

California Wildlife Protection Initiative

Petitioning is under way for the California Wildlife Protection Initiative. The Santa Susana Mountain Park Association has mobilized to help gather 600,000 signatures statewide in order to get the initiative on the June 1990 ballot. The purpose of the California Wildlife Protection Initiative is to ban the sport hunting of mountain lions in the state of California, and to provide funds for the acquisition of habitat for rare and endangered species, deer, mountain lions and other wildlife.

The initiative specifically addresses the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills with the appropriation of \$20 million dollars for land acquisition within our local mountains, in increments of \$2 million per year over ten years. The benefit of this initiative is two-fold; it will give protection to our state's last large predator, and it will help insure the preservation of wilderness areas that are home to wildlife, and which can provide recreation opportunities for humans as well.

The habitat in our region will be acquired by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The total funds of \$30 million dollars per year will come from the Unallocated Account of the Tobacco Tax, and the Environmental License Plate Fund. The bond initiative will not create an increase in Californian's taxes.

The initiative does not prevent human intervention in the event that a mountain lion were ever to pose a threat to livestock or human safety. It does protect them from sport hunters, who typically use a pack of dogs to track down and tree a mountain lion, and then shoot it at close range while it is trapped in the tree. Little is known about the number of mountain lions that are left in California, as they are secretive animals who avoid human contact. We know there are not many left.

We urge all SSMPA members to help put the California Wildlife Initiative on the June 1990 ballot. By doing so we will not only protect the magnificent mountain lion, but also our own majestic mountains! Please get your petition signed and returned as soon as possible. Be sure to read the "Instructions To Circulator" on the back. Volunteers are also needed to set up tables for signature gathering. If you can donate even a few hours, please contact us! Thank you!

San Fernando Valley: Glenn Bailey 345-1222; Pauline Aue 341-5872; Nancy Razanski 341-3512

Simi Valley: Corina Roberts 522-4569 or (818) 715-0069 (toll free f/ Simi)



Assembly panel approves plan on Santa Clarita Woodlands

Daily News 7/11/89

SACRAMENTO — An Assembly committee approved legislation Monday to include the Santa Clarita Woodlands in the Rim of the Valley Corridor, despite Gov. George Deukmejian's removal of \$500,000 from the state budget to acquire the land.

Legislation sponsored by Sen. Ed Davis, R-Northridge, passed the Senate in April and was unanimously approved by the Assembly

Natural Resources Committee.

The bill, SB 509, would require the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to expand the corridor's boundaries to include the 5,000-acre Santa Clarita Woodlands on the north slope of the Santa Susana Mountains.

A companion measure, also sponsored by Davis, which has also passed the Senate and is pending in the Assembly, would direct the state Parks and Recreation Department to study the feasibility of creating a state park in the area.

Rockwell

Rockwell's Santa Susana Field Laboratory, located in the mountains between Chatsworth and Simi Valley, was cited in May by a federal survey as having at least ten areas of hazardous waste and/or radioactive waste contamination in the soil, bedrock and ground water. While the survey found no environmental problems that posed an immediate threat to human life, it also disclosed that inadequacies of Rockwell's ground water monitoring system make it difficult to accurately assess the amount and migration of contamination. Rockwell's Santa Susana Field Lab has been cited by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for 58 violations of health, safety and security rules since 1975 at its nuclear reactor facility. Cleanup of the contamination will cost at least \$55 million and take 20 years or more, according to a report released by the Department Of Energy on May 22. Environmental Protection Agency and state health officials responsible for toxic waste cleanup claim they were never informed of a hazardous waste dump at the Rockwell lab. (For more information, see stories on back page.)



Corriganville Update

Plans for Corriganville Park in Simi Valley are beginning to take shape. Situated on the eastern boundary of Simi, the 190 acre park has an oak grove, stream, rock formations, good wildlife habitat within the wildlife corridor zone, and a strong western/movie heritage theme. Corriganville was the setting for over 3,000 movies and television shows before the western town was destroyed by fire in the 1970s. The Corriganville Preservation Committee (CPC), a group of citizens dedicated to rebuilding the western town and utilizing it as a tourist and historical attraction (including a western film museum and theatre) are planning a major fundraising event on September 9 at the park. CPC and SSMPA members are interested in working together to make a contiguous mountain park, spanning both L.A. and Ventura counties, connecting our historical trails and preserving the wildlife corridor through the Santa Susana Pass area. (Please see insert in this newsletter for more information on the CPC.)

Sage Ranch Acquisition Voted

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has approved the purchase of the 600 acre Sage Ranch, south of Simi Valley in the Simi Hills, north of Rocketdyne. Sage Ranch has excellent wildlife habitat and recreation potential including camping, hiking, retreats and nature education. It is accessible from Black and Woolsey Canyons. The property owners have not agreed to sell the ranch to the Conservancy. The Conservancy has set a top price of \$4.2 million for the property, but as of yet no sale has been finalized. There is concern over the water quality of the area due to recent revelations about contamination in the ground water from Rocketdyne. The Conservancy would like to acquire contiguous parcels in order to preserve a wildlife corridor, although development pressures are such that the properties needed to preserve the corridor are selling for a very high price, and there may well not be enough funds to purchase them.

Porter Ranch Development Fought

Controversy over the outrageous development plans for the Porter Ranch continues this summer. Developers hope to create a huge regional commercial center north of the 118 freeway and east of Tampa with a 15 story building height limit, and 7.7 million square feet of commercial space (5 times the size of Northridge Mall!) The plan is 6 times greater in size and density than the current City District plan maximum, and would create an additional 15,000 vehicle trips per hour on already congested streets such as Tampa, Reseda and Devonshire. Residents are strongly encouraged to oppose the Porter Ranch plan. Address letters of concern to:
Councilman Hal Bernson, 200 N. Spring street, Room 237, Los Angeles, 90012
Councilman John Ferraro, 200 N. Spring street, Room M-30, Los Angeles, 90012
Councilman Michael Woo, 200 N. Spring street, Room 239, Los Angeles, 90012
Senator Ed Davis, 11145 Tampa, Suite 21B, Northridge, CA 91326
For more information, call or write PRIDE, P.O. Box 7731, Northridge, CA 91327-7731 (818) 89-PRIDE (897-7433)



Toxics Dumped in Santa Susana Pass

37 DRUMS OF TOXIC WASTE DUMPED IN SANTA SUSANA CANYON
(Summarized from a report by Steve Carey, the Daily News and the Enterprise)

On the evening of Saturday, June 24, 37 drums of toxic waste were discovered in a canyon in the Santa Susana Pass region, east of Rocky Peak Road. 36 of the 55 gallon drums were empty at the time hazardous waste materials technicians removed them from the ravine. the 37th drum, which lay on the roadside, still contained about one half gallon of polyester resin, a highly flammable liquid, and toluene.

The barrels were all removed from the canyon Sunday. A press conference attended by NBC, CBS, UPI, Los Angeles Times, Enterprise and Daily News staff was organized by Glenn Bailey and Jan Hinkston. While the media spoke with Glenn Bailey and L.A. county fire, hazardous waste and police officials, Jan Hinkston lead a group of hikers over the historic Stage Road and to the area of the toxic dumping.

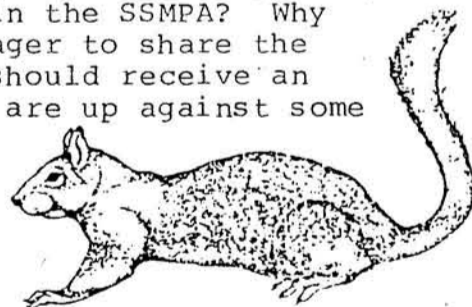
Frank Cervantes of the L.A. County Health Department's Hazardous Materials Unit, said that even if the parties responsible for the dumping could be identified, criminal charges would probably not be filed since the barrels were essentially empty. Therefor, if the owners of the drums were traced using the numbers on the drums, only public nuisance charges and not felony hazardous materials dumping charges could be brought against their owners.

Some SSMPA members feel it seems somewhat unlikely that the other 36 drums were empty at the time they were dumped, since the dumpers took the risk of being caught discarding a large amount of trash in order to dispose of the drums. A soil analysis would prove whether or not the drums were in fact empty. If the types of toxic chemicals found were spilled in large quantities on the soil, there may be a strong potential for toxic residuals to remain in the soil.

The dumping was discovered by Steve Carey, an environmental auditor who is preparing an Urban Impact Study on the Santa Susana Pass area for the SSMPA. It is among the most recent addition of waste to be added to the horrible dumping problem at the ravine, located on the southerly side of the Santa Susana Pass Road where the historic Old Stage Road meets the pavement of the pass road. SSMPA has renewed its calling for a barrier to be erected at the site to make the dumping of cars, furniture, household trash and hazardous waste more difficult. To date, the parties responsible for this dumping have not not been identified.

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT ????????

The date shown on your address label indicates the date on which your membership fee is due. SSMPA does not send a separate bill for dues. If your membership has expired, please be sure to renew it today. As you can see, we are currently engaged in a myriad of activities to protect and preserve the Santa Susanas, their historic and recreational attributes and their wild inhabitants. Your continued support is vital, and greatly appreciated. Do you know someone who is interested in the SSMPA? Why not send us their address or phone number? We are eager to share the splendor of our mountains with new friends. If you should receive an extra copy of our newsletter, please pass it on. We are up against some tough opposition...we need some strong support!



YES! I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE **Santa Susana Mountain Park Association**

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:
--- Student or Senior \$5.00
--- Individual \$10.00
--- Family \$15.00
--- Supporting \$25.00
--- Business \$25.00
--- Life Member \$100.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO S S M P A.

Mail to: S S M P A Membership
P.O. Box 4831
Chatsworth, CA 91313

Tax deductible contributions are also encouraged to the FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS (F P S S M)

Drilling begins on Rockwell's monitor wells

By TONY KNIGHT
Daily News Staff Writer 7/19/89

Drilling began Tuesday on the first of 17 new monitoring wells that will be sunk to determine the extent of radioactive and chemical contamination at Rockwell International's nuclear research facility in the Simi Hills.

The \$250,000 drilling operation is being completed by the company's Rocketdyne Division in response to a Department of Energy environmental survey that identified problems with contamination in the soil and ground water at the 290-acre nuclear portion of the 2,600-acre Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

"All the wells will do (a) two-fold (job)," said Stephen Lafflam, the company's environmental manager. "They'll give you direction of (ground-water) flow and water quality."

The DOE survey identified 10 areas of actual or potential soil and ground-water contamination, concluding that there was no evidence of an imminent public-health threat, but recommending additional monitoring wells to determine whether the pollution was moving from the

WELLS / From Page 1 7/19/89

Rocketdyne site.

After the DOE survey was disclosed May 14 in the Daily News, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency took over the lead in the Santa Susana cleanup, and is preparing a strategy plan that will be released July 31.

Meanwhile, the state Department of Health Services and the Regional Water Quality Control Board have conducted inspections of the nuclear facilities, known as the Energy Technology Engineering Center, and are preparation of the field laboratory that overlooks Simi Valley.

Specifically, they are designed to monitor ground-water flow under the Sodium Burn Pit, where chemical and radioactive contamination has been found in the soil, the Radioactive Materials Disposal Facility, where radioactive contamination has been found in the soil, and Building 59, where chemical contamination has been found in the ground water.

"It's going to take six to eight weeks to drill the wells," Lafflam said.

CONTAMINATED FACILITY

A federal survey found radioactivity and other toxic contamination at the Santa Susana Field Laboratories facility in the hills between Chatsworth and Simi Valley. Highlights of the report include:

■ **RADIOACTIVE** and other hazardous substances have been dumped or released at approximately 10 sites at the facility.

■ **THERE IS** no immediate threat to human life, but the full extent of contamination is not known.

■ **THE MONITORING** program for soil radioactivity is deficient.

■ **THERE ARE** at least three areas of ground-water contamination, but the ground-water monitoring program is inadequate.

■ **CONTAMINATION** includes radiation and a variety of chemicals, including highly volatile sodium potassium.

■ **THE BASEMENT** of Building 059, where small nuclear reactors were tested, contains sand and water contaminated with radiation and remains a potential source of ground-water contamination.

■ **FURTHER** studies are needed to determine the extent of contamination and risks.

SOURCE: United States Department of Energy

DAILY NEWS, 5/17/89

paring plans to complete a thorough environmental investigation.

Florence Pearson, senior specialist with the health department's Toxic Substance Control Division, said the company was given the go-ahead to drill the 17 wells. Additional wells could be ordered later, she said.

"We did let them know that this is not the end of what we will require them to do," Pearson said.

The new wells are being dug to gather data about ground-water conditions on the western por-



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The SSMPA is continually in need of docents for our Visitors' Center, and for hike leaders for our hikes and nature walks on Sundays. There will be no hikes conducted during August and September due to the heat, but the Visitors' Center at Chatsworth Park South will be open every Sunday from noon to 3 p.m., provided there are docents to attend the Center!

There is plenty to do, and we are looking for people with various talents to help with our many activities. The power of the SSMPA lies in the support of its dedicated members. Please make sure your membership is current. If you have time, services or supplies which you can donate to SSMPA, we would love to hear from you!

Thank you for your continued support and your interest in the preservation of our natural and cultural heritage.

Dan Cooper,
President, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association



Assembly panel OKs extension of Santa Monicas conservancy

Daily News 7/18/89

SACRAMENTO — An Assembly committee approved legislation Monday which would extend by five years the life of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy — now scheduled to cease operations in 1990.

The Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee voted 10-0 in favor of SB 1323 by Sen. Herschel Rosenthal, D-Los Angeles.

The conservancy was created by the Legislature in 1979 to preserve

the scenic and scientific values of the Santa Monica Mountains from the surrounding urbanization of the Los Angeles Basin and San Fernando Valley.

Rosenthal said the continuation of the conservancy was important to ensure that Los Angeles' remaining open space is protected. "We need the conservancy to counteract the constant threat to build in the mountains," he said.

It is operated by a seven-member commission, appointed by state and local government officials.

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