
microSCOPE



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

March 2012

YOU'RE INVITED! to our March 19th Meeting for a a discussion and film on the "The Future of Food"

In January SCOPE members voted to support the "Label Genetically Modified (GM) Foods" Initiative as one of our goals for 2012. This petition drive will place an initiative on the June ballot that 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 anti-biotics, the initiative would merely give shoppers information about how their food is produced.



The Future of Food is a 2004 American documentary film that takes an in-depth look into unlabelled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have made their way into grocery stores in the United States for more than a decade. Farmers voice their opinions in disagreement with the food industry, detailing the impacts on their lives and livelihoods from this new technology. The film also shines a light on the market and political forces that are changing what people eat.

WHEN: Monday, March 19th, 6:30 PM

**WHERE: Valencia Hills Club House
24060 Oakvale Dr., Valencia, CA 91355**

Refreshments will be served

Regular Business meeting to follow speaker

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

Find out at our meeting about how you can get involved locally with the GM Food Labeling campaign or visit LabelGMOs.org for more info.



**Meet us at the Earth Day Fair
Saturday April 14th**

Stop by our booth and say hello!
10am to 4pm., at Central Park
(27150 Bouquet Canyon Rd.,
Santa Clarita CA 91350).

Newhall Ranch first Phase approved by Supervisors, opening the floodgates to this 21,000 unit project?



While the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan was approved in 2003, the Supervisors required that each tract map for this massive 21,000 unit project must receive individual review and approval. Much has changed since 2003.

We believe approval of this project was a mistake. At a time when nearly 2000 homeowners face foreclosure in the Santa Clarita Valley, several housing projects including at least two projects owned by Newhall Land remain half built due to lack of buyers, and tens of thousands additional units are already approved but not yet built, is this project really needed? More houses will likely continue to force housing prices downward and presents an unnecessary burden on our community.

Not only will it destroy a particularly sensitive area of the Santa Clara River, Los Angeles County's last free-flowing river, but local residents will also face increased air and water quality problems, the costs of potential downstream flooding, and substantial added traffic to the freeways and local streets. There is no guarantee that Newhall Land, who is majority owned by hedge funds and only recently emerged from bankruptcy, will have the wherewithal to pay for needed infrastructure for the project.

At a time when the public is demanding fiscal responsibility, transparency and fairness from its government agencies, we believe this approval represents a disservice to the tax payers, homeowners and residents of the Santa Clarita Valley and to the entire County.

One Valley One Vision General Plan Update Not Really Much of a Vision for the SCV

Approved by the City of Santa Clarita last year and by the County last month, this Plan was supposed to coordinate City and County planning to improve transportation and air quality by promoting higher density in the City and reduced density in outlying areas. As predicted by some of our members, last minute density increases to favor County developers made that concept a farce—just more density everywhere.

Where will the new sheriff's station be to police all this density? The County voted an option for land close to Newhall Ranch on the far west side of the valley.