

REGION SOUTHERN	COUNTY LOS ANGELES	NEWHALL RANCH NEW TOWN & WRP	CLASSIFICATION CEQA M
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AQ = Air Quality • BIO = Biological Studies • CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act • NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act • NS = Noise Studies • WSA = Water Supply Assessment



This project involved preparation of a program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan (along with other related entitlements) to allow the development of the Newhall Ranch “new-town.” A separate project EIR was also prepared for a 6.9 million gallon per day (mgd) water reclamation plant that would treat the wastewater generated on the Specific Plan site and recycle the water for reuse on the Specific Plan site. Approval of the Specific Plan entitlements will result in the ultimate development of approximately 22,000 homes and over 5 million square feet of commercial and industrial space over a 25- to 30-year buildout period.

Approximately 57,000 people will reside on the Specific Plan site. The

Specific Plan site is approximately 12,000 acres in size and is

located in northwest Los Angeles County, west of the City of Santa Clarita. The site contains two Los Angeles

County-designated Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs): one along the Santa Clara River corridor; the other in the

Santa Susana Mountains. The site also supports several Endangered plant and animal species,

including the least Bell’s vireo bird, the unarmored threespine stickleback fish, and the San Fernando Valley spineflower.

The EIRs were prepared under the direction of the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. The County also supervised the preparation of a document entitled, “The Newhall

Ranch Specific Plan Additional Analysis.” As expected for a project of this magnitude, it received a substantial amount of scrutiny and legal challenge. Topics of interest included impacts to sensitive plants and animals, floodplain management,

geology, air quality, and consistency with County and regional plans and policies. The Specific Plan included a conservation easement for the protection of the Endangered spineflower. Water supply was a topic that also received great interest.

In this case, the applicant ultimately secured independent water supplies in addition to the use of local groundwater. The Specific Plan was originally approved by the County of Los Angeles in March 1999, and after considering additional environmental

information, approved the Specific Plan again in May 2003.

