



# Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

## February 2000 Newsletter

Volume 30, Issue 2

A Non-Profit Organization  
Incorporated August 31, 1971

### PROPOSITION 12 & 13 NEWS

By Judy Garris

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy held a public hearing at Chatsworth High on January 6th to solicit project nominations and public testimony on potential new projects to be initiated, should California voters approve Propositions 12 and 13 on the March 2000 ballot.

Both bonds will be important sources of money for the acquisition of lands in the local mountains. Public testimony is required, and if Prop. 12 and 13 are approved, the Conservancy will begin work on project development immediately.

**Prop. 12**, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Act of 2000, allocates \$35 million to the Conservancy to "acquire, improve, or restore park, wildlife, or natural areas, including areas near or adjacent to units of the State Park system wherever such units may be situated within a local jurisdiction within the Santa Monica Mountains Zone or Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor." This bond act could provide funds to help us save the **Rim of the Valley** trail [and wildlife] corridor!

**Prop. 13**, the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Clean Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act of 2000, contains funding, for which the Conservancy is eligible, for *River Protection, Watershed Protection, and Non-Point Source Pollution Prevention* projects. What comes to mind is protection of the watershed south of **Sunshine Canyon**, site of BFI's landfill — expansion of which would further threaten the quality of ground water near the L.A. Reservoir. Also, the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills are the headwaters of the L.A. River. Although we meet the qualifications of Prop. 13 for funding to protect this area, it won't happen unless we demand to be included before the money is distributed to other areas. Call your local politicians today! ----->

### Programs for February, March & April General Membership Meetings

2/21/2000 • Biologist Sean Manion of the Topanga/Las Virgines Conservation District will present a slide program on coyotes and other predators at the February meeting. Coyotes have spread to the floor of the San Fernando Valley, into Woodland Hills, Tarzana, and Encino north of the 101 Freeway, into Chatsworth, Granada Hills, and other communities south of the 118 Freeway.

3/20/2000 • Bill Schepler, president of the Chatsworth Historical Society, will present the "From Grizzlies to Caterpillars" slide show featuring the history of Chatsworth and its environs.

4/17/2000 • Jim Edmundson of California Trout will present a slide show about the southern steelhead trout — their origin in the Colorado River, their journeys around Baja California and up the Alta California coast, and the need to remove Malibu Creek's silted-up Rindge Dam and Matilija Creek's silted-up Matilija Dam to restore the trout to their historic habitat.

General Membership Program Meetings take place at 7:30 p.m., every *third* Monday of the month, at the Rockpointe Recreation Center, 22300 Devonshire, Chatsworth (south side of street), one block before entry to Chatsworth Park South.

If you have ideas for future programs, call Dorian at 818-345-3795. \*

At the Jan. 6th meeting, SSMPPA members Dorian Keyser, Judy Garris, Susan Gerke and Terrie Brady suggested projects for the Conservancy to secure. Also, Don Mullaly of Santa Clarita urged the expansion of the Santa Clarita Woodlands to the Oat Mountain ridge line.

Although fewer than nine people attended the public hearing, there will be other opportunities to give the Conservancy input on what projects should be selected, but all suggestions

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## CA Sesquicentennial Event - March 10-12

By Virginia Watson, Chatsworth Historical Society

A three-day event will take place in Chatsworth on March 10, 11, and 12, celebrating the California Sesquicentennial Anniversary (150 years of statehood), as well as Chatsworth's 112th Anniversary. Sponsored by the Chatsworth Historical Society, the highlight will be the viewing of the beautiful California Sesquicentennial Quilt, designed by local residents Zena Thorpe and Ellen Heck. Quilters all over California were invited to work on the colorful art masterpiece that tells the story of California in pictures stitched by many different hands. The quilt is presented in cooperation with the California Heritage Quilt Association.

The Friday, March 10th, viewing of the quilt, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Metrolink Station, 10040 Old Depot Plaza Rd., will be limited to school children in the 3rd and 4th grades of all local schools.

Featured along with the quilt on Saturday, March 11th, in the Chatsworth Museum, will be an exhibit of the combined historical societies in the Valley. Dr. Robert Marshall and Lara Bickell, Ph.D. student in History at Claremont University, will curate the display using items on loan from the Valley historical groups, as well as the SSMPA and the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM).

"Fashions Through the Ages" will feature the well-known Goodwill Industries fashion show sponsored by the *Los Angeles Times*. The fashion show will take place in the Chatsworth Recreation Center Building at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. A donation of \$3.00 per person is requested at the door.

Other scheduled events are Opening Ceremonies at 10:00 a.m. in the Centennial area of The Homestead Acre, 10385 Shadow Oak Drive. A \$5.00 donation is requested for Saturday's activities which begin with the introduction of elected officials and sponsors, and selections from Chatsworth High School and Lawrence Middle School, a cake-cutting ceremony with members of the Chatsworth Women's Club and the new Chatsworth Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution assisting.

Day-long events include lectures by Chautauqua Scholar Robert Garza, as Pio Pico, and David Fenimore, as John Sutter, made possible by a grant from the California Council for the Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. California State Parks will have a booth along with the SSMPA and the FPSSM. State Parks will also provide cowboy roping demonstrations under the direction of Mike Allen. State Park-sponsored hikes in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park are scheduled under the coordination of the FPSSM's Nancy Razanski. Also, Jan Hinkston will be present to lead at least one hike up The Old Stage Coach Road.

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## Talk on Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs)

By Judy Garris

This February, the California Native Plant Society's monthly lecture will be "The Future of Significant Ecological Areas," which presents a county-wide concept for redefining and uniting significant ecological resources in LA County.

Our area has three SEA designations, one of which is in the process of being partially lost if County supervisors allow a developer's request to annex County property to the City of Los Angeles in Dayton Canyon.

The SEA designation gives some protection to land that has been found to have rare plants, endangered habitats or other ecological resources. Unfortunately, the land can still be developed in limited densities. Wildlife corridors do not have full protection, nor do watersheds.

The California Plant Society's February meeting takes place on Tuesday, February 8th from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino.

For more information, call (818) 881-3706. \*

## PROP. 12 & 13 NEWS

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need to be submitted before the February 29th Conservancy meeting.

Conservancy Director Joe Edmiston will talk about both Prop. 12 and Prop. 13 at the San Fernando Valley Group of the Sierra Club on Tuesday, February 15th. See the schedule on the back of the newsletter for time and location.

Please write to inform the Conservancy and local legislators of your desire to preserve these mountains. Now is the time! Let them know you are in favor of acquiring more land in the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills for preservation before developers expand into the wildlife corridor. The future needs your input now.

*Editor's Note: Not only will passing Prop. 12 protect our open spaces, help our wildlife, and keep our air and waters clean, it won't cost taxpayers a thing, as the funds will come entirely from existing general fund revenue. Also, passing both bills could improve the economy and result in more jobs — keeping our rivers clean will help our farm economy, and drawing a line beyond which developers cannot go will draw more tourists to our protected state parks, including those in the Southland, in the future. \**



# CATCH THE ADVENTURE

By Susan Gerke

Are you the type of person who is concerned about local environmental issues but perhaps feels powerless to do anything to help? I was recently reading an article entitled, "Soul of a Citizen — Living with Conviction in Cynical Times," written by Paul Rogat Loeb, an associated scholar at Seattle's Center for Ethical Leadership. The article brought out the fact that "we" (citizens of the planet/country/San Fernando Valley, etc.) need to believe that our individual involvement in social (or local) issues is worthwhile, that our efforts will not be in vain. We often think of social involvement as noble but impractical, yet our involvement can serve us individually and collectively, giving us a sense of connection and purpose. It takes energy to act, but it's more draining to bury our concern, convincing ourselves we are powerless and swallowing whatever is handed to us.

Rosa Parks, the woman who wouldn't go to the back of the bus, gained hero status because of what seemed to be a spur-of-the-moment decision. What few people realize is that prior to the bus incident Rosa worked for 12 years for her local organization, becoming educated in civil rights and the inherent challenges of her cause, as well as performing the details of organizing and networking. The point here is that change is the product of deliberate, incremental action. When we join together to shape a better world or to preserve our local environment, sometimes our efforts seem to fail or bear only modest fruits. Other times they will result in wins that lead to bigger wins. We never know beforehand what will happen.

Some people say, "I'd like to do more but I'm just not the type of person to get involved." There are no natural leaders or

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## Events, Hotlines & URLs

### Streambank (and Slope) Stabilization Workshop:

Presented by the Resource Conservation District.

Saturday, March 4, 2000, 8:30 to 4:00. The workshop costs \$10.

The program includes: • Overview on stream processes; • Permit process; • Hydrology, engineering and site impacts; • Environmentally sensitive methods. Also, visit two locations, bus provided.

Lunch and refreshments. The workshop takes place at:

Topanga Elementary School Auditorium, 144 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga. Call 310-455-1030 for more information.

Community Planning Hotline - PRIDE, phone: 89-pride

Voting links: [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org), [www.ca.gov](http://www.ca.gov)

SSMPA Web Site: The SSMPA is finally making progress in updating its web site, <http://home.lacn.org/lacn/ssmpa/>! We hope to have a new look soon!

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Web Page, <http://www.ceres.ca.gov/smmc>, has links for information on Propositions 12 & 13, and even lets you submit nominations and testimony online!

## 'Extinct' Flower to Go Back on List

By Judy Garris

Rep. Brad Sherman has requested the Federal government to put the endangered spineflower back on the Endangered Species list. The spineflower is not currently on the list since it was considered extinct. The spineflower was last seen growing on an eastern San Fernando Valley hillside in 1940; it was thought to have been a victim of urban sprawl.

But recently a field of spineflowers was discovered on an Ahmanson Ranch hillside. Between 5,000 and 10,000 spineflowers were found growing on the south slope of Laskey Mesa, a site slated for 650+ homes and a country club. Four juvenile red-legged frogs were also discovered on the property's wetlands. ☼

followers, no superior genetic traits that cause people to become activists. There are only those individuals whose voices have been encouraged and who choose to stand up for their beliefs — a learned behavior, not an inherited disposition. When we choose back, we can enjoy our adventurous journey of commitment, learning as we go. Then we can discover how much our actions matter.

*Editor's Note: SSMPA has volunteer opportunities in the form of Board of Directors positions, Membership and Hospitality Committee Chair positions, and hike leaders. ☼*

## CA Sesquicentennial Event - March 10-12

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Sunday's events will include a presentation by writer Cecelia Rasmussen of the *Los Angeles Times*; Western culture music by Roy Rogers protege David Arlen, funded by the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department; and entertainment by the Valleyaires choral group, funded by the Chatsworth Historical Society. Catherine Mulholland, well-known Valley writer and granddaughter of William Mulholland, will give a lecture on Valley history.

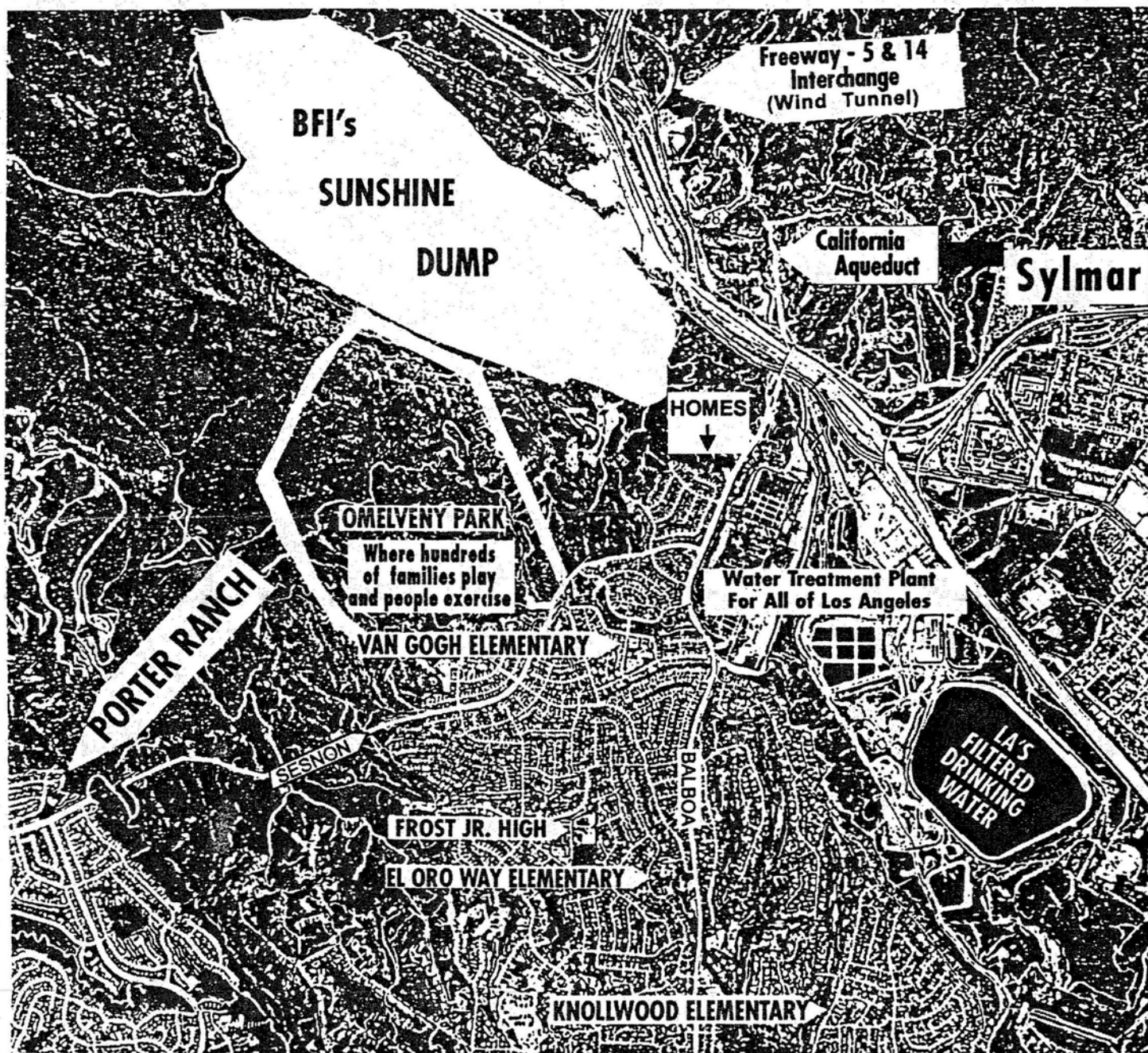
Other presentations include Flamenco and square dancing, blacksmith demonstrations, gold panning, celebrity look-alikes, Buffalo Soldier encampment, and more. For more information, call 882-3572 or 882-5614. ☼

## Sunshine Canyon

On the reverse side of this page, we have included a map, provided by the North Valley Coalition, which illustrates the proximity of the Sunshine Canyon landfill to our parks, homes, schools, and drinking water. The Coalition has pointed out that 16,000 pounds of toxic or hazardous waste will arrive daily if plans to expand the dump go thru. Since the landfill is in a very high wind area, cancer-causing particles will be blown over the entire north San Fernando Valley and over the L.A. Reservoir. ☼

# A DISASTROUS PLACE FOR THE LARGEST DUMP IN THE USA

- LOOK HOW CLOSE OUR HOMES AND SCHOOLS ARE.
- LOOK HOW CLOSE OUR FILTERED TAP WATER IS.
- LOOK AT THE O'MELVENY PARK, NOTED AS "THE BUFFER ZONE"
- LOOK AT HOW CLOSE PORTER RANCH AND SYLMAR ARE.



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

NORTH VALLEY COALITION - (800) 713-1642 OR (818) 363-8571  
WWW.NODUMP.COM- FOR MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION  
WWW.DAILYNEWS.COM - FOR PREVIOUS ARTICLES



## February 2000 Hikes

Stagecoach Trail and Exploration Series hikes are offered by the Santa Susana Mountain Task Force (SSMTF) of the Sierra Club and publicized by the SSMPA and the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM).

### Stage Coach Trail Hikes

*Sunday, February 27, 2000.* Interpretative hike into history in our Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Meet at 9:00 a.m. with the hike leader for the 4-mile (700 ft. gain) loop up the Stage Coach Trail. Bring water and a snack in a back or hip pack. Lugsole shoes or sturdy, closed shoes, and a hat are advised. From Topanga Canyon Boulevard, turn west on Devonshire and drive into Chatsworth Park South to the second parking lot by the Recreation Building. Call Lee Baum (818) 341-1850 for more information. ☼

### Mormon Canyon Hike

*Sunday, February 27, 2000.* Easy-paced, 5-mile, 600 ft. gain, hike to cow pastures and view. Learn interesting facts about the primary wildlife corridor and the Santa Susana Mountains. Some stream crossings depending on prior rains. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the north end of Tampa Ave. (by the 118 Fwy.) in the SF Valley to rideshare to trailhead. Bring water and snacks. Lugsole shoes and a hat are advised. Rain cancels. Hike leaders: Judy Garris (818-346-7654) and RoseMarie White (818) 769-1521. ☼

### Telephone Tree

The SSMPA needs a volunteer to begin a telephone tree. If each person calls three or four others to ask them (example: secure money from Prop. 13 to protect this watershed) to call a local legislator on local issues, we will start becoming a squeaking wheel!

### OTHER HIKES

**Happy Camp Canyon Family Activity Hike, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 9:00 - noon.** Easy 3-mile (RT) hike. Enjoy wildflowers and hike to the spring, Cathedral Grove and back. Bring water, snack, and binoculars. Call Roseann at (805) 529-4828 for more info. ☼

**Edible Plants Hike at Sage Ranch, Sun., Feb. 13th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.** Easy 3-mile (RT), 100' gain, naturalist-led walk. You'll be amazed by the many edible plants—lilies, berries, and greens—in the back country. Call Tom Maxwell at (805) 492-2184 for more info. ☼

**Happy Camp & Beyond, Sunday, Feb. 27th, 9:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m.** Hike 8 miles (RT), 1300' gain, to see panoramic views beyond Simi Valley & Moorpark to the Channel Islands. Wear boots; bring water, lunch, and binoculars. Call Roseann at (805) 529-4828 for more info. ☼

**Bike 'N' Hike, Sunday, March 5th, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** Beginner to intermediate mountain bike trek (5-10 mi. RT). Between riding segments, docents show&tell what's special in Happy Camp. Wear helmet; bring water & snack. (No road bikes.) Call Roseann at (805) 529-4828 for more info. ☼

**Newsletter Submissions:** To submit an article for publication, send it to SSMPA, Attn: Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313.



### SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN / RENEW / REJOIN S.S.M.P.A. (Please circle one.)

Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is probably one of the best expenditures of our time and efforts. Return this cutoff with your contributions to help ensure our futures. Please make checks payable to SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.



- Senior or Student (\$5.00)    Individual (\$10.00)    Family (\$15.00)  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interest/Expertise: \_\_\_\_\_

Come join our mailing parties! Food, fun and camaraderie! Perform a useful service! . . . We've improved our mail preparation methods and now the parties have to end earlier! Call Mary at 887-1345 to find out more!

If the expiration date on your label is marked in pink, your dues have expired. Please send in your dues if you wish to continue your SSMPA membership and receiving our newsletters. If you already paid, please disregard this notice.

If the expiration date on the label is marked in blue, payment of your membership dues is due this month.  
If the expiration date is marked in green, payment of your dues will be due next month.

Many thanks to the folks at the Topanga Canyon/Roscoe Office Depot, for the donation of printing services, i.e., the duplication of our newsletter. We very much appreciate it!

**Feb. 14, 2000, 7:30 PM Board of Director's Meeting: Chatsworth Park Visitor's Center.**

**Feb. 21, 2000, 7:30 PM Program Meeting: Rockpointe Recreation Center.**

**Mar. 6, 2000, 7:30 PM Board of Director's Meeting: Chatsworth Park Visitor's Center.**

**Mar. 20, 2000, 7:30 PM Program Meeting: Rockpointe Recreation Center.**

**All SSMPA members are welcome to both General Membership Program Meetings and Board of Director's Meetings.**

**Feb. 15, 2000, 7:30 PM SF Valley Sierra Club Meeting: Joe Edmiston on Props. 12 and 13  
Reseda Park Recreation Hall, 18411 Reseda Blvd., Reseda**

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association  
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Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

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