SCOPE Board votes to Oppose City Measure S that would approve huge digital billboards in Open Space

We vote **NO** on Measure S and hope you will, too.

Before a packed council chambers in opposition, the Santa Clarita City Council earlier this year approved three huge two-sided digital billboards. The community took to the streets to exercise their right of referendum. With the help of volunteers and paid signature gatherers (hired by an advertising competitor), over 18,000 signatures were collected in the 30 days allowed by law, far more than the 11,170 signatures needed.

The City's unpopular April vote would have granted a 50 year lease for three 14 x 48 foot, two sided digital billboards placed in open space areas next to the I-5 and Hwy 14 freeways.

Although the proposal also called for the removal of 62 billboards along San Fernando Road, many citizens felt that replacing one kind of blight with more blight in the form of electronic boards that would remain for 50 years, was not acceptable. Questions also arose as to the legality of siting the new electronic boards in open space and how their constant light would affect wildlife and wildlife corridors in these areas. Others worried that our City open spaces would look like Las Vegas.

Instead of rescinding the deal, the Council voted to place the issue on the ballot, claiming that people didn't really know what they were signing.

We knew exactly what we were signing. There has to be a better way of getting rid of billboard blight in our City than a 50 year lease for huge digital boards in the Newhall Pass open space and along the Santa Clara River. We urge you to vote No on S and tell the City not to get rid of blight by adding more blight. More info and upcoming events click [here](#).
Val Verde and SCV Residents Get a Reprieve -
Comments on the Chiquita Canyon Environmental Report
now due Oct. 23rd

Are you worried about air quality in Santa Clarita? How about climate change? Water Quality in the Santa Clara River? - Then expanding this landfill should concern you, too. “A promise made is a debt unpaid”, but apparently not if it is to the community of Val Verde, home of the closest residents to Chiquita Canyon Landfill. After yet another expansion was approved in 1997, they were promised by Newhall Land and Farming that the Chiquita dump would be closed by 2019. But since that time, Newhall Land went through a bankruptcy and the landfill itself changed hands more than once. Now the promise and contract signed with the community is being ignored. Even the Town Council that is supposed to represent them, seems to have been bought off, signing an agreement that would preclude residents' representatives from speaking out. For detailed information about the environmental process, visit the Citizen's for Landfill Compliance website or keep up with them on Facebook.

Newhall Ranch at the California Supreme Court

Briefing has begun in the high court review of the Santa Clara River Alteration Permit for Newhall Ranch. As one of the five coalition members in this legal challenge, SCOPE hopes the Court will call for more accurate disclosure of global warming impacts caused by this 21,000 unit project, the largest housing project ever approved in California. For background, see the Los Angeles Times.

Save the Date!

Join us for the upcoming SCOPE movie night on Wednesday Oct. 29th. More details to follow.

SCOPE in the News
"Supreme Court Accepts Review of Newhall Ranch"

"LA Times on Newhall Land’s Gift to Fish and Game"

"Channel 7 TV News on Newhall Ranch Decision"

In Memory of our friend,
Evelyn Carpenter

After a brief illness in August and surrounded by her loving family, our long time friend and SCOPE member Evelyn Carpenter, the Grandma that always said, "You should help the environment!", left this world for another. We will greatly miss her dedication and care for our local environment and for the inter-connected web of life of which we are all a part while on this planet earth. Goodbye, Evelyn. We won't forget you!

Don't forget! - You can get in depth information on our current activities and additional articles by visiting us on Facebook or checking out our blog site.

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