

## "Nature's Graceful Gift to our Community— The Santa Clara River"

Original Water Color by Pat Saletore

The Santa Clara River is the last free-flowing river in Los Angeles County and is designated a Significant Ecological Area in the LA County General Plan. Beginning in the wilderness of the San Gabriel Mountains, it meanders 116 miles to the coast in Ventura. West of the I-5 freeway, its varied habitat supports several endangered species of birds, fish and amphibians, as well as orchards, strawberries and other row crops. Oak groves dot the hillsides above the farmland, providing shelter for local wildlife. The Santa Clara has long been under pressure from development, including Lennar Corporaton's Newhall Ranch. This 21,000 unit project would channel the river, add 19 million cubic yards of fill to the flood plain and concrete 80% of the river's tributaries. As our community, and indeed the whole planet, faces challenges to our water, air quality, as well as diminishing farmland and open space, it is time to re-think the way we build.

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## What we did in 2011

Reviewed, commented on and appeared at hearings for multiple projects including Newhall Ranch River Permit, tract maps, General Plan Updates, water plans and various projects impacting the Santa Clara River floodplain, endangered species, air & water quality, and water supplies. **January** mentored students participating in COC Community Service Program **February** received a construction permit for our public radio station **March** Heather Wylie speaks to SCOPE on her efforts to protect the

Los Angeles River May information booth at Placerita Nature Center Open house June filed public interest litigation to protect the Santa Clara River. Continued work to oppose Lennar's river permit to channel the SC river and 80% of its tributaries **July** advocated for and received

🕍 increased monitoring for public water wells impacted by the Bermite pollution plume

August mentored successful student Santa Clara campaign for bridge signs for the Santa Clara River **September** Information booth at River Rally. Local author Ed Ayres speaks to SCOPE on climate change October/November organized turn out and press appearances for Newhall hearings



And I have felt a presence that disturbs me with the joy of elevated thoughts A sense of sublime of something far more deeply interfused, Where dwelling is the light of setting suns and the round ocean and the living air.......
(from a poem by William Wadsworth)



## **SCOPE** wishes you and your family the very best of holidays

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