

Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment

SCOPE

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Neighborhood Fights Cell Tower to Protect Elementary School Tuesday May 27th 6PM at City Hall

When the Northbridge neighborhood found out that ATT planned a huge cellular tower close to Helmer's Elementary, they didn't give up - they organized!

Instead of working with the neighborhood to find an alternative location, corporate giant ATT ingored the community, citing the 1996 Federal

Communications Act that they and other telecommunication corporations helped muscle through Congress. Apparently, residents and parents aren't supposed to be worried about their children and neighborhood, according to ATT who said in their letter to the City Council "Indeed, the appellant

(i.e., the Northbridge Community) and other opponents who raise this issue do so in the context of the Proposed Facility's proximity to a school, a park, and residences. As explained above, the Council is specifically precluded from considering any alleged health or environmental effects of RF emissions, including where, as here, those concerns are raised through the proxy of property values and aesthetics."



You can help by attending this meeting and giving the Northbridge community your support.

Link to Council Agenda Item

See What the Neighborhood has to say!

Jackson County Oregon Bans GMOs with Tractor Power

California's 2012 ballot box attempt to label GMOs failed. But Jackson County fought off a \$million\$



dollar political campaign funded by Monsanto and others when family farmers and residents banned together, bringing tractor power to bear on their local

elections. Just click on the tractors to see



them in action! California's





Legislature is now considering a law to label GMO's. This week SB1381 received the go ahead from three legislative committees. To find out more view the <u>Label GMO website</u>. Labeling GMO and food safety was a SCOPE 2012 focus issue. We

participated in the Label GMO campaign and continue to follow the Label

GMO efforts, helping when we can. We also comment on new pesticide and herbicide rules that affect our food and our community.

Department of Toxic Substances Control Grants SCOPE's and the Advisory Group request - Comment Period for Ground Water Pollution Clean Up Plan Extended until June 30th - Click HERE for the official Notice

Whittiker Bermite is a 900+ acre former munitions manufacturing facility in the middle of our City (click here for a site map). Much of this area was contaminated by chemicals used in the manufacturing process including volatile organic compounds and ammonium perchlorate. These chemicals have also seeped into the ground water



and caused the closure of several water supply wells in the valley. If you want to learn more about the pollution in our community's water supply and participate in a community evaluation of this plan, please contact exec@scope.org. This is your opportunity to get more information and raise any concerns about the project. View the draft Remedial Action Plan.

High Speed Rail in Santa Clarita? - Community Meeting June 5th

One segment of California's controversial high speed rail project is slated to extend from Palmdale to Los Angeles with a route that follows the Santa Clara River through the Santa Clarita Valley. The <u>High Speed Rail Authority</u> will hold a local community meeting to discuss the project.

William S. Hart Regional Park
Thursday, June 5, 2014
5-8PM (formal presentation at 6:30PM)
24151 Newhall Ave., Newhall, CA 91321

...OR Take in a Film about greening our rivers - showing at Patagonia Stores in Santa Monica, Pasadena and Ventura, June 5th

"DamNation" (click to view trailer and locations)

"This powerful film odyssey across America explores the sea change in our national attitude from pride in big dams as engineering wonders to the growing awareness that our own future is bound to the life and health of our rivers. Dam removal has moved beyond the fictional Monkey Wrench Gang to go mainstream. Where obsolete dams come down, rivers bound back to life, giving salmon and other wild fish the right of return to primeval spawning grounds, after decades without access. *DamNation*'s majestic cinematography and unexpected discoveries move through rivers and landscapes altered by dams, but also through a metamorphosis in values, from conquest of the natural world to knowing ourselves as part of nature."

Santa Clara River - Los Angeles County's Last Free **Flowing River**

In a disappointing and puzzling decision released on March 20th, the 2nd Court of Appeals reversed the well-considered opinion of Judge Ann Jones and allowed the Santa Clara River Alteration Permit for the 20,000 unit Newhall Ranch project to proceed, despite questions over water supply and species protection.

'This Decision seems to indicate a basic mis-understanding of some of California's most important environmental safeguards that protect rare species, our air and our water", said SCOPE President Lynne Plambeck. "For instance, to concur with a finding that there is no "significant impact" to greenhouse gas generation, and thus climate change, from a project that converts farmland and open space to 21,000 housing units, puts a strain on our belief in the fairness of the Judicial System."

The Santa Clara River is Los Angeles County's last free-flowing river - it deserves better than this from our Court system." Click here to view the Daily News Article on the Decision

. Last week the five participating coalition groups filed a petition to the California Supreme Court, asking that the Court review this decision.

In other news, SCOPE joined the Center for Biological Diversity and three other groups to challenge the Newhall Ranch Army Corps permit in Federal Court. See the press release from the Center for Biological Diversity Here.

SCOPE in the News

"Contaminated Ground Water Hearing Called Premature"

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"Agency, Environmentalists Respond To Ruling On Valencia Water Co." KHTS Radio"

Visit our blog

"LA Times on Newhall Land's Gift to Fish and Game"

"Channel 7 TV News on Newhall Ranch Decision"

Grandma 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 blog site.



Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to:



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P.O. Box 1182
Canyon Country, CA
91386-1182
Or visit our website at:
www.scope.org

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