani
Kris Ohlenkamp
Jennifer Robinson

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5. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 14, 2007
6. Public Hearing - Landmark Village Project
Staff Report by Ms. Susan Tae
Public Comments
7. Commissioners Deliberation
End of Public Hearing - Landmark Village
Certificate of Reporter

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PROCEEDINGS BEGIN AT 9:00 AM

CHAIR VALADEZ: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the February 28th meeting of the Regional Planning Commission. We are now called to order. It's 9:00 a.m. We begin with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Bellamy will lead us.

COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Please stand and join me in honoring our country by saying:

(Pledge of allegiance)

CHAIR VALADEZ: Can I begin with the approval of the agenda, please.

COMMISSIONER REW: Move approval.

COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Second.

CHAIR VALADEZ: So ordered. Director's report. Do we have one today?

MR. MENESES: Good morning, Madam Chair.

CHAIR VALADEZ: Good morning.

MR. MENESES: I just wanted to report that yesterday we had -- the Board scheduled the Del Rey Shores project. That's been continued to March 7th so I don't have anything to report on that at this point.

CHAIR VALADEZ: Just a quick question. Did they hear anything on Del Rey Shores or just a continuance?

MR. MENESES: It was continued --

1 CHAIR VALADEZ: No testimony?
2 MR. MENESES: -- without discussion.
3 CHAIR VALADEZ: Without discussion. Any other
4 questions? Seeing none, county counsel.
5 MS. LEMKE: Nothing.
6 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Minutes for approval February
7 14th.
8 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Move approval.
9 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Second.
10 CHAIR VALADEZ: So ordered.
11 COMMISSIONER REW: I will abstain. I left the meeting
12 a few minutes early.
13 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. With one abstention.
14 Now we move to the public hearing. We have Tentative
15 Tract Map Number 53108, and I'm asking for any ex parte with
16 respect to this matter.
17 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Madam Chair.
18 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes, Commissioner Bellamy.
19 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: I discussed the affordable
20 housing portion of this with persons that are going to be
21 involved with this project.
22 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Any others? Okay. Seeing
23 none, this is a continued hearing from January 31st, 2007. Is
24
25

1 there a staff report -- an additional staff report with respect
2 to this?

3 MS. TAE: Excuse me. Apologize for the delay. Agenda
4 Item Number 6. My name is Susan Tae, and I'm with the Land
5 Division Section. This morning is a continued public hearing on
6 Project Number 00-196 also known as the Landmark Project which
7 includes amendments to the general plan, Santa Clarita plan and
8 Newhall Ranch Specific Plan for different road classifications
9 as well as conditional use permits for on site and off site
10 development, an oak tree permit and a tentative tract map.

11
12 The public hearing was opened on January 31, 2007 and
13 testimony was taken from the applicant and the public. After
14 your Commission provided additional comments for the applicant
15 to respond, the Commission continued the public hearing to
16 February 28th. The public comment period on the draft
17 environmental impact report was also extended by your Commission
18 to February 20, 2007 which provided a total ninety-day comment
19 period on the draft EIR. The applicant has provided additional
20 information which staff has summarized in the analysis for this
21 morning's hearing in your hearing packages.

22
23 For correction with respect to the bird surveys in
24 response to the Audubon letter, field surveys were conducted for
25 the California Condor and two owl species, and it was indicated
that these species had not been observed on the property. The

1 full discussion of the bird surveys was provided in a letter
2 from Impact Sciences which was included in your packages.

3 Another issue that was not discussed in the most
4 recent staff analysis was the terms of the affordable housing
5 program. The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan contains an affordable
6 housing program which provides for both for sale and for rent
7 affordable units. The specific plan also contains language that
8 a fifteen year deed restrict be recorded for the rental units.
9 However, no such similar term length is provided in the specific
10 plan for the for sale units. As required the applicant has
11 provided to staff an affordable housing report which outlines
12 the number and type of units that are proposed within each
13 tentative map for monitoring purposes.
14

15 Within this report the program indicates a term length
16 of five years for affordability of the for sale units. Staff
17 suggests that your Commission request that the applicant present
18 their affordable housing program to you for additional
19 information as well as staff recommendation that the term be
20 increased to fifteen years to match the existing term length for
21 the for rent units within the specific plan area.
22

23 Additional correspondence received to date has been
24 provided to your Commission this morning. Those did also
25 include letters that were received for the draft EIR after the
public comment period had closed. Therefore, with the changes

1 described in the staff report as well as the increase in the
2 term length of the affordable housing for sale units, staff
3 recommends that your commission close the public hearing this
4 morning and indicate its intent to approve the project and
5 direct staff to return with final documents. That concludes
6 staff's presentation if there are no further questions.

7 CHAIR VALADEZ: Do we have questions for staff?
8 Commissioner Bellamy.

9 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Madam Chair, the fifteen year
10 deed restriction, you said that's part of the rental -- rental
11 units? 1

12 MS. TAE: That's correct. And that's provided
13 currently in the specific plan.

14 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: And that's going to be
15 monitored by whom? 1

16 MS. TAE: The Community Development Commission, and
17 there's a monitoring program outlined within the specific plan
18 that provides for annual reports to be submitted. There are
19 also provisions that after the 5,000th unit has been proposed as
20 part of a tentative map, that housing reports are submitted to
21 staff for review.

22 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: And affordable housing,
23 presently they propose a five year affordable housing
24 restriction; is that correct? 1

1 MS. TAE: For the for sale component.

2 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: For the for sale? 1

3 MS. TAE: Correct.

4 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: And you're -- and staff is
5 suggesting that five years go to fifteen to basically coincide
6 with the deed restriction? 1

7 MS. TAE: Staff recommends a longer term length and
8 fifteen years would match the existing deed restriction length
9 for the -- for rent units.

10 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: I just -- I just wanted to
11 clarify that. Thank you. 1

12 MS. TAE: Uh-huh. You're welcome.

13 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Any additional questions for
14 staff? Thank you very much.

15 We're now going to proceed to the public testimony
16 portion of the public hearing. What we require is that every
17 individual who is going to be testifying before us be sworn in.
18 So what I would like to do is to swear everyone in here who is
19 here now who is going to be testifying on this matter or any
20 other matter -- the other two matters that are here today also.
21 So if you could please stand if you're going to be testifying on
22 any matter and raise your right hand. That's both -- that's all
23 three matters that we're going to be dealing with today. Okay.
24 Thank you.

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(Swearing in public)

CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much. In the back of the room we have the agendas which -- it will also tell you what the order of the matters that we're going to be -- taking up today, but also indicate the time limits. We have a time limit both on the applicant and also on those of you that will be testifying. It's three minutes. We have a small box up here which will start with green and you will -- after you've given your name and address, and then will move to amber and then will move to red. Please try to keep track of those colors so that you can begin to sum up when -- you have thirty seconds when it becomes amber. I will be asking you to talk -- stop your testimony at three minutes. That's so that -- we have a lot of people here today. We want to be sure that we complete public hearings. So with that we'd like to hear from the applicant first.

MR. ADAMICK: Well, thank you Madam Chair, members of the Commission. Glenn Adamick, 2323 Valencia Boulevard on behalf of Newhall Land. First what I will do is go through very quickly our four -- our affordable housing program for Newhall Ranch. As indicated at the last hearing on January 31st, we have a total of 2,200 affordable units that will be included within the Newhall Ranch community. Twelve hundred -- about 1,200 homes would be for moderate income; 220 homes low income;

1 330 homes low income, and 440 homes very low income. In
2 Landmark Village we have a total of 296 affordable homes. Those
3 are broken up between a for sale component, which Ms. Tae
4 mentioned, as well as a very low income senior component that
5 would be within the Landmark Village.

6 As far as the fifteen year restriction, the specific
7 plan did not touch on a restriction for, for sale units. If
8 it's the Commission's desire to make that fifteen years, that
9 would certainly be okay with us. What we've found in the past
10 though with for sale housing is a long-term restriction like
11 that may actually penalize the folks that get into that unit to
12 begin with who want to move up and buy a larger house down the
13 road. But if the Commission would like to go ahead and impose a
14 fifteen year restriction on for sale, we're fine with that
15 requirement.

16 What I wanted to move onto next was really just going
17 through my Landmark presentation and taking about the items that
18 were raised by the Commission at the last hearing. First and
19 foremost, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, as indicated last
20 time, was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2003. In 2004
21 a settlement agreement was reached with various litigants who
22 litigated the specific plan. There were public hearings on the
23 specific plan since 1996. Many of the issues that were raised
24 at the last hearing by folks who spoke were all heavily debated,
25

1 discussed, vetted and resulted in the Board approving a project
2 and adopting a statement of overriding considerations for
3 various significant unavoidable impacts. The horizontal
4 location of bank stabilization was identified, bridge crossings
5 were identified. Those were all approved as part of a master
6 conditional use permit by the Board.

7
8 Newhall Ranch is adjacent to services. It's within an
9 urban growth area. The Santa Clarita Valley presently has a
10 population of about 250,000 people and it's growing. The Board
11 in approving the project identified various significant
12 benefits. A large dedication of open space, nearly 7,000 acres
13 which included the High Country, included the Salt Creek
14 Corridor, the Santa Clara River; thirteen parks, fifty miles of
15 trails, improvements to 126, funding for 15 mainline
16 improvements, seven schools, a library, a sheriff station, three
17 fire stations -- an extensive list of amenities. There were
18 20,000 jobs -- when combined with what was existing and what is
19 left to be built in Valencia as part of Valencia Gateway,
20 results in a hundred thousand jobs.

21
22 The evaluation now is really consistency with the
23 specific plan. And I think as staff has indicated, we are
24 consistent with that specific plan. The EIR conclusions in the
25 project level environmental document are consistent with those
conclusions in the programmatic document that was approved by

1 the Board of Supervisors. One exception is short-term noise
2 related to bridge construction.

3 Going into the Landmark staff report, we provided a
4 letter that addressed many of the Commission's comments on
5 Landmark. The first one that I'll go through is sustainability.
6 I think we provided a great deal of examples in our letter on
7 how Newhall Ranch and Landmark Village is a sustainable
8 community. We have a mix of uses, we're providing jobs, there's
9 walkability, there's transit access, open space, resource
10 preservation, water conservation and reuse are among those.
11

12 We made a revision to the school and park plan per the
13 Commission's comments. We sat down with the Castaic School
14 District and with L.A. County Parks and that revised plan has
15 been provided to the commission as part of your packet. The
16 benefit of that plan is that it moves the school away from SR126
17 and creates a larger stacking area for drop off and pick up of
18 students there.

19 As far as the Native Americans concerns, there was an
20 error. That error was acknowledged and corrected in the
21 cultural report. Apology was issued by the consultant that
22 worked on the EIR, and we have a relationship with the Mission
23 Band of Tataviam Indians. We are going to continue to have that
24 relationship and consult and work with them as we build out
25 Newhall Ranch. An issue was raised concerning trailhead. We

1 will work with Parks and Rec. on incorporated a trail head west
2 of Long Canyon Road to provide access to the Santa Clara River
3 trail.

4 On the issue of buffers, perchlorate and the Audubon
5 letter, a very detailed memorandum from the environmental
6 consultant was included in the Commission packet that addressed
7 those issues. And I know the environmental consultant is here
8 to answer any questions that the Commission may have concerning
9 that.

10 The Commission also asked that United Water be
11 consultant -- be consulted on Newhall Ranch. A letter from
12 United Water was included in the packet. We have been working
13 with United Water, we have been working with the City of Santa
14 Clarita, we have been working with the City of Fillmore, we have
15 been working with the County of Ventura to ensure that we, as we
16 move forward with Newhall -- Newhall Ranch, are consistent with
17 the agreements that we reached with those parties.

18 In conclusion the California Planning and Zoning Code
19 in discussing specific plans basically says a legislative body
20 adopts a specific plan for the systematic implementation of the
21 area covered by the specific plan. A specific plan includes
22 distribution and location of uses of land, distribution and
23 location of major infrastructure to support a plan, standards
24 and criteria in which development must follow and be consistent
25

1 with in a program of implementation measures. And what we are
2 doing now with Landmark Village and what we will be doing with
3 the three following communities in the Newhall Ranch Specific
4 Plan is implementing that plan consistent with the specific plan
5 approval. And that really concludes my comments, and I think
6 everything else was kind of handled in the staff report. Thank
7 you.

8
9 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you, Mr. Adamick. Do you we
10 have any questions? Commissioner Modugno.

11 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Mr. Adamick, at our last
12 hearing the Commission raised a number of points dealing with
13 green activity as far as building, some changes, et cetera.
14 Staff has highlighted the consistency with the specific plan,
15 but we raised issues again -- environmental issues and a number
16 of transportation and traffic issues. Could you go over briefly
17 those things that you are now planning on doing that were part
18 of this proposal that perhaps go beyond what was envisioned in
19 the specific plan. I think you mentioned several as far as some
20 of the traffic activities. So that we know that -- you know, we
21 realize there's a consistency and that's really what you needed
22 to adhere to, but a number of points were raised and we asked
23 you to go steps beyond that. If you could just briefly go over
24 that.
25

2

1 MR. ADAMICK: Sure. I think in regards to
2 sustainability, we did identify two issues where we are working
3 on a ranch-wide plan. And those two issues are related to
4 alternative energy sources and incorporation of the some of the
5 green building standards into the development. We are presently
6 working with several consultants on preparing this plan for the
7 entire Newhall Ranch Specific Plan boundary.

8 I think it was Commissioner Helsley who mentioned the
9 waste to energy facility. We did a little research on that
10 front with L.A. County San District, and I think the feedback we
11 initially got from them was very unlikely that anything like
12 this would ever be approved again in light of state regulations
13 and policy. So we felt that there were probably different areas
14 to move in and those areas that are being considered right now
15 include installation of solar on really many of our buildings.
16 We're looking at where it would sense. Initially we think it
17 probably makes a good deal of sense on commercial, private
18 recreational areas, regional facilities -- you know, the fire
19 stations, the libraries, et cetera -- incorporating things like
20 that there and perhaps into the residential units.

21 We're looking at opportunities for cogeneration. As
22 many of you know a waste water treatment plant was approved in
23 conjunction with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. There's an
24 opportunity there with that plant to take advantage of some of
25

1 the by -- byproduct it creates to create energy that could be
2 utilized on the ranch. We are going to be entering into
3 discussions with a company called AMERESCO who is going to do a
4 cogen facility on the Chiquito Landfill for an opportunity to
5 take advantage of electricity generated by that facility.

6 As far as the green building standards, we will be
7 working with our consultants to incorporate those things into
8 the actual buildings in Newhall Ranch. And I think as indicated
9 in the staff report, we are committed to doing that. We will be
10 providing a sustainability plan to the county documenting that
11 we are going to do that.

12 On the transportation front, we have committed to --
13 to fund our pro rata share of mainline improvements along I5.
14 We have also committed to do about a hundred and ten million
15 dollars (\$110,000,000) in improvements to State Route 126 that
16 clearly, you know, mitigate our impacts but are also beneficial
17 to the region as a whole. So I think that those are the types
18 of things that we are doing and are will be doing as the ranch
19 builds out.

20 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: On the issue of the
21 affordability and you had indicated that some of the results are
22 not that stellar. On owned properties that go up multiple
23 years, are there models that we might look at that have a
24 tiering activity so if we were to go from five to fifteen years
25

3

1 that -- in terms that portion that the purchaser -- the benefit
2 that they derive is an increase of benefit over time and a
3 benefit that is still part of that remains for, if they want to
4 sell the property in three years, they can take part of that
5 benefit? But then a substantial proportion of that
6 affordability benefit rests with the next buyer who is also
7 going to qualify for that parcel so it's not an all or nothing
8 because I think what we found in some instances where that goes
9 on too long that -- maybe people just don't have the pride of
10 ownership that might exist, it doesn't serve their family needs.

12 They somehow try to portray that as owner occupied and
13 get into a rental situation for profit, et cetera. But there
14 may be another model to follow where there is a tiering of
15 activity over that time period so that it scales itself. That
16 the benefit that's there, the major portion rests within the
17 property itself for any future purchaser, but after fifteen
18 years then it goes to a full market type of situation.

19 I'd like to explore that as an alternative versus one
20 of just keeping that alive for the full fifteen years, but
21 having sort of a scaling type of a thing that we can explore
22 some compromise with staff, but then might be used as a model in
23 the future whether we put a fifteen year time period on it or
24 twenty year time period on it, a fifty year time period on it,
25

3

1 it has something that is reasonable that makes some common sense
2 and it works its way through the process.

3

3 MR. ADAMICK: We would certainly be open to that and
4 would be more than willing as part of the conditions of this
5 project when it's brought back to the Commission to work with
6 staff to try to come up with something along those lines if it's
7 the Commission's wish.

8 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Thank you.

9 CHAIR VALADEZ: Commissioner Bellamy.

10 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Madam Chair, following on that
11 note, the affordable units are going to be condominiums only,
12 attached and detached?
13

3

14 MR. ADAMICK: That's actually what's proposed right
15 now is multifamily in both cases, at least in Landmark Village.

16 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Now could you define to the
17 Commission what makes them affordable.

3

18 MR. ADAMICK: There are requirements within the
19 specific plan and also in our affordable housing program, and
20 about half of the homes or little bit more than fifty percent of
21 the homes in Newhall Ranch would be affordable under the
22 moderate income category and that would be eighty-one to a
23 hundred and twenty percent of the Los Angeles County median
24 income. We would then have about 550 homes that would be
25 considered low income category and those are anywhere between

1 fifty-one percent and eighty percent of the median income in Los
2 Angeles County. And then we have about 440 homes that are very
3 low and that is zero to fifty percent of the Los Angeles County
4 median income.

5 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: So basically the affordability
6 of the for sale properties would be tied to the income of the
7 persons that are going to purchase?

3

8 MR. ADAMICK: We basically use the county -- the
9 Community Development Commission's median income, and that's how
10 it's established. So we are in conformance with there
11 requirements which the specific plan reflects. So that income
12 is set by the county.

13 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: The income isn't what I'm real
14 concerned about. It's the purchase price is what I'm asking you
15 about. Is that going to be tied to the income?

3

16 MR. ADAMICK: It would have to be affordable to those
17 folks with that income.

18 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Okay. So that's my concern
19 regarding the suggestion by Commissioner Modugno of a fifteen
20 year tiering is that if a person stays in the property for three
21 years and they want to derive a benefit, are the benefits going
22 to be based upon their affordable purchase price to the present
23 market value? That, that would be a concern to me.
24
25

3

1 MR. ADAMICK: Well, right now the way the program is
2 written is -- you know, we have similar concerns and that's why
3 in the specific plan there was nothing mentioned on for sale,
4 but there is a five year limitation that has been included in
5 the affordable program because we have concerned over somebody
6 who comes in and speculates in a sense, qualifies for one of the
7 affordable units and then a year or two later sales that unit
8 for market the price. We certainly want to avoid that occurring
9 as well, and that's why a five year has been added there.
10

11 Right now under that program somebody could not sell
12 that home for market price until the end of that five year
13 period. It would have to be owner occupied, they'd have to live
14 there for five years. Then they could sell it at market. I
15 think what staff is requesting and what I'm hearing from the
16 Commission is that that be fifteen years so that would always
17 have to meet that affordable requirement based upon the county's
18 median income for a fifteen year period. So they wouldn't be
19 able to sell it a market rate. It would be discounted for
20 market rate.

21 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: So basically what you're saying
22 is that at the end of the five years they -- at the end of the
23 fourth year, they would have to sell it for what they purchased
24 it for?
25

3

1 MR. ADAMICK: No. No. I think this all goes -- this
2 all ties back to -- and I'm not the affordable expert, but this
3 all ties back to what that county median affordable -- you know,
4 moderate affordable income level is. That moves up or moves
5 down. The county sets that number, but the bottom line at least
6 in my understanding of affordable units is that those folks --
7 certainly as affordable income moves up, that house price may
8 move up a little bit as well. But it's not going to go all the
9 way to the market rate condition.

10
11 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: So basically when you were
12 saying that this would be penalized, if we move it from five
13 years to fifteen years, they really wouldn't be penalized
14 because the value of the property would be increasing with the
15 median income; is that correct?

16 MR. ADAMICK: It would increase a little bit but --

17 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: And so that would be their --
18 their benefit is going in at a lower price.

19 MR. ADAMICK: They're going in at a lower price. It
20 likely increases a little bit, but it certainly doesn't go to
21 market rate. And that's where I was talking about the penalty.
22 At least in talking some of our consultants in the past that the
23 concern has always been on for sale is that you're giving
24 somebody an opportunity to get into the housing market. And by,
25 you know, putting a restriction lets say fifteen years -- and

1 again we're not opposed to that if the Commission wants to go
2 that direction -- that person after year eight really doesn't
3 have the ability to sell that unit at market rate to move up to
4 something bigger. They would have to sell it as a discount for
5 market rate. It may move up a little bit, but it's still going
6 to be discounted from a market rate in most cases.

7
8 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: The other issue I had was --
9 and I basically do go along with Commission Modugno as far as
10 tiering it in some way and definitely go along with the fifteen
11 years. But my other issue is basically for Commissioner
12 Helsley, and I would like for you to explain to the Commission
13 again who you consulted with regarding waste to energy and why
14 they stated it was a problem. I'd really like to hear some
15 detail on that --

16 MR. ADAMICK: Okay.

17 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: -- because he's going to want
18 to know.

19 MR. ADAMICK: Okay. The -- the L.A. County -- we
20 actually consulted with L.A. County Sanitation District who
21 operates the Commerce facility. What they indicated to us is
22 that there are a total of three waste to energy facilities in
23 the State of California. None of --

24 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Before, before you go forward
25 on that --

1 MR. ADAMICK: Uh-huh.

2 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: We -- our Commission met with
3 them and they basically told us that they thought that these
4 types of facilities should take place and --

5 MR. ADAMICK: Oh, I don't think they're clearly. I
6 think they look at the Commerce facilities and the other
7 facilities and they say that these are beneficial. I think they
8 indicated that to us that this is an opportunity, but they also
9 discussed the issues with us. And the issues that they
10 identified were primarily related to air quality impacts of such
11 a facility and going through the permitting process with AQMD.
12 They told us that no facility like this has been proposed since
13 1990. The last one approved I believe was in the mid 80's.

14
15 The other issue they talked about is that at the state
16 level, the state doesn't necessarily look at these facilities or
17 look at a new facility as being a way for a city to meet its
18 diversion requirements or recycling requirements; that it
19 doesn't -- it does not encourage recycling because -- that's the
20 argument at the state level because basically you can burn
21 anything. So you would encourage folks not to recycle and throw
22 everything into the, into the incinerator. And if you don't get
23 those diversion credits, then this type of facility competing
24 against a landfill or something else, the cost for operating
25

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1 this facility and the cost for taking that trash is going to be
2 much higher than the alternative.

3 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Well --

4 MR. ADAMICK: So that's, that's really what they kind
5 of explained to us.

6 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Yeah. Now, I believe that the
7 City of Commerce facility basically told us that the major issue
8 was community. And I believe Commissioner Helsley and I were of
9 the opinion that if you're starting a brand new community, there
10 isn't any issue with the community, number one. And number two,
11 if there are requirements that they do have a curbside
12 distribution of trash and recyclables, that that could be in
13 conjunction with the -- to meet that fifty percent requirement.
14 So it's something I just want to throw out there because I know
15 he's going to bring it up, and I'm sort of in alliance with him
16 on that. Thank you.

17
18 MR. ADAMICK: We're -- yeah. We're certainly not
19 opposed to looking into that a little bit more. We just, you
20 know, after the first read felt that there's probably some
21 better options for us --

22 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Okay.

23 MR. ADAMICK: -- to explore.

24 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Thank you.

25 CHAIR VALADEZ: Commissioner Rew.

1 COMMISSIONER REW: Thank you. First of all I agree
2 with you. I don't want to rehash what the Board of Supervisors
3 have already approved. A lot of the concerns center around that
4 prior approval. I do have two concerns, however; one somewhat
5 minor and one, at least in my opinion, major. And first of all
6 I think that what, what you have done so far in that community
7 is outstanding. And I think this plan follows a lot of what you
8 have already done, and so there's evidence there of the quality
9 of the product that you put out.
10

5

11 The minor concern I have is the park that you're
12 talking about in Landmark is a -- owned by the homeowners in
13 Landmark, maintenance paid by the homeowners but open to the
14 public, correct?

6

15 MR. ADAMICK: Close. There are two -- basically two
16 parks in a sense. The active community park which is located
17 adjacent to the school or surrounding the school would be owned
18 by the County of Los Angeles, maintained by the County of Los
19 Angeles likely via a landscape maintenance district. The
20 passive park which is on the south side of spine road would be
21 owned by the homeowners association and maintained by the
22 homeowners association. So the active park would be a county
23 facility.
24

25 COMMISSIONER REW: And the active park, by active you
mean there would be organized activities going on --

6

1 MR. ADAMICK: Yes. That's --

2 COMMISSIONER REW: -- as opposed to passive being a
3 family oriented, picnic type, walking, exercise?

4 MR. ADAMICK: The passive park for the most part
5 includes really a trail system. That's what it is on the south
6 side. The active on the north side of the spine road would
7 include the ball fields --

8 COMMISSIONER REW: Right.

9 MR. ADAMICK: -- the -- any structures associated with
10 the park, et cetera.

11 COMMISSIONER REW: And the size of the passive park
12 exclusive of any trails in it.

13 MR. ADAMICK: The passive portion of the park is about
14 four -- roughly about four to five acres.

15 COMMISSIONER REW: Because in my experience with
16 homeowners associations, as soon as you sell your first home,
17 then there are homeowners association fees that are collected.
18 And the developer because they own still most of the homes
19 because they're not sold, the developer has seats on the
20 homeowners association board and the fees remain relatively low.
21 And then when they sell those homes, the homeowners select their
22 own board of trustees -- or board of directors made up of
23 homeowners and they suddenly realize that they have to pay for
24 all this stuff now. And the maintenance goes sky high and
25

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1 sometimes those homeowner associations they look at, gee, what,
2 what are most of our expenses going to when it's maintenance of,
3 for example, a passive park and they try to dump it off then
4 onto the entity whatever that may be -- the county, the city or
5 whatever.

6

6 But if it's as small as you say -- I was concerned
7 that the entire park was owned by the homeowners and maintained
8 by the homeowners. So what you're telling me is that -- are --
9 do you have any other developments that have that same type of
10 situation --

12 MR. ADAMICK: Well, certainly. I think --

13 COMMISSIONER REW: -- passive parks that open to the
14 public?

6

15 MR. ADAMICK: I think in Valencia -- you know, not
16 necessarily the exact same thing but I think in Valencia we have
17 private recreational facilities that include, you know, passive
18 areas or even active areas that are owned and maintained by
19 homeowners association. There is a park in Valencia, Summit
20 Park, that is actually privately maintained the LMD District and
21 I believe owned by the Valencia Summit Homeowners Association.
22 So it has been done and I think in this case the county --
23 county parks department cited an issue with maintaining that
24 passive portion because it isn't their typical park. It's a
25

1 little different. It's not active ball fields, et cetera. So
2 their preference was that the HOA take that on.

3 COMMISSIONER REW: And it hasn't proven to be a
4 problem?

5 MR. ADAMICK: No.

6 COMMISSIONER REW: My other concern is you mentioned -
7 - and I agree with Commission Helsley's suggestion that you look
8 at moving the school and the park in relationship to SR126. I'm
9 concerned that SR126 will some day become "I" something. And
10 if -- as someone who sixteen years ago with six other mayors
11 formed a JPIA for the widening of the I5 freeway from the Orange
12 County line to the 710, sixteen years ago we do this. And today
13 the California transit -- Transportation Commission is voting on
14 whether or not to approve funds for the remainder that is
15 necessary to do that construction. And today there's two point
16 one billion dollars (\$2.1 billion) estimated to do that
17 widening.
18

19 And we can't really -- I'm not a cheerleader for
20 CalTrans, but we can't blame it all on the past because that
21 freeway was done -- I'm referring to -- was put there a long
22 time ago when there wasn't much around it. And then the
23 communities developed around the freeway. And so the two point
24 one billion has a lot to do with relocation costs, eminent
25 domain, buying up of property, cities losing tax producing

6

7

1 retailers along the freeway. And that's, that's, that's -- the
2 cost has escalated. But we can say now because of things like
3 that, that we are aware of what can happen. And you read the
4 letter from CalTrans --

7

5 MR. ADAMICK: Uh-huh.

6 COMMISSIONER REW: -- dated January 30?

7

7 MR. ADAMICK: Uh-huh.

8 COMMISSIONER REW: You have any reaction to that? Can
9 you, can you allay my fears in anyway about the closeness to
10 this development and the SR126 --
11

7

12 MR. ADAMICK: Well --

13 COMMISSIONER REW: -- in the future. Now, the letter
14 mentioned something about the ten year study versus the twenty
15 year study. Any reaction to that letter and any reaction to my
16 fears.

7

17 MR. ADAMICK: We have had several meetings with
18 CalTrans, and there's actually I don't want to say two studies,
19 but there -- in a sense have been studies that we've been going
20 back and forth with CalTrans on. The initial study which is the
21 Landmark traffic study certainly tiers off of what was done for
22 Newhall Ranch. And we have been working with CalTrans on the
23 Landmark study because there are specific improvements that are
24 required within the State Route 126 right-of-way that need to be
25 built in conjunction with Landmark.

1 At the same time though we've been working with
2 CalTrans on really a feasibility study that incorporates all of
3 the development west of I5 as well as future growth to
4 understand what the full build out of State Route 126 needs to
5 be. And what CalTrans has indicated to us is that 126, at least
6 along the Landmark frontage and along most of the Newhall Ranch
7 frontage, will likely end up being an express way. And we
8 should dedicate sufficient right of way to accommodate that.
9 All this is based upon a joint consolidated traffic model, and I
10 think the difference between today versus twenty-five or thirty
11 years ago is we have a pretty good handle on what's going to be
12 developed in the Santa Clarita Valley in light of the SOR
13 initiative, what's going to be developed in Ventura County and
14 Commerce and everything else. And that all goes into this joint
15 consolidated traffic model. And when we're looking at a roadway
16 like State Route 126, we're looking at building it at a
17 sufficient size to accommodate that mythical build out.

19 You know, and I think that's probably a lot different
20 than what was done back in the 60's and 70's where they didn't
21 have a lot of information on planned growth. They didn't have
22 this, you know, an active skag of the world, they didn't have
23 traffic models, they didn't have a lot of these things. And my
24 recollection at least on 126 is we are building a roadway that
25 will accommodate about 75,000 ADT, average daily trips, at build

1 out. If you compare that to lets say Interstate 5 through
2 portions of the Santa Clarita Valley, lets say north of 126, I
3 believe the build out there in Interstate 5 is about 270,000
4 ADT.

5 So clearly you can see that State Route 126 doesn't
6 rise to the interstate level like an I5 or something else, and
7 we are dealing with build out volumes when we're talking about
8 these improvements. So hopefully that allays your concerns, but
9 we have spent a lot of time working with CalTrans and we'll
10 continue to do that. And as I indicated last time, the
11 advantage for us is we control the right-of-way. So whatever
12 they need, we will provide.

14 COMMISSIONER REW: Thank you.

15 CHAIR VALADEZ: Commission Modugno.

16 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Along
17 the same lines, Mr. Adamick, Newhall Land and Farming is the
18 largest land owner and the largest developer in Santa Clarita
19 Valley. And yet there are other developers and other public
20 developments. And while you've put forth resources and put in
21 infrastructure as you're building, that infrastructure often
22 times is gobbled up by other development that takes place.
23 Unlike Irvine Ranch in the City of Irvine where Irvine Ranch
24 owned everything, an infrastructure gets put in place and then
25 no one else or very few others are taking advantage of that

8

1 infrastructure. You've just completed development of West
2 Ridge. West Ridge High School gets put in. The Hart High
3 School District is now struggling. It's an overcrowded
4 situation because of the development that occurs in Castaic, and
5 Castaic high school is not being built because we're waiting for
6 additional funds and fees to come in.

7
8 Just review for me briefly the planning stages because
9 Newhall Ranch at full build out, you will provide full turn-key
10 schools throughout. However, you're going to need to rely upon
11 high schools at the very beginning because this phrase of it
12 isn't building a high school. It's building an elementary
13 school. And yet you've got to rely on a school that may or may
14 not have been built as you start selling the first homes. What
15 plans do you have in working with the Hart High School District
16 or the Castaic School Districts to sort of make sure that the
17 high school pressure is taken off of the area so that kids
18 coming in newly to Landmark aren't having to be bussed over to
19 Golden Valley or Canyon or someplace else and that overcrowding
20 just escalates the high school and junior high school levels?

21 MR. ADAMICK: We, we do a lot of coordination on a
22 very regular basis with all of the school districts. And as I
23 indicated last time, we have full mitigation agreements with all
24 of the districts. And typically in most cases for us we have
25 the ability to mitigate those impacts on our property, and it's

8

1 envisioned at least initially in 2009, 2010 that any junior or
2 senior high school students generated from lets say Landmark
3 until the Newhall Ranch high school is built would likely go to
4 a West Ranch. West Ranch and Rancho Pico junior high school
5 were not built but were paid for by Lennar, who is our owner.
6 And our agreements, though they don't require the school
7 district maintains the absolute authority at the end on where
8 kids go, do encourage that our kids go to schools that we built
9 as part of mitigation for the impacts of our development.
10

11 Certainly the Castaic issue is of concern to us. You
12 know, we would like to see that high school come online at about
13 the same time that the initial phases of Newhall Ranch come
14 online because that then provides I guess an easier opportunity
15 for our kids to go to West Ranch until the Newhall Ranch high
16 school is constructed. But I don't know if there's really an
17 easy answer to the question. I think we continue to stay
18 focused and coordinate with the districts to ensure that when we
19 bring homes online, that there is available capacity at the
20 schools to accommodate those.
21

22 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Would there be an opportunity
23 for advancing of funds to complete a high school and then a
24 credit taken so that Newhall Ranch or that gets built would be
25 built with other funds? I mean I think what the community is
looking at right now is a very egregious situation where there

9

1 is overcrowding, not necessarily created by the works that
2 Newhall Land and Farming has done, but the fact that smaller
3 developments have taken advantage of the schools which are being
4 built; may or may not pay -- while I'm not sure they're paying
5 their full fees, but those fees are accumulating until
6 sufficient moneys are available to then build that next high
7 school.

8
9 And yet as you start building homes and start
10 generating student population, I think the buyers of those homes
11 would certainly like to know that their children have a seat at
12 a local school and not going to have to either go to a very
13 overcrowded school or be at the mercy of the school district to
14 be bussed somewhere or be told, gee, there's no place for you to
15 go. So unless you're building complete turn-key schools -- and
16 again as you build those turn-key schools, often times you may
17 fill a third of that school or two thirds of it may be bottled
18 up by neighboring communities based upon how that school
19 district works its boundaries. But I think I would like to have
20 some assurance or at least some comfort level going in that
21 Castaic high school will be built by the time you're occupying
22 your first homes so the that the pressure that's generated from
23 Castaic students is locally relieved.

24
25 So if there's a shortfall in terms of building that
school, maybe there's a mechanism that's in place as you're

1 starting to build houses to work with the school district doing
2 some advance funding and that funding then is taking some
3 credits elsewhere. I don't know if those types of agreements
4 are workable within the school district or if there's even
5 interest. But clearly you have a crisis situation right now on
6 the west side of Santa Clarita Valley as far as high school is
7 concerned.

8
9 MR. ADAMICK: I, I -- you know, I think we're more
10 than happy to work with the Hart District to address that issue
11 as it relates to Landmark. I think, Commissioner Modugno, you
12 may have seen an article recently about Supervisor Antonovich
13 recommending another site for consideration up in Castaic, and
14 that was really something that we along with the Fifth District
15 talked about and that is the Castaic Mesa property. So I think,
16 you know, Newhall Land is certainly committed to that issue.
17 And to the point of even offering up a piece of property as an
18 opportunity for a high school to happen sooner up in Castaic.

19 So -- I mean I -- we will certainly work with the Hart
20 District, you know, between now and any type of final
21 recommendation from the Commission to try to address that issue
22 or provide some sort of strategy to address that issue. Our
23 initial discussions though have kind of been based upon the fact
24 that Castaic would be up and operating when we generated a fair
25

9

1 amount, amount of students in Landmark Village. But we'll
2 certainly sit down with them and see what other ideas we have.

3 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Thank you.

4 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you. Any other -- any
5 additional questions? Okay. Thank you very much.

6 We're now beginning the public testimony. I'm going to be
7 looking at some hands. Now, I'm going to ask for some hands.
8 Those of you who will be testifying in support of this matter,
9 if you would please raise your hands please so that we can see
10 how many persons we have here. Okay. Those of you who will be
11 testifying with respect to concerns or issues with respect to
12 this project, if you could raise your hands please. Okay. I'm
13 going to begin with those persons who are supporting the
14 project. We have -- if you could come forward please two at a
15 time.
16

17 (Commissioner Modugno and Chair Valadez Confer)

18 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. That's right. I have to
19 welcome a whole grouping of people while these people -- while
20 these persons come forward. If you could come forward and take
21 a seat. I understand that we had a large group of people who
22 entered during the testimony. In order for you to testify
23 today, you need to be sworn in whether it's on this particular
24 case or on another case. So those of you have come in and are
25 new, if you are going to be testifying today, if you could

1 please stand so I can swear you in. Everyone who wants to
2 testify and has not been sworn in, please stand and raise your
3 right hand. Raise your right hand.

4 (Swearing in public)

5 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Thank you very much. Please be
6 seated. You'll have three minutes. If you could begin your
7 testimony, please, and then sign in afterwards. Okay. Begin
8 with your name and address.

9 MS. ROBERTS: Connie Warden Roberts. Address --

10 CHAIR VALADEZ: Excuse me. Just a second.

11 MR. HAFETZ: Commissioner Valdez, I was just going to
12 remind the Commission to see if there are any ex parte
13 communications.
14

15 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: We already checked.

16 CHAIR VALADEZ: We asked that question earlier.

17 MR. HAFETZ: Sorry.

18 CHAIR VALADEZ: That's okay. Okay.

19 MS. ROBERTS: Again Connie Warden Roberts. Address
20 27075 Little Field Drive in Valencia. I'm here today to speak
21 on the issue of Landmark Village. Also, I should recognize or
22 indicate that I'm Michael Antonovich's appointee to North County
23 Transportation Coalition and I also chair the transportation
24 committees for the chamber of commerce and also the industrial
25 associations in the Valley. But again my presence today is to

10

1 speak on behalf of the Landmark Village which is the first
2 village of four planned at -- in the specific plan and will
3 inaugurate a new community.

4 The specific plan had many years of review, comment
5 and scrutiny and the Board of Supervisors adopted it in 2003.
6 The -- importantly today Newhall Land has a history of careful
7 and thoughtful planning and is known as a developer who builds
8 as promised. And as a thirty year resident of Valencia, I can
9 attest to that. Transportation of course is an important issue,
10 and Newhall Land has already started some of the infrastructure
11 as -- and as the villages are built, major new roads are planned
12 and will be constructed.

13
14 Newhall Land is a part of the coalition of interest
15 focused on the Interstate 5 freeway and their leadership has
16 been and is commendable. The Interstate 5 is a much bigger
17 project than just Santa Clarita Valley, but there is focus on it
18 today and plans are underway to add truck lanes and an HOV lane.
19 Four point five billion dollars (\$4.5 billion) was allocated
20 from the state towards some of those improvements just this
21 year. Perhaps Metrolink service will extend the 126 Corridor
22 and the Santa Clarita Valley already has three Metrolink
23 stations and Newhall Land has reserved the right-of-way in
24 Landmark. Thank you for your time.
25

CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much. You can begin.

1 MR. MANKIN: My name is Larry Mankin, 26115 McBean
2 Parkway, Unit 1 in Valencia. My name is Larry Mankin. I'm
3 president and CEO of the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of
4 Commerce. Our chamber is the largest business association in
5 the -- in our region. And as a matter of fact we're I think the
6 largest member based organization is L.A. County now. We
7 represent in excess of 1,800 business members in the Santa
8 Clarita Valley. Some people have tried -- and I'm here today,
9 by the way, to speak on behalf and support of this project.
10 Some people have tried --
11

11

12 CHAIR VALADEZ: Just a minute. Just a minute. If you
13 could leave your chair for the next person to testify.

14 MS. ROBERTS: Sure.

15 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you. And if the next person
16 could please come forward. Sorry to interrupt you.

17 MR. MANKIN: No, that's fine. Thank you. Some people
18 have tried to call Newhall Ranch and its villages sprawl. Our
19 association definitely believes it is not sprawl. It's a
20 logical place for new development. A project that is near major
21 infrastructure including a strong and growing job base and
22 development of three -- and development on three sides of this
23 project.
24

11

25 Landmark Village, the first Newhall Ranch
neighborhood, is conveniently located to a Valencia Commerce

1 Center, part of the gateway, which now has about sixty thousand
2 jobs in it. It is planned to compliment that business park with
3 homes, services and new recreation. The specific plan for
4 Newhall Ranch took into account the need for affordable housing
5 which is so critical for our growing employer community;
6 creating 20,000 new permanent jobs and additional business
7 parks, funding and sites for public facilities like fire
8 stations, schools and new roads and other infrastructure.
9 Newhall Ranch is needed to continue the economic development
10 scene in the Santa Clarita Valley. Well planned homes, more
11 jobs, more retail while preserving nearly 7,000 of national
12 resources will help the Santa Clarita Valley continue its role
13 as a corporate location for the Los Angeles County regional
14 business community. Thank you.

15
16 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much. If you could
17 begin with your name ask address please.

18 MR. LEBECKI: My name is Mike Lebecki. I'm a real
19 estate agent out in the Santa Clarita Valley at 25101 The Old
20 Road, 91381. I've nothing prepared, but I've been a real estate
21 agent out in Santa Clarita for twenty years, and I know Pat from
22 my involvement with the YMCA, which we're both on the same board
23 together. I've lived in the Santa Clarita Valley for many, many
24 years. I commute to the Santa Clarita Valley now down the
25 highway that you guys are talking about, the 126, from Ventura.

11

12

1 And I want to talk about for a second just the Valencia of the
2 past that we all know, Pat certainly knows, that on the other
3 side of the freeway they did -- as Connie said, they built as
4 promised.

5 The infrastructure that's there, they said they were
6 going to put, they did put. We had opposition, kind of like you
7 guys will hear later, within our planning commission, within our
8 city and anything that they built you would have heard from them
9 was going to be the worse thing since, since I don't know what.
10 But when Newhall Land finally did prevail and brought to us the
11 mall, brought to us paseos, brought to us parks, brought to us
12 shopping, I've never had such a happy community as Valencians.
13 In the business I've moved more people into Valencia from within
14 the Santa Clarita Valley than out of Valencia to other parts of
15 the Santa Clarita Valley. That's not to say there aren't swell
16 parts of the other parts of the Santa Clarita Valley. It's just
17 a testimonial to what Newhall Land did over the years in
18 Valencia itself.

19
20 Pat brings up a great point that's out of my scope of
21 perspective, I don't have children in the Santa Clarita Valley
22 or elsewhere. I'm just talking about how folks live day to day
23 out in Santa Clarita in the Valencia corridors. They're,
24 they're happy folks out there. So I see no reason with Lennar
25 now running the show that anything would be any different

12

1 because you guys are custodial of what they do just like the
2 planning commission was for what Newhall Land did at the time.
3 So thumbs up from this real estate agent. Thank you.

4 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very many for your
5 testimony. We are going to be taking a break now for about five
6 minutes. So if you could wait until then, we'll begin again
7 with the testimony of those who have issues and concerns. Thank
8 you.

9
10 (Break was Taken)

11 CHAIR VALADEZ: Please be seated. Check your cellular
12 phones to make sure they're not on. Thank you very much. We'll
13 now begin. We'll reconvene and begin with those persons who
14 have issues or concerns with respect to the matter that we are
15 now hearing. If you could come forward two at a time. Take the
16 two seats that are directly in back -- also be filled. As soon
17 as a seat is available, please come forward and fill that seat.
18 You have three minutes. Gentlemen, if you could sit down
19 please. Okay. The first one will begin your testimony, second
20 one will sign in during that period of time. You can sign in
21 after you give your testimony.

22 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Madam Chair, honorable
23 commissioners. My name is Garry George.

24 CHAIR VALADEZ: Let me, let me just clarify my --
25 okay. You can sit in the front row. We're not allowed to have

1 people standing. So you can come forward and take your seat in
2 the front row area and then as soon as seat is available, you
3 can come forward. Thank you.

4 MR. GEORGE: You're welcome. My name is Garry George.
5 I'm executive director of Los Angeles Audubon society and I'm on
6 the Board of Audubon California. We take special interest in
7 the Santa Clara River and in this area of this development
8 because it's one of the identified nationwide Audubon important
9 bird areas, and it's actually critical -- one of the critical
10 conservation efforts for us. So we look very closely at this.

13

12 As you know we've submitted a fifteen page letter. I
13 don't know if you saw that in comment to the draft EIR. I hope
14 you had a chance to read it. We identified thirteen sensitive

14

15 species that we felt were completely overlooked. I understand
16 today from your staff and from Glenn that there was a letter
17 written from the environmental consultant to the commissioners
18 regarding three of those species, and we'd like to suggest that
19 if there is more information or studies on those species that
20 they be included in the EIR and submitted for public comment so
21 that we can see what that research was or what those surveys
22 were or what those conclusions were and what mitigation might be
23 planned.

15

24 We ask that the Commission please withdraw this EIR or
25 ask applicant to withdraw the EIR and do the adequate impacts of

16

1 the development on the birds of that area and then resubmit the
2 EIR for public comment. Thank you very much.

16

3 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much. Are there any
4 questions? Thank you. You can begin your testimony.

5 MR. WATERS: Yes. I'm Rich waters at 4224 Lincoln
6 Avenue in Culver City. I would just like to comment for the
7 Board's edification about the history of the Newhall Land
8 Company. Twenty years ago Santa Clarita used to be a beautiful
9 place until the Newhall Land started selling off their parcel
10 and started developing. They went from the number one school
11 district to way down, down on the bottom of the school districts
12 in California. They -- not only that, but they in there other
13 developments have walled in and cemented in the Santa Clarita
14 River when they were not allowed to and they were fined a
15 pittance. And they considered -- just considered that operating
16 expenses.
17

17

18 I bring this all up to you to let you know that some
19 of the testimony that they perhaps have made is not exactly the
20 truth. Not only that, but they've cooked the books as far as
21 the water is concerned in the districts -- in those districts
22 that have plenty of waters for these projects when actually they
23 didn't and they stacked the board at the water district in order
24 to, in order to make these false claims.
25

1 So I just want you to -- when you hear Newhall give
2 their claim and give their statistics, keep in the back of your
3 mind this may not be the truth. Thank you very much.

17

4 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you, Mr. Waters. Any questions?
5 You can begin your testimony with your name and address please.

6 MS. DUETRA: My name is Dawn Duetra. I'm -- I am
7 located at 11606 Adobe Way; Agua Dulce, California. And I've
8 been a resident -- a Santa Clarita resident for thirteen years.
9 In that time I've seen oaks decimated, our own orange groves
10 just total ripped out and destroyed, Santa Clarita -- Santa
11 Clara tributaries molested if not totally eradicated. Every day
12 you open the paper you read about traffic issues, rolling
13 blackouts, wells going dry and animals being displaced to the
14 point that they are roaming in civilization. We cannot spare
15 anymore natural resources for an unneeded and greedy project
16 such as this.

18

18 Santa Clarita objected to two hundred trucks with CMEX
19 being put on our roads but yet they're willing to put now
20 thousands of cars on already overcrowded roadways and thousands
21 of more kids making our schools -- our schools overcrowded.
22 Trying to get through -- try getting through Bouquet Junction at
23 7:00 a.m. and then imagine 200 more cars added onto that.

19

24 I moved to the Santa Clarita Valley because it's not
25 L.A. because I wanted to be in a community that will not sell

20

1 itself out to emulate what I ran away from. I want my kids to
2 know what nature is by seeing it wild, not through glass and
3 stone. Thank you.

20

4 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much. You can begin
5 your testimony with your name and address.

6 MS. OSGOOD: My name is Eleanor Osgood. I live in
7 Culver City, and I'm here to talk about traffic and
8 transportation. In the testimony from the Newhall
9 representative I did not really hear any, any talking about
10 alternative modes of transportation. I heard about widening
11 freeways and addressing more cars that way. In this time of
12 climate crisis and our concerns about carbon dioxide emissions,
13 I think any new project especially a large project needs to be a
14 visionary and at this point it's not even a visionary. We know
15 what we need to do. We know we need to get people out of cars
16 into alternative forms of transportation. A new large community
17 development needs to be created that way and I don't see that
18 happening.
19

21

22

23

24

20 I don't see -- I don't hear about bike paths that are
21 at par with car lanes. I don't hear about public buses that
22 would be going to major areas that people go to for shopping or
23 recreation. I don't hear about shuttle buses. I don't hear
24 about electric car areas where you can go in an area in your
25 community, get on loan inexpensively an electric car and bop

25

1 around your community. I mean there's all kinds of ways to get
2 people off of the -- out of their cars.

25

3 I'd also like to see that the new developers be
4 responsible for public awareness campaigns and letting people
5 know that we have done these kinds of things as alternative
6 transportation and advertise them. And I think that's it. I
7 just --

26

8 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Ma'am, before you leave, I'm
9 sorry you weren't here at our meeting on January 31st. We had
10 an extensive discussion with the applicant on public
11 transportation. You would have learned that there is a set
12 aside on the parcel for a right-of-way for a Metrolink line to
13 run from the Santa Clarita Valley to Ventura. There was
14 extensive discussion about subsidies and activities with Santa
15 Clarita transit. There is currently a transit line that goes
16 from your neighborhood to my neighborhood -- that's line 792 --
17 that leaves around -- starts in West Los Angeles and goes to
18 Santa Clarita taking people there on a daily basis. There's
19 line 797 that brings people from Santa Clarita down to West Los
20 Angeles to Century City, to UCLA and Westwood. I take that bus
21 most days and often times it's standing room only.
22
23

24 So there was extensive discussion with them and the
25 applicant not only was holding the right-of-way reservation of a
Metrolink site for a station if the MTA would get to that

1 funding level, but more importantly the utilization of the
2 existing and expansion of the bus lines that take people in and
3 out of Santa Clarita Valley to Van Nuys, to downtown Los
4 Angeles, to Woodland Hills, to Orange Center and to West Los
5 Angeles by bus in addition to the trains that go through. We
6 had very extensive discussion about that. And unfortunately for
7 those of you who that were not here on January 31, we had a very
8 length discussion about this and many other issues with --
9 regarding this case. Thank you.

10
11 MS. OSGOOD: Okay. And I think --

12 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you.

13 MS. OSGOOD: -- advertising and community awareness
14 always makes a difference and that hasn't happened throughout
15 Southern California.

26

16 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Perhaps not in Culver City, but
17 it does in Santa Clarita.

18 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you.

19 MS. FORD: Hi. My name is Sharon Ford and I'm not
20 only a concerned citizen but I am a member of a number of
21 environmental groups such as Sierra Club and San Fernando Valley
22 Audubon. My big concern has to do with the lost of space --

27

23 open space and habitat and the Santa Clara River. This land is
24 mostly between the SR126 and the Santa Clara River. Nearly 751
25 acres of natural habitat will be destroyed to find dirt to fill

28

1 in the river flood plain, widen SR126 and build connecting roads
2 for future developments. We need to realize that fifteen
3 species are lost every single day. And each time we lose a
4 species, bio diversity changes in that area forever. We will
5 not be able to gain this open space back. Once it's gone for
6 development, it's gone.

28

29

7 My concern about the Santa Clara River is that any
8 kind of chemicals, pesticides, whatever used for landscaping the
9 homes, the businesses and whatever will end up polluting the
10 Santa Clara River which is a riparian habitat. And I think -- I
11 mean even with -- even if they controlled things from
12 sprinklers, we can't help it when it rains and we have, you
13 know, good down pours. This stuff is going to be flushed into
14 the Santa Clara River and stuff is going to end up going to the
15 ocean. So my concern is the lost of open space because we have
16 to do something about this.

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18 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much for coming and
19 testifying. If you could begin your testimony please.

20 MS. NOLTEMEYER: Cam Noltemeyer, 25936 Sardinia Court,
21 Valencia. I live in Valencia Summit. I'm here representing
22 Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment. I'm a
23 board member. I'm speaking with regarding to the school crisis
24 in our community. You as representatives here have a Los
25 Angeles County Development Monitoring System, DMS. That system

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1 requires that schools, libraries, roads, et cetera be in place,
2 in place. Schools should be adequate to serve the additional
3 housing units without reducing the existing level of service
4 provided to existing students.

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5 I just gave you a copy of a recent newspaper article
6 in our community where the Castaic students are to attend
7 Valencia high. Hundreds of people have been attending these
8 meetings and the Hart District is having to say we don't have
9 adequate schools, we haven't built your Castaic high school.
10 And if you really look at the numbers it's -- where is the money
11 to even build that Castaic high school. But West Ranch was
12 built three years ago. It is already overcrowded and that is
13 the school that Newhall Land is talking about sending their kids
14 to. The people are already saying it's affecting -- the kids
15 are the ones that are losing. The Hart District has been unable
16 to adequately provide school capacity for the children that are
17 already there and you keep approving more and more. That's your
18 responsibility. The schools are supposed to be there.

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20 This particular developer has charged the Santa
21 Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment of trying
22 to stop schools. Nothing could be further from the truth. Rio
23 Norte school was built. What SCOPE was trying to address was
24 the water issue, but they also addressed something that even the
25 department of toxic substance failed to address and that school

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1 was being built within -- we have narrowed it down, the
2 department of toxic substance, to 600 feet from a sewage sludge
3 site. That is the time of sites that are being given for school
4 sites. We also have Golden Valley high school next to a brown
5 field and hazardous testing facility.

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6 So what you have to look at is not only are they
7 adequate schools, but where are they offering the land for these
8 schools. Is it really a proper place for a school. We are
9 finding that more and more schools are be placed in the very
10 worse places, are being used --

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12 CHAIR VALADEZ: Excuse me.

13 MS. NOLTEMEYER: I'm sorry.

14 CHAIR VALADEZ: You need to finish.

15 MS. NOLTEMEYER: -- being used to create development.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much.

18 MS. ANDERSON: Hi. My name is Eileen Anderson and I'm
19 a botanist with the California Native Plant Society. And the
20 Native Plant Society is opposed to Landmark Village as proposed
21 because of its recognized significant impacts to native plants.
22 Not only in Landmark Village partially within SEA 23, it's also
23 wholly within an internationally recognized bio diversity hot
24 spot. The county has an opportunity to realize a truly
25 sustainable project that's less detrimental to the world-class

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1 vegetation than the project as proposed. The project is simply
2 not ready to go yet.

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3 The EIR is premature because the state and federal
4 permits process is barely started much less completed.. The EIR
5 fails to provide all of us important information to fully
6 understand the impacts and proposed mitigations. This is an
7 egregious violation of CEQA. For instance, mitigation measures
8 that help offset impacts rely on plans that have yet to be
9 devised.

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10 So what plans are missing? Well, I counted at least
11 eight of them. There's no oak resource replacement plan.
12 There's no slender mariposa lily restoration plan. There's no
13 San Fernando Valley spine flower plan. There's no revegetation
14 plan for the numerous riparian and wetland plant communities.
15 There's no irrigation plan or landscape plan. So we can't
16 figure out how those will affect the native vegetation. There's
17 no habitat enhancement plan. There's no wild fire fuel
18 modification plan either. These plans are all essential parts
19 of the CEQA review process yet they're absent. How can we
20 evaluate the -- the efficacy and adequacy of the mitigations?
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22 The Native Plant Society is particularly concerned
23 about the fuel modification plan. During scoping, we ask that
24 the fuel modification zones be included within the footprint of
25 the project because of its detrimental impacts to native

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1 vegetation. Instead it appears that the fuel modification will
2 blitz buffer zones that have been proposed to protect the
3 natural resources.

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4 In conclusion the EIR is inadequate and violates
5 CEQUA. We urge the planning Commission to send the document
6 back to the applicant to be completed. Thank you very much.

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7 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you. Thank you for coming. You
8 can begin your testimony.

9 MS. WAMPOLE: Good morning. My name is Barbara
10 Wampole, and thank you very much, Chair and Commissioners, for
11 your attention and the extension of the comment period. The
12 Newhall Ranch master plan incorporates a right-of-way for a
13 Metrolink track and station, but the plan is not predicated on
14 their timely construction. Thus Landmark Village will be
15 another typical land locked subdivision unless you require the
16 implementation of the train line now.

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18 The momentum to build west of I5 has been assured by
19 your previous approval. Newhall Lennar is a premiere vendor and
20 the county's own statistic show explosive growth in the area.
21 Unless the tracks are restored now, you are inviting further
22 delays in the future as the urban build out takes hold of the
23 precious real estate required. The costs to the community will
24 clime to astronomical levels. We don't want to wait until the
25 bill falls to us by way of state or federal funding sources.

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The intergovernmental panel on climate change with scientist from a hundred and twelve nations and the United States issues its account on what is now the unequivocal science of climate change. Its purpose is to remove contentious and uncertain findings and nail down the basic narrative of climate change in a way that stifles the squawking of the skeptics and puts the squeeze on governments still looking for excuses for inaction. The County of Los Angeles of the now take action to limit the impacts on the climate of Newhall Ranch and the Landmark Village. Alternative transportation such as Metrolink and community bike trails must be provided from the beginning. And that is to say commuting bike trails, not just community. But ways that people can actually get someplace efficiently, not just meander through a community for recreational purposes from the beginning and not at some indeterminate future.

Structures should be required to be built green with low energy consumption. Landscaping and amenities should be limbed to those with minimum water needs. Tax credits for the local -- for local employment could be issued to encourage a favorable jobs to housing ratio. Sounds like an unusual thing. I don't know if it happens anywhere else, but that's what we're suggesting. Mandatory recycling programs should be instituted for business and not just residences. All over the county I watch restaurants everyday throw out glass by the, by the tons.

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1 The recycling in the county could be changed. Wind generation,
2 solar power incentives should be added informative (phonetic).
3 The applicant should be -- provide detailed projections of the
4 energy needs of the project before the approval. And I just
5 want to thank you very much.

6 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much, Ms. Warm pole.

7 MS. PLAMBECK: Lynne Plambeck, Santa Clarita
8 Organization For Planning in the Environment. I just want to
9 start by saying that Newhall Land, of course, is really not
10 Newhall Land anymore. It's the wholly owned -- wholly owned
11 company of Lennar Corporation, which is the nationwide builder.
12 They don't really -- they haven't had a long reputation in the
13 Santa Clarita Valley and some of the reputation they do have
14 isn't very cool.

15 I want to talk about consistency and compliance with
16 the general plan and specifically the development monitoring
17 system which is a planned amendment that was passed in 1987.
18 And every development that comes before you in an urban
19 expansion area, which Santa Clarita is an urban expansion area,
20 is required to be consistent with that portion of the general
21 plan and this project is not. In the review that I did finally
22 of the appendices, we found that instead of doing the services
23 analysis as is required by the development monitoring system,
24 only the number ever units for each service territory was
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1 provided not what -- normally what is found in that development
2 monitoring system printout is existing service level, what will
3 be added by recorded projects, planned and approved projects not
4 yet built and then the new project is added to it to see if the
5 infrastructure is sufficient.

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6 This is very important in growth area like Santa
7 Clarita to ensure that the infrastructure is there for all the
8 residents and the existing residents as well. It's not fair
9 that new residents are put on top without adequate services. In
10 our comments we talked about schools, water supply. We talked
11 about sheriff services. There's an issue with leapfrogging with
12 sewer service expansion unless they build that plant. If they
13 have to expand a sewer line over a mile and a half, that's then
14 a leapfrog project into a rural area and there's an issue with
15 consistency of your general plan in that respect as well. And I
16 think it's important that this project address those issues in
17 the EIR so that's fully disclosed to you before you make your
18 decision.
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20 In addition to that we were concerned that they really
21 have not complied with the county's iteration of water reporting
22 under SB 610 and SB 221. For the specific plan only SB 610
23 disclosures were required. That's a state law that came into
24 effect to ensure adequate water supply, and it came into effect
25 in 2002. The county set up a plan that they would require that

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1 and specific plan in SB 221 verification at tract map. They did
2 not supply you with SB 221. Those requirements require you --
3 the disclosure of contracts and all of the completed CEQA
4 analysis to provide water infrastructure to ensure the water is
5 really there.

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6 And there was recently a Supreme Court decision that I
7 think is important that your legal department analyze for you in
8 respect to this proposal before you and that's the Vineyard
9 decision. I'm sure you're familiar with that. But I think it
10 would behoove this Commission to request a presentation on that
11 decision. Thank you.

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12 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you. Thank you very much. If
13 you could begin with your name and address.

14 MS. SQUIRES: Okay. Good morning. My name is
15 Katherine Squires and I live at 26800 Espuma Drive in Saugus. I
16 believe that this project is very poorly plan for numerous
17 reasons. [Mostly because the existing infrastructure just simply
18 cannot support this develop. There are many reasons why
19 including the fact that it will add approximately 357,000
20 traffic trips a day onto our freeways and roads. I left hours
21 early this morning and I was late in regards to the traffic just
22 as one example.

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23 As a lifelong resident of the Santa Clarita Valley and
24 the local elementary school teacher, I see the results of
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1 worsening air pollution as the number of students in my
2 classrooms with asthma increases each year. Also the schools in
3 my valley open overcrowded. For example, Tesoro one of our
4 newest schools had children attending not in classrooms in some
5 cases, but in closed down computer labs and in hallways and
6 center aisles which I just believe is absolutely unacceptable.
7 And by the way I never take days off from teaching, but I'm here
8 because I care that much about what's happening to the children
9 in our valley.

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11 Also, the location of the proposed development is an
12 active tectonic area which is on the same level of uplift as
13 that which created the Himalayan Mountains. And I can't imagine
14 what would happen to the people living in the proposed 21,000
15 units if there were to be an earthquake which is really not a
16 matter of if but when. The area is prone to landslides and it's
17 absolutely unbelievable to me that someone would build in an
18 area that is surrounded by faults with rock layers to the south
19 that are actually upside down due to the extreme tectonics in
20 the area. And this is a fact. It can be checked on any USGS
21 map.

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23 There are also additional environmental concerns
24 including the fact that you're talking about building on the
25 last wild river, the Santa Clara. There's also the negative
impact on endangered species in the area, the fact that there's

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1 a lack of water to support this project. And then I hear
2 speaking about, you know, token parks and things and how it
3 would be a happy place to live, but frankly that's not going to
4 solve the problem of vanishing natural open spaces. And once
5 gone they're gone forever. Thank you.

6 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you, Ms. Squires.

7 MS. SQUIRES: Uh-huh.

8 CHAIR VALADEZ: If you could begin with your name and
9 address please. Did you sign in, Ms. Squires?

10 MS. SAVAIKIE: My name is Teresa Savaikie. I live at
11 26724 Mocha Drive in Santa Clarita. We've had a lot of people
12 talk about the Santa Clara River and that's a great passion of
13 mine as it is my children's. It is Southern California's last
14 living river and I -- again I'm asking everybody to try and work
15 with the Nature Conservancy. Let's try to direct some sort of
16 positive changes to this project, maybe some sort of
17 acquisition. And I also don't believe that we should be rushing
18 this project along because the draft environmental impact report
19 hasn't even been yet released from the California Department of
20 Fish and Game or the Army Corps of Engineers, nor has they
21 received the necessary permits from Los Angeles Regional Water
22 Quality Control Board.
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25 So I'm not understanding what the big hurry is here
because the project may actually have to be changed once we

1 review that draft environmental impact report. And so I'm
2 thinking that maybe we should put this off. We might want to
3 think about waiting until those agencies have -- has released
4 that document, the public has had a chance to review and the
5 decisions are made. So I'm not -- I don't feel like we need to
6 rush this along.

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8 On another issue, the City of Santa Clarita spent --
9 has spent eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) of taxpayer dollars
10 to fight the CEMEX mining project. That eight million dollars
11 (\$8,000,000) was supposedly because they are quit interested in
12 the air quality and the impacts to the Santa Clarita Valley. I
13 think it's about 1,400 traffic trips that CEMEX would create

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14 daily. [Newhall Ranch, 357,000 additional traffic trips. I ask
15 you to really take this into consideration. I mean, the
16 hypocrisy is unbelievable. Part of our taxpayer dollars going
17 to fight the mining project which in turn supports all these
18 development out of the in Santa Clarita area.

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19 You know, we don't care how our air quality's damaged.

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20 It doesn't really matter whether it's a mining project or a

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21 housing development. [We need to put businesses in Santa Clarita
22 that support the people who live there. I said that the last
23 time I was here. We don't need people traveling into Santa
24 Clarita while we're having to travel out this sort of backwards
25 kind of balance. We need good paying jobs in the Valley, and --

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1 CHAIR VALADEZ: Just a second. Ms. Squires, we need
2 your chair. Sorry about that.

3 MS. SAVAIKIE: And we do have a deficit in parks out
4 in Santa Clarita. They're trying to pass a bond for a park
5 land. So we are not keeping up with the growth here in parks,
6 schools and any other things. Let me just say this:

7 I have three children in school. They're all being --
8 they're all having to go to a school out of my district -- I
9 mean -- they're supposed to be going to Emblem. They're all
10 supposed to be bussed to Tesoro. That bus trip is an hour and a
11 half. None of my kids are taking the bus because quite frankly
12 their time is a little too valuable to spend two or three hours
13 commuting in buses across the valley. It's absolutely
14 ridiculous. Now I have a 6th grade daughter who is going to
15 have to go to yet another school, be separated from the friends
16 she has made. I have a kindergartener who's going to have to go
17 back to another school, and I have a fourth grader who is going
18 to lose the friends that he's made and go back to another
19 school. So now all -- this is not what a community --
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21 CHAIR VALADEZ: You're speaking faster and faster.

22 MS. SAVAIKIE: I'm sorry. I just want to make sure I
23 get it out. But it's very unfair to my children. We move there
24 to be part of -- you know, be close to school and have
25 consistency in their life. It's very important for children to

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1 have consistency, ask we aren't creating that situation. And I
2 like the idea of building schools before development. I really
3 think that's what needs to happen. Thank you.

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4 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much.

5 MR. OHLENKAMP: My name is Kris Ohlenkamp. I live at
6 2367 Old Topanga Canyon Road in Topanga. I'm president of the
7 San Fernando Audubon Society and this project is in our

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8 territory. I second the motion to remove the EIR for this
9 project or to at least vote that you don't have enough
10 information to make a decision on this project based simply on
11 the fact that there is incomplete information in the EIR as
12 you've heard in the testimony today and last month both on

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13 cultural resources and biological resources. There are whole
14 groups of people and whole groups of plants and animals that
15 have been total ignored and not even looked at. They may have
16 been looked at, but they're certainly not included in the EIR.

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17 We'll never know if they were looked at because the consultants
18 who did the studies are not allowed to talk to the public or any
19 other, any other -- anybody other than their employers.

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20 Basically you've really already heard everything I
21 think you need to hear, but it's really an incomplete EIR and
22 that's what -- the reason that we suggest that you vote against
23 this project at this time. Thank you.

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24 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. Thank you very much.
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1 MS. FIMIANI: Hello. My name is Lisa Fimiani, and I'm
2 a member of Los Angeles Audubon, on their board as well as the
3 Friends of Ballona Wetlands. I participated in our of the five
4 Christmas bird counts up in the Santa Clara River Valley, and I
5 wanted to read a brief quote from Dan Cooper's Important Bird
6 Areas of California, something that Garry George also gave you a
7 short quote. In the description of the Santa Clara River
8 Valley, Dan states that the Santa Clara River is the longest
9 free flowing river in Southern California and is the only one
10 that extends from the desert to the coast. He goes on to say
11 portions of the intact low land riparian board -- bird community
12 of the Santa Clara River are teetering on the brink of disaster
13 particularly within Los Angeles County.

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15 Perhaps to sum up what I feel about the Santa Clara
16 River, I'd like to read a quote from a book, and this really
17 expresses the emotion I feel about this river. The quote is by
18 Terry Tempest Williams. It's from her book RED: Passion and
19 Patience in the Desert, and the caption is "Wild Mercy".

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20 "The eyes of the future are looking back at us and
21 they are praying for us to see beyond our own time.
22 They are kneeling with hands clasped that we might act
23 with restraint, that we might leave room for the life
24 that is destined to come. To protect what is wild is
25 to protect what is gentle. Perhaps the wildness we

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fear is the pause between our own heartbeats, the
silent space that says we live only by grace.
Wilderness lives by this same grace. Wild mercy is
our hands."

Thank you.

CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much, Ms. Fimiani. If
you could begin with your name and address.

MS. ROBINSON: Jennifer Robinson, 6348 Primrose
Avenue, Los Angeles, California; and I'm with the Sierra Club
Angeles Chapter. The Sierra Club is very concerned about many
issues, very specifically global warming and climate change. We
do lots of work to ensure water quality and have committees who
work on water quality, green buildings, air quality, global
warming, energy and renewable energy issues. We like to promote
public transportation and have a cool cities program to work --
to promote energy efficiency in new buildings.

Though Los Angeles city mayor recently signed onto the
cool cities programs with the Sierra Club that will require all
new buildings to live up to lead -- certain lead standards and
other energy efficiencies. We -- the county should ensure that
developers and their proposed developments address issues of
global warming and energy issues by ensuring solar panels, green
buildings and considering lead platinum or silver standards in
new buildings.

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1 Also public transportation, while there was some
2 discussion at the last meeting, I've heard a lot about school
3 concerns today and the fact that we're not building the schools
4 before we're putting in developments. And I agree that public
5 transportation should be seen in the same light and also issues
6 of water supply.

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7 CHAIR VALADEZ: Thank you very much for coming in
8 today. Okay. That concludes the public testimony. If we could
9 have the applicant come back with rebuttal, please. Thank you.
10 You have ten minutes.

11
12 MR. ADAMICK: Glen Adamick, 2323 Valencia Boulevard,
13 Valencia on behalf of --

14 CHAIR VALADEZ: You need to speak up a little louder
15 or move the, move the microphone maybe closer.

16 MR. ADAMICK: -- on behalf of Newhall Land. Well,
17 that was a short list but I will go ahead and go through and
18 group these things.

19 First and foremost there were comments made concerning
20 the Santa Clara River by several of the speakers. I think
21 Newhall Land is very proud of the preservation that we've done
22 in conjunction with our development along with the Santa Clara
23 River. We -- with the build out of the Newhall Ranch combined
24 with what we've done in Valencia, we'll have preserved and
25 dedicated as public open space nearly 2,000 acres the Santa

1 Clara River and the river corridor. And I think that's a very
2 important fact. In regards to concerns from Audubon --

3 CHAIR VALADEZ: I don't think this microphone is
4 working. We can't hear, and there's no way you can be heard.

5 (Crosstalk among Commissioners)

6 MR. ADAMICK: Is this better?

7 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes.

8 MR. ADAMICK: All right. In regards to concerns cited
9 by Audubon, I think the memorandum that was included within the
10 Commission package clearly addresses the issues that were cited
11 in that Audubon letter. Several of the species that were
12 indicated as special status species are not on any fish and
13 wildlife service list or fish and game list. Several of the
14 species that they asked for -- for surveys for have not been
15 observed in the fourteen years of surveys that have been
16 conducted on Newhall Ranch. And I think the EIR accurately
17 reflects that.
18

19 Concerning Newhall being a bad developer and cooking
20 books on water, I think Valencia speaks for itself. You know, I
21 am also, besides working for Newhall Land, a resident of the
22 valley since 1978, and I think Valencia is a fantastic place.
23 It's a place where I've chosen to, you know, start my family and
24 raise my kids and I think it speaks for itself.
25

1 In regards to water, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan
2 is really different from any other project in the Santa Clarita
3 Valley in the sense that the vast majority of the water that
4 will be used for the development consists of agricultural water
5 that is presently being used today. So as AG cycles out and
6 development occurs, it will go ahead and convert to municipal
7 and also an extensive reclaimed water program. And I would like
8 to see if any development in the state is utilizing reclaimed
9 water like Newhall Ranch will through its waste water treatment
10 plant for landscaped areas, for medians, for parks. So I think
11 on the water front Newhall Ranch is an example.

13 In regards to oaks, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan
14 includes the dedication of the High Country and Salt Creek
15 Corridor. The vast majority of the oaks on the Newhall Ranch
16 property are contained within those areas. There are about
17 20,000 oak trees on the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan cite, 16,000
18 are on property that's going to be dedicated as open space. We
19 are going to do the best that we possibly can to minimize
20 impacts and are even pursuing relocation of trees where we do
21 have impacts.

23 In regards to issues raised concerning schools, in
24 recent years Newhall Land has provided funding for the
25 construction of two junior high schools, two senior high
schools, I think a total of six elementary schools. We have

1 full mitigation agreements with the districts. We pay -- we
2 provide the land and pay for the construction of those schools.
3 And I think on the school front the valley -- and I think even
4 if I ask the school districts, the valley is much better off
5 than it was in the past. Certainly there is a Castaic issue,
6 but outside of that I think there has been a great deal of
7 effort to bring all the schools online as soon as possible.
8

9 The issue with having a school prior to development is
10 that the school districts don't want you to do that. The school
11 districts want a critical mass before they will open up a
12 school. An elementary school, for example, may be three to five
13 hundred students before they'll open that school up. So they
14 need that critical mass.

15 In regards to loss of open space and habitat, I think
16 in my presentation I indicated that nearly 7,000 acres of the
17 Newhall Ranch Specific Plan cite is being preserved in
18 perpetuity to minimize impacts associated with the development.
19 And that was in the Board's statement of overriding
20 consideration. As far as significant impacts to native plants,
21 again this goes back to the Board decision. The Board overrode
22 various impacts. Those included native plants and in overriding
23 those impacts, they cited the benefits associated with the
24 specific plan.
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1 There was an issue raised concerning resource
2 replacement plans, fuel mod plans, et cetera. Those are all
3 typically provided after a project is approved. The EIR does
4 provide performance criteria, standards and requirements. The
5 specific plan contains -- in its resource management plan,
6 contains a great deal of those requirements. So there is
7 sufficient information in the documentation that charts the
8 course on how we will implement those various programs and
9 plans.
10

11 In regards to transit issues, as Commissioner Modugno
12 indicated, outside of just improving roadways, we will be
13 constructing over fifty miles of trails. Those trails are both
14 within street, along major highway corridors to allow for
15 commuter access as well as our standard paseo systems. In
16 addition we will be part of Santa Clarita Transit and we will
17 pay founding as part of that program and we'll have access to
18 that program. We are talking with the city about transfer
19 stations on the west side. Those will likely occur, there will
20 probably be two of them. I think on the transit front we are
21 doing the best that we possibly can to get people out of cars.
22

23 I think the last factor there is when you look at
24 Newhall Ranch and Valencia combined at build out, we will have
25 created a hundred thousand jobs and about fifty thousand homes.
The bottom line to getting people out of cars and commuting to

1 L.A. is to continue to provide more and more jobs in the Santa
2 Clarita Valley and we're doing that.

3 There were questions raised concerning DMS analysis.
4 The EIR was done in accordance with county standards so I'm not
5 quite sure what those issues are. Concerning water reporting,
6 Valencia Water Company did do a 610 water supply analysis that
7 was provided as a part of the EIR.

8 I think one speaker mentioned some geotechnical
9 issues, faulting issues. Clearly earthquake faults are
10 prevalent throughout California. You know, Newhall Ranch is no
11 different than many other places in California. I guess the
12 difference being that the mitigation that's imposed on us as
13 part of development is much more stringent than what was
14 required in the past. And that will be implemented in
15 conjunction with Newhall Ranch.

16 As far as global warming and reducing our carbon
17 footprint, when I talked about our sustainability program, that
18 is our goal. We are, we are going to look at alternative energy
19 sources and incorporate those into Newhall Ranch. We are going
20 to incorporate green building standards into Newhall Ranch. We
21 are going to do that. You have our commitment. You're going to
22 be seeing a lot of us over the next couple of years as we move
23 forward with Newhall Ranch, and we will do that.
24
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1 I think in regards to air quality impacts an important
2 note is that the AQMD did a sub-regional plan for the Santa
3 Clarita Valley. And what they determined is that out of the two
4 primary pollutants, ozone and particulate matter, the vast
5 majority of those pollutants were being created outside of the
6 Santa Clarita Valley. In the case of ozone, it was about
7 ninety-eight percent. So bottom line is, is we are in the L.A.
8 basin, there is some topography and prevailing winds that blow a
9 lot of that up into the Santa Clarita Valley. If you had
10 nothing in the Santa Clarita Valley, you would have an ozone
11 problem.
12

13 I think that touches on most of the issues. I think I
14 got most of them. So unless there are any questions, I would, I
15 would hope that you would support the staff recommendation.
16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR VALADEZ: Do we have questions? Commissioner
18 Modugno.

19 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Mr. Adamick, the school
20 discussion that we had at the beginning of your presentation,
21 some comments which I heard from people, and you indicated that
22 there's expectation that Castaic high school will be built by
23 the time the occupants go into homes in Landmark. Would you
24 accept exploration of adding a condition to this that, if that
25 is not going to be online, that somehow or another Newhall Land

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1 and Farming will work with the Hart District to make that
2 happen? That either be it through a mechanism of advancing
3 funds to complete that construction. You've indicated some
4 exploration of an alternative cite that you might put it, but I
5 think it's critical that that school be in place and be open so
6 that there's not a further pressuring on the community as a
7 result of this development.

8
9 And I think it really sets a standards for the other
10 villages and other phases of Newhall Ranch to really put that
11 online; that roads are being built, schools are being built,
12 parks are being built to serve the project and if -- is not
13 after the construction of those areas that the developer is
14 going to make sure that those things take place. And I would
15 highly encourage and see if there's some way in which we can
16 come up with some condition for this project that the first
17 house doesn't take occupancy until at least Castaic high school
18 or a high school there is built.

19 MR. ADAMICK: We are -- as I indicated, we would be
20 more than willing to sit down with staff and the school district
21 and identify any type of, you know, alternative strategy to
22 what's proposed. The only request that I would have is that it
23 be worded in such a manner that Newhall will use its best
24 efforts. I think the issue at the end of day is we don't
25 control what the district wants to do. We can certainly try to

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1 encourage along with the county for them to go in a certain
2 direction, but we don't have an absolute there.

3 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Well, I know you don't. But
4 I'd like to have an agreement in place with the strongest sort
5 of language and a commitment on the part of the developer
6 without wiggle room out that the developer is committed to see
7 this happen.

8 MR. ADAMICK: Let's, let's see what we can come up
9 with staff and the district, but we -- I'll certainly commit to
10 that.

11 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Okay. I'd like to see that
12 part of the condition as we move forward.

13 The other piece and that's addressing the concept we
14 spoke about earlier as far as affordable housing. I spoke very
15 briefly with Commissioner Bellamy during the break and I just
16 gave an example. If -- while I recognize that people buy the
17 house based upon their income, in my years of serving on the
18 planning commission in Santa Clarita, you know, I saw a lot of
19 people figuring out how to beat the system. And they would
20 either switch jobs or go unemployed for whatever reason and then
21 suddenly they'd qualify and then a few years later they'd walk
22 out with a windfall profit and really didn't serve the broader
23 community sort of, sort of needs. If we come up with a type of
24 a pro rata scaling system -- for example, we've got an income
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1 qualification and that's verified and then you're able to then
2 stand in line and purchase a home. And that home sells for
3 let's say thirty percent below market is the target for moderate
4 income. Maybe it's lower than that for very low or something.

5 Then you've got that position and there was a thirty
6 percent discount from the market value of that house that, if
7 you're going to put a thirteen or fifteen year time period, that
8 gets to market in fifteen years but it gets there in stages. So
9 if the person sells that out three years out that -- at two
10 percent a year against that thirty percent, that if they sell
11 the house, the house has to be resold now not at the thirty
12 percent discount, but twenty-four percent discount to market.
13
14 So both the market and the individual share in a pro rata sort
15 of basis so that the new person coming in who buys that house is
16 buying it at a twenty-four percent discount qualifying again at
17 that moderate level is cheaper than they could get something
18 else or maybe there's a new house that they could qualify at the
19 full discount, but they've only got a certain number of years
20 left on that.

21 So it's not this sort of fall off point that what has
22 concerned me is at fifteen years hence and somebody goes -- you
23 know, if somebody's selling that house, they have no reason to
24 maintain the house in the same manner that the person is going
25 to fully want to participate. But that's just one sort of

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1 mechanism that I'd like to see built into this, and obviously
2 it's got to work with the -- the city and others. But I think
3 it's setting a model for future affordable sort of projects on a
4 sale basis that that has that sort of scaling.

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5 MR. ADAMICK: We're certainly open to doing that and
6 incorporating that into the affordable housing program.

7 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Great. Thank you.

8 CHAIR VALADEZ: Any other questions of the applicant?

9 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Madam Chair.
10

11 CHAIR VALADEZ: Yes, Commissioner Bellamy.

12 COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: I know that you spoke very
13 generally regarding alternative energy and building standards.
14 I would like for you to have specific language defined how
15 you're going to address green buildings. And one of the persons
16 that had concerns referred to solar panels. I would like for
17 you to refer not to solar panels but to the use of potable tay
18 (phonetic) cells and your commercial for sure municipal
19 buildings and possibly your residential if possible and also the
20 orientation of buildings utilizing passive solar. So I'd like
21 for that language to be in there. Thank you.

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22 CHAIR VALADEZ: Commissioner --

23 COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: On that note, I think we spoke
24 about -- Commissioner Helsley was here. In fact one of those
25 comments with that was even having a sustainable package in

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1 association with house as an option that you purchase -- you pay
2 more for the purchase price, but it's demonstrated to the buyer
3 here's the types of savings you might derive over the years;
4 that the passive solar system as it would relate to any
5 community pools that that be built into it to the extent to
6 which homeowners association building are built, those be built
7 to a -- at least silver level of, you know, your green sort,
8 sort of a area that there be encouraging -- encouragement there
9 for industrial buildings to be built.

10
11 And provide here are the types of standards. You
12 obviously can't force that if you're building the suit that you
13 might have something within. But it's a real level of an intent
14 on the part of this development to show that sustainability is
15 one of the focal points of this project.

16 MR. ADAMICK: If it's the Commission's desire, we'll
17 certainly work with staff. As I indicated, we are working with
18 our consultant team. But we will work with staff and when the
19 project is returned to the Commission if the hearing is closed,
20 we will incorporate a sustainability plan. It will be added to
21 the conditions.

22 CHAIR VALADEZ: Okay. What I'd like to do now is we
23 do have to take a break regularly in order to keep our staff
24 fresh and ready to go. So if we could have a five minute break
25 right now, and we'll be back in about five minutes.

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(Break was Taken)

CHAIR VALADEZ: We are now proceeding. If you could take your seats. We'd like to go back into session. Thank you very much. We're now to Commission discussion and possible action.

COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: Madam Chair, I appreciate the comments of all the people who have come out today and all the testimony we've had in writing and in earlier cases, and recognize that the Board of Supervisors has set in motion to approve the specific plan an outline that we are to follow moving forward as far as each of the components of Newhall Ranch are concerned.

I too live in Santa Clarita Valley and I enjoy living there. My family has lived there many years. One of my aunts will tell a story of being born in Sand Canyon and bussed to San Fernando because there were no high schools in the Santa Clarita Valley until Hart high school was built in 1945. So over the years obviously there has been tremendous expansion of that. I played as a child in the river, and have watched that river being closed in, modified, altered and yet there's still pieces of it that flow. They flow more today as a result of two treatment plants than they used to in the past.

We were standing on San Fernando road looking north as the water was a foot over the bridge of the river in the late

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1 1960's and recall my parents talking of the disaster that
2 occurred when the St. Francis Dam collapsed and drove massive
3 amounts of water and debris down the river. I also know that
4 the river has sort of an artificial environment with a whole lot
5 of bamboo that was used in filming to replicate the delta and
6 rivers of Vietnam, which clearly should not be a natural state
7 of affairs on a river but that's sort of artificial creation
8 that's put on a river. So, you know, sensitivity to that river
9 is strong with all of us who live in Santa Clarita Valley. And
10 we have varying views in terms of how that river should work and
11 how it should flow and et cetera.

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13 A great concern over schools, and I appreciate the
14 fact that the applicant has a willingness to look at a strongly
15 worded condition as we can possibly have to ensure that there
16 will be schools before there are houses sold because we need to
17 have that. And again, it's building our way out of an
18 infrastructure deficit. I wish we had greater control over
19 CalTrans and to do something with the I5. That is the one piece
20 of the equation that has always been the difficult one and one
21 that the City of Santa Clarita in and of itself in northern
22 county can have any control or influence on.

24 Because of the number of issues that were brought
25 forward this morning, because of the concerns about is there
full completeness within the draft EIR, because of issues we've

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1 raised in terms of sustainability -- we want to see some
2 language specifically towards that and some language toward
3 affordability. The normal course of action that we have is to
4 indicate our intent tint to approve close -- close the public
5 hearing, indicate our intent to approve -- close the public
6 hearing and indicate our intent to approve and have -- come back
7 with final documents. I would suggest we do something
8 differently this morning with this case.
9

10 And what I suggest we do is close the public hearing.
11 I think as far as the matter of input we've had is sufficient at
12 this point in time. I'd like staff then to come back with the
13 final EIR for us to review and write conditions reflecting the
14 comments both of this meeting that have come from the
15 Commission, those areas where we've had some concurrence with
16 the applicant as far as affordability, as far as the high
17 school, as far as the sustainability; the green sort of language
18 that we'd like to see incorporated and give us a chance then to
19 review that language, those conditions and the final EIR before
20 we ultimately approve this and pass it onto the Board of
21 Supervisors if that's the direction we're going to take.
22

23 So it's rather than indicating an intent to approve
24 this morning, what I'd like to do is to put on the table a
25 motion, move that we close the public hearing, direct staff to
prepare the final EIR, provide responses as required; return the

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1 tract map to subdivision committee for technical review of
2 project modifications as they may be required through that
3 process, prepare findings and conditions for consideration on a
4 future agenda.

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5 Now, I would like to have because of the interested
6 parts -- and that would be the motion -- would also like to have
7 the interested parties least the Audubon Society, the Sierra
8 Club and SCOPE or organizations who have had people come --
9 testify notified of the date that that hearing will take place.
10 If there are interested parties, please pass your name on to
11 staff so that you can also be notified because we don't want to
12 do this in a vacuum. We want all -- those of you who are
13 interested to be able to see that component of it. While the
14 hearing is closed, there is still an opportunity of
15 communicating with staff, there's an opportunity to communicate
16 with the applicant. And there will be on going dialogue back
17 and forth between the applicant, staff and subdivision committee
18 because until we take our final action, all of that input and
19 materials that is there is part and parcel with the entirety of
20 this case and becomes parts of the piece.

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22 So rather than indicate the intent to approve, I'd
23 like to take it in this direction that we come back with the
24 final EIR and other components so that we can read that in full
25 session.

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CHAIR VALADEZ: Do I have a second?

COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Second.

CHAIR VALADEZ: Any additional discussion? Seeing none, all in favor signify by saying aye.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION: Aye.

CHAIR VALADEZ: So moved. Okay. We'll see you at a later date.

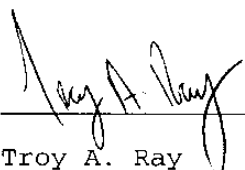
COMMISSIONER MODUGNO: And again thank you for all who came and testified.

(End of Public Hearing on Landmark Village Project)

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CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



Troy A. Ray

March 6, 2007

Responses to Regional Planning Commission Transcript of February 28, 2007

Commissioner Bellamy Comment 1

Madam Chair, the fifteen year deed restriction, you said that's part of the rental -- rental units? And that's going to be monitored by whom? And affordable housing, presently they propose a five year affordable housing restriction; is that correct? For the for sale? And you're -- and staff is suggesting that five years go to fifteen to basically coincide with the deed restriction? I just -- I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.

Response 1

The applicant has agreed to the fifteen-year affordable housing restriction.

Commissioner Modugno Comment 2

Mr. Adamick, at our last hearing the Commission raised a number of points dealing with green activity as far as building, some changes, et cetera. Staff has highlighted the consistency with the Specific Plan, but we raised issues again -- environmental issues and a number of transportation and traffic issues. Could you go over briefly those things that you are now planning on doing that were part of this proposal that perhaps go beyond what was envisioned in the Specific Plan. I think you mentioned several as far as some of the traffic activities. So that we know that -- you know, we realize there's a consistency and that's really what you needed to adhere to, but a number of points were raised and we asked you to go steps beyond that. If you could just briefly go over that.

Response 2

There are many different components that make a sustainable community or qualify it as a "smart growth" development. These include a proper mix of land use, provision of jobs, plan design for future transit uses, provision of open space and recreation, connectivity (trails), preservation of natural areas, the reduction of impermeable surfaces, water conservation and re-use, energy conservation - potentially including the use of alternative energies (wind, cogeneration, etc.), and the incorporation of green building techniques.

As evidenced below, Landmark Village, as with all of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, incorporates the following components of a sustainable or smart growth community:

- **Mix of Land Uses.** Landmark Village, along with the other villages in Newhall Ranch, will include a broad range of housing types, including affordable housing, along with commercial, office, and public facilities. As to Landmark Village, a diverse range of 1,444 homes (308 single-family and 1,136 multi-family units) would be provided. To minimize and shorten vehicle trips, most homes will be

within walking distances to the Landmark Village community's commercial and mixed-use areas, elementary school site, community park, and trail system. Finally, Landmark Village is located adjacent to the Valencia Commerce Center, one of the largest employment centers in the Santa Clarita Valley. Bike and pedestrian trails within Newhall Ranch and Landmark Village will connect to trails within the Valencia Commerce Center.

- **Provision of Jobs.** A portion of Newhall Ranch's projected 19,000 new jobs would be offered through Landmark Village's mixed-use and commercial areas. Newhall Ranch is adjacent to the existing Valencia Gateway (which includes the Valencia Commerce Center), which presently provides 50,000 jobs. Other development within Valencia Gateway will create an additional 30,000 jobs. When completed, the job centers in Newhall Ranch and Valencia will have resulted in the creation of approximately 100,000 jobs in the Santa Clarita Valley. A balanced jobs-housing base is a critical component to a sustainable community because it allows people to work close to home and minimizes vehicle miles traveled.
- **Locating of Residential Uses in Close Proximity to Commercial Services/Public Spaces.** Nearly 60 percent of the residential units in Newhall Ranch will be located within walking distance of village or commercial centers. This is clearly documented by the Landmark Village land plan. Residents within Landmark Village will be able to utilize paseos/trails and/or the Santa Clara River Regional Trail to walk to commercial centers, private recreational facilities, the elementary school and a community park. As stated above, this traditional neighborhood design minimizes vehicle trips.
- **Provision of Transit and Light Rail Right-of-Way.** Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will be part of the Santa Clarita Transit system and will pay its fair share for transit service to the community. Transit improvements within Newhall Ranch will include a park-and-ride lot, a future transit station, transfer station, bus stops, and preservation of light rail right-of-way. Landmark Village will include a total of five bus stops, a park-and-ride lot, and the preservation of light rail right-of-way along SR-126. The provision of transit and the accommodation of light rail encourage residents to rely less on vehicular travel.
- **Open Space, Recreation, and Preservation of Sensitive Resource Areas.** Newhall Ranch, of which Landmark Village is a part, includes the preservation of the High Country, Salt Creek Corridor and the Santa Clara River and internal open areas - a total of nearly 7,800 acres. A total of three community parks (Landmark includes the first) and up to ten neighborhood parks will be provided as part of Newhall Ranch. Finally, private recreation facilities will be provided throughout the entire Ranch providing additional recreational opportunities to residents. In short, Landmark Village's design connects jobs, retail, schools, parks, and recreation facilities with the community's trail system to promote walking and biking while minimizing vehicle trips.
- **Hierarchy of Trails.** Newhall Ranch will include over 50 miles of trails to encourage pedestrian mobility. Landmark Village includes a 2-mile extension of the Santa Clara River trail, with direct connections to residential, commercial, and park uses, and various paseos including the paseo running along "A" Street or the Landmark Village Spine Road. This design also is intended to minimize vehicle trips.
- **Reducing Impermeable Surfaces.** To curtail urban runoff and maximize groundwater recharge, Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will utilize open/soft bottom channels, smaller street

sections, where possible, increased native landscape areas, and non-structural water quality treatment improvements.

- **Water Conservation and Re-Use.** Newhall Ranch, including Landmark Village, will utilize native, drought-tolerant plants in the community's landscaping, use recycled water for irrigation, and evapotranspiration controllers (i.e., weather-sensitive sprinklers) to reduce potable water demand and runoff.
- **Traffic/Transportation Improvements.** Landmark Village's traffic circulation plan, which is consistent with all of Newhall Ranch, minimizes vehicle trips and reduces GHG emissions through the design of internal roads in conjunction with homes, school site, commercial areas, and trail system. Transit is included in the traditional neighborhood design, and it includes a park-and-ride lot and bus stops. Additionally, a 5-mile right-of-way for a potential Metrolink light rail extension is accommodated along SR-126. Trails and bike paths leading to close-to-home jobs, neighborhood-serving retail, and the school encourage residents to reduce vehicle miles traveled. The applicant also has committed to fund \$300 million in roadway improvements in the Santa Clarita Valley in conjunction with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, including Landmark Village, to improve traffic movement and circulation.

The applicant also has prepared a "Sustainability Summary" for Landmark Village that identifies the above project design features and includes green building measures. Please see **Appendix F** of this Final EIR for this summary.

Commissioner Modugno Comment 3

On the issue of the affordability and you had indicated that some of the results are not that stellar. On owned properties that go up multiple years, are there models that we might look at that have a tiering activity so if we were to go from five to fifteen years that they derive is an increase of benefit over time and a benefit that is still part of that remains for, if they want to sell the property in three years, they can take part of that benefit? But then a substantial proportion of that affordability benefit rests with the next buyer who is also going to qualify for that parcel so it's not an all or nothing because I think what we found in some instances where that goes on too long that -- maybe people just don't have the pride of ownership that might exist, it doesn't serve their family needs.

They somehow try to portray that as owner occupied and get into a rental situation for profit, et cetera. But there may be another model to follow where there is a tiering of activity over that time period so that it scales itself. That the benefit that's there, the major portion rests within the property itself for any future purchaser, but after fifteen years then it goes to a full market type of situation.

I'd like to explore that as an alternative versus one of just keeping that alive for the full fifteen years, but having sort of a scaling type of a thing that we can explore some compromise with staff, but then might be used as a model in the future whether we put a fifteen year time period on it or twenty year time

period on it, a fifty year time period on it has something that is reasonable that makes some common sense and it works its way through the process

Madam Chair, following on that note, the affordable units are going to be condominiums only, attached and detached? Now could you define to the Commission what makes them affordable.

COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: So basically the affordability of the for sale properties would be tied to the income of the persons that are going to purchase?

COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: The income isn't what I'm real concerned about. Its the purchase price is what I'm asking you about. Is that going to be tied to the income?

COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: Okay. So that's my concern regarding the suggestion by Commissioner Modugno of a fifteen year tiering is that if a person stays in the property for three years and they want to derive a benefit, are the benefits going to be based upon their affordable purchase price to the present market value? That, that would be a concern to me.

COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: So basically what you're saying is that at the end of the five years they -- at the end of the fourth year, they would have to sell it for what they purchased it for?

COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: So basically when you were saying that this would be penalized, if we move it from five years to fifteen years, they really wouldn't be penalized because the value of the property would be increasing with the median income; is that correct?

And so that would be their --their benefit is going in at a lower price.

COMMISSIONER BELLAMY: The other issue I had was --and I basically do go along with Commission Modugno as far as tiering it in some way and definitely go along with the fifteen years.

Response 3

Please see **Response 1**, above.

Commissioner Bellamy Comment 4

But my other issue is basically for Commissioner Helsley, and I would like for you to explain to the Commission again who you consulted with regarding waste to energy and why they stated it was a problem. I'd really like to hear some detail on that because he's going to want to know. We -- our Commission met with them and they basically told us that they thought that these types of facilities should take place and...

Yeah. Now, I believe that the City of Commerce facility basically told us that the major issue was community. And I believe Commissioner Helsley and I were of the opinion that if you're starting a brand new community, there isn't any issue with the community, number one. And number two, if there are requirements that they do have a curbside distribution of trash and recyclables, that that could be in conjunction with the -- to meet that fifty percent requirement. So its something I just want to throw out there because I know he's going to bring it up, and I'm sort of in alliance with him on that. Thank you.

Response 4

The Los Angeles County Sanitation District presently operates a waste-to-energy incinerator in the City of Commerce. The facility was built in 1986 and provides power for up to 20,000 homes. The facility includes a large incinerator with a smoke stack approximately 150 feet tall. According to the Sanitation District, there has not been a waste-to-energy facility proposed in California since 1990. There are presently a total of three in the state.

Policy changes and environmental regulations have made it extremely difficult to build new waste-to-energy facilities within the state. State and federal regulations no longer consider these facilities as a safe and environmentally sound alternative to landfills. Federal incentives, investments tax credits, favorable tax treatment, and reasonable permitting no longer exist for these facilities. An example is that these facilities are no longer eligible for emission offset credit by the AQMD. Finally, several environmental organizations argue against these facilities being considered as a renewable energy source.

Commissioner Rew Comment 5

Thank you. First of all I agree with you. I don't want to rehash what the Board of Supervisors have already approved. A lot of the concerns center around that prior approval. I do have two concerns, however; one somewhat minor and one, at least in my opinion, major. And, first of all, I think that what, what you have done so far in that community is outstanding. And I think this plan follows a lot of what you have already done, and so there's evidence there of the quality of the product that you put out.

Response 5

The comment will be included as part of the record and made available to the County Board of Supervisors prior to a final decision on the proposed project. However, because the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Commissioner Rew Comment 6

The minor concern I have is the park that you're talking about in Landmark is a -- owned by the homeowners in Landmark, maintenance paid by the homeowners but open to the public, correct?

And the active park, by active you mean there would be organized activities going on as opposed to passive being a family oriented, picnic type, walking, exercise? And the size of the passive park exclusive of any trails in it.

Because in my experience with homeowners associations, as soon as you sell your first home, then there are homeowners association fees that are collected. And the developer because they own still most of the homes because they're not sold, the developer has seats on the homeowners association board and the fees remain relatively low. And then when they sell those homes, the homeowners select their own board of trustees -- or board of directors made up of homeowners and they suddenly realize that they have to pay for all this stuff now. And the maintenance goes sky high and sometimes those homeowners associations they look at, gee, what, what are most of our expenses going to when it's maintenance of, for example, a passive park and they try to dump it off then onto the entity whatever that may be -- the county, the city or whatever.

But if it's as small as you say -- I was concerned that the entire park was owned by the homeowners and maintained by the homeowners. So what you're telling me is that -- are --do you have any other developments that have that same type of situation.

Passive parks that open to the public?

Response 6

The community park would be owned by the County of Los Angeles and would be a public park. The passive park in Landmark would be open to the public and maintained by the Landmark Village Homeowners Association.

Commissioner Rew Comment 7

My other concern is you mentioned - - and I agree with Commission Helsley's suggestion that you look at moving the school and the park in relationship to SR126. I'm concerned that SR126 will some day become "I" something. And if -- as someone who sixteen years ago with six other mayors formed a JPIA for the widening of the 15 freeway from the Orange County line to the 710, sixteen years ago we do this. And today the California transit -- Transportation Commission is voting on whether or not to approve funds

for the remainder that is necessary to do that construction. And today there's two point one billion dollars (\$2.1 billion) estimated to do that widening.

And we can't really -- I'm not a cheerleader for Caltrans, but we can't blame it all on the past because that freeway was done -- I'm referring to -- was put there a long time ago when there wasn't much around it. And then the communities developed around the freeway. And so the two point one billion has a lot to do with relocation costs, eminent domain, buying up of property, cities losing tax producing retailers along the freeway. And that's, that's, that's—the cost has escalated. But we can say now because of things like that, that we are aware of what can happen. And you read the letter from Caltrans dated January 30?

You have any reaction to that? Can you, can you allay my fears in anyway about the closeness to this development and the SR-126.

In the future. Now, the letter mentioned something about the ten year study versus the twenty year study. Any reaction to that letter and any reaction to my fears.

Response 7

In response to the Commission's direction, the applicant has redesigned the Landmark Village project, so that the park is now adjacent to SR-126. This redesign will create an additional buffer between the proposed school site and SR-126. Additionally, the applicant is providing the necessary right-of-way and will be completing the required improvements consistent with the long-term plans for SR-126. SR-126 adjacent to the project site will be an expressway.

Commissioner Modugno Comment 8

Thank you, Madam Chair. Along the same lines, Mr. Adamick, Newhall Land and Farming is the largest land owner and the largest developer in Santa Clarita Valley. And yet there are other developers and other public developments. And while you've put forth resources and put in infrastructure as you're building, that infrastructure often times is gobbled up by other development that takes place. Unlike Irvine Ranch in the City of Irvine where Irvine Ranch owned everything, an infrastructure gets put in place and then no one else or very few others are taking advantage of that infrastructure. You've just completed development of Westridge. West Ridge High School gets put in. The Hart High School District is now struggling. It's an overcrowded situation because of the development that occurs in Castaic, and Castaic high school is not being built because we're waiting for additional funds and fees to come in.

Just review for me briefly the planning stages because Newhall Ranch at full build out, you will provide full turn-key schools throughout. However, you're going to need to rely upon high schools at the very

beginning because this phrase of it isn't building a high school. It's building an elementary school. And yet you've got to rely on a school that may or may not have been built as you start selling the first homes. What plans do you have in working with the Hart High School District or the Castaic School Districts to sort of make sure that the high school pressure is taken off of the area so that kids coming in newly to Landmark aren't having to be bussed over to Golden Valley or Canyon or someplace else and that overcrowding just escalates the high school and junior high school levels?

Response 8

The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.15, Education, indicates that school agreements have been negotiated with all of the school districts, which will mitigate impacts to less than significant levels. This section also addresses what schools project-generated students would attend. Newhall Land has committed to providing funding for the necessary interim facilities needed to accommodate the students generated by the Landmark Village project until the Newhall Ranch junior and senior high schools are constructed.

Commissioner Modugno Comment 9

Would there be an opportunity for advancing of funds to complete a high school and then a credit taken so that Newhall Ranch or that gets built would be built with other funds? I mean I think what the community is looking at right now is a very egregious situation where there is overcrowding, not necessarily created by the works that Newhall Land and Farming has done, but the fact that smaller developments have taken advantage of the schools which are being built; may or may not pay -- while I'm not sure they're paying their full fees, but those fees are accumulating until sufficient moneys are available to then build that next high school.

And yet as you start building homes and start generating student population, I think the buyers of those homes would certainly like to know that their children have a seat at a local school and not going to have to either go to a very overcrowded school or be at the mercy of the school district to be bussed somewhere or be told, gee, there's no place for you to go. So unless you're building complete turn-key schools -- and again as you build those turn-key schools, often times you may fill a third of that school or two thirds of it may be bottled up by neighboring communities based upon how that school district works its boundaries. But I think I would like to have some assurance or at least some comfort level going in that Castaic high school will be built by the time you're occupying your first homes so the that the pressure that's generated from Castaic students is locally relieved.

So if there's a shortfall in terms of building that school, maybe there's a mechanism that's in place as you're starting to build houses to work with the school district doing.

Response 9

Please see **Response 8**, above.

Connie Warden Roberts Comment 10

Again Connie Warden Roberts. Address 27075 Little Field Drive in Valencia. I'm here today to speak on the issue of Landmark Village. Also, I should recognize or indicate that I'm Michael Antonovich's appointee to North County Transportation Coalition and I also chair the transportation committees for the chamber of commerce and also the industrial associations in the valley. But again my presence today is to speak on behalf of the Landmark Village which is the first village of four planned at -- in the Specific Plan and will inaugurate a new community.

The Specific Plan had many years of review, comment and scrutiny and the Board of Supervisors adopted it in 2003. The -- importantly today Newhall Land has a history of careful and thoughtful planning and is known as a developer who builds as promised. And as a thirty year resident of Valencia, I can attest to that. Transportation of course is an important issue, and Newhall Land has already started some of the infrastructure as -- and as the villages are built, major new roads are planned and will be constructed.

Newhall Land is a part of the coalition of interest focused on the Interstate 5 freeway and their leadership has been and is commendable. The Interstate 5 is a much bigger project than just Santa Clarita Valley, but there is focus on it today and plans are underway to add truck lanes and an HOV lane. Four point five billion dollars (\$4.5 billion) was allocated from the state towards some of those improvements just this year. Perhaps Metrolink service will extend the 126 Corridor and the Santa Clarita Valley already has three Metrolink stations and Newhall Land has reserved the right-of-way in Landmark. Thank you for your time.

Response 10

The County acknowledges the support for the project expressed in this 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.

Larry Mankin Comment 11

My name is Larry Mankin, 26115 McBean Parkway, Unit 1 in Valencia. My name is Larry Mankin. I'm president and CEO of the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce. Our chamber is the largest business association in the -- in our region. And as a matter of fact we're I think the largest member based organization is L.A. County now. We represent in excess of 1,800 business members in the Santa Clarita

Valley. Some people have tried -- and I'm here today, by the way, to speak on behalf and support of this project. Some people have tried --Some people have tried to call Newhall Ranch and its villages sprawl. Our association definitely believes it is not sprawl. It's a logical place for new development. A project that is near major infrastructure including a strong and growing job base and development of three -- and development on three sides of this project.

Landmark Village, the first Newhall Ranch neighborhood, is conveniently located to a Valencia Commerce Center, part of the gateway, which now has about sixty thousand jobs in it. It is planned to compliment that business park with homes, services and new recreation. The specific plan for Newhall Ranch took into account the need for affordable housing which is so critical for our growing employer community; creating 20,000 new permanent jobs and additional business parks, funding and sites for public facilities like fire stations, schools and new roads and other infrastructure. Newhall Ranch is needed to continue the economic development scene in the Santa Clarita Valley. Well planned homes, more jobs, more retail while preserving nearly 7,000 of national resources will help the Santa Clarita Valley continue its role as a corporate location for the Los Angeles County regional business community. Thank you.

Response 11

The County acknowledges the support for the project expressed in this 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.

Mike Lebecki Comment 12

My name is Mike Lebecki. I'm a real estate agent out in the Santa Clarita Valley at 25101 The Old Road, 91381. I've nothing prepared, but I've been a real estate agent out in Santa Clarita for twenty years, and I know Pat from my involvement with the YMCA, which we're both on the same board together. I've lived in the Santa Clarita Valley for many, many years. I commute to the Santa Clarita valley now down the highway that you guys are talking about, the 126, from Ventura.

And I want to talk about for a second just the Valencia of the past that we all know, Pat certainly knows, that on the other side of the freeway they did -- as Connie said, they built as promised.

The infrastructure that's there, they said they were going to put, they did put. We had opposition, kind of like you guys will hear later, within our planning commission, within our city and anything that they built you would have heard from them was going to be the worse thing since, since I don't know what. But when Newhall Land finally did prevail and brought to us the mall, brought to us paseos, brought to

us parks, brought to us shopping, I've never had such a happy community as Valencians. In the business I've moved more people into Valencia from within the Santa Clarita Valley than out of Valencia to other parts of the Santa Clarita Valley. That's not to say there aren't swell parts of the other parts of the Santa Clarita Valley. It's just a testimonial to what Newhall Land did over the years in Valencia itself.

Pat brings up a great point that's out of my scope of perspective, I don't have children in the Santa Clarita Valley or elsewhere. I'm just talking about how folks live day to day out in Santa Clarita in the Valencia corridors. They're, they're happy folks out there. So I see no reason with Lennar now running the show that anything would be any different because you guys are custodial of what they do just like the

Response 12

The County acknowledges the support for the project expressed in this 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.

Gary George Comment 13

My name is Garry George. I'm executive director of Los Angeles Audubon society and I'm on the Board of Audubon California. We take special interest in the Santa Clara River and in this area of this development because it's one of the identified nationwide Audubon important bird areas, and it's actually critical -- one of the critical conservation efforts for us. So we look very closely at this.

As you know we've submitted a fifteen page letter. I don't know if you saw that in comment to the draft EIR. I hope you had a chance to read it.

Response 13

Please see **Introduction**, and **Responses 1** through **86** to the letter from Audubon California, dated January 19, 2007.

Gary George Comment 14

We identified thirteen sensitive species that we felt were completely overlooked.

Response 14

Please see **Introduction** and **Responses 1** through **86** to the letter from Audubon California, dated January 18, 2007.

Gary George Comment 15

I understand today from your staff and from Glenn that there was a letter written from the environmental consultant to the commissioners regarding three of those species, and we'd like to suggest that if there is more information or studies on those species that they be included in the EIR and submitted for public comment so that we can see what that research was or what those surveys were or what those conclusions were and what mitigation might be planned.

Response 15

Please see **Introduction** and **Responses 1** through **86** to the letter from Audubon California, dated January 18, 2007, and the Landmark Village Final EIR, **Appendix A**, for additional biological-related studies and reports.

Gary George Comment 16

We ask that the Commission please withdraw this EIR or ask applicant to withdraw the EIR and do the adequate impacts of the development on the birds of that area and then resubmit the EIR for comment. Thank you very much.

Response 16

The comment requests that the applicant withdraw the EIR and conduct further analysis of the impacts of development on birds in the area. Numerous biological surveys over the last 13 years have been conducted on the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan site, including Landmark Village, and such surveys are found in Appendix 4.4 of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Additional biological surveys were conducted in 2007 in response to public comments. For information responsive to those surveys, please see **Introduction** to letter from the Audubon California, dated January 19, 2007. In addition, please refer to this Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**, and **Appendix A** for copies of the additional biota reports and studies.

Rich Waters Comment 17

Yes. I'm Rich Waters at 4224 Lincoln Avenue in Culver City. I would just like to comment for the Board's edification about the history of the Newhall Land Company. Twenty years ago Santa Clarita used to be a beautiful place until the Newhall Land started selling off their parcel and started developing. They went from the number *one* school district to way down, down on the bottom of the school districts in California. They -- not only that, but they in there other developments have walled in and cemented in

the Santa Clarita River when they were not allowed to and they were fined a pittance. And they considered -- just considered that operating expenses.

I bring this all up to you to let you know that some of the testimony that they perhaps have made is not exactly the truth. Not only that, but they've cooked the books as far as the water is concerned in the districts -- in those districts that have plenty of waters for these projects when actually they didn't and they stacked the board at the water district in order to, in order to make these false claims.

So I just want you to--when you hear Newhall give their claim and give their statistics, keep in the back of your mind this may not be the truth. Thank you very much.

Response 17

The comment expresses an opinion. 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Dawn Duetra Comment 18

My name is Dawn Duetra. I'm -- I am located at 11606 Adobe Way; Agua Dulce, California. And I've been a resident -- a Santa Clarita resident for thirteen years. In that time I've seen oaks decimated, our own orange groves just total ripped out and destroyed, Santa Clarita -- Santa Clara tributaries molested if not totally eradicated. Every day you open the paper you read about traffic issues, rolling blackouts, wells going dry and animals being displaced to the point that they are roaming in civilization. We cannot spare anymore natural resources for an unneeded and greedy project such as this.

Response 18

The comment expresses an opinion. In addition, the comment addresses oak tree impacts, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.4, Biota (see also Final EIR, revised **Section 4.4, Biota**). Nonetheless, 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Dawn Duetra Comment 19

Santa Clarita objected to two hundred trucks with CMEX being put on our roads but yet they're willing to put now thousands of cars on already overcrowded roadways and thousands of more kids making our schools -- our schools overcrowded. Trying to get through -- try getting through Bouquet Junction at 7:00 a.m. and then imagine 200 more cars added onto that.

Response 19

Please see Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.7, Traffic/Access, p. 4.7-1 which states that:

“The proposed project would buildout in three phases. Phase 1 is estimated to generate approximately 4,950 average daily trips (ADT) with approximately 375 tripends occurring in the AM peak hour and approximately 505 tripends occurring in the PM peak hour. Phase 2 (including Phase 1) is estimated to generate approximately 20,700 total ADT with approximately 1,400 tripends occurring in the AM peak hour and approximately 1,900 tripends occurring in the PM peak hour. Finally, Phase 3 is estimated to generate an additional 21,200 ADT for a total of 41,900 ADT at project buildout. At buildout, the project would generate approximately 2,900 tripends in the AM peak hour and 4,100 tripends in the PM peak hour. Approximately 30 percent of the Phase 1 and 2 tripends would be internal tripends. The remaining tripends would be for trips off site.”

Dawn Duetra Comment 20

I moved to the Santa Clarita Valley because it's not L.A. because I wanted to be in a community that will not sell itself out to emulate what I ran away from. I want my kids to know what nature is by seeing it wild, not through glass and stone. Thank you.

Response 20

The comment raises issues that do not appear to relate to the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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. No further response is required.

Eleanor Osgood Comment 21

My name is Eleanor Osgood. I live in Culver City, and I'm here to talk about traffic and transportation. In the testimony from the Newhall representative, I did not really hear any, any talking about alternative modes of transportation.

Response 21

Please see **Response 2**, above. Alternative modes of transportation were discussed in depth at the County of Los Angeles Planning Commission meeting of January 31, 2007, concerning the proposed project. In addition, please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 1.0, Project Description, which discusses all modes of transportation included as a part of the project.

Eleanor Osgood Comment 22

I heard about widening freeways and addressing more cars that way.

Response 22

Please see **Response 21**, above.

Eleanor Osgood Comment 23

In this time of climate crisis and our concerns about carbon dioxide emissions, I think any new project especially a large project needs to be a visionary and at this point it's not even a visionary.

Response 23

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change And Its Effects On California Water Supplies; Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change And Its Effects On Sensitive Biological Resources; and Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions And Global Climate Change.**

Eleanor Osgood Comment 24

We know what we need to do. We know we need to get people out of cars into alternative forms of transportation. A new large community development needs to be created that way and I don't see that happening.

Response 24

Please see **Responses 2 and 23**, above. In addition, 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Eleanor Osgood Comment 25

I don't see -- I don't hear about bike paths that are at par with car lanes. I don't hear about public buses that would be going to major areas that people go to for shopping or recreation. I don't hear about shuttle buses. I don't hear about electric car areas where you can go in an area in your community, get on loan inexpensively an electric car and bop around your community. I mean there's all kinds of ways to get people off--out of their cars.

Response 25

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Eleanor Osgood Comment 26

I'd also like to see that the new developers be responsible for public awareness campaigns and letting people know that we have done these kinds of things as alternative transportation and advertise them. And I think that's it. I just advertising and community awareness always makes a difference and that hasn't happened throughout Southern California.

Response 26

The comment raises issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment related to the Landmark Village project site. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Sharon Ford Comment 27

My name is Sharon Ford and I'm not only a concerned citizen but I am a member of a number of environmental groups such as Sierra Club and San Fernando Valley Audubon.

Response 27

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Sharon Ford Comment 28

My big concern has to do with the lost of space --open space and habitat and the Santa Clara River. This land is mostly between the SR126 and the Santa Clara River. Nearly 751 acres of natural habitat will be

destroyed to find dirt to fill in the river floodplain, widen SR 126 and build connecting roads for future developments.

Response 28

The comment restates information contained in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Sharon Ford Comment 29

We need to realize that fifteen species are lost every single day. And each time we lose a species, bio diversity changes in that area forever. We will not be able to gain this open space back. Once it's gone for development, it's gone.

Response 29

The comment expresses opinions, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Sharon Ford Comment 30

My concern about the Santa Clara River is that any kind of chemicals, pesticides, whatever used for landscaping the homes, the businesses and whatever will end up polluting the Santa Clara River which is a riparian habitat. And I think -- I mean even with -- even if they controlled things from sprinklers, we can't help it when it rains and we have, you know, good down pours. This stuff is going to be flushed into the Santa Clara River and stuff is going to end up going to the ocean.

Response 30

Please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.3, Water Quality, which finds that, with mitigation, the Landmark Village project will not cause significant impacts to water quality

Sharon Ford Comment 31

So my concern is the lost of open space because we have to do something about this.

Response 31

The comment expresses opinions, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Cam Noltemeyer Comment 32

Cam Noltemeyer, 25936 Sardinia Court, Valencia. I live in Valencia Summit. I'm here representing Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment. I'm a board member.

Response 32

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Cam Noltemeyer Comment 33

I'm speaking with regarding to the school crisis in our community.

Response 33

The comment makes a statement, but does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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. No further response is required.

Cam Noltemeyer Comment 34

You as representatives here have a Los Angeles County Development Monitoring System, DMS. That system requires that schools, libraries, roads, et cetera to be in place, in place.

Response 34

Please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 3.0, Cumulative Impact Analysis Methodology, which states that the purpose of DMS is to analyze cumulative impacts of a project in the environmental issue areas of water services, wastewater disposal, education, fire, traffic, and library services.

Cam Noltemeyer Comment 35

Schools should be adequate to serve the additional housing units without reducing the existing level of service provided to existing students.

Response 35

The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.15, Education, finds that with the school mitigation agreements in place with the school districts there will be no impacts to education.

Cam Noltemeyer Comment 36

I just gave you a copy of a recent newspaper article in our community where the Castaic students are to attend Valencia high. Hundreds of people have been attending these meetings and the Hart District is having to say we don't have adequate schools, we haven't built your Castaic high school.

And if you really look at the numbers it's -- where is the money to even build that Castaic high school. But West Ranch was built three years ago. It is already overcrowded and that is the school that Newhall Land is talking about sending their kids to. The people are already saying its affecting -- the kids are the ones that are losing.

Response 36

Please see **Response 35**, above.

Cam Noltemeyer Comment 37

The Hart District has been unable to adequately provide school capacity for the children that are already there and you keep approving more and more.

Response 37

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Cam Noltemeyer Comment 38

That's your responsibility. The schools are supposed to be there.

Response 38

Please see **Response 35**, above.

Cam Noltemeyer Comment 39

This particular developer has charged the Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment of trying to stop schools. Nothing could be further from the truth. Rio Norte school was built. What SCOPE was trying to address was the water issue, but they also addressed something that even the department of toxic substance failed to address and that school was being built within—we have narrowed it down, the department of toxic substance, to 600 feet from a sewage sludge site. That is the time of sites that are being given for school sites. We also have Golden Valley high school next to a brown field and hazardous testing facility.

Response 39

The comment raises issues that do not appear to relate to the Landmark Village project or to any physical effect on the environment. Nonetheless, 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 required.

Cam Noltemeyer Comment 40

So what you have to look at is not only are they adequate schools, but where are they offering the land for these schools. Is it really a proper place for a school. We are finding that more and more schools are be placed in the very worse places, are being used --

CHAIR VALADEZ: Excuse me.

MS. NOLTEMEYER: I'm sorry.

CHAIR VALADEZ: You need to finish.

MS. NOLTEMEYER: -- being used to create development. Thank you.

Response 40

The comment raises issues that do not appear to relate to the Landmark Village project or to any physical effect on the environment. Nonetheless, 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 required.

Eileen Anderson Comment 41

Hi. My name is Eileen Anderson and I'm a botanist with the California Native Plant Society. And the Native Plant Society is opposed to Landmark Village as proposed because of its recognized significant impacts to native plants.

Response 41

The comment opposes the project and expresses the opinions of the California Native Plant Society. 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Eileen Anderson Comment 42

Not only in Landmark Village partially within SEA 23, it's also wholly within an internationally recognized bio diversity hot spot.

Response 42

The comment partially restates information contained in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Additionally, the comment provides no supporting evidence that the site is located within an "internationally recognized bio diversity hot spot."

Eileen Anderson Comment 43

The county has an opportunity to realize a truly sustainable project that's less detrimental to the world-class vegetation than the project as proposed. The project is simply not ready to go.

Response 43

The comment expresses an opinion, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. Nonetheless, 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Eileen Anderson Comment 44

The EIR is premature because the state and federal permits process is barely started much less completed.

Response 44

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Eileen Anderson Comment 45

The EIR fails to provide all of us important information to fully understand the impacts and proposed mitigations. This is an egregious violation of CEQA. For instance, mitigation measures that help offset impacts rely on plans that have yet to be devised.

Response 45

Several plans alluded to in the comment are included in Appendix 4.4 of the Draft EIR or **Appendix A** of this Final EIR. These plans include a Landmark Village Slender Mariposa Lily Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (Dudek 2007), a Landmark Village Conceptual Wetlands Mitigation Plan (Dudek May 2007), and a Preliminary Fire Management Plan (Dudek 2007). All of the plans alluded to by the comment essentially describe how mitigation measures discussed in the Draft EIR will be implemented and how success of the mitigation will be managed and monitored. However, CEQA does not require detailed mitigation plans to be included in an EIR. On the contrary, as long as there is a discussion of what the proposed plan will include and accomplish, including performance standards, and there is a commitment by the lead agency to implement the mitigation, then the EIR need not include the detailed mitigation plan itself.

Eileen Anderson Comment 46

So what plans are missing? Well, I counted at least eight of them. There's no oak resource replacement plan. There's no slender mariposa lily restoration plan. There's no San Fernando Valley spine flower plan. There's no revegetation plan for the numerous riparian and wetland plant communities. There's no irrigation plan or landscape plan. So we can't figure out how those will affect the native vegetation. There's no habitat enhancement plan. There's no wild fire fuel modification plan either. These plans are all essential parts of the CEQA review process yet they're absent. How can we evaluate the -- the efficacy and adequacy of the mitigations?

Response 46

Please see **Response 45**, above, regarding the need to include detailed mitigation plans in a CEQA document. With respect to the Oak Resource Replacement Plan, Mitigation Measure SP 4.6-48 (from the approved Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR) in the Draft EIR, Section 10.2(a)(6)(c), includes a discussion of the contents of the replacement plan, who will need to review it, and when the plan must be in place (prior to recordation of construction-level final subdivision maps). As described in the Draft Newhall Ranch Mitigation Feasibility Study (Dudek 2007), Dudek has identified the opportunity of creating 11 acres of coast live oak woodland and planting an additional 189 oak trees within the High Country SMA/SEA 20 and Salt Creek area (see **Appendix A**). Oak trees would be planted in these areas such that a minimum of 4.45 acres of oak woodland would be enhanced and/or created. The actual number of trees to be planted would be that number necessary to comply with the requirements stipulated in the Oak Tree Permit issued by the County pursuant to CLATO and CEQA acres of oak woodland. Compliance with the permit conditions and implementation of Specific Plan Mitigation Measure 4.6-48, as well as proposed Mitigation Measures LV 4.4-4 and LV 4.4-5, would reduce impacts to oak trees and oak woodland habitat to below a level of significance. These mitigation measures also would meet the requirements of Pub. Resources Code section 21083.4. The finding that impacts to protected oaks can be reduced to below a level of significance with mitigation is consistent with the findings of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR.

Mitigation Measure LV 4.4-1 in the Final EIR (LV 4.4-7 of the Draft EIR) adequately summarizes the contents of the revegetation plan, states that the plan shall demonstrate the feasibility of creating the required mitigation acreage, states that the plan shall be subject to the approval of the CDFG, Corps, and the County, and that such approval shall occur prior to the issuance of grading permits.

Eileen Anderson Comment 47

The Native Plant Society is particularly concerned about the fuel modification plan. During scoping, we ask that the fuel modification zones be included within the footprint of the project because of its detrimental impacts to native vegetation. Instead it appears that the fuel modification will blitz buffer zones that have been proposed to protect the natural resources.

Response 47

The fuel modification zone for structures adjacent to the Santa Clara River will extend approximately 100 feet from the structure into the utility trail corridor. Consequently, the fuel modification zone will not encroach upon the riparian corridor or the adjacent upland habitat buffer.

Eileen Anderson Comment 48

In conclusion the EIR is inadequate and violates CEQUA. We urge the planning Commission to send the document back to the applicant to be completed. Thank you very much.

Response 48

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 49

Good morning. My name is Barbara Wampole, and thank you very much, chair and Commissioners, for your attention and the extension of the comment period.

Response 49

The comment acknowledges the additional time for public review and comment that was provided. For further information, please refer to **Topical Response 3: Public Review Opportunities**. Nonetheless, 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. No further response is required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 50

The Newhall Ranch master plan incorporates a right-of-way for a Metrolink track and station, but the plan is not predicated on their timely construction. Thus Landmark village will be another typical land locked subdivision unless you require the implementation of the train line now.

Response 50

The Landmark Village Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 53108 provides right-of-way for the rail line. The right-of-way is preserved in perpetuity for rail. Consequently, it will be available at such time that the rail line is constructed.

Barbara Wampole Comment 51

The momentum to build west of Interstate 5 has been assured by your previous approval. Newhall Lennar is a premiere vendor and the county's own statistic show explosive growth in the area.

Response 51

The comment expresses opinions, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 52

Unless the tracks are restored now, you are inviting further delays in the future as the urban build out takes hold of the precious real estate required. The costs to the community will clime to astronomical levels. We don't want to wait until the bill falls to us by way of state or federal funding sources

Response 52

The comment raises economic, social, or political issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment. 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 required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 53

The intergovernmental panel on climate change with scientist from a hundred and twelve nations and the United States issues its account on what is now the unequivocal science of climate change. Its purpose is to remove contentious and uncertain findings and nail down the basic narrative of climate change in a way that stifles the squawking of the skeptics and puts the squeeze on governments still looking for excuses for inaction.

Response 53

Please see **Topical Response 6: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on California Water Supplies;** **Topical Response 7: Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Sensitive Biological Resources;** and **Topical Response 8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change,** for responsive information regarding climate change/global warming.

Barbara Wampole Comment 54

The County of Los Angeles of the now take action to limit the impacts on the climate of Newhall Ranch and the Landmark Village.

Response 54

Please see **Response 53**, above.

Barbara Wampole Comment 55

Alternative transportation such as Metrolink and community bike trails must be provided from the beginning. And that is to say commuting bike trails, not just community. But ways that people can actually get someplace efficiently, not just meander through a community for recreational purposes from the beginning and not at some indeterminate future.

Response 55

Please see **Response 2**, above, which outlines alternatives forms of transportation options incorporated into the project design.

Barbara Wampole Comment 56

Structures should be required to be built green with low energy consumption.

Response 56

Please see **Response 2**, above, which outlines smart growth or sustainable strategies incorporated or are being considered for incorporation into the project design. The comment expresses opinions, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 57

Landscaping and amenities should be limited to those with minimum water needs.

Response 57

Please see **Response 2**, above, which outlines smart growth or sustainable strategies incorporated or are being considered for incorporation into the project design. The comment expresses opinions, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 58

Tax credits for the local -- for local employment could be issued to encourage a favorable jobs to housing ratio. Sounds like an unusual thing. I don't know if it happens anywhere else, but that's what we're suggesting.

Response 58

The comment raises issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment. Nonetheless, 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 required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 59

Mandatory recycling programs should be instituted for business and not just residences.

Response 59

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 60

All over the county I watch restaurants everyday throw out glass by the, by the tons. The recycling in this country could be changed.

Response 60

The comment raises issues that do not appear to relate to the Landmark Village project or to the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. 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 question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 61

Wind generation, solar power incentives should be added informative (phonetic).

Response 61

Please see **Response 2**, above, which outlines smart growth or sustainable strategies incorporated or being considered for incorporation into the project design. The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Barbara Wampole Comment 62

The applicant should be -- provide detailed projections of the energy needs of the project before the approval. And I just want to thank you very much.

Response 62

The comment expresses an opinion, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 63

Lynne Plambeck, Santa Clarita Organization For Planning in the Environment. I just want to start by saying that Newhall Land, of course, is really not Newhall Land anymore. It's the wholly owned -- wholly owned company of Lennar Corporation, which is the nationwide builder. They don't really -- they haven't had a long reputation in the Santa Clarita Valley and some of the reputation they do have isn't very cool.

Response 63

The comment does not question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Nonetheless, the comments will be included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed project.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 64

I want to talk about consistency and compliance with the general plan and specifically the development monitoring system which is a planned amendment that was passed in 1987. And every development that comes before you in an urban expansion area, which Santa Clarita is an urban expansion area, is required to be consistent with that portion of the general plan and this project is not.

Response 64

The land uses proposed as part of the Landmark tract map site are consistent with the approved Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. The comment expresses opinions that the project is not consistent with DMS. The County does not agree with this comment. The environmental issue areas addressed with the DMS analysis include water services, wastewater disposal, education, fire, traffic, and library services. Each of these environmental topic areas has analyzed the project with DMS.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 65

In the review that I did finally of the appendices, we found that instead of doing the services analysis as is required by the development monitoring system, only the number of units for each service territory was provided not what—normally what is found in that development monitoring system printout is existing service level, what will be added by recorded projects, planned and approved projects not yet built and then the new project is added to it to see if the infrastructure is sufficient.

Response 65

The DMS printouts provided and information contained within the printouts were provided by Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 66

This is very important in growth area like Santa Clarita to ensure that the infrastructure is there for all the residents and the existing residents as well.

Response 66

Please see the Landmark Village Draft EIR, which describes in all environmental topic sections the infrastructure proposed for the project.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 67

It's not fair that new residents are put on top without adequate services.

Response 67

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 68

In our comments we talked about schools, water supply. We talked about sheriff services.

Response 68

Please see **Responses 12, 13, and 21** to the letter from Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment, dated February 16, 2007.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 69

There's an issue with leapfrogging with sewer service expansion unless they build that plant. If they have to expand a sewer line over a mile and a half, that's then a leapfrog project into a rural area and there's an issue with consistency of your general plan in that respect as well.

Response 69

The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) was reviewed and approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on May 27, 2003. There were no conclusions made at that time that the proposed project would be considered as leapfrog development as it is immediately adjacent to Magic Mountain Amusement Park, and the Westridge and Stevenson Ranch developments. The Landmark Village project assumes that Newhall Ranch WRP will be in operation at the time of first building permit occupancy. However, the development proposed for Landmark Village has incorporated contingency plans of securing wastewater treatment capacity at the Valencia WRP if the Newhall Ranch WRP is not in operation. The potential environmental impacts of this option are analyzed in the Draft EIR.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 70

And I think it's important that this project address those issues in the EIR so that's fully disclosed to you before you make your decision.

Response 70

Please see **Response 69**, above.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 71

In addition to that we were concerned that they really have not complied with the County's iteration of water reporting under SB 610 and SB 221. For the specific plan only SB 610 disclosures were required.

That's a state law that came into effect to ensure adequate water supply, and it came into effect in 2002. The county set up a plan that they would require that and specific plan in SB 221 verification at tract map. They did not supply you with SB 221. Those requirements require you –the disclosure of contracts and all of the completed CEQA analysis to provide water infrastructure to ensure the water is really there.

Response 71

Please see the **Introduction** and **Response 24** to letter from Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment, dated February 16, 2007.

Lynne Plambeck Comment 72

And there was recently a Supreme Court decision that I think is important that your legal department analyze for you in respect to this proposal before you and that's the *Vineyard* decision. I'm sure you're familiar with that. But I think it would behoove this Commission to request a presentation on that decision. Thank you.

Response 72

Please see **Topical Response 5: Litigation Concerning Water Supplies**.

Katherine Squires Comment 73

Okay. Good morning. My name is Katherine Squires and I live at 26800 Espuma Drive in Saugus. I believe that this project is very poorly plan for numerous reasons.

Response 73

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Katherine Squires Comment 74

Mostly because the existing infrastructure just simply cannot support this develop. There are many reasons why including the fact that it will add approximately 357,000 traffic trips a day onto our freeways and roads. I left hours early this morning and I was late in regards to the traffic just as one example.

Response 74

The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan project was approved in 2003. The approval is not subject to review. The review at this time is the Landmark Village portion of Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. The Landmark Village project would generate 41,900 average daily trips. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Katherine Squires Comment 75

As a lifelong resident of the Santa Clarita Valley and the local elementary school teacher, I see the results of worsening air pollution as the number of students in my classrooms with asthma increases each year.

Response 75

Air quality impacts are addressed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.9.

Katherine Squires Comment 76

Also the schools in my valley open overcrowded. For example, Tesoro one of our newest schools had children attending not in classrooms in some cases, but in closed down computer labs and in hallways and center aisles which I just believe is absolutely unacceptable.

Response 76

The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.15, Education, indicates that school agreements have been negotiated with all of the school districts, which will mitigate impacts to less than significant levels. This section also addresses what schools project-generated students would attend. The project is not required to mitigate existing school facility issues.

Katherine Squires Comment 77

And by the way I never take days off from teaching, but I'm here because I care that much about what's happening to the children in our valley.

Response 77

The comment raises issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment. Nonetheless, 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 required.

Katherine Squires Comment 78

Also, the location of the proposed development is an active tectonic area which is on the same level of uplift as that which created the Himalayan Mountains, And I can't imagine what would happen to the people living in the proposed 21,000 units if there were to be an earthquake which is really not a matter of if but when.

Response 78

The comment addresses tectonic activity, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.1, Geotechnical and Soil Resources. All residents in California and along the Pacific Rim are subject to the effects of earthquakes as discussed in the Draft EIR.

Katherine Squires Comment 79

The area is prone to landslides and it's absolutely unbelievable to me that someone would build in an area that is surrounded by faults with rock layers to the south that are actually upside down due to the extreme tectonics in the area. And this is a fact. It can be checked on any USGS map.

Response 79

Please see **Response 78**, above. Although portions of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan site are prone to landslides, the Landmark Village project site is relatively flat; therefore, landslides are not applicable.

Katherine Squires Comment 80

There are also additional environmental concerns including the fact that you're talking about building on the last wild river, the Santa Clara.

Response 80

The comment addresses floodplain issues, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.2, Hydrology, and Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications. Section 4.5, Floodplain Modification, p. 4.5-42, states that: "The entire Landmark Village project, inclusive of the utility corridor and burrow site, would permanently impact approximately 0.78 acre of land under ACOE jurisdiction within the Santa Clara River, as well as 0.60 acre of tributaries to the Santa Clara River." The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Katherine Squires Comment 81

There's also the negative impact on endangered species in the area,

Response 81

The comment discusses "the negative impact on endangered species," but no further information or detail is provided. The Landmark Village project would not create significant unavoidable impacts to the unarmored threespine stickleback, least Bell's vireo, southwestern arroyo toad, southwestern willow flycatcher and the California red-legged frog as discussed in detail in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.5, Floodplain Modifications.

Katherine Squires Comment 82

The fact that there's a lack of water to support the project.

Response 82

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.10, Water Service. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Katherine Squires Comment 83

And then I hear speaking about, you know, token parks and things and how it would be a happy place to live, but frankly that's not going to solve the problem of vanishing natural open spaces. And once gone they're gone forever. Thank you.

Response 83

The comment expresses opinions, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Teresa Savakie Comment 84

My name is Teresa Savakie. I live at 26724 Mocha Drive in Santa Clarita.

Response 84

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Draft EIR.

Teresa Savakie Comment 85

We've had a lot of people talk about the Santa Clara River and that's a great passion of mine as it is my children's. It is Southern California's last living river.

Response 85

The comment raises issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment. Nonetheless, 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 required.

Teresa Savakie Comment 86

and I -- again I'm asking everybody to try and work with the Nature Conservancy. Let's try to direct some sort of positive changes to this project, maybe some sort of acquisition.

Response 86

The proposed Landmark Village project is part of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, which will set aside 4,214 acres of land as open space in the High Country SMA/SEA 20. The project applicant is working with **Center for Natural Lands Management and others** to actively manage the open space land in perpetuity. Based on the Landmark Village project's dwelling unit count, the proportionate share of this set aside for the Landmark Village tract map is approximately 276 acres within the High Country SMA/SEA 20.

Teresa Savakie Comment 87

And I also don't believe that we should be rushing this project along because the draft environmental impact report hasn't even been yet released from the California Department of Fish and Game or the Army Corps of Engineers,

Response 87

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Teresa Savakie Comment 88

nor has they received the necessary permits from Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Response 88

Please see **Topical Response 2: EIS/EIR Project**.

Teresa Savakie Comment 89

So I'm not understanding what the big hurry is here because the project may actually have to be changed once we review that draft environmental impact report. And so I'm thinking that maybe we should put this off. We might want to think about waiting until those agencies have -- has released that document, the public has had a chance to review and the decisions are made. So I'm not -- I don't feel like we need to rush this along.

Response 89

The comment expresses opinions, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Teresa Savakie Comment 90

On another issue, the City of Santa Clarita spent --has spent eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) of taxpayer dollars to fight the CEMEX mining project. That eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) was supposedly because they are quit interested in the air quality and the impacts to the Santa Clarita Valley. I think it's about 1,400 traffic trips that CEMEX would create daily.

Response 90

The comment raises economic, social, or political issues that do not appear to relate to the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Teresa Savakie Comment 91

Newhall Ranch, 357,000 additional traffic trips. I ask you to really take this into consideration.

Response 91

The entire Newhall Ranch Specific Plan project will generate approximately 357,000 average daily trips. The Landmark Village portion of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, which is the subject of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, would generate 41,900 average daily trips.

Teresa Savakie Comment 92

I mean, the hypocrisy is unbelievable. Part of our taxpayer dollars going to fight the mining project which in turn supports all these development out of the in Santa Clarita area.

Response 92

The comment raises economic, social, or political issues that do not appear to relate to any physical effect on the environment. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Teresa Savakie Comment 93

You know, we don't care how our air quality's damaged.

Response 93

The comment expresses opinions, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Teresa Savakie Comment 94

It doesn't really matter whether it's a mining project or a housing development.

Response 94

The comment raises social or political issues that do not appear to relate to the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Teresa Savakie Comment 95

We need to put businesses in Santa Clarita that support the people who live there. I said that the last time I was here. We don't need people traveling into Santa Clarita while we're having to travel out this sort of backwards kind of balance. We need good paying jobs in the Valley, and

Response 95

The comment raises economic, social, or political issues that do not appear to relate to the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Teresa Savakie Comment 96

And we do have a deficit in parks out in Santa Clarita. They're trying to pass a bond for a park land. So we are not keeping up with the growth here in parks, schools and any other things. Let me just say this:

Response 96

The comment addresses parks in the City of Santa Clarita, not unincorporated Los Angeles County, where the Landmark Village project is located. The Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.16, Parks and Recreation, finds that parkland proposed for Landmark Village meets the County's Quimby Act parkland requirements and provides for a portion of the parkland proposed by the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan.

Teresa Savakie Comment 97

I have three children in school. They're all being --they're all having to go to a school out of my district -- I mean -- they're supposed to be going to Emblem. They're all supposed to be bussed to Tesoro. That bus trip is an hour and a half. None of my kids are taking the bus because quite frankly their time is a little too valuable to spend two or three hours commuting in buses across the valley. Its absolutely ridiculous. Now I have a 6th grade daughter who is going to have to go to yet another school, be separated from the friends she has made. I have a kindergartener who's going to have to go back to another school, and I have a fourth grader who is going to lose the friends that he's made and go back to another school. So now all -- this is not what a community --

CHAIR VALADEZ: You're speaking faster and faster.

MS. SAVAIKIE: I'm sorry. I just want to make sure I get it out. But it's very unfair to my children. We move there to be part of -- you know, be close to school and have consistency in their life. It's very important for children to have consistency, ask we aren't creating that situation. And I like the idea of building schools before development. I really think that's what needs to happen. Thank you.

Response 97

The comment expresses opinions and addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Kris Ohlenkamp Comment 98

My name is Kris Ohlenkamp. I live at 2367 Old Topanga Canyon Road in Topanga. I'm president of the San Fernando Audubon Society and this project is in our territory.

Response 98

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Kris Ohlenkamp Comment 99

I second the motion to remove the EIR for this project or to at least vote that you don't have enough information to make a decision on this project based simply on the fact that there is incomplete information in the EIR as you've heard in the testimony today and last month both on cultural resources and biological resources.

Response 99

The comment expresses opinions, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Kris Ohlenkamp Comment 100

There are whole groups of people and whole groups of plants and animals that have been total ignored and not even looked at.

Response 100

The comment does not specify what groups of people and plants have been ignored. Consequently, no detailed response can be provided or is required.

Kris Ohlenkamp Comment 101

They may have been looked at, but they're certainly not included in the EIR.

Response 101

The comment provides no specificity. No further response can be provided or is required.

Kris Ohlenkamp Comment 102

We'll never know if they were looked at because the consultants who did the studies are not allowed to talk to the public or any other, any other -- anybody other than their employers.

Response 102

The methods and results of all biological investigations conducted within Newhall Ranch are disclosed during the environmental review process for each proposed project, as required by CEQA. The applicant no longer requires confidentiality agreements for plant and wildlife surveys conducted on its properties. In addition, the speaker toured the Landmark Village site and surrounding areas on October 25, 2006. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Kris Ohlenkamp Comment 103

Basically you've really already heard everything I think you need to hear, but it's really an incomplete EIR and that's what -- the reason that we suggest that you vote against this project at this time. Thank you.

Response 103

The comment expresses opinions, which 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 or question the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Lisa Fimiant Comment 104

Hello. My name is Lisa Fimiant, and I'm a member of Los Angeles Audubon, on their board as well as the Friends of Ballona Wetlands.

Response 104

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Lisa Fimiant Comment 105

I participated in four of the five Christmas bird counts up in the Santa Clara River Valley, and I wanted to read a brief quote from Dan Cooper's Important Bird Areas of California, something that Garry George also gave you a short quote. In the description of the Santa Clara River Valley, Dan states that the Santa Clara River is the longest free flowing river in Southern California and is the only one that extends from the desert to the coast. He goes on to say portions of the intact low land riparian board -- bird community of the Santa Clara River are teetering on the brink of disaster particularly within Los Angeles County.

Response 105

The comment provides background information, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Lisa Fimiant Comment 106

Perhaps to sum up what I feel about the Santa Clara River, I'd like to read a quote from a book, and this really expresses the emotion I feel about this river. The quote is by Terry Tempest Williams. It's from her book RED: Passion and Patience in the Desert, and the caption is "Wild Mercy".

"The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time. They are kneeling with hands clasped that we might act with restraint, that we might leave room for the life that is destined to come. To protect what is wild is to protect what is gentle. Perhaps the wildness we fear is the pause between our own heartbeats, the silent space that says we live only by grace. Wilderness lives by this same grace. Wild mercy is our hands." Thank you.

Response 106

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Jennifer Robinson Comment 107

Jennifer Robinson, 6348 Primrose Avenue, Los Angeles, California; and I'm with the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter. The Sierra Club is very concerned about many issues, very specifically global warming and climate change.

Response 107

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

Jennifer Robinson Comment 108

We do lots of work to ensure water quality and have committees who work on water quality, green buildings, air quality, global warming, energy and renewable energy issues. We like to promote public transportation and have a cool cities program to work --to promote energy efficiency in new buildings.

Response 108

The comment provides background information, but does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. Nonetheless, 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 regarding the content or adequacy of the Landmark Village Draft EIR, no further response is required.

Jennifer Robinson Comment 109

Though Los Angeles city mayor recently signed onto the cool cities programs with the Sierra Club that will require all new buildings to live up to lead -- certain lead standards and other energy efficiencies. We -- the county should ensure that developers and their proposed developments address issues of global warming and energy issues by ensuring solar panels, green buildings and considering lead platinum or silver standards in new buildings.

Response 109

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Jennifer Robinson Comment 110

Also public transportation, while there was some discussion at the last meeting,

Response 110

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Jennifer Robinson Comment 111

I've heard a lot about school concerns today and the fact that we're not building the schools before we're putting in developments.

Response 111

As discussed in the Landmark Village Draft EIR, Section 4.15, Education, p. 4.15-1:

“The “School Facilities Funding Agreement Between the Castaic Union School District and Newhall Land and Farming Company” (Castaic School Funding Agreement), effective November 20, 1997, and included in this EIR (**Appendix 4.15**), would mitigate Landmark Village impacts on the Castaic District. Under the Castaic School Funding Agreement, the applicant and the Castaic District have provided a financing schedule and a financing plan, in combination with certain mitigation payments, which will provide permanent facilities, including land, buildings, furnishings and equipment to house grades K-5 and 6-8 students who will reside in the Riverwood Village Planning Area of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. The proposed Landmark Village project is part of the Riverwood Village Planning Area. Once implemented, the Castaic School Funding Agreement would fully mitigate Landmark Village’s direct and cumulative impacts on the Castaic District’s educational facilities.

Project-specific impacts on the Hart District would be mitigated through the separate “School Facilities Funding Agreement Between the William S. Hart Union High School District and The Newhall Land and Farming Company” (Hart School Funding Agreement), effective October 1998, and included in this EIR (**Appendix 4.15**). The Hart School Funding Agreement conditionally obligates The Newhall Land and Farming Company to provide up to three additional junior high schools and two additional senior high schools to the Hart District. Once implemented, the Hart School Funding Agreement would fully mitigate Landmark Village’s direct and cumulative impacts on the Hart District’s educational facilities.”

Jennifer Robinson Comment 112

And I agree that public transportation should be seen in the same light and also issues of water supply.

Response 112

The comment addresses general subject areas, which received extensive analysis in the Landmark Village Draft EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. 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.

Commissioner Modugno Comment 113

Mr. Adamick, the school discussion that we had at the beginning of your presentation, some comments which I heard from people, and you indicated that there's expectation that Castaic high school will be built by the time the occupants go into homes in Landmark. Would you accept exploration of adding a condition to this that, if that is not going to be online, that somehow or another Newhall Land and Farming will work with the Hart District to make that happen? That either be it through a mechanism of advancing funds to complete that construction. You've indicated some exploration of an alternative cite that you might put it, but I think it's critical that that school be in place and be open so that there's not a further pressuring on the community as a result of this development.

And I think it really sets a standards for the other villages and other phases of Newhall Ranch to really put that online; that roads are being built, schools are being built, parks are being built to serve the project and if -- is not after the construction of those areas that the developer is going to make sure that those things take place. And I would highly encourage and see if there's some way in which we can come up with some condition for this project that the first house doesn't take occupancy until at least Castaic high school or a high school there is built.

Well, I know you don't. But I'd like to have an agreement in place with the strongest sort of language and a commitment on the part of the developer without wiggle room out that the developer is committed to see this happen.

Okay. I'd like to see that part of the condition as we move forward.

Response 113

Please see **Response 8**, above.

Commissioner Modugno Comment 114

The other piece and that's addressing the concept we spoke about earlier as far as affordable housing. I spoke very briefly with Commissioner Bellamy during the break and I just gave an example. If -- while I

recognize that people buy the house based upon their income, in my years of serving on the planning commission in Santa Clarita, you know, I saw a lot of people figuring out how to beat the *system*. And they would either switch jobs or go unemployed for whatever reason and then suddenly they'd qualify and then a few years later they'd walk out with a windfall profit and really didn't serve the broader community sort of, sort of needs. If we come up with a type of a pro rata scaling system -- for example, we've got an income qualification and that's verified and then you're able to then stand in line and purchase a home. And that home sells for let's say thirty percent below market is the target for moderate income. Maybe it's lower than that for very low or something.

Then you've got that position and there was a thirty percent discount from the market value of that house that, if you're going to put a thirteen or fifteen year time period, that gets to market in fifteen years but it gets there in stages. So if the person sells that out three years out that -- at two percent a year against that thirty percent, that if they sell the house, the house has to be resold now not at the thirty percent discount, but twenty-four percent discount to market. So both the market and the individual share in a pro rata sort of basis so that the new person coming in who buys that house is buying it at a twenty-four percent discount qualifying again at that moderate level is cheaper than they could get something else or maybe there's a new house that they could qualify at the full discount, but they've only got a certain number of years left on that.

So it's not this sort of fall off point that what has concerned me is at fifteen years hence and somebody goes -- you know, if somebody's selling that house, they have no reason to maintain the house in the same manner that the person is going to fully want to participate. But that's just one sort of mechanism that I'd like to see built into this, and obviously its got to work with the -- the city and others. But I think it's setting a model for future affordable sort of projects on a sale basis that that has that sort of scaling.

Response 114

The applicant's affordable housing plan is included in **Appendix F** of this Final EIR.

Commissioner Bellamy Comment 115

I know that you spoke very generally regarding alternative energy and building standards. I would like for you to have specific language defined how you're going to address green buildings. And one of the persons that had concerns referred to solar panels. I would like for you to refer not to solar panels but to the use of photo voltaic cells for your commercial for sure municipal buildings and possibly your residential if possible and also the orientation of buildings utilizing passive solar. So I'd like for that language to be in there. Thank you.

Response 115

Please see **Response 2**, above.

Commissioner Modugno Comment 116

On that note, I think we spoke about—Commissioner Helsley was here, In fact we one of those comments with that was even having a sustainable package in association with house as an option that you purchase—you pay more for the purchase price, but it's demonstrated to the buyer here's the types of savings you might derive over the years; that the passive solar system as it would relate to any community pools that that be built into it to the extent to which homeowners association building are built, those be built to a -- at least silver level of, you know, your green sort, sort of a area that there be encouraging -- encouragement there for industrial buildings to be built.

And provide here are the types of standards. You obviously can't force that if you're building the suit that you might have something within. But it's a real level of an intent on the part of this development to show that sustainability is one of the focal points of this project.

Response 116

Please see **Response 115**, above.

Commissioner Modugno Comment 117

I too live in Santa Clarita Valley and I enjoy living there. My family has lived there many years. One of my aunts will tell a story of being born in Sand Canyon and bussed to San Fernando because there were no high schools in the Santa Clarita Valley until Hart high school was built in 1945. So over the years obviously there has been tremendous expansion of that. I played as a child in the river, and have watched that river being closed in, modified, altered and yet there's still pieces of it that flow. They flow more today as a result of two treatment plants than they used to in the past.

We were standing on San Fernando road looking north as the water was a foot over the bridge of the river in the late 1960's and recall my parents talking of the disaster that occurred when the St. Francis Dam collapsed and drove massive amounts of water and debris down the river. I also know that the river has sort of an artificial environment with a whole lot of bamboo that was used in filming to replicate the delta and rivers of Vietnam, which clearly should not be a natural state of affairs on a river but that's sort of artificial creation that's put on a river. So, you know, sensitivity to that river is strong with all of us who live in Santa Clarita Valley. And we have varying views in terms of how that river should work and how it should flow and et cetera.

A great concern over schools, and I appreciate the fact that the applicant has a willingness to look at a strongly worded condition as we can possibly have to ensure that there will be schools before there are houses sold because we need to have that. And again, it's building our way out of an infrastructure deficit. I wish we had greater control over Caltrans and to do something with the Interstate 5. That is the one piece of the equation that has always been the difficult one and one that the City of Santa Clarita in and of itself in northern county can have any control or influence on.

Response 117

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Commissioner Modugno Comment 118

Because of the number of issues that were brought forward this morning, because of the concerns about its full completeness within the Draft EIR, because of issues we've raised in terms of sustainability—we want to see some specifically towards that and some language toward affordability. The normal course of action that we have is to indicate our intent to approve close -- close the public hearing, indicate our intent to approve -- close the public hearing and indicate our intent to approve and have -- come back with final documents. I would suggest we do something differently this morning with this case.

And what I suggest we do is close the public hearing. I think as far as the matter of input we've had is sufficient at this point in time. I'd like staff then to come back with the final EIR for us to review and write conditions reflecting the comments both of this meeting that have come from the Commission, those areas where we've had some concurrence with the applicant as far as affordability, as far as the high school, as far as the sustainability; the green sort of language that we'd like to see incorporated and give us a chance then to review that language, those conditions and the final EIR before we ultimately approve this and pass it onto the Board of Supervisors if that's the direction we're going to take.

So it's rather than indicating an intent to approve this morning, what I'd like to do is to put on the table a motion, move that we close the public hearing, direct staff to prepare the final EIR, provide responses as required; return the tract map to subdivision committee for technical review of project modifications as they may be required through that process, prepare findings and conditions for consideration on a future agenda.

Response 118

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.

Commissioner Modugno Comment 119

Now, I would like to have because of the interested parts -- and that would be the motion -- would also like to have the interested parties least the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club and SCOPE or organizations who have had people come --testify notified of the date that that hearing will take place. If there are interested parties, please pass your name on to staff so that you can also be notified because we don't want to do this in a vacuum. We want all -- those of you who are interested to be able to see that component of it. While the hearing is closed, there is still an opportunity of communicating with staff, there's an opportunity to communicate with the applicant. And there will be on going dialogue back and forth between the applicant, staff and subdivision committee because until we take our final action, all of that input and materials that is there is part and parcel with the entirety of this case and becomes parts of the piece.

Response 119

The comment is noted. No further response is required given that the comment does not address or question the content of the Landmark Village Draft EIR.