

Santa Clarita Organization *for* Planning and the Environment (SCOPE)



SCOPE's mission is to promote, protect, and preserve the environment and quality of life in the Santa Clarita Valley. SCOPE is a 501 (c)(3) public interest non-profit organization.

- Formed in 1987 as a citizens' oversight group, we participate in all levels of local and state government to promote our mission through educational events, commenting on public processes and through litigation to protect the public and the environment from unhealthy and unjust environmental impacts in our community. Since 1987, SCOPE has proven itself to be a formidable advocate for the Santa Clara River, our local oak resource, water supply, climate change and environmental justice in our community.

We urge you to take a few minutes to watch this slide show and view our accomplishments. We also encourage you to join and participate in our organization to make our world, and especially our community and local environment – where we can make the biggest impact, a healthier place for residents and for the entire web of life.

Protecting the Santa Clara River, Los Angeles County's last free flowing River



The Santa Clara River Declared one of American River's Top 10 Most Endangered, 2005, receiving substantial nationwide press coverage. SCOPE helped write the application and helped to organize the event



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Mentoring college, high school and girl scouts to help our river.

Signs for the Santa Clara River



We took action to oppose the Narrowing and Filling of the Floodplain in the Upper Watershed

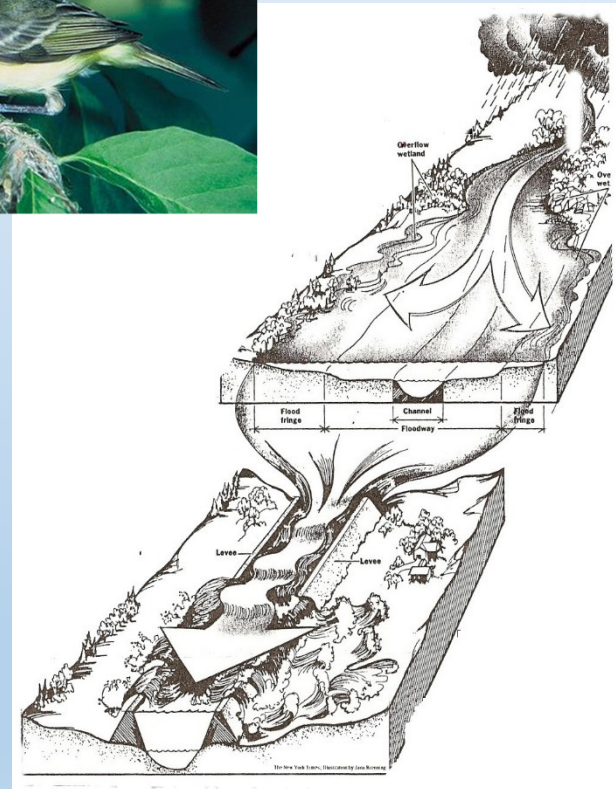


Looking up the Santa Clara River
© Andrew M. Harvey VisualJourneys.net

Why Protect Flood Plains?

Rivers Need Elbow Room

Filling flood plains
and narrowing
the river corridor
Will cause a
“Venturi Effect”,
thus worsening
downstream flooding.
It also destroys habitat
needed by rare species
in our Valley

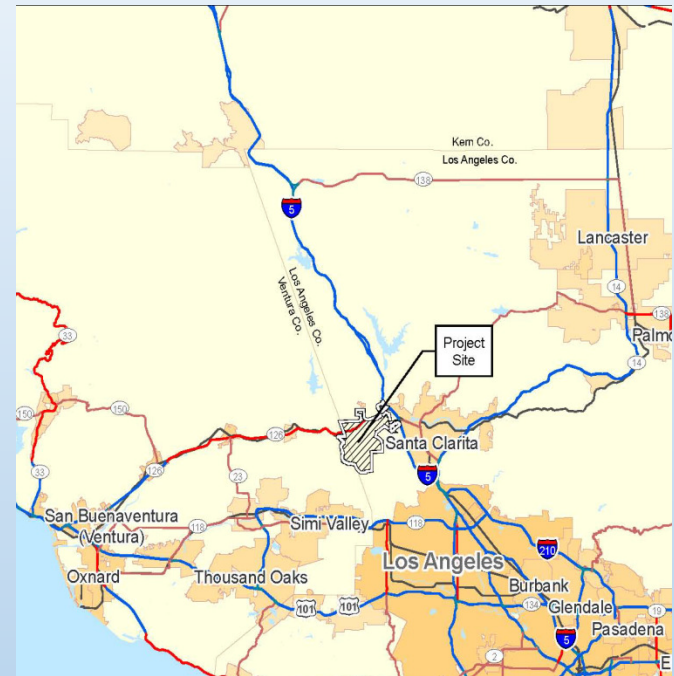


Our Biggest Fight

The Newhall Ranch Project

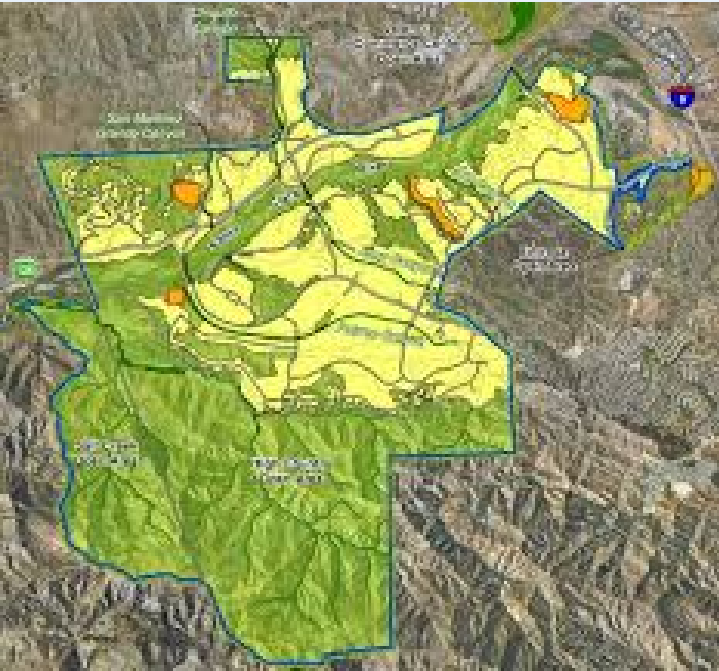


Newhall Ranch and the Santa Clara River



- 12,000 acres of pristine open space
 - Los Angeles County's last free-flowing river, home to many endangered species, and 1500 acres of prime farm land
- Converted to:
- 21,000 Units of Urban Sprawl, plus 9000 additional "Westside" development units
 - 5 Million square feet of commercial

Newhall Ranch – only the first Two Phases have been approved



Landmark Village



Landmark Village Phase I of Newhall Ranch is entirely in the flood plain and will fill it with over 200 million cubic yards of dirt



2015 - Newhall Ranch
at the CA Supreme Court
We, and our coalition partners
Win! thanks to the CA
Environmental Quality Act

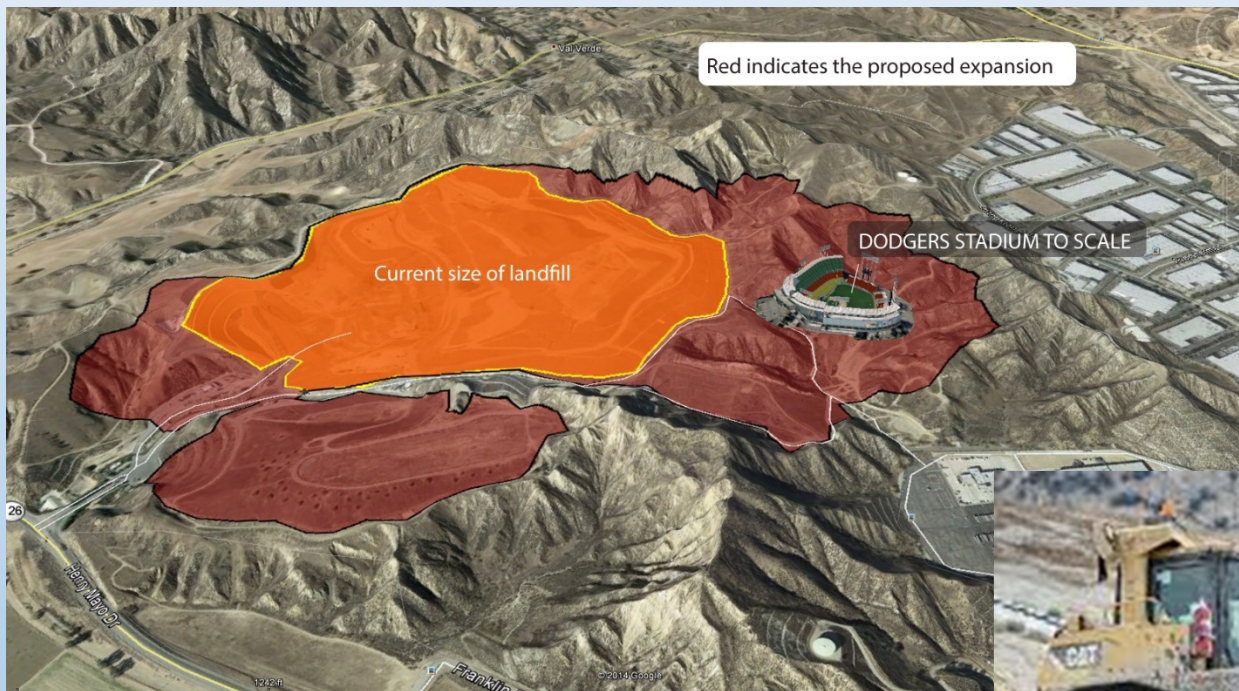


What did the public gain?

- In 2003 the Court ruled that Newhall Ranch had not proved it had a sufficient water supply. The developer had to find more water for its project.
- Endangered fish and other species receive better protection.
- The Court said that climate change must be addressed. The developer added solar roofs to its project which led to solar roof being required on new development throughout California.

Chiquita Canyon Landfill Expansion Actions

Located adjacent to the Santa Clara River across from the Newhall Ranch Project



How did our actions help the community?

- We helped the community understand the County process and how to comment on Environmental Impact reports
- We lobbied and won a requirement for documents and signs to be in both English and Spanish for the Spanish speaking community of Val Verde.
- When the Expansion was approved 2017, better air monitoring and transparency of reports was required.



Protecting Our Oaks



Illegal oak removal at Ralph's Grocery Store — replacements required.

We speak up for the trees!, opposing oak destruction and encouraging development that retains oaks in its plans.



Protecting Oaks and Oak Woodlands



1993 - Protected the last remaining portion of the Valley Oaks Significant Ecological Area west of I-5

2019 - Instigated the re-planting of 68 Valley Oaks in the College of the Canyons conservation easement



The Great Urban Tree Sit, 2002-03
Objecting to the back door to Newhall ranch and
preserving a tributary
Saving this oak meant saving a stream

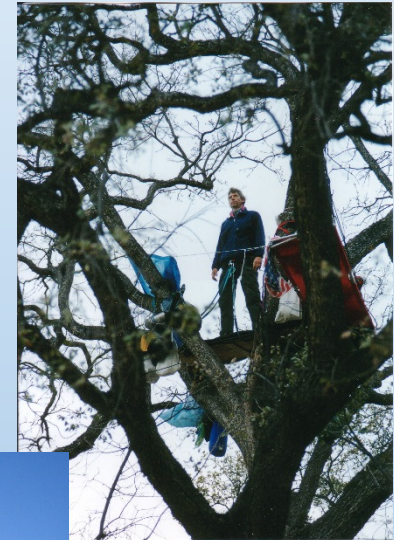


Saving the 400 year old Pico Canyon “Old Glory Oak”

2000 – The developer agreed to protect the creek and this Pico Canyon Heritage Oak. When he and the County reneged on the promise, we took action with the first ever urban tree sit.



2003-4 – The County agrees to move the tree instead of cutting it down. This year we celebrated its 20th year of survival in Pico Canyon Park.



Promoting wildlife corridors to allow safe animal movement in the SCV.

2021 – With the help of a grant from the Rose Foundation, SCOPE gave presentations to the public, its members and college students on the importance of animal movement and getting animals safely across freeways. We promoted the acquisition of a commercial property that would have blocked the Los Pinetos undercrossing, with the result that funding for the acquisition was acquired by the City of Santa Clarita



What Our Legal Actions Have Accomplished

- Trail Connections from San Francisquito Canyon to the River trails so that the horse ranches would not be cut off by development, 1991
- Participated in the Successful Opposition to Elsemere Landfill 1992
- Westridge Development - Preservation of Significant Ecological Area 64 with a conservation easement overlay, School Funding Agreement, Establishment of a Fee for Libraries, better air quality monitoring, 1993
- SCOPE participated in successful ongoing opposition to CEMEX Mine. We were the only organization other than Valencia Water Co that protested their water rights application, 1996
- Arbor Park - no building in the Significant Ecological area of the Santa Clara River, 1995
- Newhall Ranch set aside for insufficient water supply, 2000.
- John Laing Homes did not keep its agreement to preserve Heritage Oaks and Pico Creek. The result – a three month long tree sit in the Old Glory Oak, which was moved to Pico Canyon Regional Park after reaching a compromise with the developer, 2002
- Water Agencies are not allowed to count polluted water as available unless there is a clean up timeline
- Bridgeport approval negotiated with a natural area buffer and trail along the river, Scott Road an amenity rather than an alley, houses facing the river and compact townhome development 2005.
- West Creek – County side, Significant Ecological area buffer zone preserved along this major tributary preserved, 2005
- \$25,000 to the City of Santa Clarita to begin the Bouquet Creek Restoration project, as proposed by Teresa Savaike, 2006
- Valley Oaks Savannah Conservation Easement protected from an agency use, 2013
- Newhall Ranch permits set aside requiring additional mitigation to reduce greenhouse gas production, 2015
- Chiquita Canyon Landfill – Better Air Quality Monitoring



Educating and engaging
the public and the next
generation



4th of July Parade Floats

Participating in Community Events

River tours, River Rally, Placerita Open house and many more.



SCOPE Conferences and Educational Events

Santa Clara River Conference 1995

Presentation to the City Council on the Development Monitoring System
1993

Significant Ecological Area Conference 1997

How to Make the Best of Our Town Conference 2000

What's the Law of the River? – A Seminar on the Clean Water Act 2003

California Environmental Quality Act Seminar at College of the Canyons 2008

River Bus Tours 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007

River Bus Tours for legislators, staff and agency personnel

Student Service Learning Mentoring at College of the Canyons

Boy and Girl Scout Merit Badges

(Resulted in signs for the Santa Clara River, partly COC, partly a Girl Scout
silver badge Project)

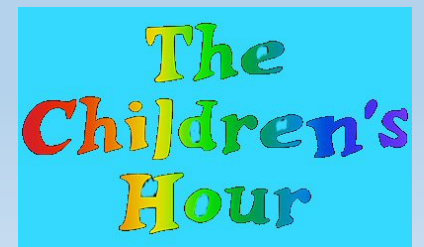
Presentations to Local High Schools

Environmental Movie Nights

Media Alerts to Keep the Community Informed of
Upcoming Hearings and Events

SCOPE Radio KQRU 107.9 Santa Clarita begins Broadcasting in August 2019

The mission of “A Voice for Santa Clarita” Radio, in order to promote and preserve the quality of life in the Santa Clarita Valley, is to inform, educate and entertain the public through local programming, community outreach, news and music on the airwaves and the Internet. Our goal will be to promote understanding and diversity in our community and to provide a venue for alternative viewpoints. Built primarily upon volunteers from the Santa Clarita Valley, “A Voice for Santa Clarita” exists to ensure that the airwaves will always be accessible to the community and that the community always has a voice.



Current Projects

An action to protect the floodplain of the Santa Clara River in the west Valley.

Wildlife corridor lobbying, education and protection

Lobbying & Educating on the importance of the California Environmental Quality Act.

SCOPE Radio - Indie Rock Days, Jazz at night with Bird Notes, Climate Connection and PSA Announcements

Week days - Democracy Now 7AM , Thom Hartman, 6PM

Weekends - Other Voices SCV with Carol Lutness Sat 9AM and

Sun. Spirit in Action 7PM followed by Mitch Jeserich, Letters and Politics



Thank you!!!

We could never have accomplished all this without our many partners, and the support of the public.

Now we ask your help in making the next 5 years just as productive.

The Santa Clara River still needs all of us!

