This year SCOPE is celebrating its 30th Anniversary of public advocacy on behalf of the Santa Clara River and our community. That’s a long time for a community group. We have all of you to thank for it. And now more than ever we need your help and support.

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. Lennar Corp., now called Five Points, the developer of Newhall Ranch, hopes to move forward with plans 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. The Santa Clara remains endangered by over-development of its floodplains.

Some of what we did in 2017

Reviewed, commented on and appeared at hearings for multiple projects including Newhall Ranch, Chloride Permit, 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 VIP tours of the river and SCV issues Feb, March Huge turnouts at Newhall Ranch and Chiquita Landfill public hearings April Appeal of Chiquita Landfill approval to Supervisors May Continued opposition to water district takeover throughout the summer June Court rules for SCOPE, protects river floodplain July SCOPE Float in 4th parade, litigation filed questioning Newhall Ranch water supply Aug Litigation filed with Val Verde residents over Chiquita Canyon Landfill air quality Sept Voted not to accept the $16.5 million Newhall Ranch settlement offer in order to continue to speak up for residents and the Santa Clara River, booth at River Rally Nov SCOPE celebrates its 30th anniversary with music, speeches, toasts