PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
By Snowdy Dodson

On the conservation battleground in southern California sadly there are few victories. That said, I am pleased to report that in late September, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge tentatively ruled that the environmental review of the Newhall Ranch development projects failed to prove how the endangered San Fernando Valley spineflower and other rare plants and animals would be protected. The suit was filed by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), the Friends of the Santa Clara River (FSCR), the Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment (SCOPE) and the Wishtoyo Foundation against the California Dept. of Fish and Game that had issued permits for the 20,000 home development. The judge pointed out that the loss of an endangered species such as the spineflower cannot be mitigated by the preservation of patches in controlled settings and questioned the stated justification for the development, i.e. the unmet demand for new housing. This tentative ruling may have an impact for a second lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles filed by CBD, CNPS, FSCR, SCOPE, and Wishtoyo challenging the County’s approval of permits for the Newhall Ranch “Mission Village” project which would be built immediately adjacent to a free-flowing section of the Santa Clara River.

In August, Steve Hartman and I attended a bus tour of the Santa Clara River and the “Mission Village” site where Newhall Ranch proposes bridges, bank abutments, and significant topographical alterations to enable building houses in this sensitive floodplain. We were overwhelmed by the beauty and wildness of this last free flowing river that is currently designated as a County of Los Angeles Significant Ecological Area. It is home to numerous plant and animal species and is a major wildlife corridor. Seeing the river and its surrounds in person further emphasized the importance of keeping up the decades old fight to keep housing developments out of this open space.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS
of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

NOVEMBER 13, 2012 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD. ENCINO

MAKE YOUR CANYON HOME SAFER FROM WILDFIRES & LANDSLIDES!
Presenter: Dr. Robert S. Taylor

In the Santa Monica Mountains, we live in a fire-prone landscape that annually experiences some of the world’s most extreme fire weather. Big fires will come and keep coming. Will your home burn down or weather the firestorm when it’s your turn to face one? There are many things you can do to make your house (and your family) much more likely to survive the next big wildland-urban-interface fire. And there are a number of apparently sensible things one might try that could actually make you less safe. Come learn about how fire really spreads so you can be sure to fix the biggest problems first, working from the house out to create real fire safety for you and your community.

Robert Taylor is a Fire GIS Specialist and Fire Ecologist for Resource Management and Fire programs of the Mediterranean Coast Network. He studies vegetation change, fire behavior, fire weather, and climate in southern California.

DECEMBER 11, 2012 – 7:30 - 9:00PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SANTA MONICA

THE CALIFORNIA PHENOLOGY PROJECT:
TRACKING NATURE’S PULSE TO ASSESS CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSES

Presenters: Brian Haggerty, Liz Matthews, and Susan Mazer – UC Santa Barbara

The California Phenology Project (CPP) is the first regional effort to assess the effects of climate change on California’s diverse landscapes. Open to participation by people from all walks of life, the CPP is a science and education program that coordinates activities across California’s National Parks (including Santa Monica Mtns), the UC Natural Reserve System (including Stunt Ranch), and backyards and schoolyards region wide. Come meet the UCSB phenology group to learn about this exciting project and how the CNPS is getting involved. Also mark your calendars for a half-day field training workshop for LA/SMM Chapter members and UC researchers at Stunt Ranch Reserve on the morning of Saturday December 15, 10am to 2pm, to be lead by the presenters of this program. See www.lacnps.org for more info.

Brian Haggerty, M.S. (PhD student), Dr. Liz Matthews (Post-doctoral Associate), and Dr. Susan Mazer (Professor of Ecology & Evolution) are leading efforts to develop the California Phenology Project (www.usanpn.org/cpp).

Programs are free to the public. Refreshments will be served. For directions, see CNPS Programs on page 3.
HIKES AND RESTORATION - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

SAT 11/3  8:45am  
Cold Creek Preserve  
Be a Restorationist for a Day: Join the habitat repair team as we care for newly planted native plants that will energetically displace the invasive weeds that provide no food or shelter for the native animals and certainly do not please human sensibilities. Oak trees, shrubs, penstemons, roses and bunch grasses that feed and shelter wildlife are awaiting your help. 
Receive community service credit. Reservations required: 818-591-1701 x203 or volunteer@treepeople.org. Meet along the first 0.5 mile of Stunt Road after turning off Mulholland Highway, Calabasas. 3.5hrs*

SAT 11/10  8:30am  
La Sierra Preserve  
Restoration of a Hidden Gem. You won't find this beauty spot on any map, but after we meet at Peter Strauss Ranch the way will be shown. Unseemly land uses created great swaths of invasive weeds but have also created the perfect site for an endangered, very small sunflower. Newly planted natives need you to help them through their first years. Bring water. 
Receive community service credit. Reservations required: volunteer@treepeople.org or 818-591-1701 x203. From Kanan Road, Agoura Hills, turn onto Troutdale, then left on Mulholland Highway, then right into Peter Strauss parking lot. 3.5hrs*

SUN 11/11  8:45am  
Malibu Creek State Park  
Weed War an unending engagement started by CNPS in the early 1980s. We will win the battle against mustards, thistles, and yellow star thistle where we have planted native plants. Join us for a satisfying day of weeding and planting. Receive community service credit. Meet at DeAnza Park on Lost Hills Road. Reservations required: 818-591-1701 x203 or volunteer@treepeople.org. 3.5hrs *

SAT 11/17  8:45am  
Malibu Creek State Park, 1925 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas  
Return of the Lost Oak Woodlands  
There once was a valley where giant oaks held an ecosystem together. The trees were harvested and the valley had many experiences; charcoal kilns, farming, cattle grazing, movie making. But a white knight rode in: State Parks acquired the property to provide a park for public enjoyment and to preserve an historic landscape. Since 1992, volunteers have enjoyed a wonderful day in the park planting and caring for oak trees and their understory plants. The oaks still need your help to rebuild a native landscape. 
Receive community service credit. Reservations required: volunteer@treepeople.org or 818-591-1701 x203 or volunteer@treepeople.org. 3.5hrs *

SUN 11/18  8:30am  
Topanga State Park  
Lower Topanga Park Restoration  
Native plants are working hard (growing almost like Jack’s beanstalk) to bring a natural eco-balance to the lower Topanga Creek area of the park. But they need a boost we'll water and remove those noxious weeds! Bring water, wear sturdy footwear. Receive community service credit. Directions: entrance is a few hundred feet from Pacific Coast Highway on Topanga Canyon Road. 
Reservations required: volunteer@treepeople.org or 818-591-1701 x203. 3.5hrs *

SAT 12/1  8:45am  
Cold Creek Preserve  
Be a Restorationist for a Day See November 3 write-up  
Reservations required: volunteer@treepeople.org or 818-591-1701 x203. 3hrs *

SUN 12/2  8:30am  
Topanga State Park  
Lower Topanga Park Restoration See November 18 write-up. 
Reservations required: 818-591-1701 x203 or

SAT 12/8  8:30am  
La Sierra Preserve  
Restoration of a Hidden Gem See November 10 write-up. 
Reservations required: 818-591-1701 x203 or volunteer@treepeople.org. 3.5hrs *

SUN 12/9  8:45am  
Malibu Creek State Park  
Weed War a continuous fight against weeds (non-native invasive species). Today we visit the CNPS commemorative grove where trees have been planted to commemorate members of the California Native Plant Society. Weeding, planting and watering Receive community service credit. Reservations required: 818-591-1701 x203 or volunteer@treepeople.org. Call or email for directions. 3.5hrs *

SAT 12/15  8:45am  
Malibu Creek State Park, 1925 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas  
Return of the Lost Oak Woodlands See November 17 write-up. 
Reservations required: 818-591-1701 x203 or volunteer@treepeople.org. 3.5hrs *

SUN 12/30  10am  
Cold Creek Preserve – Lower Stunt High Trailhead  
Creek Ramble Early spring wildflowers. Bring water, snack; wear sturdy shoes. From Mulholland Highway in Calabasas, turn onto Stunt Road and drive one mile and park on wide shoulder of road. 2hrs RSVP: 818-345-6749
President's Message continued from page 1

Conservation efforts such as the one involving the Santa Clara River and Newhall Ranch are expensive and complex undertakings in terms of time and funding on the part of the CNPS Conservation Program. This Program is core to the Society in that it provides support for effective conservation at all levels. The Society's conservation professionals (and volunteers) establish contacts with agency personnel and members of the California State Legislature and also develop and submit detailed comment letters on projects and planning efforts of ecological importance. Litigation adds another layer of expenses defending lawsuits. Currently the CNPS Conservation Program costs roughly $120,000 a year. These costs are met from donations, from foundations, and from the program's endowment. The CNPS Conservation Campaign has set a goal to raise $100,000 this year to support the Conservation Program. Please consider a donation to this worthy cause as you make your end of year donations. The donation can be made online via the CNPS web page or sent directly to the CNPS state office at 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Be sure to designate the gift to Conservation Campaign. Thank you and have a great holiday season and new year.
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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THANKS

CHAPTER RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERSHIPS
Send check to David Hollombe, 6223 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90048 or to CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Current CNPS memberships are:
Student, Limited Income $25,
Individual $45,
Family, Group or Library $75.
Make checks payable to CNPS.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO TOYON ONLY. For members of other CNPS chapters, send $5 to David Hollombe.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Write or phone David Hollombe (323) 934-0332. Include your e-mail address. Be sure to notify State CNPS Office, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.
CHAPTER MEMBER'S BALLOT
FOR
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
LOS ANGELES / SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2013

Vote for each office. See above for candidate statements. We have no contested offices, but it is important that members of our chapter vote support of our Chapter's goals and programs. After voting, mail the ballot to CNPS, 4728 Rosita Place, Tarzana, California 91356. December 1, 2012, is the deadline for mailing.

PRESIDENT
☐ Snowdy Dodson

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS
☐ Jo Kitz & Halli Mason

CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE
☐ Betsey Landis

SECRETARY
☐ Henrietta Yuan

TREASURER
☐ Steve Hartman

Thanks so much for voting! Cut out this ballot, insert in an envelope and mail.