

microSCOPE



a FOCUSED News Update

March 2011

YOU'RE INVITED! to our March Meeting

Join us to hear Heather Wylie talk about her kayak trip down the LA River last summer that the LA Times called the "most important boating expedition ever undertaken on the Los Angeles River."



Photo by Lawrence Ho

This was not just a recreational excursion. Indeed, it helped establish new protections for that river that will aid restoration efforts. Find out why she did it and the legal basis behind her actions.

WHEN: Saturday, March 19th, 2PM

**WHERE: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Spurling Hall Community Room
24901 Orchard Village Rd. Valencia, CA 91355**

Refreshments will be served

Regular Business meeting to follow speaker

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

Congrats to our SCOPE President, Lynne Plambeck

on her receipt of the Dorothy Green Water Advocacy Award from the Planning and Conservation League at their January Symposium in Sacramento. She was lauded for her many years of public interest advocacy for accurate water reporting and the Santa Clara River.



ARE YOU A LIBRARY USER?

Then you probably already know that last summer the City abruptly voted to leave the LA County Library system and hire a private corporation to manage its three libraries. Many residents were not happy about this move. Find out why at: www.SaveSantaClaritaLibraries.org Check the website for action alerts.

SCOPE Joins Suit to Save the Santa Clara River

On January 3rd, SCOPE joined the Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Santa Clara River and Ventura Coast Keeper in filing suit over the Santa Clara River alteration permit for Newhall Ranch. Approved by the California Department of Fish and Game, the permit left many important issues unresolved. It allowed unnecessary changes to the river floodplain and would affect many of its rare species. Also unaddressed were water quality issues such as chloride salts that could cause a sewer fee increase for Santa Clarita taxpayers. You can view the whole petition on our website. Our success depends on your continued support. Please consider a special donation to help the river.



One Valley One Vision We Took a Close Look

OVOV is a supposedly joint planning effort between the City of Santa Clarita and LA County to update the general plans for the Santa Clarita Valley. With separate hearings, plans and environmental documents that made it difficult for the public to participate, no one could call the process "joined". These plans would allow a doubling of our current population to nearly 500,000 people and claimed that there would be no impact to traffic or water supply. They did admit that such a plan would add significant impacts to our already "extreme" (yes, that is the actual designation) air pollution from ozone and particulate matter.

After reading tens of thousands of pages, SCOPE submitted detailed comments that you can read on our website (www.scope.org).

We recommended enforceable language, more protection for the river and its flood plain, up to date traffic studies, a detailed climate action plan and better air quality mitigation, among other suggestions.

We want to give a special thanks to our members and other community leaders that joined us in reviewing these enormous documents. Our valley will be a better place because of their input. There's still time to comment!