



## 2014 – Celebrating the Santa Clara River

### L.A. County's Last Free-Flowing River

Original Photo by Barbara Wampole

Taken Winter February, 2005, looking west from Piru environs

Named an endangered river by American Rivers in 2005, the **Santa Clara River** is the last wild 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. Recently, Lennar Corp./Newhall applied for a river alteration permit that would channel the river, add 19 million cubic yards of fill to the flood plain and concrete 80% of the tributaries to enable its 21,000 unit Newhall Ranch project. After strong objections from environmental organizations including SCOPE, and an ongoing legal battle, the issue is now at the CA Supreme Court. The Santa Clara remains endangered by over-development of its floodplains.

Check us out on the web!

[WWW.SCOPE.ORG](http://WWW.SCOPE.ORG)



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### Some of what we did in 2014



**Reviewed**, commented on and appeared at hearings for multiple projects including Newhall Ranch, Chloride Permit, Valencia Water Co takeover, Chiquita Canyon Landfill expansion, water plans and various projects impacting the Santa Clara River floodplain, endangered species, air & water quality (chlorides, perchlorate), and water supplies. **January** mentored students participating in COC Community Service Program **March** Conducted tours of the river **April** Information booth at City Earth Day Celebration **May** Table at Placerita Nature Center **June** Annual Meeting **July** 🇺🇸 Environmental float in 4th Parade **Aug** Began participation in successful actions to stop digital billboards in open space along our freeways **Sept** Info booth at River Rally and COC Non-profit Fair **Oct** John Quigley speaks at 12th year of "Old Glory" Oak. Presentation at St. Stephen's Church on drought and wildlife. Film and discussion on plastic waste/ bags pollution —Chiquita Canyon Landfill expansion in the SCV **Nov** participated in Whittaker Bermite Advisory Group to ensure clean up. Presentation to West Ranch High School Environmental Club.



*The sun shines not on us but in us. The rivers flow not past, but through us. Thrilling, tingling, vibrating, every fiber and cell of the substance of our bodies, making them glide and sing. The trees wave and the flowers bloom in our bodies as well as our souls, and every bird song, wind song and tremendous storm song of the rocks in the heart of the mountains is our song, our very own, and sings our love ...* (John Muir, from his Journals)



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

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