



Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment

SCOPE

September News 2012

Newhall Ranch Dealt a Setback by Los Angeles Superior Court

In a tentative decision made September 20th, a Superior Court Judge ruled for the Center for Biological Diversity and four other plaintiffs, including SCOPE. The petition was filed by the environmental groups in January 2011, challenging the legitimacy of the permit to alter the Santa Clara River granted for Newhall Ranch by the California Department of Fish and Game. Environmental groups have fought for year's to protect [the Santa Clara River](#), Los Angeles County's last free-flowing river, from the impacts of this massive 21,000 unit proposal in an undeveloped farming area along the river. Read more in the [LA Times September 26th](#) article.

Santa Clarita Approves Climate Action Plan

At its August meeting the City Council approved Santa Clarita's [Climate Action Plan](#). 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.

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. SCOPE also asked for a two year review of the Plan to make sure it is actually working as proposed. Speakers raised concerns that the recently proposed Disney sound stage project in Placerita Canyon already fails to comply with the City's Plan since it would change designated open space to an auto-intensive industrial use and add thousands of car trips per day.

All of us can help to reduce our carbon footprint and slow climate change. Here's how to calculate your [household carbon footprint](#) along with suggestions for lowering it.

Last Minute Closed Door Attacks on the California Environment Quality Act Fail in the State Legislature -

Citizen's Rights to Speak Up on Local Planning Issues Protected

The California Environmental Quality Act, passed in the 1970's, has ensured for decades that residents have a say in how their communities are developed. It makes sure that environmental problems are thoroughly investigated and mitigation is required to help reduce any unwanted impacts. Developers have long tried to change or get around the required reviews that can cause changes or delays to a project opposed by the community. This year, at least, these efforts failed and Citizen's rights remain intact. Read more about this important law on our [blog](#).

SCOPE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVICE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

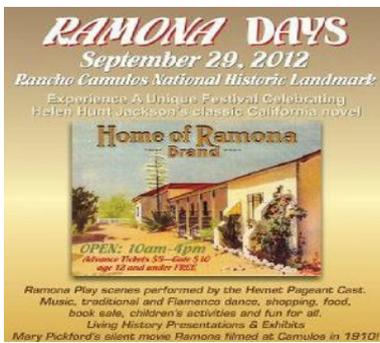
- BACKYARD BIRTHDAY BASH A HUGE SUCCESS!



SCOPE is an all-volunteer group of Santa Clara Valley residents. We formed in 1987 to monitor local projects from a community perspective as well as promote and educate on local environmental issues, especially the Santa Clara River.

We've accomplished some great things over the years from ensuring that schools and libraries are adequate to serve

new growth in 1993 to helping a local girl scout obtain her silver badge by getting signs for the Santa Clara River last year. Two and a half decades of speaking up for our local environment, the Santa Clara River and our oak heritage is no small matter. Thank you SCOPE members for making this happen!



Upcoming Events

Enjoy a day along the Santa Clara River this Saturday, **September 29th**. Visit the Santa Clara River Valley's first orange grove and enjoy [Romona Days](#) at historic Rancho Camulos.

Sunday, Sept. 30th - Noon showing of "Tapped" a movie about the impacts of bottled water on the communities where bottling plants are located, and on climate change and our use of oil. View the trailer [here](#). Sponsored by Unitarian Universalists of the Santa Clara Valley. Santa Clara Senior Center, 22900 Market St. Newhall 91321.

SCOPE Meeting - Oct. 17th, Wednesday 7 PM Vincenzo's Pizza, 24504 Lyons Ave., Newhall. Join us for a short film and discussion of genetically engineered food and Proposition 37, the initiative to label them (on the November ballot). For more information, on your right to know what you eat, visit the [labelgmos.org](#) website.

SCOPE in the News -

["Serious Action Needed on the Climate"](#)
["Bees: A Part of Our Life & Culture"](#)

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Mom says, "You should help the environment"

Long time SCOPE member Roselva Ungar 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 new [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

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