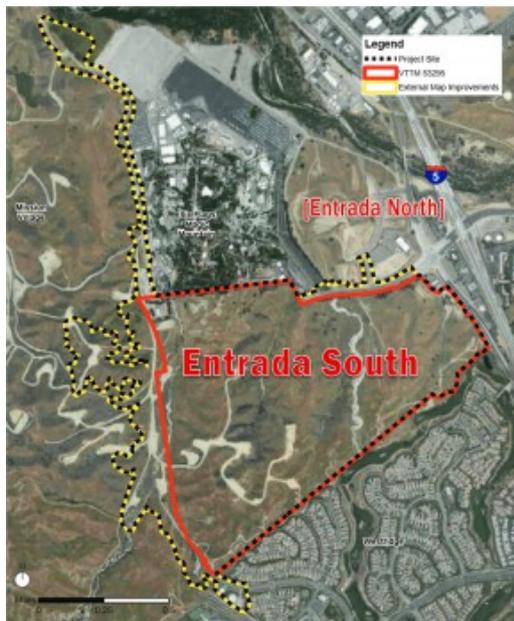




Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment

SCOPE

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**Newhall Proposes Yet another
1574 Housing Units in the Middle of
a Drought! Hearing On the
Draft Impact Report
Thursday June 4th, 6 PM
Your Presence is Needed**

Rancho Pico Jr. High School
26250 W. Valencia Blvd.
Westridge, 91381

A few weeks ago the [Los Angeles Times ran a story](#) about NASA reports indicating that California may have as little as one year of water left. Now Newhall Land is proposing yet another unsustainable project built on an old oil field (you can see the remaining oil well pads in the picture). Would you want to invest in or live in a house built over an old oil field? What are the health and safety implications? Newhall has already received approval for their Landmark and Mission tracts- app. 6000 units total (Mission will be built in an old oil field also), both of which are currently being reviewed by the California Supreme Court. But that hasn't stopped this company, now owned by an out of state corporation (Lennar) and hedge funds. They have already put out new Notices of Preparation for Homestead (app. 3400 housing units and Entrada North 1250 housing units. Not to mention the 3150 units for North Lake, also beginning their process. Where will the water come from? How will existing residents deal with all the additional traffic and water cutbacks needed to accommodate these new houses? Other communities are not subjected to such massive uncontrolled growth. What is happening in Santa Clarita?

We must change these kinds of land use approvals to something more sustainable. If you have concerns, this is the time to voice them. Please attend this hearing. For more information on this proposal, info on where to write letters and to download the Environmental Impact Report by section, click [here](#).

SCOPE Petitions the Supreme Court over Newhall Ranch

Landmark Phase I Appellate Decision

Like the Appellate Decision that resulted in last year's Petition to the Supreme Court on the Newhall Ranch River permit being accepted for review, the Landmark ruling also erroneously validates Newhall Land's claim that 1544 housing units would not create a significant increase in greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

Last Friday, SCOPE joined with its coalition partners, Friends of the Santa Clara River, Center for Biological Diversity, and Ventura Coast Keeper/Wishtoyo Foundation in filing a petition for review at the California Supreme Court. The issue was once again the absurd notion that a large urban sprawl project built on what is now farmland, will create no significant level of greenhouse gases. Our petition argues:

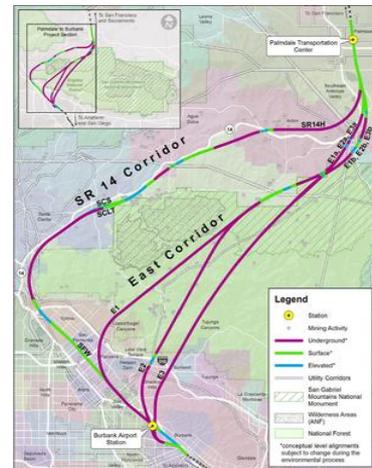
*"The baseline is normally the existing physical conditions in the project area at the time CEQA review commences... Under no circumstances, however, may an agency assess significance based on a comparison between the proposed project and some other hypothetical version of the project that might conceivably be built under prevailing land use laws or pre-existing permits. However, Los Angeles County used just such an impermissible comparison in the Environmental Impact Report ...for the Landmark Village project, which is the first phase of the Newhall Ranch development which result in emissions 38 times greater than existing conditions. However, the County did not measure the significance of this increase in relation to existing environmental conditions. Rather, the County used an alternate "business as usual" baseline, derived from a hypothetical version of the project based on legally impossible assumptions... Thus, although the approved project will result in a **net increase of nearly 20,000 metric tons of CO2 each year**, the County concluded that these emissions are insignificant because they are more than 30 percent lower than the 30,000 tons per year that would be emitted by the hypothetical business as usual project."*

High Speed Rail Meeting TONIGHT!

Are you worried about the high speed rail routes through the Santa Clarita Valley? Or other issues such as noise? What will it look like? How much will it cost? Here is your chance to learn more.

The High Speed Rail Authority will be holding a Community Open House Meeting in the Santa Clarita Valley on:

Monday June 1st, 5PM-8PM
Santa Clarita Activities Center
20880 Centre Point Parkway
Santa Clarita, CA 91350



SCOPE in the News -

["SCOPE Appeals CLWA Takeover of Valencia Water Co."](#)

["SCOPE Joins with Local Residents to Demand Review"](#)

["Activists to Demand Hearing on Landfill Expansion"](#)

["Supreme Court Accepts Review of Newhall Ranch Project"](#)

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

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and help protect our environment
and our neighborhoods**

No time to volunteer? Then you can ease your conscience by making a donation. Even small gifts are a big help and greatly appreciated. You can donate through Paypal on our website or download a donation form.

Help us to help you save the Santa Clara River with your donation to SCOPE.



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,
91386

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