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Referendum on Billboard Vote a Success!

Over 18,000 voters sign to have City approval repealed or placed on the ballot

After Council approval of three huge two-sided digital billboards before a packed council chambers in opposition, the community took to the streets to exercise their right of referendum. With the help of volunteers and paid signature gatherers (hired by an advertising competitor), far more than the needed 11,170 signatures were collected in the 30 days allowed by law.

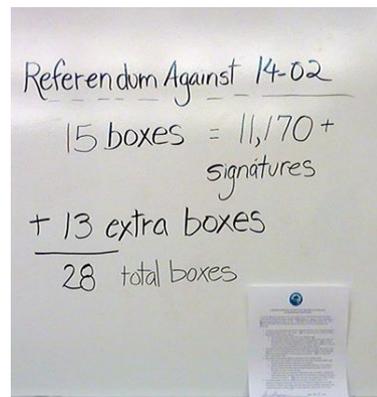
The City's unpopular April vote would have granted a 50 year lease for three 14 x 48 foot, two sided digital billboards placed in open space areas next to the I-5 and Hwy 14 freeways.

Although the proposal also called for the removal of 62



billboards along San Fernando Road, many citizen's felt that replacing one kind of blight with more blight in the form of electronic boards that would remain for 50 years, was not acceptable. Questions also arose as to the legality of siting the new electronic boards in open space and how their constant light would affect wildlife in these areas. Others worried that our City open spaces would look like Las Vegas. Many

thanks to everyone that participated in the signature gathering effort and helped make this happen.



and MORE upcoming events....



Placerita Canyon



Nature Center Open House

Stop by SCOPE's booth and say hello

**Saturday, May 10th
10AM to 3PM**

19152 Placerita Canyon Rd, Newhall, 91321

Bring the kids! This is definitely a family event.

For more info: [click here](#)

Ground Water Pollution Public Hearing - Click [HERE](#) for the official Notice

The Department of Toxic Substance Control will hold a public hearing to discuss clean up of the pollution in our ground water from the Whittiker Bermite Facility.

Thursday, May 15, 2014, 6:30-8:30 PM

City Council Chambers (23920 Valencia Blvd., Santa Clarita)

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.

This is your opportunity to get more information and raise your concerns about the project. View the draft [Remedial Action Plan](#).



SCOPE's focus issues for 2014

Each year at our January meeting, SCOPE members vote to focus on 3 or 4 environmental or planning issues that seem to be of most concern for our community. This year these will include 1) the Santa Clara River 2) water supply/drought issues 3) water pollution 4) Climate change/hydraulic fracturing (fracking). If you are interested in any of these areas, please contact exec@scope.org to find out how you can get involved.

SCOPE Joins Petition to Supreme Court to Save the 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 -

["Water Agency, Environmentalists Respond To Ruling On Valencia Water Co." KHTS Radio](#)

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["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:

SCOPE
(click for donation form)
P.O. Box 1182
Canyon Country, CA
91386-1182
Or visit our website at:
www.scope.org

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