



Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment

SCOPE

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**You're Invited to our Quarterly SCOPE Meeting
Wednesday April 24th 6:30-9PM
Valencia Library Community Room
23743 Valencia Blvd, Santa Clarita**

**Special Guest Speaker,
Dean Walraff, Environmental Attorney
"What is the California Environmental Quality Act?,
Why it is Important, and How to Comment on
Landuse Reports"**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is our state's landmark legislation to protect our air, water and open spaces. Passed in 1970, it has provided a tool to make sure the environment is considered when projects are proposed. It not only requires transparency in the planning process, but agencies must also respond to public comments. CEQA helps improve projects by requiring that environmental impacts be disclosed so that alternatives or mitigation can be proposed to address them. In the Santa Clarita Valley, it has helped us protect the Santa Clara River and ensure that we have a clean and healthy water supply.



Now this important law is under attack by developers and oil companies who want to weaken its strong environmental protections by reducing public participation and full disclosure.

Come to the meeting to learn how this law can help safeguard our community and why we need to defend it from those who wish to dismantle it.

**Climate Change Film at Cal Arts
This Sunday, April 21st 4PM**

In just 42 minutes, "Do The Math: The Movie" tells the story of the growing climate

in just 12 minutes, so the main the movie tells the story of the growing climate movement, from the new fossil fuel divestment campaign to the fight against the Keystone XL pipeline. [Check out the preview here](#) to get a sneak peek.

California Institute of the Arts - Bijou Theater
24700 McBean Pky, Valencia

Public Utilities Commission Orders Public Hearings on Proposed 16% Water Rate Hike and Alleged Illegal Acquisition of Valencia Water Company

Mark your Calendar for May 16th

Two Hearings to be held at Santa Clarita City Hall
Thursday May 16th 1PM and 7PM

Earlier this year, SCOPE filed a [Complaint](#) before the California Public Utilities Commission to protest the sweetheart deal to acquire Valencia Water Company, wholly owned subsidiary of Newhall Land and Development Co, developers of the 21,000 unit Newhall Ranch. The \$73.8 million dollar deal between Newhall and Castaic Lake Water Agency would illegally commit future water supplies to the massive Newhall Ranch project in Northern Los Angeles County. The fact that Newhall Land owned the water company that would serve the project, has long cast doubt on the fairness of the water supply assessments. Now Castaic Water Agency has agreed in advance to serve all of Newhall's projects as part of this purchase no matter how that would affect current residents or businesses.

Rate Hearings Ordered - But that's not all. Valencia Water Co. sent a notice to its customers of a huge rate increase to fund this purchase for CLWA. SCOPE filed a formal protest and asked the Public Utilities Commission to hold a local public hearing. Not only did the Commission agree to hold a hearing, but on April 10th it ordered an investigation into Valencia's current rates as well!

Public Hearings on the Valencia Water Company Acquisition and Rate Increase

May 16th Santa Clarita City Hall 1 Pm and 7PM

For more information visit our website at <http://www.scope.org>

Breaking News - Sierra Club asks Attorney General to investigate illegal acquisition of Valencia Water Co. Click [Here](#) to read about it in the Signal newspaper.

SCOPE in the News -

["Suit Challenges Purchase of Water Company to benefit Newhall Ranch"](#)

["Serious Action Needed on the Climate"](#)

["The California Environmental Quality Act Helps Everyday Heroes Protect Their Neighborhoods"](#)

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Mom says, "You should help the environment"

"Long time SCOPE member Evelyn Carpenter helped us to help you save the Santa Clara River with her donation to SCOPE.

You can too!"



Don't forget! - You can get in depth information on our current activities and additional articles by visiting our new [blog](#) site.

Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to:

SCOPE
(click for donation form)
P.O. Box 1182
Canyon Country, CA
91386-1182

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