

# 2015 — Celebrating the Santa Clara River L. A. County's Last Free-Flowing River

Original Photo by Steve Sieren, www.MojaveDesertPhoto.com "Fall Colors" Taken Winter 2011, looking east from Fillmore environs Steve is a nationally renown nature photographer who lives in the Santa Clarita Valley. "There's so much beauty right under our noses that people don't get to see"

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. The Lennar Corp./ Newhall Ranch 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 years of objections from environmental organizations, including SCOPE, and a drawn out legal battle, the CA Supreme Court sent the project back to the drawing board in a landmark decision released last month. The Santa Clara remains endangered by over-development of its floodplains.



### Check us out on the web! WWW.SCOPE.ORG

Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment PO Box 1182, Canyon Country, CA 91386 Peace we ask of thee, oh river, Peace, peace, peace
When we learn to live serenely, Cares will cease
From the hills we gather courage, V
Visions of a day to be
Strength to lead and faith to follow,
All are given unto me
Peace we ask of thee, oh river,
Peace, Peace

(from a Girl Scout song, lyrics by Viola Wood, 1941)



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

Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment is a California Non-profit Corporation

#### Your charitable contributions to SCOPE are tax deductible

### Some of what we did in 2015

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 Feb Opposed deep well injection participated in hearings March VIP tours of the river April Information booth at City Earth Day Celebration May Speaker from Sen. Pavley's office updates SCOPE members on her water bills **June** Annual Meeting; SCOPE joins in filing a civil rights complaint—Chiquita Cyn Landfill July Newhall Ranch oral arguments—Federal Court Aug Participated in "Take Me to the River" Interfaith event; BLM revokes CEMEX mining permit **Sept** Info booth at River Rally; CA Supremes hear Newhall Ranch oral arguments **Nov** participated in Whittaker Bermite Advisory Group to ensure clean up; CA Supremes rule for SCOPE and others, send Newhall Ranch back to the drawing board.