



**Notice of Availability and Extension of Public Comment Period
for the
Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan (RMDP)
and the Spineflower Conservation Plan (SCP)**



Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, have prepared a Draft EIS/EIR for consideration of The Newhall Land and Farming Company's (Applicant's) request for federal and state permits, agreements, and authorizations to implement the Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan (RMDP) and the Spineflower Conservation Plan (SCP). The RMDP (a conservation, mitigation, and permitting plan for sensitive biological resources within the previously approved Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area) would be relied upon to obtain federal and state permits to implement infrastructure improvements required to facilitate build-out of the approved Specific Plan and is intended to direct both resource management and development on the Specific Plan site. The SCP is a conservation and management plan to permanently protect and manage a system of preserves designed to maximize the long-term persistence of the San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi ssp. fernandina*; spineflower), a federal candidate and a state-listed endangered plant species; to authorize the take of spineflower located outside designated preserves; and to address known spineflower within the Applicant's land holdings located within the Specific Plan area and two adjacent areas, the Valencia Commerce Center and Entrada planning areas.

The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan was approved by Los Angeles County in May 2003 to guide development of a new community composed of a broad range of residential, mixed-use, and nonresidential land uses within villages on the Specific Plan site, located in a portion of the Santa Clara River Valley in northwestern Los Angeles County, between the city of Santa Clarita and the Los Angeles County/Ventura County jurisdictional boundary line. Subsequent development plans, subdivision maps, and federal and state permitting, consultations, and agreements were anticipated to be required to facilitate build-out of the Specific Plan. This joint EIS/EIR has been prepared at the direction of the USACE and DFG to analyze the direct, indirect, secondary, and cumulative impacts of the proposed RMDP/SCP, including impacts associated with project-specific infrastructure improvements and maintenance activities in or adjacent to the Santa Clara River and its tributaries located within the approved Specific Plan site.

Public Review Period

The public review period for the Draft EIS/EIR begins on April 27, 2009, and originally ending on June 26, 2009, but has been extended until August 25, 2009. The Draft EIS/EIR concludes that the Project would have significant and unavoidable impacts to the environment in specific areas, including, among other environmental categories, biological resources, air quality, noise, agricultural resources, land use, visual resources, and solid waste. These environmental effects, and others, are described in further detail in the Draft EIS/EIR. Written comments on the Draft EIS/EIR must be postmarked or received by fax or e-mail no later than August 25, 2009. Send written comments to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Ventura Field Office
Attn: Aaron O. Allen
2151 Alessandro Drive, Suite 110
Ventura, CA 93001
Fax: (805) 585-2154
E-mail: Aaron.O.Allen@usace.army.mil

California Department of Fish and Game
Newhall Ranch EIS/EIR Project Comments
c/o Dennis Bedford
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
Informational Line: 866-395-7426
Primary Fax (858) 467-4203
Secondary Fax: (858) 467-4299
E-mail: newhallranch@dfg.ca.gov

Copies of the Draft EIS/EIR will be made available for public review in the offices of the Lead Agencies at the addresses shown above. A copy of the Draft EIS/EIR will also be available for public review at the following locations:

- Valencia Library, 23743 West Valencia Boulevard, Santa Clarita, California 91355
- Sylmar Library, 14561 Polk Street, Sylmar, California 91342
- Ventura H.P. Wright Library, 57 Day Road, Ventura, California 93003
- Castaic Library, 27971 Sloan Canyon Road, Castaic, California 91384
- Department of Fish and Game's Los Alamitos Office, 4665 Lampson Avenue, Los Alamitos, California 90702

Additionally, the Draft EIS/EIR, information regarding the Project's environmental review process, Project documents, and contact/ mailing information, can be found at the following website: www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/5/newhall