
microSCOPE



a FOCUSED News Update from Santa Clarita Organization for Planning & the Environment October 2012

YOU'RE INVITED!
**to our October 18th Meeting for a
discussion and film on Prop. 37 to
Label Genetically Modified Food**

In January SCOPE members voted to support the "Label Genetically Modified (GM) Foods" Initiative as one of our goals for 2012. We participated in the successful grassroots petition drive to get it on the ballot because we think people have the right to know what they eat.



With growing concerns nationwide over food safety, we think simply labeling GMO foods will at least give consumers the option of choosing what they want to put on their tables. Prop 37 requires genetically modified foods to be labeled so that consumers know what they are buying. Similar to milk labeling that allows consumers to choose to buy milk from cows free of growth hormones and antibiotics, the initiative would merely give shoppers information about how their food is produced. For more information on the initiative, just go to LabelGMOs.org or better yet, plan on attending our meeting.

WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 18th, 6:30 PM

WHERE: St. Stephen's Episcopal

Church (upstairs lounge)

24901 Orchard Village Rd.,

Valencia, CA 91355

Refreshments will be served

Regular Business meeting to follow discussion

More info: www.scope.org 661 255-6899



**SCOPE Backyard 25th Birthday
Bash Enjoyed by All**

Yes, the day was a bit hot even under the oaks, but the airs of violinist, David Ewart, speeches by Senator Fran Pavley and Councilman TimBen Boydston, along with good food, good drink and a great crowd made for a memorable party. Hope you didn't miss it!

**Newhall Ranch Dealt
Setback by Los Angeles
Superior Court**

Newhall Ranch is a 21,000 unit housing proposal proposed along a stretch of the Santa



Clara River starting just west of the I-5 freeway and continuing approximately 5 miles to the Ventura County line. It would require substantial banking and filling of the floodplain along this last free-flowing river in Los Angeles County.

The California Fish and Game Department granted a River Alteration permit for this proposal late in 2010. A month later in early January 2011, five environmental groups filed a legal challenge to the approval, led by the Center for Biological Diversity, and including SCOPE.

This action was taken only after years of comment letters to the Agency stressing unaddressed problems with this permit, including its failure to protect the river, Indian burial grounds and endangered species as well as the economic issues of who would be paying for all the needed infrastructure.

In a tentative decision made September 20th, the Los Angeles Superior Court ruled for the five plaintiffs. If finalized as proposed, the decision will set aside the Alteration Permit until these issues are addressed.

**Council Approves Santa Clarita
Climate Action Plan**

Approved at its August meeting, Santa Clarita's Action Plan is a start, but leaves much to be desired. Based on 2005 greenhouse gas generation levels, the Plan claims that no additional requirements will be needed to meet 2020 reductions, as long as projects remain consistent with the recently approved One Valley One Vision General Plan update. Current project proposals such as the Disney project in Placerita Canyon already fail to comply.

SCOPE members and Girls Scouts spoke in support of adding more cycling and pedestrian improvements to lower our community's carbon footprint, but without success. You can view the Plan on the City website.