

**APPENDIX B**

**Public Participation**

**Public Comments/Responses**



# City of Santa Paula

970 VENTURA STREET  
SANTA PAULA, CALIFORNIA 93061  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 569  
Phone: 805 525-4478  
FAX: 805 525-6278

January 7, 2002

**FISH AND WILDLIFE  
SERVICE**

Santa Clara River Trustee Council  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, CA 93003

JAN 14 2002

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VENTURA, CA**

Dear Council Members:

This letter is in response to the Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Santa Clara River. The following comments are offered for your consideration.

1. The City of Santa Paula owns approximately 80 acres of riverbed along the south edge of town. I believe the City Council may be receptive to a sale or transfer to a conservancy as part of the overall effort to restore the river.
2. The effort to eradicate arundo will be expensive and the chances of long terms success are low. I believe that an effort to manage arundo through biological controls could be successful, if an acceptable arundo-eating bug can be found in its native habitat. A small portion of the funds reserved for the control of non-native invasive species should be spent on a reconnaissance mission to evaluate the potential for finding a biological control agent. If a likely agent is found, then funding could be arranged through this project or other sources for the necessary research prior to possible introduction. Ventura County has a long history of using biological controls. This effort could be the beginning of another such control program.

If you have any questions about these comments, please feel free to call.

Norman S. Wilkinson  
Public Works Director/City Engineer

Cc: City Manager



# COMMENT SHEET

Santa Clara River Restoration Plan

January 15, 2002 - Channel Islands National Park Auditorium  
Ventura, CA

Name Sanger Hedrick Affiliation Friends of Santa Clara River

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Your comments: Generally I think the proposed distribution of funds is a fair and effective approach.

Some brief comments re. invasive plant control:

Important things to consider

1) Generally best to clean watershed from the top to avoid or minimize re-infestation by flood.

2) Additional priority should be areas of prime habitat value

3) Areas cleaned should have a defense strategy to limit re-infestation. ie if the area is reflooded it should be surveyed for re-infestation at an early stage - it is relatively easy & cheap to eliminate infestations at an early stage.

(Please use back of sheet for continuation of comments)

Send comments to: Denise Steurer - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B,  
Ventura CA 93003  
(805) 644-1766



# COMMENT SHEET

Santa Clara River Restoration Plan

January 15, 2002 - Channel Islands National Park Auditorium  
Ventura, CA

Name Paul Belgium Affiliation Pacific High School

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Your comments:

I am the science / Ag Science  
teacher at Pacific High (Ventura's Public  
Alternative school). I am interested in  
an on-going project related to restoration  
and/or monitoring along the Santa Clara  
River as part of our watershed study.  
I think that doing real work is the  
best education and our students would  
really benefit from the experience. I would  
like to propose putting together a crew  
of hard working high school students for  
spring/summer employment in restoration  
or the development of your educational  
component. I'm sure that I could get

(Please use back of sheet for continuation of comments)

Send comments to: Denise Steurer - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2493 Portola Road, Suite B,  
Ventura CA 93003  
(805) 644-1766

Matching Funds to help with the costs. Most of our students have not had a wide range of life-experiences and their families often struggle financially. They therefore see work that they are paid for as "Real Work". The opportunity to work with adults doing interesting work in our community could build their sense of ownership in the urban world and their hope for the future.

I would love to talk with you regarding this and could write up our activities for "Building a Better World" in the STAR and increase the awareness and interest of the general public. Thanks, Paul



# COMMENT SHEET

Santa Clara River Restoration Plan  
January 15, 2002 - Channel Islands National Park Auditorium  
Ventura, CA

Name Stephanie Ray Affiliation Homeowner Riverwalk  
Address Fillmore

Phone N° \_\_\_\_\_

Your comments:

I'd like to see the Riverwalk in  
Fillmore extended to Ventura, if  
at all possible, maybe it could be  
named after me! :-)

(Please use back of sheet for continuation of comments)

Send comments to: Denise Steurer - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B,  
Ventura CA 93003  
(805) 644-1766



# COMMENT SHEET

Santa Clara River Restoration Plan

January 15, 2002 - Channel Islands National Park Auditorium  
Ventura, CA

Name TREVOR SMITH Affiliation CONNER VALLEY AUDUBON

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Your comments: I would suggest planting  
some mature tall trees  
in some areas of the river,  
nesting herons and egrets prefer  
to breed in tall trees - they  
have a better chance against  
predators - this would hopefully  
attract some permanent colonies  
of raptor type birds - as  
you know these types of birds  
regulate rodent populations -  
I have been observing a colony  
of night herons and blue herons in  
Channel Islands Harbor for several years -

(Please use back of sheet for continuation of comments)

Send comments to: Denise Steurer - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B,  
Ventura CA 93003  
(805) 644-1766



## COMMENT SHEET

Santa Clara River Restoration Plan

January 15, 2002 - Channel Islands National Park Auditorium  
Ventura, CA

Name Kendra Gonzales

Affiliation Surfriders Foundation  
Environmental Defense Center

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone N° \_\_\_\_\_

Your comments: Its wonderful to see so many agencies coming together in an informal open house type of setting. This allows for a greater amount of interaction with concerned citizens and groups. What a great example for other areas needing restoration and educational outreach. My concern is finding a way of getting the word out to more of the public at large, when these types of gathering occur. Many people who are not connected to an environmental organization or specifically affected by this plan may not know what's going on. How can we better reach the average citizen? One way is through our schools

(Please use back of sheet for continuation of comments)

Send comments to: Denise Steurer - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B,  
Ventura CA 93003  
(805) 644-1766



# COMMENT SHEET

Santa Clara River Restoration Plan

January 15, 2002 - Channel Islands National Park Auditorium  
Ventura, CA

Name Barry Lindgren Affiliation U.C. Ag Land Trust

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Your comments:

1. Each of the display tables were well done with good spokes people.

2. A single brief presentation by a member of the Trustees and a question and answer period would have been nice.

3. A low volume narrations along with the slide show would have been useful.

(Please use back of sheet for continuation of comments)

Send comments to: Denise Steurer - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B,  
Ventura CA 93003  
(805) 644-1766



# COMMENT SHEET

Santa Clara River Restoration Plan  
January 15, 2002 - Channel Islands National Park Auditorium  
Ventura, CA

Name Lois KNIGHT LARUE Affiliation ACLU

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Your comments: \_\_\_\_\_

① THE COFFEE IS COLD.

② IT IS NOW 4:30.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED FOR 4.

(LOIS<sup>W.</sup> CAME OVER AND EXPLAINED THAT

THERE ISN'T TO BE A SPEAKER)

③ EVERYONE IS (SO) NICE!

(Please use back of sheet for continuation of comments)

Send comments to: Denise Steurer - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B,  
Ventura CA 93003  
(805) 644-1766



***The Santa Clarita  
Sierra Club Group,***

*The Angeles Chapter  
21827 Parvin Dr., Santa Clarita, Ca. 91350*

Denise Steurer  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B,  
Ventura, CA 93003  
(805) 644-1766

Jan. 22, 2002

Re: Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Santa Clara River  
ARCO Oil Spill.

Dear Ms. Steurer:

My name is Henry Schultz. I am making comments on the Draft Restoration Plan (hereafter called the PLAN) on behalf of the Santa Clarita Group of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. First, I would like to thank you for the well run open-house public meeting of Tuesday, January 15, 2002 where I was able to meet a number of people involved with the river including the two principle partners of the Trustee Council, The Nature Conservancy and the California State Coastal Conservancy. Both of these organizations are well respected and will make fine intermediaries for land acquisition and restoration on the Santa Clara River.

The PLAN makes it clear that the intent of the Consent Decree is "to restore and protect the natural resources of the Santa Clara River watershed in perpetuity." Hence, those alternatives that do not contribute to the permanent protection of the natural resources "will not be considered." Based on this, we recommend that funds for arundo removal would be better used for acquisition of property and conservation easements. While this is an important issue, other agencies, private owners and volunteer groups can provide resources for this task.

Our group has as its main goal the preservation of the entire 500 year flood plain from Acton to Fillmore. To preserve less than this is to constrict the biodiversity of the river system. The oil spill ran from Santa Clarita to Piru. This is, coincidentally, some of the best riparian ecosystem on the whole river and it is under immediate pressure of potentially disastrous heavy development along that same stretch. We therefore recommend that the majority of acquisition be in the 500 year flood plain over this region.

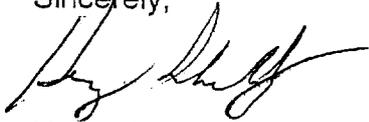
Restoration of agricultural land in this zone would then take on primary importance vis-à-vis the PLAN as this region includes least Bell's vireo habitat, arroyo toad habitat and three spined unarmored stickleback habitat among many others.

One of the most important areas involves the critical wildlife corridor that runs out of Santa Susana's Salt Creek and cuts across the river going north into the Los Padres Mountains. It crosses from LA County into Ventura County and is currently owned by Newhall Land and Farming. If this land cannot be acquired, then a conservation easement is absolutely necessary to guarantee the free flow of wildlife to the rest of the Santa Susanas and the San Gabriels. This would be the best thing that can be done to satisfy the wildlife corridor objective of the PLAN.

The City of Santa Clarita has a River Park Plan under which it is acquiring river land for park space. We recommend that the Trustee Council and its partners work together with the City of Santa Clarita to preserve these areas which are under extreme pressure from development.

The protection of the last remaining wild river in Southern California is a most urgent mission. We support your efforts and will do whatever we can to help keep the Santa Clara River "live" for perpetuity. Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Schultz", written in a cursive style.

Henry Schultz  
Chair, Santa Clarita Group of the Sierra Club

Tue, Jan 22, 2002 6:08 PM

**From:** Bill Neill <bgneill@earthlink.net>  
**To:** Denise Steurer <denise\_steurer@fws.gov>  
**Cc:** Shawna Bautista <sbautista@fs.fed.us>  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 22, 2002 9:37 AM  
**Subject:** Comments on ARCO oil spill recovery plan

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Denise Steurer  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Ventura office

Although I received your ARCO oil spill draft restoration plan two weeks ago, I delayed studying it until hearing a complaint by the Santa Clara River watershed manager at L.A. County Dept. Public Works that 80% of the funding will be directed to Ventura County and 20% to Los Angeles County.

Your plan turned out to be generalized so I didn't find those figures in it, but certainly in regard to Arundo control we'd prefer to see a higher percentage spent in the upstream part of the watershed.

One minor comment on Arundo removal methods: Page 16 says that the hammer flail device mulches Arundo in place "with minimal resprouting."

Actually, although the hammer flail mower is a valuable tool for quickly cutting and reducing biomass volumes with minimal ground disturbance, the mulching process has no effect on the vigor of resprouting; if Arundo rhizomes have ample groundwater, they will sprout quickly and profusely regardless of the cutting method, through thick layers of mulch if present.

I'm familiar with Arundo distributions in the Santa Clara River watershed from researching my regional map of Southern California posted at <smplrwwa.org>, and I'm knowledgeable about strategies for controlling Arundo as efficiently and effectively as possible; so as the Trustee Council begins to formulate specific plans and priorities for Arundo control methods and locations, you are welcome to contact me to discuss project implementation and optimization.

Additionally, if you will ready to discuss your Arundo control program by June, I would like to invite you to present your plans for the Santa Clara River watershed at a June 19 meeting of Team Arundo Angeles, at the offices of L.A.

County Dept. Public Works in Alhambra.

Bill Neill  
Secretary, Team Arundo Angeles

SACRAMENTO OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5035  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 445-5405

SAN LUIS OBISPO OFFICE  
1260 CHORRO STREET, SUITE A  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401  
(805) 547-1800

SANTA BARBARA OFFICE  
228 WEST CARRILLO, SUITE F  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101  
(805) 966-2296

VENTURA OFFICE  
89 S. CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE E  
VENTURA, CA 93001  
(805) 641-1500

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
JACK O'CONNELL  
EIGHTEENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



CHAIR  
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
COASTAL CAUCUS  
MAJORITY CAUCUS  
MEMBER:  
BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW  
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
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RULES

**FISH AND WILDLIFE  
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JAN 29 2002

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January 28, 2002

Santa Clara River Trustee Council  
c/o Denise Steurer  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Ms. Steurer:

I want to express my support for the Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Santa Clara River that the Santa Clara River Trustee Council (Trustee Council) prepared in response to the ARCO oil spill, which occurred in January 1994.

Specifically, I strongly urge the Trustee Council, to provide funds to the California Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy for land acquisition in the Santa Clara River watershed. As you know, the Coastal Conservancy, in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy, established the Santa Clara River Parkway Program that is currently acquiring, protecting and restoring lands along the watershed. Furthermore, the Coastal Conservancy is in contact with willing landowners who are interested in selling their land for this purpose. For these reasons, I encourage the Trustee Council, once the Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment is approved, to allocate funds to the Coastal Conservancy and Nature Conservancy as soon as possible to ensure that the opportunity to acquire these properties is successful.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Santa Clara River and for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

  
JACK O'CONNELL

JO:cc  
E8h

cc: Interested Parties



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SERVICE**

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VENTURA, CA**

January 31, 2002

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2493 Portola Road Suite B  
Ventura, CA 93303

Attn: Ms. Denise Steurer

Dear Ms. Steurer:

I was unable to attend the meeting regarding the spending of the settlement with Arco so here are my comments:

I live in the Canyon Country area and that portion of the Santa Clara river has been a large part of my life. I would like to see some of the money spent to promote keeping the river in as natural state as possible. Cementing the sides and bottoms of rivers destroys their ability to function as rivers. I would also approve of funding your agency's tracking and protecting wildlife along the river. Perhaps also use some small amount of the money to educate school age children regarding the river areas and their value to our quality of life.

Thank you for your time and effort in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Denise Schelling*  
Denise Schelling }

**VENTURA COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL  
LAND  
TRUST**



PO Box 4664, Ventura CA 93007 (805) 672-2441, Fax (805) 647-6493 • www.valt.org

**FISH AND WILDLIFE  
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February 6, 2002

**Board & Council:**

Norman Blacher  
Rick Brecunier  
Ellen Brokaw  
Jim Churchill  
Charles Cohen  
Robert C. Davis, Jr  
Lee Draughon  
Roger Essick  
William D. Fairfield  
Wilfred Freeman  
Gene Kjellberg  
Link Leavens  
Larry Lindgren  
William Myers  
Michael Mobley  
Don E. Petty, Jr.  
Jo Rogers  
Larry Rose  
Robert M. Sawyer  
Lorraine Timmons  
Joe Wigert

Santa Clara River Trustee Council  
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, CA 93003

Attn. Denise Steurer

**Subject: Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the  
Santa Clara River ARCO Oil Spill**

Dear Ms. Steurer,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft of the Plan and to attend the Open House Meeting January 15. I enjoyed talking with you for a few minutes.

I believe your plan in general is a good one. However, I believe your priorities should be altered and your allocation of funds changed to put the major portion of your funding on removing and controlling Arundo.

Consider the following:

1. **Focus.** Your organization has the oversight of the entire river and only this river. Coverage extends beyond county lines and hopefully it will have the ability to coordinate the efforts and funding of other organizations with interests expertise and funding to assist in solving the Arundo problem.
2. **Leadership.** There appears to be common agreement among many agencies that elimination and permanent control of Arundo is essential to the health of the river. This organization is in a unique position to lead the effort. A coordinated plan and schedule is needed to begin eradication and establish permanent control.
3. **Funding.** Half of \$7 million will not acquire much property and there are other sources of funds for that purpose. However, even at \$55,000 per acre of Arundo removed, the 60+ acres thus treated would have a significant impact. It also might show the way for more cost-effective procedures and enlist the support of the many organizations concerned with the Arundo problem.

Sincerely,

Larry Rose  
President  
Ventura County Agricultural Land Trust

13 February 2002

Santa Clara River Trustee Council  
% Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
2493 Portola Road. Suite B  
Ventura, CA 93003

RE: A Specific Land Acquisition Proposal for the Santa Clara  
River Restoration Plan

I believe an opportunity exists to acquire a uniquely situated parcel of land on the Santa Clara River. The parcel is 4.11 acres (APN 041-0-290-060) and owned by the Fillmore Irrigation Company 540 Sespe Ave. Fillmore, CA 93015-1943.

This parcel adjoins the north approach on the east side of the Highway 23 Bridge over the Santa Clara River and extends into the river.

The parcel is highly accessible and visible to the public. It would provide an ideal educational site for any demonstration project. It also adjoins Fillmore Unified School District property in the Santa Clara River and is adjacent to the City of Fillmore providing the potential for involvement and education of the community of Fillmore in the importance of a natural Santa Clara River.

The property is at an urban-river interface. Fillmore's "A" Street Drain empties into the Santa Clara River at this point providing the opportunity for monitoring possible pollution entering the Santa Clara River and other studies.

Additionally Arundo donax grows on the parcel providing easy access for eradication demonstrations and public education.

Primarily, however, this parcel is important because it is possible a proposed new levee will cross the parcel. At a time when many in Ventura County recognize the long-term futility of levees it is important that there be strong public input on the proposed new levee. The City of Fillmore recently permitted the construction of a soil cement core levee into the "floodway" of the Santa Clara River without FEMA approval. You can view this levee from the downstream side of the Highway 23 Bridge over the Santa Clara River.

Hopefully the purchase of the Fillmore Irrigation parcel would provide the Santa Clara River Trustee Council an enhanced position with regard to the construction of the proposed new levee.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE  
SERVICE**

FEB 14 2002

**RECEIVED  
VENTURA, CA**

Sincerely,

  
Dwight V. Moore

City of  
Santa Clarita

23920 Valencia Blvd.  
Suite 300  
Santa Clarita  
California 91355-2196  
Website: www.santa-clarita.com

Phone  
(661) 259-2489  
Fax  
(661) 259-8125



February 13, 2002

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Santa Clara River Trustee Council  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
2492 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, California 93003

**Subject: Comments on the Draft Restoration Plan and  
Environmental Assessment for the Santa Clara River  
ARCO Oil Spill**

Dear Members of the Trustee Council:

The City of Santa Clarita respectfully submits the following comments on the Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Santa Clara River ARCO Oil Spill (Plan). The City supports the concepts of funding priorities for land acquisition and conservation easements, and invasive, non-native species control. However, the proposed methods to distribute the funds appear arbitrary, as they completely exclude any property outside of Ventura County for the majority of acquisition and conservation easement funding. In addition, the spill prevention element of the public education program is duplicative of current NPDES Permit requirements.

In 1994, over 190,000 gallons of crude oil spilled into a 16-mile stretch of the Santa Clara River between Santa Clarita and Piru. The distribution of settlement money outlined in the Plan is for compensation for injuries to natural resources caused by the spill. However, more than half of the area affected by the spill is not recommended for funding for land acquisition and conservation easements according to the Plan. The land acquisition and conservation easement category is being recommended for 60 percent of the funds, more than any other category. It is difficult to understand how the area most affected by the spill is being eliminated from consideration for 60 percent of the funding, almost \$5 million, without justification provided in the analysis.

While the spill primarily impaired those portions of the river immediately downstream, crews worked in only the most accessible locations of the river to remove large pools of oil and clean the banks of the river. Significant resources were spent to control the spill and reduce the environmental impacts to the Santa Clara River within the Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita



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Santa Clara River Trustee Council  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
February 13, 2002  
Page 2

boundaries. The resulting impact to many threatened and endangered species were immediate and long lasting. The Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department has defined the pertinent threatened and endangered species in this area in the Biological Resources Assessment of the Proposed Santa Clara River Significant Ecological Area (SEA Assessment). The document is available online at [http://planning.co.la.ca.us/gpd\\_SantaClaraRiver.pdf](http://planning.co.la.ca.us/gpd_SantaClaraRiver.pdf).

In a study performed by the University of California Santa Barbara – Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management (the basis of the Plan), it clearly excluded any consideration of the area most affected by the spill without any scientific or subjective justification for doing so. The following quote from page 27 of Prioritizing Sites along the Santa Clara River for Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species (Prioritizing Study) supports the City's concern that arbitrary criteria were used to distribute funding.

“The study area was further limited by considering only those parcels in Ventura County. The opportunities for conservation in Los Angeles County seemed to be fewer and more problematic.”

City staff could find no other reasoning or criteria for removing Los Angeles County from the study area in the Prioritizing Study or the Plan. This especially concerns the City as more than half of the 16 miles of spill area were in Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita boundaries, but are now excluded from the study area for land acquisition and conservation easements. As stated previously, 60 percent of the available funds, or close to \$5 million, will be spent on areas that do not include City of Santa Clarita or Los Angeles County. There is a significant need now to preserve and protect the remaining riparian areas in Los Angeles County. While many criteria are offered in the Plan, the Prioritizing Study did not use this criteria to determine locations or set funding priorities for preserving riparian habitat in Los Angeles County. As a result of the arbitrary decision to exclude areas most affected by the spill, the Prioritizing Study did not look at the SEA Assessment results for Los Angeles County to determine what endangered species and habitat existed in this area.

The Plan provides for the acquisition of land and removal of *Arundo Donax* as the primary goals of the restoration, but does not offer any process by which the funds will be distributed. Therefore, the City of Santa Clarita believes a strong case may be made for the identification of appropriate acquisition and fund allocation sites as follows:

1. Based on the fact that the spill area was 50 percent in Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita, at least 50 percent of the funds should be spent on projects that are in the spill area identified in the Plan (please see Figure 1, Page 6 of the Plan). Of that 50 percent, the funding should be equally distributed between areas in Los Angeles County and Ventura County. In lieu of this distribution of funds, the Prioritization Study could be amended to include Los Angeles County and City of Santa Clarita sections of the Santa Clara River. The areas would be subject to the same rigorous analysis as those in Ventura County to show areas that might provide equally suitable habitat for all five endangered species considered.
2. Arundo Donax removal should begin in the City of Santa Clarita to prevent new sections from being washed downstream. Therefore, Ventura Resource Conservation District should be conditioned to start Arundo Donax removal in Los Angeles County first, and specifically in the City of Santa Clarita, before any of the Arundo Donax removal Arco spill funds are spent further downstream.
3. The public education component includes oil spill prevention in its scope. The reasoning behind this idea is sound. However, there are other public education needs the \$400,000 should fund instead of spill prevention education. The NPDES Permits for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties already require spill prevention education and inspections at most commercial and industrial facilities to comply with the Clean Water Act. Per the Plan, the spill funds cannot be spent on required programs to comply with environmental law, such as local government NPDES Permits. Spending limited dollars on spill prevention seems duplicative, since most agencies would be prohibited from spending these dollars on their public education programs. Redirecting funds to other types of education would be prudent.
4. The current percentage of the funding set aside for monitoring (5 percent), and specifically bioassessments, should be increased as improved data on water quality during wet weather is crucial for improving wildlife and fish habitat. This is especially true in the upper reaches where more wet weather monitoring is necessary. At least 10 percent would be appropriate. The first step is to gain a better understanding of what pollutants are in the water and where the pollutants are coming from through water quality sampling and modeling. The second step is to quantify what the affects of that pollution might be to the Santa Clara River, which can be answered in part through

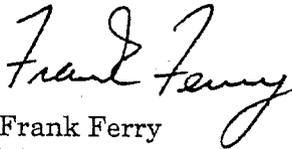
Santa Clara River Trustee Council  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
February 13, 2002  
Page 4

annual bioassessments. Perhaps reprogramming additional public education dollars into monitoring would be appropriate.

We would like to invite members of the Trustee Council to visit the City of Santa Clarita to demonstrate the City's stewardship of the Santa Clara River. The Santa Clara River flows through the heart of the Santa Clarita Valley community, both physically and philosophically. Through the visit, we hope to express our willing partnership with the Trustee Council if given consideration to continue preserving and protecting this crucial natural resource and community treasure. We will contact the Trustee Council soon to arrange a visit.

Please feel free to contact Rick Gould at (661) 255-4978, David Peterson at (661) 284-1406, or Heather Lea Merenda at (661) 284-1413, if you have any questions regarding these comments. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Frank Ferry  
Mayor

FF:TM:hm

S:\PBS\ENVS\RVCS\Heather\Water\ArcoSpi1.doc

cc: Suk Chong, P.E., Watershed Manager, Watershed Division, Los Angeles  
County Department of Public Works  
Rick Gould, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, City  
of Santa Clarita  
Jill Fosselman, Environmental Services Manger, City of Santa Clarita  
Roland Leclair, Project Development Coordinator, City of Santa Clarita  
Heather Lea Merenda, Sustainability Planner, City of Santa Clarita  
David Peterson, Project Development Coordinator, City of Santa Clarita  
Tom Reilly, Park Development Administrator, City of Santa Clarita

*Handwritten initials and date: 2/14/02*

TO: Diane Noda FROM: Suk Chong DATE: 2/14/02  
SUBJECT: Santa Clara River Restoration Plan NO. Fax (805) 644-3958

Attention: Denise Steurer, Fish and Wildlife Service

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works is very much interested in implementing a long-term eradication program for Arundo and Tamarisk in Santa Clara River in Los Angeles County. We are requesting \$1,500,000 from the Santa Clara River Trustee Council to help us develop and implement our program.

Public Works supports the Trustee Council's plans to partner with other groups who are involved with invasive species control. Public Works has initiated discussions with U.S. Forest Service and Ventura County Arundo donax Task Force on our plans to develop and implement an Arundo and Tamarisk eradication program. We have also obtained support from other stakeholders including County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department, Team Arundo Angeles, the Santa Clarita Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment.

We believe invasive weed infestations are most effectively addressed on a regional scale and done systematically over a period of many years starting from the headwaters located in the National Forest in Los Angeles County. Our goal is to establish an eradication program that will reflect this philosophy and demonstrate measurable riparian habitat improvements as the project progresses in the next 20 years and beyond. We estimate the cost to develop and implement this long-term eradication program to be about \$3,000,000. We have requested \$1,500,000 from the State for a Prop. 13 Grant under Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (see attached copy). We plan to establish an endowment so we may fund a long term monitoring program.

If you would like to discuss our plans, please call me at (626) 458-4341.

spc

attach. 1

**FISH AND WILDLIFE  
SERVICE**

**FEB 19 2002**

**RECEIVED  
VENTURA, CA**

CONCEPT PROPOSAL FORM

SFY 2001 Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000  
Water Code, Division 26, Chapter 6, Article 2, Watershed Protection Program  
Water Code, Division 26, Chapter 7, Article 2, Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program  
Water Code, Division 26, Chapter 7, Article 5, Coastal Nonpoint Source Control Program

Your concept proposal should contain no more than five pages (seven pages for watershed protection program applications), and must include this two page concept proposal form, the two page project summary, and a one page map (8 1/2" x 11" paper) to indicate the location of your watershed, project within it, and "small community" (if applicable). Applicants applying for funds as a "small community" must also include the Small Community Designation Form. Applicants applying as a "small community" under the divisible segment category must include a second map as described on the form.

Use 10 point or larger font, and margins no smaller than 1/2" on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Proposals received with smaller print that are judged unreadable will be returned without comment. Proposals that exceed five pages will be reduced to five pages before being sent to the review panel. Extra brochures, flyers, newsletters, etc. will be discarded before sending the proposals to the review panel. This form is available in electronic format on the State Water Resources Control Board web site: [www.swrcb.ca.gov/prop13/index.html](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/prop13/index.html).

Proposal proponents must submit one original, 7 copies, and one electronic copy of their project application to the SWRCB. Electronic copies can be on either a CDROM or 1.44 MB floppy disk. Electronic files in MS Word are preferred; however, this is not a requirement. Applicants that cannot meet this requirement must call 1-866-415-3561 for assistance prior to submitting an application. This requirement does not apply to those submitting electronic applications.

Application No. 137 (Call toll free 1-866-415-3561 to receive an application number.)

FUNDING SOURCE (you may check more than one.)

SWRCB Programs

\*Watershed Protection Program \_\_\_\_\_  
Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program  \_\_\_\_\_  
Coastal Nonpoint Source Control Program \_\_\_\_\_

CALFED Programs

\*Prop 13-CALFED Watershed Program \_\_\_\_\_  
Prop 13-CALFED Drinking Water Program \_\_\_\_\_

\* Applicant must satisfy requirements listed in Attachment 2 "Special Considerations" and fill out the Small Community Designation Form.

RESPONSIBLE

PROJECT (Ms.,  
DIRECTOR (one Mr.,  
name only) Dr.):

Mr. Donald L. Wolfe  
PRINT

Donald L Wolfe  
SIGNATURE

1-30-02  
DATE

ELIGIBLE LEAD (one name only)

APPLICANT OR ORGANIZATION: County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

TYPE OF ENTITY:

Municipality \_\_\_\_\_ Local Agency  Nonprofit(landowner) \_\_\_\_\_  
Educational Institution \_\_\_\_\_ Nonprofit(non landowner) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: 900 S. Fremont Avenue  
CITY: Alhambra Zip Code: 91803-1331  
P.O. BOX: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY: Los Angeles  
STATE: California

PHONE NO.: (626) 458-4014 FAX NO.: (626) 458-4022

E-MAIL ADDRESS: dwolfe@ladpw.org FEDERAL TAX ID. NO.: 95-600927

PROJECT TITLE: Upper Santa Clara River Watershed  
Arundo donax and Tamarisk Eradication Program  
PROJECT TYPE (See what activities qualify, Attachment 1) Project consistent with the SWRCB/RWQCB "Integrated Plan for Implementation of the Watershed Management Initiative"

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION CA Senate District 17 and 19 CA Assembly District 36 and 38  
U.S. Congressional District 25, California

WATERBODY(S)/WATERSHED: Santa Clara River Watershed  
(Refer to ARD, Section 5) Catalogue Number 18070102  
Region 4

COUNTIES IN WHICH THE PROJECT WILL PRIMARILY TAKE PLACE:

County of Los Angeles  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL SUMMARY:

Prop 13 Funds Requested	<u>\$ 1,500,000</u>
Other Project Funds	<u>\$ 1,500,000</u>
Total Project Budget	<u>\$ 3,000,000</u>

CERTIFICATION

Please read before signing.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the information I have entered on this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and that I am entitled to submit the application on behalf of the applicant (if the applicant is an entity/organization). I further understand that any false, incomplete, or incorrect statements may result in the disqualification of this application. By signing this application, I waive any and all rights to privacy and confidentiality of the proposal on behalf of the applicant.

Donald Wolfe Applicant Signature 1-30-07 Date

Donald L. Wolfe  
Printed Name of Applicant

## GRANT CONCEPT PROPOSAL FOR PROP. 13 PHASE II – STATE FISCAL YEAR 2001-02

### Upper Santa Clara River Watershed *Arundo donax* and *Tamarisk* Eradication Program

#### Project Summary

##### Overview

The harmful effects of *Arundo Donax* and *Tamarisk* are well documented. In fact, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) recently proposed the addition of *Arundo donax* and *Tamarisk*, along with six other exotic invasive plants, to the CDFA Noxious Weed List in the California Code of Regulations. The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, in conjunction with its partners\*, proposes to undertake a regional *Arundo donax* and *Tamarisk* eradication program in the Upper Santa Clara River watershed. We believe invasive weed infestations are most effectively addressed on a regional scale and done systematically over a period of many years. Our goal is to establish an eradication program that will reflect this philosophy and demonstrate measurable riparian habitat improvements as the project progresses in the next 20 years and beyond.

The Santa Clara River originates in the northern slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains in the County of Los Angeles, traverses westerly through Ventura County, and outlets 100 miles later to the Pacific Ocean between the cities of Ventura and Oxnard. The River drains an area of over 1,600 square miles and represents one of two remaining natural river systems in Southern California. The Upper Santa Clara River watershed is comprised of about 680 square miles of the most rural land in the County of Los Angeles. Balancing the protection of this dwindling natural resource with the ever-increasing demand for housing is a challenge facing the County and its watershed management partners.

The proposed eradication program is consistent with Public Works' watershed management mission of integrating flood protection, conscientious management of natural resources, water conservation, and efforts to improve the quality of stormwater runoff and groundwater. Ridding the watershed of harmful non-native plants would not only restore the ecological and hydrological balance in the riparian habitat, but also aid in our flood protection efforts.

##### Relationship to the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (NPS Program)

The stated goals and objectives of the proposed eradication program are consistent with those of the NPS Program and the Watershed Management Initiative. Specifically, "Eradication of exotic species and habitat restoration" is listed as one of the priority projects on the Regional Board's NPS Program's Target Projects List. Also, in the Watershed Management Initiative Chapter dated December 2000, the Regional Board lists "Impacts from exotic vegetation" as one of the significant watershed issues for the Santa Clara River watershed. We believe the proposed long-term, systematic eradication program is the best way to address the infestation problem that threatens the natural balance in a native riparian system.

##### Success Criteria

While neither a set of precise success criteria nor a numerical successful kill rate can be established today (it will be established as part of the Implementation Plan), it is safe to say that with the proposed long-term, regional approach, we hope to achieve near-complete *Arundo donax* and *Tamarisk* extermination in the Upper Santa Clara River watershed at the end of the program. With the creation of an endowment for monitoring, it may be possible to extend the program in perpetuity. A long-term monitoring and reporting mechanism will be established during Phase Two of the project to measure and document its impact.

##### Stakeholder Involvement

Public Works has worked, and will continue to work, closely with stakeholders during all phases of this project. Thus far we have had discussions with the U.S. Forest Service and the Ventura County *Arundo donax* Task Force, who have existing *Arundo* control programs along San Francisquito Creek and the Ventura River, respectively. Both of these organizations have expressed interest in sharing their experiences with us in developing an effective eradication program. Additionally, we have obtained support from other stakeholders including County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department, Team *Arundo* Angeles, the Santa Clarita Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment.

A community outreach and education program is an important part of the proposed project and will be discussed in the Implementation Plan. The objective of the education program would be to minimize the reintroduction of non-native invasive plants into the watershed by raising the community's awareness of the area's native and non-native plants.

**Preliminary Concept**

We propose to combat *Arundo* and *Tamarisk* infestation starting from the headwaters of Santa Clara River and its tributaries and work our way downstream. This systematic approach coupled with commitment to a long-term monitoring program stands a much better chance of success than uncoordinated local efforts. Furthermore, successful exotic weed control in the Upper Watershed would greatly benefit similar efforts in Ventura County. The following table outlines major tasks in the proposed eradication program, and has been prepared with input from experts specializing in exotic weed control at the U.S. Forest Service and County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commission's Office. Preliminary estimates for the extent of *Arundo* infestation in the project area ranges from 50 to 100 acres impacted.

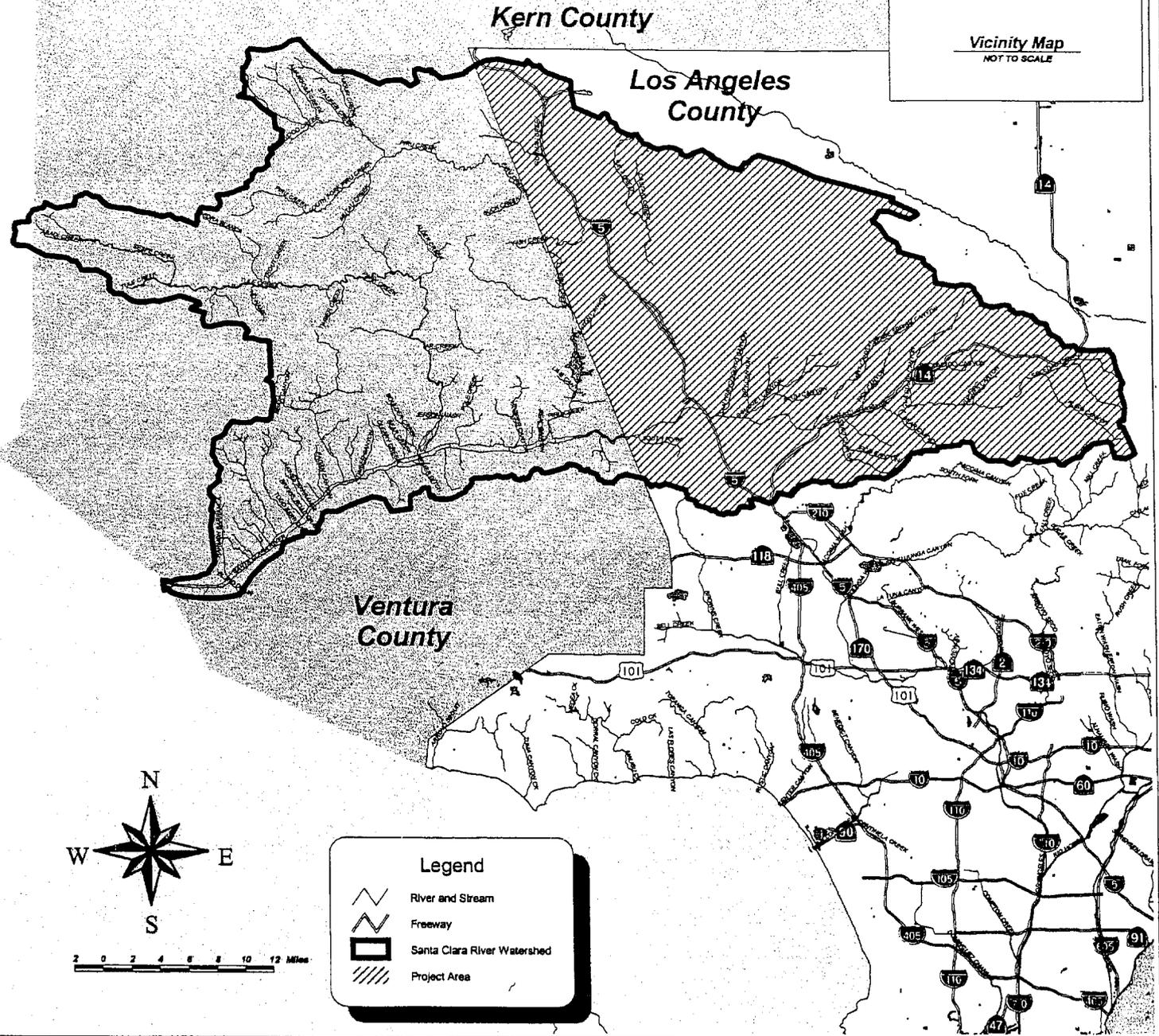
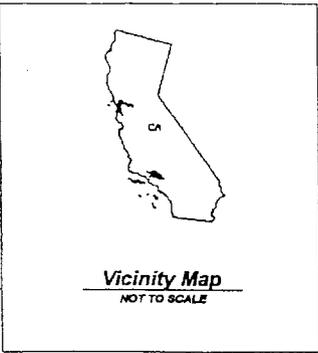
TASK	METHODOLOGY	EST. COST
Phase One - Initial Investigations and environmental assessment (one year)		
Map extent of infestation in the watershed; coordinate with existing eradication efforts; resolve right-of-way issues	Aerial mapping identification with Field verification	\$100,000
Conduct biological monitoring	Field survey	\$100,000
Prepare EIR (includes existing conditions and results of biological monitoring)	Report, GIS	\$100,000
Phase Two - "Design" (one year)		
Prepare Implementation Plan - eradication methodology - success criteria - monitoring (20 years plus) - reporting mechanism - community outreach and education - Secure permits	A combination of chemical, mechanical, and biological (non- herbicide) control methods will be considered	\$100,000
Establish endowment to fund long term monitoring	TBD	\$200,000
Phase Three - Implementation and Monitoring (20 years plus)		
Intensive eradication (5 years)	In accordance with Plan	\$2,400,000
Follow-up and monitoring (15 years plus)	In accordance with Plan	\$14,000 per year based on 7% annual interest rate
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,000,000</b>

Public Works' partners for this project include:

- County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department
- U.S. Forest Service
- Team Arundo Angeles
- Ventura County *Arundo Donax* Task Force

Other project supporters include:

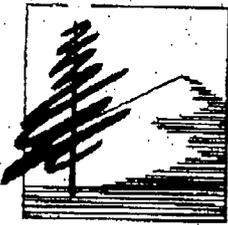
- Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment
- Sierra Club (Santa Clarita Chapter)



# Santa Clara River Watershed



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## Center for Natural Lands Management

A non-profit organization for the protection & management of natural resources

February 15, 2002

**Sherry Teresa**  
Executive Director  
425 E. Alvarado Street, Ste. H  
Fallsbrook, CA 92028 2880  
760/ 731-7790  
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Santa Clara River Trustee Council  
C/O U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
2492 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, California 93003

RE: Comments on the Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Santa Clara River ARCO Oil Spill.

Dear Members of the Trustee Council:

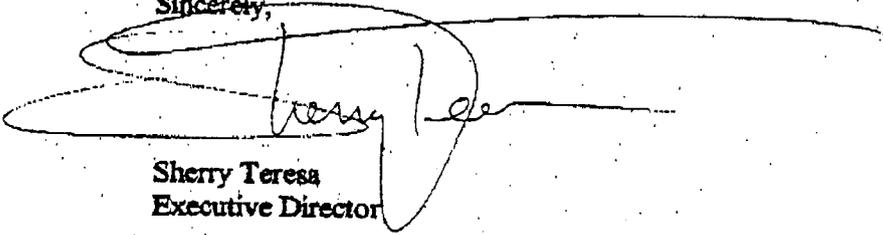
The Center for Natural Lands Management (Center) has reviewed the Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Santa Clara River ARCO Oil Spill (Plan) and with this letter submits comments and suggestions to the Plan. The Center supports the general breakdown of funding priorities for education, land acquisition and non-native plant (*Arundo donax*) and animal (brown-headed cowbird) control. However, based on the Center's experience with land management feels that certain items may have been overlooked or that certain items need more consideration.

1. The Center recommends that the Council prioritize all programs with first priority to expend monies in the area of the spill where injury occurred pursuant to the Consent Decree.
2. The Center recommends that more monies should be put towards revegetation, arundo removal and cowbird trapping than is currently allocated. The long term removal of arundo over such a large area will require a substantial amount of money. In addition, it is advised that endowments be set up to allow for the long term maintenance of arundo removal areas.
3. A financial plan should be developed containing projected investment returns, investment instruments, the proportion of monies for a perpetual endowment, and a program for expenditures of funds (i.e. proportion for grants, revolving loans, contracted arundo removal, mitigation and acquisition).
4. The Center recommends that a cap be placed on administrative expenses.
5. It should be a priority to move monies to organizations, specifically non-profit, non-governmental environmental organizations, which have experience in dealing with land issues outlined in the Plan and can more effectively and efficiently expend monies.

6. The Center encourages other groups who received money in the settlement to contribute money to the efforts on the Santa Clara River.

The Center appreciates the efforts that have gone into creating the Plan and hope that these suggestions and comments will be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherry Teresa", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

**Sherry Teresa**  
**Executive Director**

## **City of Santa Paula**

Comment:

The City Council may be receptive to the sale or transfer of 80 acres of city-owned riverbed property along the south edge of town to a conservancy.

Response:

The Trustee Council is interested in the 80-acre parcel and will contact the City for further information on the land and to schedule a site visit. If the Trustee Council finds that the proposed parcel will provide the equivalent of or restore resources affected by the spill, is not already protected by a conservation easement and is not a required mitigation area, the Council will initiate discussion with the California Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy for their possible interest in acquisition as part of the overall restoration of the river.

Comment:

A small portion of the funds reserved for the control of non-native invasive species should be spent on a reconnaissance mission to evaluate the potential for finding a biological control agent for Arundo.

Response:

The Trustee Council will encourage the coordinating group or agency for the Arundo control effort to consider biological control as part of the overall effort. We recognize the benefit of a biological control organism in reducing the dependence on herbicides for the control of Arundo. We also realize the caution that needs to be exercised in introducing a biological control organism. In addition, the Council is cognizant of the requirement to allocate funds for actual restoration projects and to minimize the expenditure of funds for research purposes. Thus, the Council will not allocate funds for biological control for Arundo unless it is an already state or federally authorized program utilizing proven methods and technology. In other words, we will not allocate funds for research or experimentation with new unproven methodologies.

## **Friends of the Santa Clara River - Sanger Hedrick**

Comment:

The proposed distribution of funds is a fair and effective approach. Regarding invasive plant control, it is best to control invasives from the top of the watershed. Priority should be given to areas of prime habitat value. Areas that are cleaned should have a defense strategy to limit reinfestation.

Response:

Your comments regarding invasive non-native plant control will be incorporated into the invasive control program for the watershed.

**Pacific High School - Paul Belgum**

Comment:

Interested in an on-going project related to restoration and/or monitoring along the Santa Clara River as part of a school watershed study and also providing students with an opportunity to experience the natural world, promoting ownership and hope for the future.

Response:

Since the Trustee Council plans to allocate funds for educational projects, we will discuss this project further with Pacific High School and identify how we can coordinate our restoration efforts with the existing school programs.

**Homeowner - Stephanie Ray**

Comment:

Would like to see the riverwalk in Fillmore extended to Ventura.

Response:

The California Coastal Conservancy is currently working on a phase 1 plan for acquisition and restoration that will establish a greenway from Ventura to Santa Paula. As funds are available, the greenway may extend further upstream. The Nature Conservancy is also involved in this effort through the establishment of protected wildlife corridors along the Santa Clara River. The Trustee Council will allocate funds to the Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy for the acquisition and restoration efforts which will likely be in the Fillmore area also. These efforts are likely to include providing public access where it is appropriate and feasible to do so.

**Conejo Valley Audubon - Trevor Smith**

Comment:

Planting mature tall trees in some areas of the river for nesting raptor birds such as herons and egrets.

Response:

It is likely that trees will be planted as part of the restoration efforts to re-establish native plants

in areas where it is appropriate to do so. Younger trees will be planted, however, to ensure more successful survival and growth. Restoration efforts have shown that mature trees are less likely to survive the relocation and transplanting processes and it is more cost-effective and successful to use younger trees.

**Surfrider Foundation, Environmental Defense Center - Kendra Gonzales**

Comment:

It's wonderful to see so many agencies coming together in an informal open house setting, allowing for a greater amount of interaction with concerned citizens and groups. However, how can we better get the word out - maybe through our schools?

Response:

Although we did not specifically send the Announcement and draft Restoration Plan to schools, the draft Plan was sent to a varied mailing list of individuals and groups, and to the media. We received some good coverage in the newspapers and on the radio, and were pleased with the turnout at the meeting. Schools will be considered for future outreach efforts.

**University of California Ag Land Trust - Larry Lindgren**

Comment:

Display tables were well done with good spokespeople. A brief presentation with a question and answer period and a narrative with the slide show would have been useful.

Response:

Thank you for the suggestions for future meetings.

**American Civil Liberties Union - Lois Knight Larue**

Comment:

The coffee was cold, a speaker was anticipated and everyone was so nice.

Response:

Thank you for your comments. The coffee did warm up!

### **The Santa Clarita Sierra Club Group - Henry Schultz**

Comment:

It is recommended that funds for Arundo removal would be better used for land acquisition and establishment of conservation easements. It is also recommended that the majority of acquisition occur in the 500-year flood plain of the spill area, i.e., from Santa Clarita to Piru. Another area to focus on includes an important wildlife corridor near the Los Angeles County/Ventura County line that runs from the Santa Susana Mountains across the river into the Los Padres Mountains. In addition, it is recommended that the Trustee Council partner with the City of Santa Clarita to acquire and protect lands that are included in the City's River Park Plan.

Response:

It is widely recognized that Arundo control is an important restoration effort for the health of the Santa Clara River system and the Trustee Council plans to allocate some of the funds for that effort. We believe that permanent protection of lands through acquisition or the establishment of conservation easements is the most important restoration effort that we can do for the river, as the Trustee Council has demonstrated by allocating the majority of the settlement funds for land acquisition. Although the spill area is identified as the area from Santa Clarita to Piru, the Trustee Council is charged, as is stated in the Consent Decree, with restoration efforts throughout the entire Santa Clara River watershed. We agree that the 'county line' area is one of high habitat quality and important as a wildlife corridor. However, land acquisition is dependent on timely opportunities and willing sellers. The Trustee Council is meeting with the City of Santa Clarita to discuss partnering opportunities in the Santa Clarita area.

### **Team Arundo Angeles - Bill Neill**

Comment:

Would like to see a higher percentage of the Arundo control performed in the upstream part of the watershed. Mulching the lower stems and rhizomes of Arundo has no effect on the vigor of resprouting. Would like to share my knowledge and experience as the Trustee Council begins to formulate specific plans and priorities for Arundo control methods and locations.

Response:

The Trustee Council recognizes the importance of starting the Arundo control in the upper watershed first and working downstream. The mulching of Arundo rhizomes and lower stems is a method that the Forest Service used along San Francisquito Creek in the upper watershed with minimal resprouting. This information was shared with a Trustee Council member during a site visit. Thank you for your willingness to share your knowledge and experience from working with Team Arundo Angeles. The Trustee Council will be contacting you through the coordinating group for the Arundo control effort for the watershed. Up to now, the Arundo Task Force group, coordinated by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District, has been taking

the lead with the Arundo control effort for the entire watershed.

**California State Senate - Senator Jack O'Connell**

Comment:

The Trustee Council is strongly urged to provide funds to the California Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy for land acquisition, protection and restoration in the Santa Clara River watershed. Once the Restoration Plan is approved and finalized, the allocation of funds shall be done in a timely way to ensure that the opportunity to acquire these properties is successful.

Response:

The Trustee Council thanks the Senator for his strong support of the land acquisition and restoration efforts in the Santa Clara River watershed.

**Canyon Country resident - Denice Schelling**

Comment:

Would like to see some of the money spent to promote keeping the river in as natural state as possible. Would also approve of funding the tracking and protection of wildlife along the river. In addition, some small amount of the money shall be for education of school age children regarding the river areas and their value to our quality of life.

Response:

All of the comments/suggestions for allocation of settlement money are included in the Restoration Plan. Land acquisition and restoration of those lands promote protection of lands in a more natural state and protection of wildlife. Projects under the Plan's Watershed Evaluation and Monitoring could facilitate wildlife tracking or monitoring efforts. The Plan's Information and Education category includes educational programs for children.

**Ventura County Agricultural Land Trust - Larry Rose**

Comment:

The priorities of the Restoration Plan should be altered and the allocation of funds changed to put the major portion of funding on removing and controlling Arundo.

Response:

The Trustee Council believes that protection of lands is of paramount importance for the health of the Santa Clara River watershed. Thus, the major portion of settlement funds will be allocated

for land acquisition. The Council, nevertheless, recognizes the importance and the enormous task of controlling Arundo in the Santa Clara River watershed. Through the existing Arundo Task Force group, coordinated by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District, many individuals, groups and agencies are supporting the effort of Arundo control for the entire watershed. Council funds will be matched by other funds for this effort. It is expected that an endowment will be established to ensure funds for a long-term removal, control and monitoring program. Both land acquisition and an Arundo control program are important for the watershed, the habitat and associated wildlife. The most urgent, however, is land acquisition to assure as much as possible permanent protection of the remaining fish, wildlife and other natural resource heritage of the Santa Clara River system.

**Resident of Fillmore - Dwight V. Moore**

Comment:

An opportunity exists to acquire a 4.11 acre parcel of land along the Santa Clara River, owned by the Fillmore Irrigation Company. This parcel is uniquely situated to provide public access as an educational site, is adjacent to the Fillmore Unified School District and the City of Fillmore, could serve as a demonstration site for Arundo control and protection of its natural state could eliminate the need for a proposed levee.

Response:

The Trustee Council will discuss this parcel with the California Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy for possible land acquisition.

**City of Santa Clarita - Mayor Frank Ferry**

Comment:

The City supports the concepts of funding priorities for land acquisition and conservation easements, and invasive non-native species control. However, properties in Los Angeles County are not being considered for acquisition and conservation easement funding. According to the Plan, more than half of the area affected by the spill is not recommended for funding for land acquisition and conservation easements. In a study performed by the University of California Santa Barbara, Bren School (the basis of the Plan), it clearly excluded any consideration of the area most affected by the spill. At least 50 percent of the funds should be spent on projects that are in the spill area. Arundo removal should begin in the City of Santa Clarita. Public education should not include spill prevention since spill prevention is required under other programs. The budget for the Watershed Evaluation and Monitoring restoration projects in the Restoration Plan should be increased from 5 percent to at least 10 percent for water quality and bioassessment studies. We would like to invite the Trustee Council to visit the City of Santa Clarita to demonstrate the City's stewardship of the Santa Clara River.

Response:

It is not stated in the Restoration Plan that Los Angeles County and the area of the spill are excluded from land acquisition and establishment of conservation easements. Furthermore, the Restoration Plan does not limit any of the proposed restoration alternatives to Ventura County. In fact, the Trustee Council welcomes all suggestions for restoration projects throughout the Santa Clara River watershed pursuant to the Consent Decree.

The California Coastal Conservancy is focusing their land acquisition efforts from the mouth of the Santa Clara River to South Mountain, just upstream of Santa Paula. This is phase 1 of a phased land acquisition effort for the entire watershed. The Nature Conservancy is focusing their land acquisition efforts on protecting wildlife corridors and higher quality habitat areas, which includes areas in Los Angeles County. The intent is not to exclude Los Angeles County or any opportunities that may exist in the Santa Clarita area. The Trustee Council has decided to partner with the Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy since these two organizations are recognized for their expertise in land acquisition for natural resource purposes. However, the Trustee Council has recognized the limitations for land acquisition in the area of the spill from Santa Clarita to the county line primarily due to Newhall land holdings and the proposed Newhall housing development. The Nature Conservancy has approached Newhall regarding possible land acquisition but it appears that Newhall is not interested in selling any of their holdings at this time. Also, the Council cannot allocate monies towards any required mitigation for unavoidable development impacts to natural resources.

The Bren School report, which is not the basis of the Restoration Plan, focused on Ventura County primarily because of the limitations presented by the proposed Newhall housing project. Also, the students needed some sideboards for their work. The Trustee Council is allocating money for invasive non-native plant species control, namely Arundo, for the entire watershed. The intent is to start in the upper watershed located in Los Angeles County. Arundo removal and control must start upstream of Santa Clarita. The other restoration projects included in the Plan under the categories of Restoration Project Grants Program, Information and Education, and Watershed Evaluation and Monitoring can occur throughout the watershed.

Oil spill awareness through education is one of many education and outreach activities that can be funded. The Council is aware of spill prevention requirements under other programs and is not intending to fund activities that are otherwise required under other programs. The focus of the Information and Education projects is restoration of natural resource losses that resulted from the spill.

In addition, the Council recognizes the need to perform water quality and bioassessment studies that would be included in the Plan's Watershed Evaluation and Monitoring category. The Trustee Council will consider your suggestions recognizing that the Council cannot allocate funds for monitoring programs required by state and federal laws and regulations. The Council is hesitant to increase the budget for such studies since restoration dollars are generally not to fund research activities. The Trustee Council will fund studies necessary to monitor and assure success for restoration projects approved by the Council.

According to the Consent Decree, the Trustee Council has the responsibility to address the entire Santa Clara River watershed in the allocation of funds for restoration projects. The Council is meeting with the City of Santa Clarita prior to finalizing the Restoration Plan to pursue opportunities for partnership.

**Los Angeles County Department of Public Works - Suk Chong**

Comment:

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works is very interested in implementing a long-term eradication program for Arundo and tamarisk in the Santa Clara River in Los Angeles County. Public Works is requesting \$1,500,000 from the Santa Clara River Trustee Council to help develop and implement a county-wide program.

Response:

The Trustee Council is planning to allocate restoration settlement funds for an invasive non-native species removal and control program for the entire Santa Clara River watershed. A Trustee Council member has been attending meetings of the Arundo Task Force group, coordinated by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District, that has been taking the lead for such an effort. There are many stakeholders involved with this coordinated effort, a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed and monies have already been contributed by groups for an Arundo control program. Although the details of the program are still to be worked out, it has been recognized by the various stakeholders that the Resource Conservation District is the principle coordinating agency for this long-term watershed effort. The Trustee Council prefers to allocate funds to and through one group that is coordinating the effort for the entire watershed. The Council encourages the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to participate in future meetings of the Arundo Task Force group. The Department of Public Works could be a key player for the Los Angeles County portion of the invasive species control program for the Santa Clara River watershed.

**Center for Natural Lands Management - Sherry Teresa**

Comment:

The Center supports the general breakdown of funding priorities for education, land acquisition and non-native plant and animal control. However, the Center recommends that first priority be given to the spill area, pursuant to the Consent Decree, for the expenditure of monies. The Center recommends that more monies be put towards revegetation, Arundo removal and cowbird trapping. A financial plan should be developed and a cap be placed on administrative expenses. It should be a priority to move monies to non-governmental environmental organizations. The Center encourages other groups who received money in the settlement to contribute money to the efforts on the Santa Clara River.

Response:

According to the Consent Decree, the Trustee Council is charged with the responsibility of developing and implementing restoration projects in the entire Santa Clara River watershed, not just the spill area. The Council recognizes both land acquisition and invasive non-native plant species control as the two restoration efforts that will greatly benefit the river. Land acquisition is extremely important in order to protect lands from unnecessary and detrimental development. Arundo removal and control is also necessary for the health of the river system. Both of these efforts are important and costly, and will include matching funds from other sources. It is anticipated that an endowment will be set-up for the long-term control and monitoring of Arundo. The Arundo Task Force group, coordinated by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District, is presently organized to implement an invasive non-native plant species control program for the entire watershed. The Arundo Task Force group is comprised of various stakeholders, public and private.

A financial plan will be developed to supplement the Restoration Plan or specific financial plans for the individual projects once the restoration projects are further defined. The Restoration Plan serves as the general overall plan for the allocation of settlement funds. Settlement monies were allocated in the Consent Decree for the planning, development and implementation of a Restoration Plan. If additional monies are needed for these activities, the interest can be used upon the consent of the Trustee Council. The intent is to allocate all of the capital and as much of the interest as possible to actual restoration activities. Settlement monies will be allocated to other organizations, as appropriate, for the implementation of restoration projects. The Trustee Council, however, is ultimately responsible for the successful completion of projects outlined in the Restoration Plan.

**ANNOUNCEMENT!!!**

**Release of the Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the  
Santa Clara River ARCO Oil Spill  
&  
Public Meeting Notice**

The Santa Clara River Trustee Council, established after the settlement of the Santa Clara River ARCO oil spill of January 1994, is charged with acting on behalf of the public in the development and implementation of a restoration plan that responds to natural resources injured by the oil spill. The Trustee Council membership is composed of representatives from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game.

The Trustee Council has completed the Draft Restoration Plan and is now seeking public review and comment.

***The open-house public meeting will be held  
Tuesday, January 15, 2002  
4:00 - 8:00 pm  
Channel Islands National Park  
Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center  
1901 Spinnaker Drive  
Ventura Harbor***

***Copies of the Draft Restoration Plan can be obtained by calling  
Fish and Wildlife Service at (805) 644-1766 or  
accessing the web pages [www.ventura.fws.gov](http://www.ventura.fws.gov) or [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)***

All public comments can either be submitted in writing during the public meeting, sent to the Santa Clara River Trustee Council via Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003 or sent electronically to [denise\\_steur@R1.fws.gov](mailto:denise_steur@R1.fws.gov). All comments must be received by the close of the 45-day comment period that ends on February 16, 2002.

Questions regarding the Draft Restoration Plan or the public meeting may be addressed to Denise Steurer, Fish and Wildlife Service, at (805) 644-1766.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Noted Recipients of the draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the  
Santa Clara River ARCO Oil Spill**

Senator Barbara Boxer  
312 N. Spring St.  
Suite 1748  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
11111 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Suite 915  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

The Honorable Lois Capps  
1428 Chapala St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Congressman Brad Sherman  
2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd.  
Suite F  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362-2903

Assemblyman Tony Strickland  
221 E. Daily Dr.  
Suite 7  
Camarillo, CA 93010

Assemblyman Keith Stuart-Richman  
10727 White Oak Ave.  
Suite 124  
Granada Hills, CA 91344

Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson  
701 E. Santa Clara St.  
Suite 25  
Ventura, CA 93001

Senator Jack O'Connell  
89 S. California St.  
Suite E  
Ventura, CA 93001

Congressman Elton Gallegly  
Attn: Brian Miller  
300 Esplanade Dr.  
Suite 1800  
Oxnard, CA 93030

Congressman Buck McKeon  
Attn: Scott Wilk  
23929 W. Valencia Blvd.  
Suite 410  
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Ron Calkins, Director  
Public Works  
City of San Buenaventura  
501 Poli  
Ventura, CA 93002

City of Oxnard  
Planning Division  
305 W. Third St.  
Oxnard, CA 93030

Norman S. Wilkinson, Director  
Public Works  
P.O. Box 569  
Santa Paula, CA 93061

Frank Ferry, Mayor  
23920 Valencia Blvd.  
Suite 300  
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Public Works Department  
City of Fillmore  
250 Central Avenue  
Fillmore, CA 93016

Jeff Pratt  
County of Ventura  
Department of Flood Control  
800 S. Victoria Ave.  
Ventura, CA 93009

Lorraine Timmons  
Ventura County Planning Division  
800 S. Victoria Ave.  
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Peggy Rose  
Ventura County Resource Conservation District  
P.O. Box 147  
Somis, CA 93066

Rex Laird  
Ventura County Farm Bureau  
P.O. Box 3106  
Ventura, CA 93006

Ventura County Agricultural Land Trust  
P.O. Box 4664  
Ventura, CA 93007

Suk Chong  
Los Angeles County  
Department of Public Works  
900 S. Fremont Ave.  
Alhambra, CA 91803

David Castanon  
Army Corps of Engineers  
2151 Alessandro Dr.  
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Ventura, CA 93001

Steve Jewett  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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Somis, CA 93066

Ray Sauvajot  
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area  
National Park Service  
401 W. Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

National Marine Fisheries Service  
501 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Suite 4200  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Deborah Smith  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Richard Rojas, District Manager  
State Department of Parks and Recreation  
Channel Coast District  
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 27  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Peter Brand  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway  
Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612

E.J. Remson  
The Nature Conservancy  
1559 Spinnaker Dr.  
Suite 101  
Ventura, CA 93001

Coastal Commission  
89 S. California St.  
Ventura, CA 93001

Forest Supervisor  
Los Padres National Forest  
6144 Calle Real  
Goleta, CA 93117

Forest Supervisor  
Angeles National Forest  
701 N. Santa Anita Ave.  
Arcadia, CA 91006

Environmental Defense Center  
2021 Sperry Ave.  
Suite 18  
Ventura, CA 93003

California Native Plant Society  
Channel Islands Chapter  
P.O. Box 5628  
Ventura, CA 93005

Ron Bottorff  
Friends of the Santa Clara River  
660 Randy Dr.  
Newbury Park, CA 91320

Henry Schultz  
Santa Clarita Sierra Club Group  
21827 Parvin Dr.  
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

S.O.A.R.  
P.O. Box 7352  
Ventura, CA 93006

Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment (SCOPE)  
P.O. Box 1182  
Santa Clarita, CA 91386

United Water Conservation District  
106 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Mark Subbotin  
Newhall Land and Farming Company  
23823 Valencia Blvd.  
Valencia, CA 91355



**PUBLIC MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET**

Santa Clara River Restoration Plan  
January 15, 2002 - Channel Islands National Park Auditorium, Ventura, CA

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	E:MAIL
CLARENCE FREEMAN			
LIAM SWEET			
Paul Calderwood			
R. AMON C. FAY			
FRANK WYATT			
GARY MANNING			
DAVID PRITCHETT			
LARRY LINDGREN			
C. MacNICOLL			
PAUL BELEVAN			
Mark Subbotin			
Tom Keller			
MARILYN HOUSEMAN			





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NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	E:MAIL
Judy Shuen			
Heather McCreedy			
HARRIOLA GUNTERSON			
IRENE C. SMITH			
Scott-Harris			
Bill Leachner			
Martin Hernandez			
Mary Jo Kelly			
Mark Gould			
Karen Down			
LEE C. PUSIPHER			
KENDRA GONZALES			
MURRAY McEACHRON			



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Santa Clara River Restoration Plan  
January 15, 2002 - Channel Islands National Park Auditorium, Ventura, CA

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL
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LISA ROBERTS			
Cindy Cunningham			
Neil Zwick			
Jack O'Leary			
Spencer Berman			
David Pexesan City of San Diego			
Christonice Luceo			
Stephanie Ray			
Deborah Long, City of San Diego			
Heidi Wilhoit			