

3



VALL-E-VENTS



SIERRA CLUB San Fernando Valley

Newsletter October 2015 through DECEMBER 2015

Date: 9/21/15
Submitted in: SSC
Council File No: 14-0601
Item No: 3
Committee: PWSL ✓

Tues., October 20, 2015, 7:00pm



Proposed Hidden Creek Estates Disastrous Development For Trees, Water Supply, Animals & the SF Valley

Find out what can be done!

Monthly meeting: Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will speak on what can be done to save this wonderful place. **He will show beautiful pictures of the special terrain.**

It is planned as a gated-project that is now zoned for 33 homes by L.A. County. A Texas housing developer wants to build this project above Porter Ranch in the Santa Susana Mountains. He is asking favors of L.A. City, such as to be annexed to L.A. City and get a zoning change to 188 homes.

They plan to extend four-lane Mason Avenue three-quarters of a mile through a mountainside.

They are planning to build on the site of an ancient landslide area, which is situated between two creeks, Browns Canyon Creek and Mormon Canyon Creek. This project would probably degrade our local water supply as L.A. City gets a majority of our local water from aquifers in the San Fernando Valley. The local water comes from creeks that flow into our aquifers. If the people in the housing project use pesticides and other toxics, the run-off might affect the water flowing down the creeks.

Another favor asked from L.A. City is that they want to do grading for the project on park land that belongs to the public, especially inside Mormon Creek. Per the L.A. Times, they want to sell houses in this gated-community for between \$850,000 to \$1.5 million dollars but this luxury housing is not needed. Being gated, this land could not be accessed by most people or wild animals for any reason. They will be removing around 400 trees and, therefore, ruining habitat for the animals who live there. *There will be Q & As, socializing and refreshments*

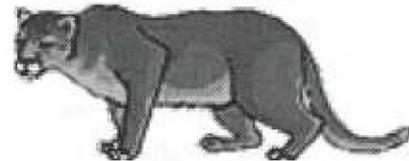
**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
SIERRA CLUB GROUP**

**Monthly Programs-
THE 3RD TUESDAY OF
THE MONTH AT 7:00pm
Reseda Park Rec. Hall
18411 Victory Blvd.
(cross street-Reseda Bl.)**

(Near child's play area), Reseda, CA.

Information: Joe Phillips
818-348-8884 recreationbyjoe@yahoo.com
Program suggestions: Mike Stevenson
818-419-5318 drmsteve@aol.com

Tues, NOVEMBER 17, 2015, 7:00pm



Conservation of Mt. Lions & Bobcats in So.Calif.

Monthly meeting: Dr. Seth Riley, Ph.D. is a Wildlife Ecologist with the National Park Service at the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. His current projects are all related to the impacts of urbanization and fragmentation on wildlife and include bobcat and mountain lion telemetry studies. He will present "The Ecology and Conservation of Bobcats and Mountain Lions in Urban Southern California".

Come and learn about how these animals are using the local landscape, including the roads and freeways they cross, what they're eating, what they're dying from, what their reproductive and early family life is like and what can be done to help preserve these magnificent creatures.

There will be socializing and refreshments.



Holiday Nature Slide Show Tues. DECEMBER 15, 2015

Join us to celebrate the holidays and attend a potpourri of travel, nature and environmental slides from our members and friends.

To get your special slides on the program contact: Michael Stevenson at (818) 419-5318. If you are showing slides, if possible, please bring them to the meeting in a Carousel Slide Tray.

If you have a digital presentation contact Barry Katzen at (818) 341-8304. Also, if you have a digital presentation, please bring them on a USB flash drive or E-mail them directly to barkat@rocketmail.com and Barry will load them in his computer.

There will be socializing and refreshments

**7:00 PM Reseda Park Rec. Hall 18411 Victory Blvd.
(See more direction info. on front page.)**



This deer was spotted along with its family members at Topanga State Park (Trippet Ranch).

Go hiking and see what you will find!!

Photo by Gayle Dufour



Catalina Mariposa Lily 2015 wildflower in our local mountains. *Photo by Pixie Klemic*

HIDDEN CREEK ESTATES Destructive Project Proposed For the Santa Susana Mountains

By Elaine Trogman (info. by Paul Edelman, SMMC & Garrett Weinstein, MRCA)

A Texas Development Co. has plans to develop 188 homes on 150 acres as a gated-community in our Santa Susana Mountains. The area is zoned for 33 homes. The project is named Hidden Creek Estates and they want to build in an ecologically sensitive area on unstable landslide property. The planned site for this 188-unit tract housing project is a highly visible plateau in between Brown's Canyon and Mormon Canyon Creeks in the Santa Susana Mountains. Houses should sell from \$850,000 to \$1.5million per L.A. Times.

The plans involve cutting down approx. 400 native trees. The project would effectively extend urban development deep into Brown's Canyon that anchors the 12,000 contiguous acres of public open space associated with Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch. To build this project there would be a need for the extension of Mason Avenue westward from Porter Ranch, and through a mountainside and across Mormon Creek, in order to provide road access to this otherwise remote site. This area is a critical habitat linkage for mountain lions, bob cats, etc. between the San Gabriel Mountains and the Santa Susana Mts. Being gated, that land could be locked away from public recreational use forever. *Hidden Creeks Estates mountain residents are more likely to used rodenticides. Small Animals like mice, rats, squirrels & rabbits eat the poison and then leave. They die later and larger animals eat these rodents. These larger predators now have the poison in their systems and become sick and some die—it goes up the food chain.*

We feel all that building and development could affect the creeks and, therefore, L.A.'s local water supply. The developer wants extra favors such as: (1) Change the zoning from 33 homes to 188 homes. (2) To be annexed to L.A. city to get all the hookups of gas, water, electricity etc. (3) He wants the City to provide the land for offsite grading of 9 acres of natural habitat and stream habitat in open space that will soon be dedicated as public open space to the City of Los Angeles (4) A general plan amendment.

Many feel that if this development is completed there will be nothing to stop the complete destruction of all the hills in the north end of the Valley. The Hidden Creek Estates plan has already been approved by the L.A. City Planning Committee but we are trying to stop this project by contacting our council people and the mayor. The L.A. City Council will have the last say since the developer wants to be annexed to L.A. city so he can get all the utilities and other amenities provided to the project. Please help us fight this destructive project!!

For more info. & to contact your City Council person use the link below:

**<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sfvq/>
On the top menu choose "TAKE ACTION"**

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

By Elaine Trogman

ENVIRO. ISSUES in San Fernando Valley

The housing market is heating up and that means more housing developments in scenic parts of our mountains that limit access to hikers and destroy habitat for animals like bob cat, coyote & mountain lions.

Some planned developments:

- (1) Proposed Brown's Cyn-Hidden Creek Estates (188 homes) (See article on Page 2)
- (2) Woolsey Cyn Estates (14 homes) in the Simi/Santa Susanas.
- (3) There are mansions and housing developments being built all over the Simi Hills such as the starting of 400 homes in Runkle Cyn & Dayton Canyon 151 homes.
- (4) There are, also, private lands checker-boarded between our State and National Parks in the Santa Monica Mountains. Development could ruin those parks.
- (5) In Studio City there are plans to build 200 condos & 635 parking spaces on what is now the Weddington Golf & Tennis. That is the last remaining open space in the Studio City/Sherman Oaks area and, also, along the L.A. River. They are asking L.A. City for a change of zoning.

Oil Drilling This is happening in the hills above Aliso Canyon & Porter Ranch. The oil and gas drilling company, Long Beach-based, Termo Co. has been drilling at the Aliso Canyon site for years. They have 18 wells on the site and Termo wants 12 new wells there. The wells are located north of Porter Ranch. They are in the process of developing an EIR for the drilling. "Save Porter Ranch" is demanding a health assessment study because of residents' health problems. Sierra Club feels more wells would be polluting and destructive.

Santa Susana Field Lab Cleanup There needs to be a cleanup of toxic pollution at the Santa Susana Field Lab in the Santa Susana Mountains.

Aquifer Cleanup The San Fernando Valley has numerous water aquifers but many of them are polluted and without a thorough cleanup the water can't be used. There are plans to build a cleanup facility.

Sepulveda Wildlife Basin-- In December 2012 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers destroyed the 48 acre "South Reserve". The Sierra Club, SFV Audubon, Native Plant Society and other enviro. groups want the plant-life and improvements replaced.

Chatsworth Nature Preserve—The ecology pond serves many kinds of birds that fly in from far-away places and other animals, also, who need to drink water. The ecology pond is drying up and there are different theories on what to do about it. DWP owns the property & many groups want them to keep the pond filled.

Dredging of the Pacoima Dam. Due to residue from wildfires the Pacoima Dam is filling up. The question is what to do with debris that will be taken away. Nearby residents don't want it dumped on property near them.

Cartoon by Willis Simms



LATEST NEWS TO A 400 YEAR OLD OAK

ENVIRO. ISSUES in the Pacific Ocean

Drift gillnets in California are set up to catch swordfish and thresher sharks, but these mile-long nets create "walls of death" in deep ocean waters, trapping and injuring sea turtles, dolphins, and even endangered sperm whales. Drift gillnets are already banned in Washington and Oregon, and they should not be allowed off California, home to a variety of endangered and iconic wildlife like whales.

Blue whale ship strikes: There are unintentional ship strikes off our So. CA coast that harm and kill the ocean's biggest mammal, the Blue Whale. They are hit when feeding on krill from July-Oct. We want the Navy to open Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station waters, which is not part of the feeding grounds, to commercial shipping traffic at minimum for the months of July-October.

Juvenile sea lions starving from lack of forage fish. Many hundreds of juvenile sea lions are washing up on So. CA shores with reports that they are starving. They depend on fatty forage fish, such as sardines and anchovies, as an important part of their diet. This is particularly true for nursing mothers or newly weaned pups foraging on their own. But there aren't enough forage fish to go around—the sardine population has crashed 90 percent since 2007, with no evidence of recovery. These forage fish have been over-fished. (Info. from Oceana.)

Untreated water flowing into the ocean from sewers releasing pesticides, oil, pet waste & other pollutants.

Santa Barbara Oil Spill Houston Texas based Plains All American Pipeline ruptured leaking up to 105,000 gallons of crude oil—an estimated 21,000 gallons of which went into the Pacific Ocean near Goleta.

Marine Protected Areas We have some Marine Parks off our CA coasts to protect sea life but we need more of them to provide sanctuaries from industrial fishing. These parks protect fish so they can mature and lay more eggs. It is a win-win situation since there will be more fish for sea creatures to eat and fisherman to catch.

Any individuals or small groups interested in local outings in the San Fernando Valley & LA areas, can:

- (1) <http://angeles2.sierraclub.org/>
(This is Angeles Chapter website) Choose "Get Outdoors" then "Schedule of Activities"
- (2) San Fernando Valley Sierra Club website: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sfvgl/>
On the top menu choose "Hikes" or "Future Meetings."
- (3) Send an email or telephone call to the San Fernando Valley Outings Chair
Joe Phillips recreationbyjoe@yahoo.com
818 348-8884
- (4) MEMBERS can ask for "Schedule of Activities" mailed to their homes. Call the Angeles Chapter Office
1- 213-387-4287 then press 0

Terrie Brady is SFV Conservation Chair
818-349-8889
terriebrady.sfvsierraclub@gmail.com

S.A.F.E Permanent Collection Centers

Northridge: Nicole Bernson SAFE Ctr

10241 N. Balboa Blvd. Northridge, CA 91325
Saturdays, and Sundays 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m

Sun Valley: RANDALL STREET SAFE Center

11025 Randall St, Sun Valley, CA 91352
Saturdays and Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m

They accept:

paint and solvents; used motor oil and filters, anti-freeze, and other automotive fluids; cleaning products; pool and garden chemicals; aerosol cans; all medicine except controlled substances; auto batteries; household batteries.

E-waste: computers, monitors, printers, network equipment, cables, telephones, televisions, microwaves, video games, cell phones, radios, stereos, VCRs, and electronic toys

Transportation limit for chemical related items: It is against the law to transport more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste to collection sites. Please pack your waste properly to prevent tipping or spilling of the waste during transportation

It is dangerous to throw compact fluorescent lights in the garbage.

You can recycle the lights.

Info. is above or at HOME DEPOT.

HIKES & OTHER ACTIVITIES

There are many more hikes on our San Fernando Valley Sierra Club website:

<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sfvgl/>

Choose "Hikes" on the top menu.

If you have any questions call

Joe Phillips (818) 818 348-8884

recreationbyjoe@yahoo.com

Saturday & Sunday & Night Activities

Mission Peak Moonlight Conditioning Hike
Monthly Wed Evening closest to the full moon 7:00pm

Sponsor: Santa Clarita Sierra Club
.2863 Neon Way, Granada Hills, CA 91344,

O: Moderate 5 mile, 1200' gain/loss hike to view San Fernando Valley from Mission Peak. Meet 7 PM at trailhead on Neon Way. Take 405 Freeway to 118 Freeway, exit Balboa N, 2 mi to Sesnon, W 1 mile to Neon Way, right to end of street. Bring water, lug soles and flashlight. **Call for more details**

KEN KERNER - 661-259-8800

DAVID MORROW - 661-254-5245

dlrchmorrow@sbcglobal.net

KATE OKAMOTO - 661-288-7931

kate.okamoto@gmail.com

GAYLON S RODIN - 661-263-0568 grodin2@gmail.com

Pacific Palisades Hike in Topanga State Park to Parker Mesa Overlook

Every Friday, 6:45 PM

Sponsor: West Los Angeles Group

O: Moderate level hike with some strenuous spots. Spectacular view of Santa Monica Bay and LA Basin. Moderately strenuous conditioning hike for fit hikers. 2 hr, 5 mile round trip, 1100' total gain on fire road. Meet and sign in at 6:45 pm every Friday, Los Lions Drive at Sunset Blvd (0.3 mi from PCH). Carpool 1.5 miles to trail head. Lug soles. Bring flashlight. Optional dinner at restaurant after.

EDWARD LUBIN - 310-826-2750 edlubin@gmail.com

MARSHALL RATINOFF - 310-420-3600 lataxman@att.net

DAVID HAAKE - 310-237-3447 dhaake@ucla.edu

JOE PHILLIPS - 818-348-8884

recreationbyjoe@yahoo.com

Anybody from the SF valley who wants to carpool from the SF Valley should contact Joe Philips.